

A mysterious destination which hide a lot of secrets

## A mystic mountain ; the Kilimanjaro.

Kilimanjaro is a mountain which is situated in Africa, more exactly in the North of Tanzania. Its name can mean "Mountain of the light", "Mountain of the glory" or "Mountain of caravans" and it's 750 000 years old.

It's the highest isolated mountain in the world because it's surrounded by a savannah above which it is overhanging with a difference in height of 4 800 to 5 200 meters. It is a volcano of 388 500 hectares and oval shaped. This mountain is composed of three extinct volcanoes: the SHIRA, on the west part is at a height of 3 962 meters, the MAWENZI, in the east with an altitude of 5 149 meters and the KIBO with 5 891.8 meters situated between both and which is the highest mount of South Africa with its

mount called UHURU PIC.

The nearest town is named Moshi and it's located in the South of the mountain and this is the starting point of its ascent. It will take you between 5 and 6 days to climb it. Now, a little history; since the 16th century, many European explorers have talked about this volcano and the year 1871 was the partial ascent

of Charles New — because he was killed by Indigenous Africans before arriving at the summit.

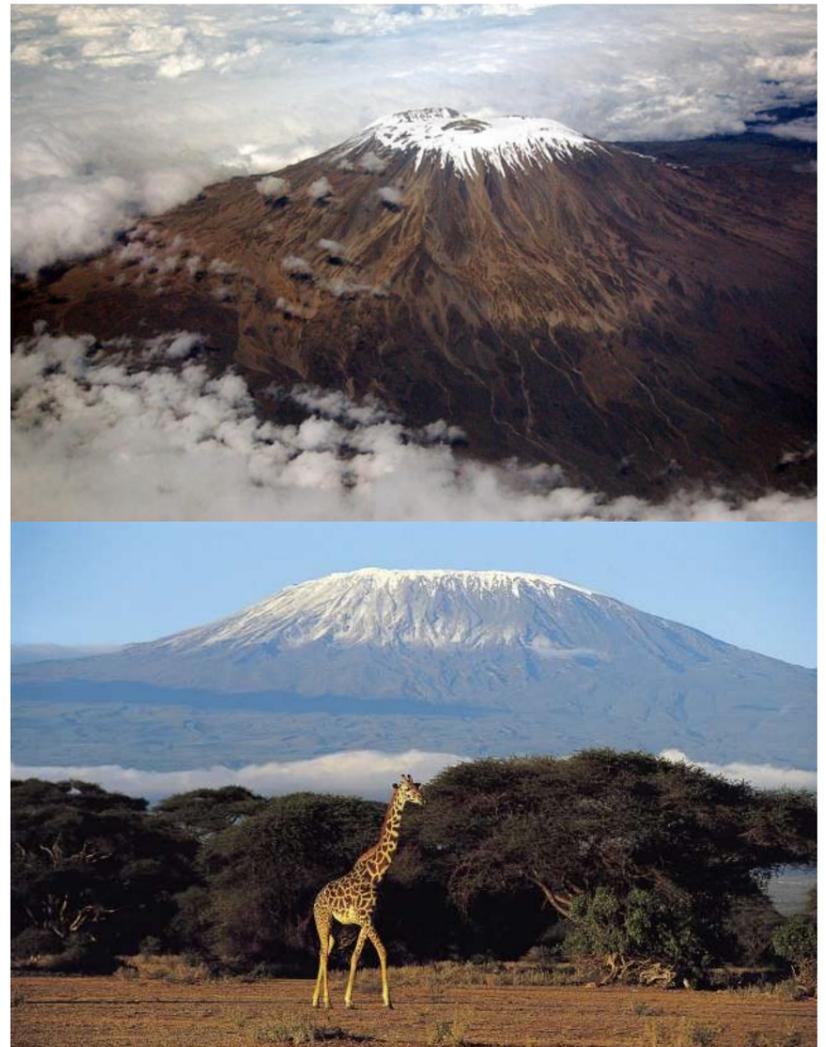
But in 1889, Hans Meyers, a German photographer succeeded to reach the top of Kilimanjaro. Nowadays, 20 000 tourists ascend this highest African mountain every year. Kilimanjaro can be climbed during all seasons of the year.

### A natural park.

Kilimanjaro is in the heart of a protected national park named the Kilimanjaro National Park, created in 1968, 756 square kilometres which are in the centre of a vast forest near Kenya's border. Since 1987, this park is registered on the UNESCO world heritage list. Before opening to the public in 1977, this park was made a reserve by the German colonial government in 1910, because the development of safaris put the fauna and

flora in danger. In 1921, the reserve became a forest reserve then the national park opened. The vegetation consists of savannah constituted of shrubs, flowering plants, baobab and other endemic trees. These trees and shrubs are used by the local populations for food, medicine, heating, or the preparation of fences. They also use them for their crafts and confection of works of art.

Manon Outin



## A travel into Maasai culture.

In Tanzania you can hear a lots of legends and old stories about the Maasai, these nomad people who lived in the savannah, around lacks and impressive mountains.

One of them told that a long time ago, Engai (God) wanted to offer three gifts to his sons. The first boy received a bow, he had to use it to go hunting, the second had a mattock to cultivate the ground. Engai gave to his third son a stick, to lead his cattle. This last boy was named Natero Kop, he is the father of the Maasai, that's why this tribe became proud shepherds.

Now, in the shadow of Kilimanjaro, the Maasai observe the sun rising in

the morning and its disappearance in the night, keeping their herds in the golden savannah; straight and motionless, and letting their thoughts wander in the wind.

Another story said that Natero Kop had two women, he offered ginger cows to the first woman, and black cows to the second woman. Each wife had children

and created some tribes ; the two most important and powerful were the "Ilmolelian" and the "Ilaiser". However the two Maasai colours are red and black (to symbolize the two states of their God's soul). Black to show kindness ; the sacred state of a person or an object, and red for youth and energy, but also for impatience and anger.

Raphaëlle Jouan



## Their way of life.

The Maasai are a proud and noble tribe. They are dressed in a red tunic, handing spear, their hair coated with red ochre often plaited. The Maasai are a full part of the north's landscape of Tanzania. The family wealth depends on the number of cattle they own. The whole herd is branded by the owner.

The life of the Maasai depend on their affiliation to an age group. To move up from a group to the next one, they have to accomplish rites of passage. The most famous group is the morrans, its warriors stride along the savannah. They live in villages named "boma" or "manyatta", in which the houses are organised in a circle protected by an acacia reef with impressive thorns to avoid incursions from predators, especially lions.

Over time, the Maasai have been forced to change their style of life. Despite their attempt to maintain some customs, the young people, espe-

cially those who live near large cities, have gradually lost the knowledge of the language Maa and fundamental elements of their traditional culture. Definitely, modernity has made its entry into the life of the Maasai.

Elise Tifagne

