



inspiration

Secret Spot 7 Summits: Kilimanjaro Freestyle Expedition

Join the Secret Spot 7 Summits Team as we climb to the Roof of Africa...19,341ft/5,897m...the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro!

This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to share one of the world's Seven Summits with us!

vision

Your expedition begins with your comfortable descent into Kilimanjaro International Airport, Tanzania (**JRO**). As the African sun smiles upon us, we will shuttle expedition members by land to **Arusha, Tanzania** (4,594 feet/1,400m). Here, we will take time to: grab any last minute gear, do some shopping and sightseeing...and ease into a relaxed but focused mindset. Our expedition members are from all over the world, so some time for us to collectively synchronize will be beneficial for all...and contribute to our success.



calculation

Secret Spot Adventures are not about rushing and worrying...they are about absorbing, enjoying and growing.

In Arusha, and nearby Mosho, we will also evaluate our group talents and strengths - as well as, gather local knowledge of current route conditions on the mountain. We expect to take a few days gathering data and supplies, and connecting with our local partners and transportation; this is the launching point into the KINAPA (Kilimanjaro National Park). A day's travel by jeep will bring the expedition towards the west side of Kilimanjaro, passing through Sanyu Juu to the small town of Londrossi...and finally on to the trailhead at 7,380ft/2,250m.

commitment

We plan to ascend the western flank of Kilimanjaro by way of what is popularly called Shira Plateau Route. The routes up Kilimanjaro are numerous and most intersect at different points up the mountain leaving a flexible group many choices as to their final path. We will climb with the mindset to keep our options open, but our primary goal will remain the same, a safe and enjoyable summit of Uhuru Peak on Kibo (19,341ft/5897m)...the highest point on the Kilimanjaro formation and the highest point on the African continent.



teamwork

As with most routes up Kilimanjaro, the Shira Plateau Route is broken up into sections between the different Camps and Huts. These locations have developed over the years as accepted stopping points. The reasons for stopping are usually good: either a quality source of water, major intersection in trails, or a logical point to rest and acclimatize. We'll take note of this conventional wisdom and apply our own experience and observations to guide our expedition upwards with efficiency...and without drama or worry. Most of the load will be carried by local porters we hire in Arusha and Mosho. Our climbers will only carry 'day packs'...as propelling one's own weight up the mountain will be challenging enough!

success

KILIMANJARO FREESTYLE EXPEDITION



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Throughout our expedition, our food and camp needs will be capably managed by our local guides and kitchen staff. Eating well is always a priority on a Secret Spot Adventure!

The trekking days will be strenuous but not overly difficult. Solid trekking boots and quality warm and waterproof outerwear will suffice for the majority of routes. A detailed equipment list will be provided to potential 'summiters'...once they have committed to being a part of the expedition. The highly skilled and adventurous few may wish to attempt a more difficult technical rock or ice route variation, but the summit can be achieved by any individual with persistence and flexibility. Beyond a healthy body and mind...no specialized skills are required.

vision

The following outlines the series of huts and camps we will enjoy as we progress up the volcano.

The first stop on the Shira Plateau Route is fittingly the Shira Hut, soon followed by the Shira Cave. Either can fit the bill for our first night out. From here we'll set our sights on the Lava Tower (14,300ft/4359m)...a distinctive rock formation that is a small distance past the Shira Cave and near the Moir Hut. This will likely be our next camp.

calculation

At the Moir Hut (13,780ft/4200m) the route splits three ways, the North Circuit Path to the left, South Circuit Path to the right, and the Arrow Glacier Hut straight ahead. Just above this crossroads, a solid stop for acclimatization is the Lava Hut, which will allow the group to confidently press on to the Arrow Glacier Hut the following day.

From the Arrow Glacier Hut (16,072ft/4900m), group and individual strength must be weighed and choices made. One party may continue upwards towards the famous Western Breach, to skirt up the Breach Wall. A second party may choose to carry on around on the South Circuit Path towards the Barranco Huts to connect to the more popular and direct Barafu Route to the summit.

commitment

The valley leading down to the Barranco Huts (12,800ft/3,900m) involves a few hours of descending and brings the group to a camp below the great Barranco Wall. Intimidating but much more accessible than it first appears, the trail will zig zag up the wall in a series of traverses that crest onto an alpine plateau. From here curious ice climbers could branch off to attack the Rebmann, Kecken, Kersten or Heim Glaciers, but most of us will wind down past a stream and connect with the Mweka trail...then gain the Barafu Huts and final summit route.

teamwork

At 15,088ft/4,600m, the Barafu Huts are only a one day's climb of 3,936ft/1,200m meters to the summit of Uhuru Peak. A steep rocky trail hit early in the morning by a determined climber leads to Stella Point (18,652ft/5,685m) in 6 hours or so, and then just another hour of effort gains them the summit of Africa at 5,897 Meters (19,347 Feet)...and a very expansive view!

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For those who broke off at the Arrow Glacier Hut (16,072ft/4,900m), the route is more direct and a bit steeper. The Great Western Arch, or Western Breach Route is a scramble on rock and glacial scree tracing the left side of the Arrow Glacier. Crampons can be helpful on this section, but there is little exposure for most the route, that is with the notable exception to falling rock...so a helmet is a good idea. Following broken ribs of rock through the upper parts of the amphitheater and reaching the crater rim at 18,696ft/5,700m will mark an accomplishment. Negotiating a few ice fields to connect with the steep switchbacks to the top of Uhuru could reunite the Secret Spot Kilimanjaro expedition members for a celebration on the summit...if our timing is right.

vision

If a traverse is to be achieved, this Arrow Glacier group will either have summited with all their gear, or have arranged with the porters to carry the equipment around on the Southern Circuit Path to the Barafu Huts. Descent for both parties will be tiring, but lead back through the Barafu Hut area, where a large camp and stories can be shared. A quick and direct exit down to the Mweka Camps (10,171ft/3,100m) for a night and then promptly out the Mweka Gate will return the expedition to the African Plains and on to their next adventures!

calculation

As with all the Secret Spot Seven Summits expeditions, we will be using the latest in expedition technology: wireless satellite modems and phones, PDAs with dispatch software, solar panels and other innovative power solutions. By subscribing to the **Secret Spot Seven Summits Blog** (phillmichael.com), our friends and family will be able to relax and prepare to virtually climb with us from the comforts of their homes and offices. Throughout this 14 day expedition, we will be beaming our daily musings, images and videos to an attentive global audience...via satellite.

commitment

All participants will be expected to be present for a hearty breakfast in Arusha on Feb 7th, 2011.

Life is full of challenges and dreams. Either we choose to rise to the challenges and live our dreams...or just wish we had. To share the experience of climbing to Africa's highest point with the members of the Secret Spot Kilimanjaro Expedition will represent numerous defining moments in the lives of those fortunate enough to participate.

teamwork

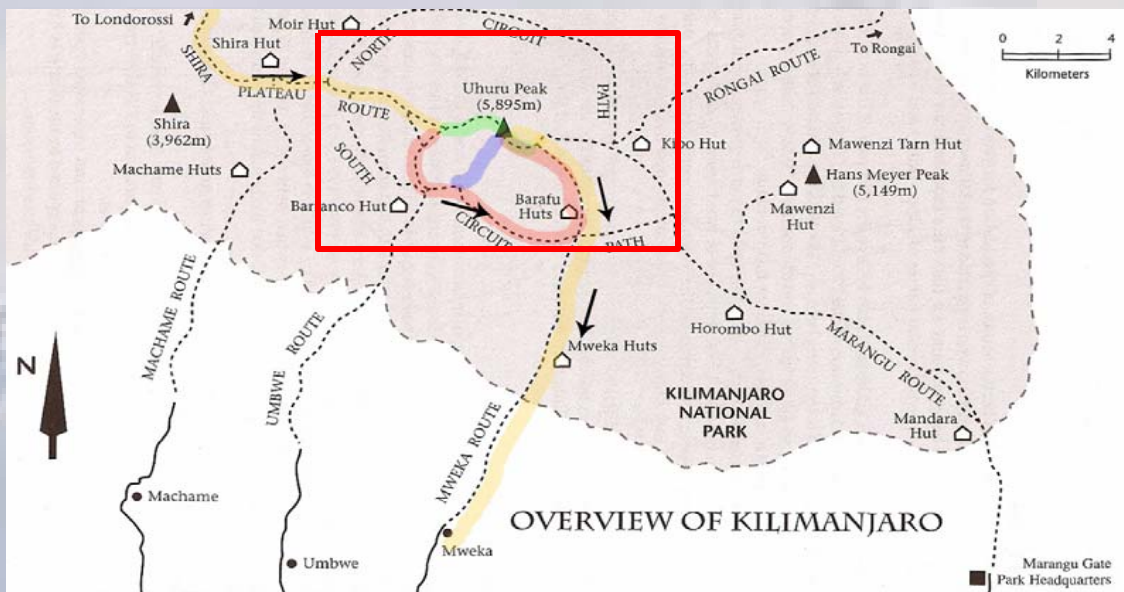
If you feel you have what it takes to stand on the top of this spectacular and celebrated high altitude peak with us, please complete the included Secret Spot Adventurer profile and email it to:

phill@SecretSpotAfrica.com

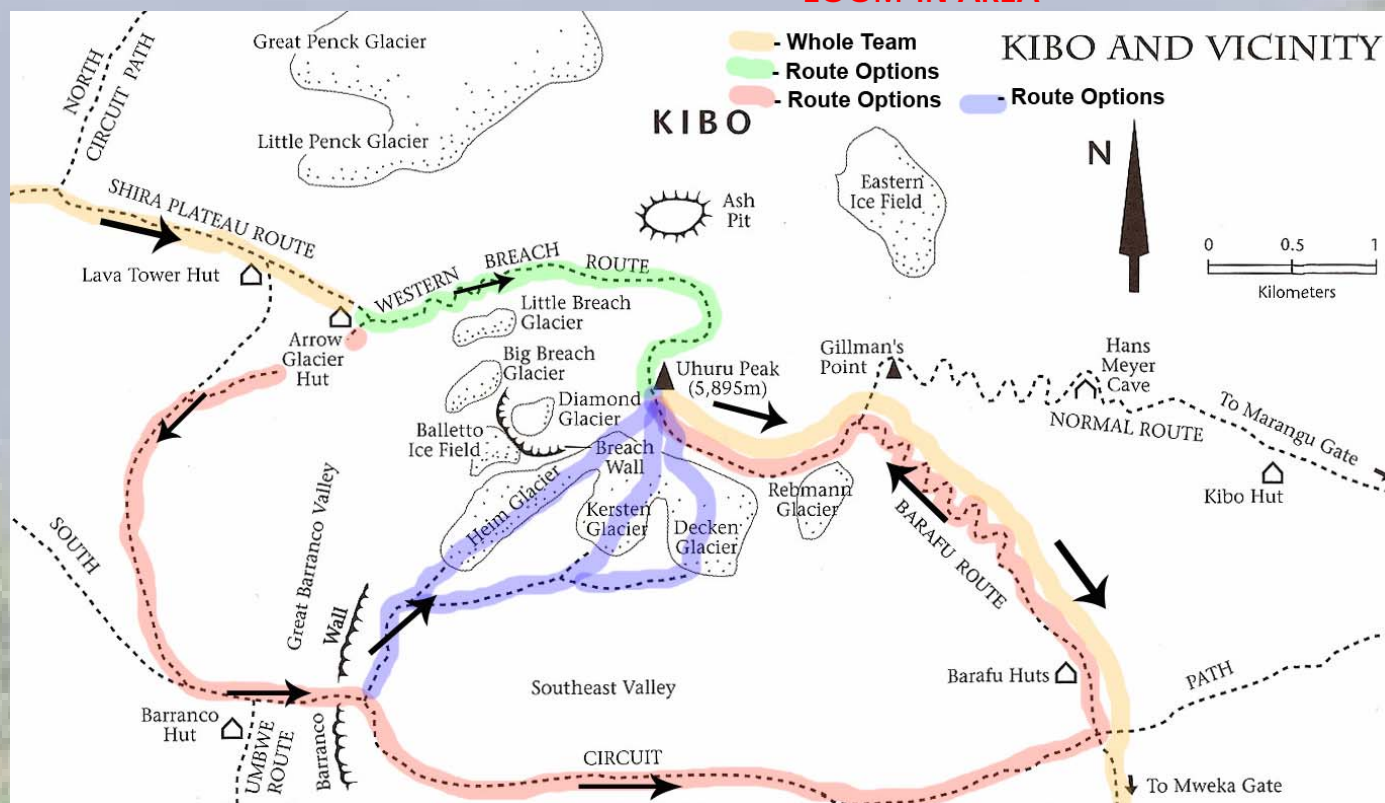
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KILIMANJARO FREESTYLE EXPEDITION

KILIMANJARO FREESTYLE EXPEDITION MAPS



ZOOM-IN AREA



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THE SEVEN SUMMITS + K2:

