



Alumni Travel Program

The MIT Alumni Travel Program presents

TREK TO THE ROOF OF AFRICA

February 11 - 23, 2012

with MIT Assistant Professor Lindy Elkins-Tanton '87, SM '87, PhD '02



Dear MIT Alumni and Friends,

Towering majestically over the surrounding African landscape—its glaciers gleaming in the equatorial sun—Mount Kilimanjaro is the tallest freestanding volcano on earth. It is an astounding natural phenomenon, its massive breadth encompassing five distinct climatic zones. Together with MIT Assistant Professor Lindy Elkins-Tanton, I invite you to embark on one of the world's greatest adventures and alluring challenges—a bid for the summit.

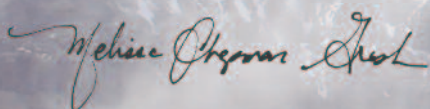
We have chosen the magnificent Western Approach route, the most scenically beautiful and least traveled path. This extraordinary non-technical route to the summit (**Uhuru Peak – 19,340 feet**) is a world-class trekking experience. This route also allows for a summit bid by daylight and offers plenty of time for acclimatization.

Throughout the climb, the dedication to safety is unparalleled. From a comprehensive Kilimanjaro Preparation Guide, which all registered travelers will receive far in advance of the trek, to the expert mountain guides, every measure has been taken to ensure that travelers have the best possible chance to safely reach the summit.

To complement the trek, we are offering an optional safari extension to two of Africa's greatest wildlife regions, the Ngorongoro Crater and the Serengeti.

I hope you will join us for this once-in-a-lifetime experience. Reserve your space by calling the MIT Alumni Travel Program at 800-992-6749, or emailing compass@mit.edu. Space is limited to 12 trekkers.

Sincerely,



Melissa Chapman Gresh
Director, MIT Alumni Travel Program

FACULTY SPEAKER



Lindy Elkins-Tanton is the Mitsui Career Development Assistant Professor of Geology at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Elkins-Tanton received her B.S. and M.S. from MIT in 1987, and her PhD in 2002 from the Department of Earth, Atmospheric and Planetary Sciences. Following five years as a researcher at Brown University, she was appointed to the MIT faculty in 2007.

At MIT her group is working to understand the relationships between large volcanic provinces and global extinction events, focusing on the Siberian flood basalts and the end-Permian extinction. She has lead three field seasons in Siberia, as well as participated in fieldwork in the Sierra Nevada, the Cascades, and the Faroe Islands, and a fourth Siberian expedition.

Elkins-Tanton is a two-time National Academy of Sciences Kavli Frontiers of Science Fellow and served on the National Academy of Sciences Decadal Survey Mars panel. In 2008 she was awarded a five-year National Science Foundation CAREER award, and in 2009 was named Outstanding MIT Faculty Undergraduate Research Mentor. In 2010 she was awarded the Explorers Club Lowell Thomas prize. The second edition of her six-book series *The Solar System*, a reference series for libraries, was published in 2010. When not in the lab or in Siberia she is home in Southborough, MA, with her mathematician husband, son, and three border collies.



KILIMANJARO WESTERN APPROACH ROUTE

A Scenic, Steady Trek to the Summit of Africa

Saturday & Sunday, February 11 & 12

Depart the U.S. on an overnight flight to Amsterdam with an evening arrival into Kilimanjaro Airport. Stay at a nearby lodge, resting and preparing for your adventure.

Overnight: KIA Lodge
(Meals aloft, snack)

Monday, February 13

After a climb briefing, transfer to your exclusive base camp, a permanent tented lodge on a sprawling private conservation area. With extraordinary views over open savannah, lush forests, and rolling hills, go for a short hike and enjoy viewing some of the 65 mammal species and 350 bird species that have been spotted on the ranch. It's the perfect introduction to Tanzania, a day to acclimatize before your climb.

Overnight: Ndarakwai Ranch

Tuesday, February 14

After breakfast, transfer by Land Rover to Londorossi Gate (7,375 feet), and begin your trek through thick rainforest. Birdcalls reverberate through the dense forest canopy, and exotic plants like the impatiens kilimanjari and red hot poker add a vibrant splash of red to the lush green surroundings.

Overnight: Forest Camp – 9,281 feet

Wednesday, February 15

Leaving the forest behind, enter the alpine moorlands, thick with heather and vegetation draped in bearded lichen. Trek across the rocky Shira Plateau where you'll get your first views from above the clouds. This will be a relatively non-strenuous day to acclimatize.

Overnight: Shira 1 Camp – 11,499 feet

Thursday, February 16

Continue exploring the Shira plateau, one of the highest plateaus in the world, with remarkable views of Mount Meru and Mount Longido to the west. There won't be much of an altitude gain today as you move up the mountain steadily and gradually, heeding your guides' advice to go "pole, pole," or slowly, slowly.

Overnight: Shira 2 Camp – 12,795 feet

Friday, February 17

Head higher up into alpine desert where vegetation thins out and colossal boulders dominate the lunar-like landscape. Arrive at Lava Tower, an awesome pillar of jagged volcanic rock. Hike to its peak if you have the energy.

Overnight: Lava Tower Camp – 15,213 feet

Saturday, February 18

This morning, descend into the fairytale-like Barranco Valley with its bizarre groundsels, giant lobelias, and everlasting flowers. Scramble up the Barranco Wall and continue through undulating landscapes to your next camp. It's a long day, but it's easy to stay motivated in such remarkable surroundings.

Overnight: Karanga Camp – 13,231 feet

Sunday, February 19

Head deeper into the alpine desert of lichen-covered rock, arriving at the starkly beautiful Barafu camp, which is set high on a ridgeline looking down toward Mawenzi Peak. The intensity of the trek increases from here to the summit.

Overnight: Barafu Camp – 15,331 feet



Climb to the top of the world's tallest freestanding mountain via the 9-day Western Approach Route.

WHAT TO EXPECT

Before You Go

- Professional, prompt answers to all your questions from experienced Kili trekkers
- A personal trekking consultant to help you prepare for your climb
- Access to personal training packages
- Exclusive climbing tips, a detailed preparation guide, and packing list
- Trekkers are responsible for the following "technical" items, such as 0° rated sleeping bag, gaiters to keep mud and dust out of boots, trekking poles to aid on ascent and descent, and a warm parka for the colder nights above 15,000 feet (these and other items are available for rental if reserved in advance)

During Your Trek

- 98% summit success rate!
- Licensed, NOLS-certified, Wilderness-First-Responder, Tanzanian guides
- Comprehensive safety equipment
- Customized dining tent with solar-powered lighting
- Comfortable camps are set up by a team of reliable porters, who also carry all group gear and most of your personal gear along the way
- A separate toilet tent is always set up in a convenient spot nearby, but there are no showers on the mountain
- Hot water is poured in individual's washbasin each morning and evening for daily personal hygiene
- Top-quality rental gear and Mountain Hardwear tents
- Delicious mountain meals, devised by a nutritionist and prepared by expert chefs (most special dietary needs will be accommodated with advance notification)



Monday, February 20

Trek up an imposing 3,000 feet in elevation today, closing in on the peak where the air is thin and the skies are endless. If you have energy left over, you can explore the ash pit and Furtwangler Glacier before heading to camp.

Overnight: Crater Camp – 18,802 feet

Tuesday, February 21

After an early breakfast, trek the last 600 triumphant feet to Uhuru Peak (19,340 feet), the highest point in Africa. Take in the majestic views and make sure to get your celebratory summit photo. This is the moment you have been dreaming of. After savoring your success, begin the arduous descent to Mweka Camp, over 8,000 feet below.

Overnight: Mweka Camp – 10,065 feet

Wednesday–Thursday, February 22–23

Descend through the forest to the park gate and transfer to Arusha for some celebration, rest, and a shower! Depart for the airport this evening, and arrive home in the U.S. on February 23. Those continuing on the safari extension will transfer to an exclusive Arusha lodge for dinner and a relaxing evening before the next adventure.

Dayroom: KIA Lodge;

Overnight: Arusha Coffee Lodge



**ADD A SAFARI AND SEE TANZANIA'S
AWE-INSPIRING WILDLIFE**

Safari Extension

Thursday–Tuesday, February 23–28:

After a relaxing breakfast in Arusha, head to Gibb's Farm where you can indulge in some well-earned spa treatments. Spend a day in Ngorongoro Crater enjoying some of the finest wildlife viewing in the world. Follow it up with two nights in the exquisite Serengeti, a thriving eco-system that is home to the most impressive migration on earth. Enjoy Thomson's exclusive Nyumba camp located in a prime location. Return to Arusha on a scenic flight, and depart on the evening of February 27. Arrive home on February 28.

Overnights: 2 nights Gibb's Farm & 2 nights Thomson Serengeti Nyumba

KILIMANJARO ACCOMMODATIONS



Mountain Tents

Accommodations on Kilimanjaro are modern rugged mountain tents which hold two people comfortably. An outer flysheet and large vestibules keep equipment from the elements. They are set up, broken down, and carried by porters.



SAFARI ACCOMMODATIONS



Pictured above:
Arusha Coffee Lodge
Gibb's Farm Cottage
Thomson Serengeti Nyumba

TRIP PRICES

Kilimanjaro Trek

\$5,990 per adult / \$390 single supplement

Not including international flights



Safari Extension

\$2,990 per adult / \$790 single supplement



KILIMANJARO TREK INCLUDES:

- Meals, as listed in the itinerary and park fees
- Accommodations based on double occupancy
- Four-season mountaineering tent with ground sheet, fly sheet, vestibule, and foam sleeping pad
- Safety equipment, including oxygen, NOLS-approved first aid kits, stretcher, Gamow bag, radio communication, safety protocols, etc.
- Discussion series led by MIT Assistant Professor Lindy Elkins-Tanton
- Thomson Professional Mountain Guides trained as Wilderness First Responders (WFR)
- Medical expenses up to \$50,000 and emergency evacuation up to \$1,000,000 for the Kilimanjaro program
- Guide to guest ratio of 1 to 3 to ensure personalized attention
- Cooks trained in mountain cuisine
- Porters to carry bulk of gear and individual duffel bags up to 33 lbs.
- Sleeping bag pad
- Daily briefing to help prepare you for each day on the trek
- Land transportation in a specially customized 4WD Land Rover
- Purified drinking water
- Beer and wine included at welcome and farewell dinners
- Airport transfers for group
- Complete preparation materials including helpful training tips, packing list, trip expectations, and much more

KILIMANJARO TREK DOES NOT INCLUDE:

- Roundtrip international airfare and airport departure tax, unless flights are arranged by Thomson Safaris, the operator for this program
- Fuel surcharge, if applicable fees are imposed by Delta/KLM Airlines
- Activities not included as part of the itinerary
- Gratuities for Kilimanjaro guides, porters, and cooking staff
- Passport, visa, and immunization fees
- Meals not specified in the itinerary
- Mountain gear to include sleeping bag, gaiters, and trekking poles
- Personal items such as alcoholic beverages, soft drinks, laundry, telephone and fax calls, and excess baggage charges

SAFARI EXTENSION INCLUDES:

- Thomson Safaris Senior guide, with a minimum of 10 years experience (most have more!)
- Accommodations, including world-class services of Gibb's Farm and Thomson camp staff
- Keep Fit Kits at every Nyumba (each kit includes exercise ball, resistance bands, jump rope, and yoga mat)
- All conservation and park fees
- Gibb's Farm Spa Treatments (one-hour per day)
- Meals, as prepared by expert chefs
- Comfortable wildlife viewing in specially equipped 4WD Land Rover Defenders, the ultimate safari vehicles, with popped top roofs and battery charging sockets – you are guaranteed a window seat
- Complimentary bottled drinking water
- Scenic flight from the Serengeti to Arusha
- Baggage handling, transfers, and internal flight
- On-site welcome orientation to help familiarize you with what's ahead, as well as give you practical information about the day-to-day details of your trip
- Daily briefing to help prepare you for each day on safari.
- Beer, wine, spirits and soda included at welcome and farewell dinners
- Alcoholic house brand drinks and laundry at Gibb's Farm
- Bush lunch
- Complete pre-departure information, with pre-departure instructions, packing lists, health requirements, trip expectations, visa regulations, all of your flight details, and information regarding immunizations

SAFARI EXTENSION DOES NOT INCLUDE:

- Activities not included as part of the itinerary
- Gratuities for safari guides and camp staff
- Trip insurance
- Personal items such as alcoholic beverages, soft drinks, laundry, telephone and fax calls, and excess baggage charges

The MIT Alumni Travel Program has selected Thomson Safaris to operate this special program.

The owners of Thomson own the trekking operations in Tanzania, so there's no middleman and no sub-contracting, which provides trekkers the ultimate in quality control, accountability, and responsibility.



THOMSON'S ETHICAL-TREKKING PROMISE

Thomson Safaris Leads by Example on Kilimanjaro Porters' Rights

- Thomson supports the International Mountain Explorer's Connection and Kilimanjaro Porters' Assistance Project ensuring that Porters:
 - Earn the highest wages, bonuses and benefits on the mountain.
 - Receive free transportation and free English lessons.
 - Are treated with respect and dignity.
 - Get paid full wages, even if they have to descend early.
 - Are properly outfitted and must pass a gear check before every trek.

Thomson Supports the Greater Kilimanjaro Community

- A full-time, year-round, local staff is committed to your experience—not seasonal or contract labor.
- Thomson empowers Tanzanians in the workplace and encourage upward mobility with additional training.

Thomson Treks Are Eco-friendly

- Thomson adheres to Leave-No-Trace camping and trekking practices.
- Thomson supports clean-up initiatives and pays porters bonuses for bringing down refuse left by others.
- Fresh produce comes from company organic gardens.
- Solar power and recycling are standard on the mountain and in the offices.



READY TO REGISTER?

Reserve a Space:

To reserve a space, call the MIT Alumni Travel Program at 800-992-6749. Or, mail your deposit and registration form to:

MIT Alumni Travel Program
600 Memorial Drive, W98-2nd Floor
Cambridge, MA 02139.

A non-refundable deposit of \$700 per person payable by Visa, MasterCard, American Express, Discover, or check, payable to **Thomson Safaris** along with your full name and contact information, reserves your space on the trek. We cannot confirm reservations without a deposit. Final payment is due **November 11, 2011** and payable by check, wire transfer, or money order.

Shares:

If you would like to share a tent and room, we will attempt to find a roommate for you. If, by the time of departure, a roommate cannot be found, you will be charged the single supplement (\$390 safari; \$790 trek & safari).

Insurance:

Every MIT traveler is covered by medical expenses up to \$50,000 and emergency evacuation up to \$1,000,000 for the main Kilimanjaro program. A description of services included will be mailed to you upon registration. Trip cancellation and interruption coverage is not included in the benefits package, and must be purchased separately.

Airfare:

International airfare is not included. Thomson Safaris, the operator for this program, will be happy to make flight arrangements for you on Delta/KLM Airlines, or help you to coordinate your own. You will need to fly into and out of Kilimanjaro International Airport (JRO) via Schiphol Airport in Amsterdam.

Cancellation and Refunds:

Notification of cancellation must be received in writing to Thomson Safaris. At the time Thomson Safaris receives your cancellation, the following per person cancellation penalties apply:

Up to 91 days before departure:	Deposit (\$700 per person)
90-61 days before departure:	50% of the package price
60-46 days before departure:	65% of the package price
45 days or less before departure:	100% of the package price

Terms and Conditions:

A detailed Liability statement, concerning, among other things, limitations of Wineland-Thomson Adventures, Incorporated's liability for loss of property, injury, illness or death, will be provided to passengers upon enrollment, along with a Kilimanjaro Release and Assumption of Risk form to sign and return to Thomson Safaris shortly after enrolling on the trip. Each of these forms is also available to prospective travelers upon request.



A KILIMANJARO TREK TO THE ROOF OF AFRICA

FEBRUARY 11 - 23, 2012

Please reserve _____ space(s). Enclosed is my deposit of _____ (\$700 per person).
Final payment is due November 11, 2011 and payable by check, wire transfer, or money order.

#1 First and last name (as it appears on passport) MIT Affiliation Date of birth

#2 First and last name (as it appears on passport) MIT Affiliation Date of birth

Address

City State Zip

Phone (H) Phone (W)

Email

- Accept my check made payable to Thomson Safaris or
- Charge my: Visa MasterCard American Express Discover

Card # Expiration Date

Signature as it appears on card

- I would like more information on booking flights through Thomson Safaris.
- I will make my own flight arrangements.

- Please reserve _____ space(s) on the safari extension from **February 22 – 28, 2012.**
- Please reserve _____ space(s) on the balloon safari at a cost of \$475 per person. (Available on safari extension.)
- Double room, rooming with _____
- Single room on trek (\$390 supplement)
- Single room on trek & safari (\$790 supplement)
- I would like a roommate. If one is not available, I will pay a single supplement for trek or trek & safari.