



## Mt. Meru-Crater-Tour

The highest point of Arusha Nationalpark is Mount Meru. With an altitude of 4566 m above sea level it is the fourth highest Mountain in Africa and the second highest in Tanzania. Though often ignored in favour of its bigger sister Mt. Kilimanjaro, Mt. Meru is a worthy trekker's paradise. The massive volcano endured a violent explosion at an estimated 200 million years ago and in its wake the explosion left towering cliffs in a gaping U-shaped ridge facing east towards Kilimanjaro. Its craggy top lies at the westernmost point of the summit ridge at 4566m. Sometimes, during chilly months, Mount Meru is covered by a snowcrest. The steep back of the crater edge, from which is only half still existing, lies on the western park border. Nowadays Mount Meru is an extinct volcano, except of some steam holes, which are a unique scenery for nature - walks and mountain climbing. The open cone, which is open to the eastern side, harbours a mountain rainforest with swept becks, refreshing water falls and jungle giants, which are enlaced of lianas.





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### Description - Activity:

Studied deeply before I left home, About this beauty with bite-  
And learned to tackle attitude, aptitude, altitude – call it height!  
Mountains – the roof of Africa, Meru and Kilimanjaro,  
Extinct volcanos for years – Massive, impressive giant miracles.  
That enchant your hearts with joy and fears!

What makes this trek truly special is the chance to see animals  
on foot. The lower section, which we reach with an open topped safari  
jeep, runs into the forest on the Meru crater floor with many large,  
potentially dangerous game animals about. An armed ranger comes  
along on this trek for safety.

On the way up, we will pass through three different vegetation zones,  
starting from savannah, to forest and into dense jungle, reminiscent of  
landscapes in the movie “Lord of the Rings.” Upon reaching Kitoto  
view point, altitude 2500m, our armed ranger provides an escort on  
the final hike up and into the crater floor. This takes a couple of hours.  
Return to the vehicle and head downhill to a spot next to a picturesque  
waterfall where a traditional picnic lunch replenishes burnt energy  
amidst spectacular views of rolling plains and Mt. Kilimanjaro looming  
in the background. Further down, another short walk leads to the  
Tululusia Waterfall, cascading down and soaking those who venture  
too close to the foot of it.

We return to *Hatari* exhausted but in time for evening coffee  
and cake!

