

# ATBC + SCB Africa Meeting, Arusha 2011

## Organised Fieldtrips

Mt. Kilimanjaro Trek: the Lemosho Route, 4 – 10 or 17 – 23 or 24 – 30 June



### Description:

Some places you visit just once but remember the rest of your life. Trekking up Mt. Kilimanjaro is one such place, especially if you are lucky enough to be ascending on one of the more scenic, less trodden and crowded trails. At 5,895 m (19,336 ft) “Kili” is not only the highest peak on the African continent; it is also the tallest freestanding mountain in the world, a towering and breathtaking presence.



The Lemosho Route approaches the mountain from the West side and thus is easy to reach from Arusha. It is more gradual than some of the alternative routes, which, in conjunction with a five day up and two day down schedule allows for better acclimatization and general adjustment. It also provides a chance to see some wildlife.

**Day 1** will take you to check-in at the West Gate, before making your way to the trailhead, from where it is an easy 2-hour hike through cloud forest and glades to our first camp at Mti Mkubwa at about 2,650 m. On **day 2** you will come through a magnificent, lichen-draped, fire-scarred juniper forest until the trees gradually phase into the heath zone.



Following a ridge and after several ups and downs you may, shortly before Camp 2 (Shira 1 at 3480 m), be rewarded with your first view of Kibo, the mountain’s magnificent peak. **Day 3** involves several hours of easy uphill walking through the progressively shorter heath and moorland of the Shira Plateau, until reaching the Shira Huts (3840 m). **Day 4** is your major acclimatization day as it takes you first uphill towards the Lava Towers (4642 m), then downhill to your next camp, the Barranco Huts (3985 m), at the foot of Kibo’s impressive flank, while admiring magnificent Afromontane flora. **Day 5** starts with a scramble up the Barranco Wall after which you hike below the glaciers of Kibo, cross the Karanga Valley, until you climb up to Barafu Hut at 4681 m (15,358 ft). **Day 6** starts around mid-night to start the final ascent to Stella Point on the crater rim and finally Uhuru Peak at 5895 m (19,341 ft). After congratulating each other or dancing a waltz, you descend to Barafu and from there down the Mweka trail to Mweka Huts at 3090 m (10,138 ft). **Day 7** brings you through magnificent cloud forest back to civilization at the Mweka Gate at 1641 m (5,384 ft.)

Whether or not you “make” it to the highest peak in Africa shouldn’t be the point, as you will probably reach more altitude than most of us ever will, and the flora, fauna and views alone will be worth it.

**Fieldtrip leaders:**

This fieldtrip will be led by Prof. Hans Schabel and Dr. Tuyeni Mwampamba. Hans is a retired forestry professor, avid mountaineer, and naturalist who has been bringing students to Tanzania for this and similar fieldtrips for more than 20 years. Tuyeni is a Tanzanian ecologist trained in California, currently doing a post-doc in Mexico, and still having field sites in the Eastern Arc Mountains, Tanzania. Tuyeni has worked in the tourism industry in Tanzania and is a keen hiker. Both Hans and Tuyeni have been to the top of Africa multiple times.

**Total duration:** 6 nights, 7 days



**Requirements:**

You must be physically fit to participate. We will be walking long distances in high altitude.

**Group size:**

For maximum experience of this trip, particularly for nature observation, group size will be limited to 10 participants. If there is sufficient interest, we will be more than happy to open up a parallel trip.

**Cost:**

The total cost per person is \$1,919. Most of the fees go to paying the hefty (but justified) park fees, evacuation fees, cost of support staff (2 per person). The cost includes: transfer fees, accommodation, meals, drinks, park-related fees. The cost assumes that you

are willing to share a tent. To be accommodated in individual tents or room is an additional \$200. Total cost does not include tips for support staff (not us!).

We are still working to bring the costs down. We will let you know each time we are successful.

**Book your spot today!**

Please complete the [Fieldtrip Booking Form](#) and make all payments by the 12 May 2011.

**Inquiries:**

Contact us directly:

Hans: [hschabel@uwsp.edu](mailto:hschabel@uwsp.edu)

Tuyeni: [thmwampamba@gmail.com](mailto:thmwampamba@gmail.com)

**Equipment and preparation:**

Once you are a confirmed participant on this fieldtrip, you will be contacted with information about what you should do to prepare for this great adventure. We will also send you a list of equipment you will need.



**NOTE:** This trip is usually done in conjunction with a 7 day hike from the Volcano Highlands into the Rift Valley (described in another brochure). Please let us know if you are interested in this hike too so we can optimize logistics arrangements.