

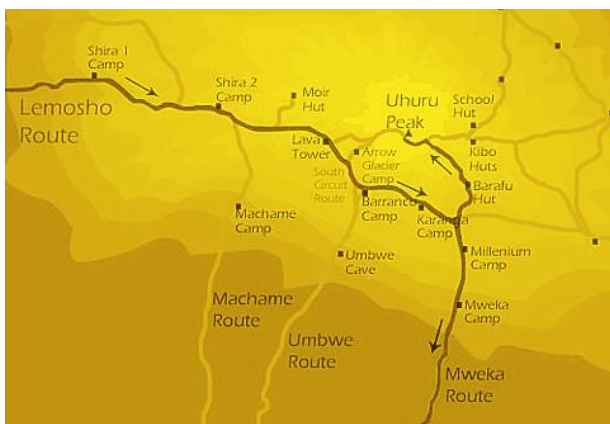


Trip Itinerary

KILIMANJARO – LEMOSHO & CRATER CAMP – 9 DAYS

Highlights

- Get away from the crowds and sleep on the roof of Africa
- Fantastic option if you are fit and acclimatise well
- Visit Kilimanjaro's remaining glaciers
- See the sunset over Africa and be first to the rim for the sunrise
- Avoid the busy overnight hike to the summit



Detailed itinerary

Day 1: Londorossi Gate To Mti Mkubwa

Elevation (m): 2360m to 2895m, Distance: 6 km, Time: 3-4 hours, Habitat: Montane forest.

Drive from the Hotel to Londorossi Park Gate for registration. Our porters prepare and pack the supplies and luggage before we start our ascent along the forest trail to Mti Mkubwa (big tree) campsite at 2895m. We will stay here overnight.

Day 2: Mti Mkubwa to Shira 1

Elevation (m): 2895m to 3500m, Distance: 8 km, Time: 5-6 hours, Habitat: Moorland

Our journey continues eastwards across Shira Plateau and Shira Cathedral. We will cross moorland meadow to reach Shira 1 camp for dinner and overnight camping at 3810m. By now we will be able to see, in an easterly direction, the Western Breach with its stunning glaciers. The night here is colder than the previous night & the temperature could possibly go below freezing.

Day 3: Shira 1 to Moir Hut

Elevation (m): 3500m to 4200m, Distance: 14 km, Time: 5-7 hours, Habitat: Moorland

We leave the forest behind now, the trail gets steeper as it enters the moorland zone. A gentle grade walk takes you across the high altitude Shira Caldera to Shira Cave with fabulous views of Arrow glacier. We will camp here for the night at 4200m.

Day 4: Moir Hut Via Lava Tower to Barranco Camp

Elevation (m): 4200m to 4600m to 3950m, Distance: 12 km, Time: 6-7 hours, Habitat: Semi desert

Our route continues on a rocky and rugged eastward path as we ascend to the base of the Lava Tower at 4600m for lunch and acclimatization. This will be our toughest day so far and you may, for the first time, feel the altitude. After lunch we will descend again by almost 650m to the Barranco camp. The high altitude of 4600m at Lava Tower and then descending to sleep will aid acclimatization. Our descent to Barranco camp takes about 2 hours and offers great opportunities to take some beautiful photographs of the Western Breach and Breach Wall. The camp is situated in a valley below the Breach and Great Barranco Wall, which should provide you with a memorable sunset while you wait for your dinner.

Day 5: Barranco Camp to Karanga Camp

Elevation (m): 3950m to 3930m, Distance: 7 km, Hiking Time: 4 hours, Habitat: Alpine Desert.

Today starts with a short, but fun, scramble, to the top of the Great Barranco Wall. We then traverse over scree to the Karanga Valley (3930m) beneath the icefalls of the Heim, Kersten and Decken Glaciers. We will stay overnight at Karanga campsite.

Day 6: Karanga Camp to Barafu Camp

Elevation (m): 3930m to 4600m, Distance: 6kms, Hiking Time: 3 hours, Habitat: Alpine Desert

We leave Karanga campsite behind to meet the junction connecting with the Mweka descent Trail. From here we continue up to the Barafu Hut. You have now completed the Southern Circuit, which offers views of the summit from many different angles. At camp, we can rest, enjoy dinner, and prepare for the summit day. The two peaks of Mawenzi and Kibo are to be clearly seen from this position.

Day 7: Barafu Camp to Summit To Crater Camp

Elevation (m): 4600m to 5895m (and down to 5790m), Distance: 8kms, Time: 7-8 hours, Habitat: Stone scree and ice-capped summit

You will be woken at 07:00 and we will eat a hearty breakfast before starting our summit ascent between the Rebman and Ratzel glaciers. We will head in a north-westerly direction and ascend through heavy scree towards Stella Point on the crater rim. This is the most mentally and physically challenging part of the trek. At Stella Point (5732m), we will stop for a short rest and will be rewarded with the most magnificent views (weather permitting). At Uhuru Peak (5895m), we will have reached the highest point on Mount Kilimanjaro and the continent of Africa. After celebrating with a few summit photos we begin our descent into Kibo Crater to camp for the night. The scenery is breathtakingly unbelievable and depending on the time of year you will see the fast receding glaciers set amidst either sandy, dessert or snowy conditions.

Day 8: Kibo Crater to Mweka Camp

Elevation (m): 5790m to 3100m, Distance: 12 km, Time: 6-8 hours, Habitat: Stone scree and moorland

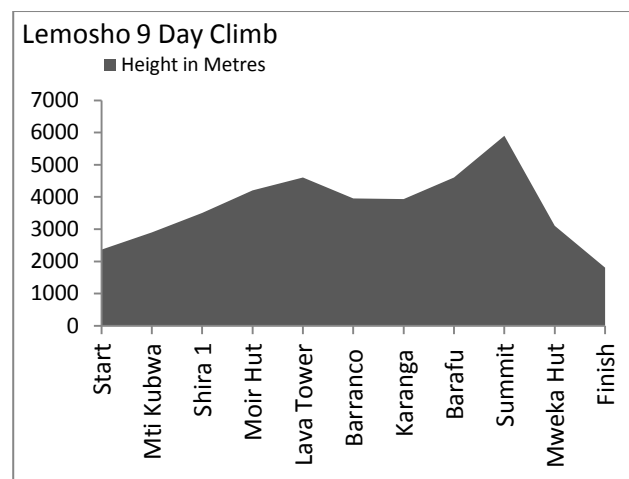
From the summit, we descend down to the Mweka Hut camp site, via Barafu for lunch. Trekking poles will be needed for the loose gravel going down to Mweka Camp (3100m). Later in the evening, we will enjoy our last dinner on the mountain and a well-earned sleep.

Day 9: Mweka Camp to Mweka Gate

Elevation (m): 3100m to 1800m, Distance: 10 km, Hiking Time: 3-4 hours, Habitat: Forest

We depart after breakfast descending down to the Mweka Park Gate to receive your summit certificates. At lower elevations, it can be wet and muddy. Gaiters and trekking poles will help. Shorts and t-shirts will be suitable (keep rain gear and warmer clothing handy).

Topography



Summary

Sleeping in Kibo Crater is a unique wilderness experience that is a fabulous option for the more adventurous climber. You get away from all the crowds and are likely to find you are the only group sleeping on the roof of Africa. The trip gives

you time to visit Kiimanjaro's remaining glaciers, see the sunset over Africa and be the first to the rim for the sunrise. You also get to avoid the busy overnight hike to the summit as you can climb up during the day.

It is certainly not for the faint-hearted though and must only be undertaken by those who have acclimatized well. There are obvious dangers of sleeping at 5730m above altitude as there is a higher risk of suffering from altitude related symptoms. In order to best minimise this risk we summit first prior to sleeping in the crater, thereby ensuring that we observe an imperative principle of acclimatisation, 'climb high, sleep low', at this critical altitude.

Please note we only offer the crater camp options on the Machame, Shira and Lemosho routes as the acclimatisation on other routes is not sufficiently good. You should also be aware that amongst those requesting to spend a night in the crater; some climbers change their minds while on the mountain after consulting with the guide and agreeing that they have failed to obtain a sufficiently safe level of acclimatisation for this option.

Kilimanjaro, with its three volcanic cones, Kibo, Mawenzi, and Shira, is an inactive stratovolcano in north-eastern Tanzania and the highest mountain in Africa at 5,895 metres or 19,341 feet (the Uhuru Peak). Mount Kilimanjaro is considered to be the tallest freestanding mountain in the world, rising 4600 m (15,100 feet) from the base. The name Kibo in Kichagga means "spotted" and refers to rocks seen on snowfields

The Kibo summit is the best preserved crater on the mountain; its southern lip rises to 5895m and is known as Uhuru Peak. Kibo is also the only one of the three summits which is permanently covered in snow due to the large glaciers that cover much of its surface.

Kibo are actually 3 volcanic craters on Kibo. Kibo Crater itself measures 1.9 x 2.7 km and forms a broken ring where lava flows have breached the craters rim. One of the other craters within Kibo is Reusch Crater whose inner crater measures 1.3km in diameter. There are still signs of volcanic activity, including fumaroles, the smell of sulphur from Reusch Crater. The third crater, the Ash Pit, is much smaller measuring only 130m deep by 140m wide.

The Furtwängler Glacier on Kilimanjaro is a remnant of the ice cap that once covered the mountain. These has retreated dramatically over the last century with over 80% glacial retreat. The glacier is named after Walter Furtwängler, who along with Ziegfried Koenig, were the fourth to ascend to the summit of Kilimanjaro in 1912.

The Lemosho route is one of our highly recommended routes, not only for its beautiful scenery but also its' high summit success due to the longer and steadier walk in improving acclimatisation. The first two days of the route have low traffic and are quite unspoilt, however, thereafter it



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joins with the Machame route to the summit.

The Lemosho route starts from Londorossi Gate and the first two days are spent trekking through rainforest, where you may see wild game. It then traverses up to Shira Ridge, Kilimanjaro's third summit. From here you will ascend and cross the expansive Shira Plateau with fantastic views of Shira Cathedral.

The descent is along the Mweka Route, a descent-only route. The minimum time taken for the Lemosho route is 7 days, but again an extra day to acclimatise is recommended to improve the chances of summiting.