

Itinerary – Cycle Kilimanjaro

16th – 25th October 2015

Day 1

Fly from London to Kilimanjaro

Day 2: Arrive Moshi, Tanzania

On arrival you'll transfer to your hotel and have time to spend exploring and preparing your bikes for the cycling adventure ahead of you.

Day 3: Moshi – Lake Chala

A short transfer takes you through the busy streets of Moshi where you'll start your first day's ride on quieter roads. Moshi lies to the south of Kilimanjaro; you will have views of Africa's highest free-standing mountain for much of the day as you ride east. Day three is a relatively short day of cycling, designed to give you time to acclimatise to the roads and the heat, and prepare your minds for the coming days. You'll head east through rolling savannah towards the Kenyan border and Lake Chala, a beautiful crater lake fed by underground streams from Kilimanjaro. Its steep-sided crater walls are covered in lush vegetation, and there are great views of jagged Mawenzi, one of Kilimanjaro's peaks. If you have the energy you can walk along some of the forest trails. Look out for magnificent birds of prey; you may also see baboons and black and white colobus monkeys!

Cycle approx 60km

Day 4: Lake Chala – Kamwanga

After your first night in the bush you'll start heading north, riding roughly parallel to the Kenyan border and around the eastern edge of Kilimanjaro, towards the Masai village of Kamwanga. The route is varied, taking you through the Rongai Forest, home to agile black and white colobus monkeys, and more open landscapes, with bush and grassland stretching for miles around; you'll be able to see into Kenya. You'll get to see many Masai walking and grazing their cattle and sheep and pass

through several towns and villages along the route; it's fun to stop and buy fresh fruit or drinks at the many diverse market stalls. Then it's on to your basic, but very scenic bush camp near the Masai village of Kamwanga to Liki North Camp.

Cycle approx 78km

Day 5: Kamwanga – Boma Ng'Ombe

Leaving Kamwanga, the tarmac ends and dirt tracks begin. The route now undulates through Masai farmland where you'll gain a wonderful insight into the daily life of the local tribes. You are heading south now, to complete the circuit of Kilimanjaro - the mighty mountain now rises on your left-hand-side. As you continue along to the town of Ol Molog with green fields on either side, the volcanic peak of Mt Meru comes into view. You'll continue south and eventually re-join the tarmac, beginning a gentle descent towards the town of BomaNg'Ombe, which links Moshi and Arusha.

Cycle approx 90 km



Cycle Kilimanjaro



Mount Kilimanjaro

Day 6: Kisongo – Lake Manyara

This morning you'll have a short transfer from Boma through the very busy town of Arusha to Kisongo, the starting point of today's ride. From Kisongo the terrain is mostly flat as the road cuts through the gently rolling hills covered in scrub and bush. You'll cycle to Makuyuni junction, continuing on the much-improved smooth road towards Lake Manyara – a constant but gradual rise through savannah grassland, all the way to your campsite in Mto wa Mbu.

As you get closer to Mto wa Mbu you will be able to see Lake Manyara and the lush forest in the distance across the plain. Your first view as you approach Lake Manyara National Park is spectacular: to the east the Rift Valley escarpment looms up on the horizon forming an impressive backdrop to the lake. On arriving in this small but bustling village with its many playful monkeys and storks in the trees, you'll make your way to your campsite at Migunga.

Cycle approx 102 km

Day 7: Lake Manyara – Ngorongoro Crater Gate

After breakfast, and a good rest, you will start your final day's cycling towards the finishing point at the Ngorongoro Conservation Area. Almost immediately

after leaving camp you'll have a steep climb up the Rift Valley escarpment; from the top you'll have an amazing view of Lake Manyara National Park lying below; the lake glistening in the sunlight and the flat open Masai steppe stretching away into the distance. From here you'll continue climbing gently all the way to Karatu Town and then to the Ngorongoro Park Gate itself. As you climb and get closer to the extinct volcano and vast caldera, the landscape becomes much richer with lots of farmed plots and dense forest with many species of birds and wildlife. You will finish the cycling challenge at the Park Gate amongst baboons! Here the bikes are loaded into the support vehicles and transferred to a lodge perched on the edge of the caldera – a wonderful place to celebrate the end of this amazing bike challenge, with a proper bed, shower, toilet and even a beer!

Cycle approx 41km

Day 8: Ngorongoro Crater Safari – Arusha

After a good breakfast, you'll drive to Ngorongoro Crater for your safari, excited at the chance of seeing the 'Big Five'. Ngorongoro Crater is widely considered to be one of the natural wonders of the world. 12 miles wide, 2000 feet deep and covering an area of 102 square miles, it is the largest intact volcanic crater on earth and home to a spectacular concentration of wildlife. The game drive will be around the crater floor with a chance of seeing large herds of buffalo and wildebeest, zebra, hartebeest, elephant, hippo, lions, and possibly the endangered black rhino. After the game drive you'll leave the National Park and drive back to your hotel near Moshi, for your final night in Africa.

Day 9: Depart Kilimanjaro

After a free morning you'll make your way back to the airport for your afternoon flight back to the UK.

Day 10

Arrive UK.