



"Kilimanjaro is a snow-covered mountain 19,710 feet high, and is said to be the highest mountain in Africa. Its western summit is called by the Masai "the House of God". Close to the western summit there is the dried and frozen carcass of a leopard. No one has explained what the leopard was seeking at that altitude" The Snows of Kilimanjaro by Ernest Hemingway

Fueled by the mystique of the Hemingway story, the diversity of climate zones, active glaciers, and ease of accessibility, Kilimanjaro is one of the world's signature mountains and draws thousands of hikers each year. At 19,341 feet above sea level it is a test, but one that can be accomplished with good planning and preparation. Moshi Expeditions and Mountaineering has been successfully leading trekkers from all over the world up Kilimanjaro since 1994.

Trekking brief - Lemosho Route

Our climb up Mt. KILIMANJARO (Kibo) to UHURU PEAK is a rugged trek to the top of Africa. The Lemosho Route will traverse some of Kilimanjaro most striking and least traveled landscapes, including the base of Kilimanjaro's dramatic south-facing glaciers. We camp in MEM's rugged mountain tents every night and dine on great meals prepared by our guides.

The overall height difference between Lemosho Gate, National Park entrance and the summit of Uhuru peak is 4200 meters (13,776 ft) and the distance is 68 km (42.50 miles). At the top you have the satisfaction of ascending one of the world's finest 5000-meter peaks.

Lemosho Route: Approaching from the west side takes a lightly traveled route across the Shira plateau to approach the base of Kibo. The Lemosho Route takes an additional day and starts at a lower elevation than other routes that makes it better for altitude acclimatization. An added benefit is you walk through more climate zones and fully experience the transitions from the rainforest to the summit alpine zone.

The second day in Tanzania has us checking into the entrance of Kilimanjaro at Londorossi Gate and then on to the trailhead. We walk thru a luscious rain forest until we reach Big Tree Camp.

By the third day, the trees have become increasingly sparse and we enter the low bushes of the moorlands. The day finishes at Shira Camp, which is on a small plateau in the high moorlands, and features views of Kibo in the northwest and Mount Meru towards the east. White necked ravens can be seen throughout the day. There is also a set of small caves a short walk from the campsite known as the Shira Caves.

The fourth day starts in the moorlands and moves into alpine desert, with fewer trees and more rocks. Our highest point of the day's trek is Lava Tower at just over 15,000 feet. From this massive outcrop of volcanic rock, the trail descends into the Barranco Valley. As we descend, we pass through an area called the 'Garden of the *Senecios*' which features the huge *Senecios* and beautiful lobelia plants.

The fifth day starts with the ascent of the Barranco Wall. The trail is well marked as you scramble up. The top of the Wall has attractive vistas of Kibo and the surrounding landscape. The rolling trail continues across small streams until we finally cross the Karanga River to the Karanga campsite. (*Note: a 7 day trek omits the Karanga campsite and climbers continue directly to Barafu*)

The sixth day follows the path up and across the rocky alpine desert finishing at the highest camp - Barafu. A field of sedimentary rocks litters the ground like many broken mirrors.

The summit is usually attempted around midnight of the sixth day. Climbers typically take between 5-7 hours to ascend, using headlamps and cold weather gear. The first milestone on the crater rim is Stella Point (18,652 ft/5,685 m). From here, the trail continues for another 30 mins to Uhuru Peak. The descent back to Barafu takes roughly 4 hours. When you reach Barafu, we will take a short break and continue down to our last night on the mountain in the rich atmosphere of the lower elevations.

Trip Detail

Day 1 ARRIVAL IN TANZANIA

Upon arrival at Kilimanjaro International Airport, you will be picked up by our friendly staff and transported to the hotel booked based on the category chosen. You will spend a night to rest up and rearrange your gear before the trek begins the next day. You will have the opportunity to go over any last minute questions and leave a bag behind with anything you don't need on this trek. Your left-behind gear will be secured at the storage room and will meet you as soon as you back from the mountain.

Day 2: LONDOROSI GATE to MTI MKUBWA (8,692 ft.)

Hike time: 3hrs, Elevation Change + 650 m (2,132 ft)

Estimation distance: 10 km (6 miles) Final Elevation 2650 m (8,692 ft.)

Waypoint	Lemosho trail	S 3° 00.121' E 37° 08.692'	7,832 ft GPS Altitude
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A three-hour drive brings us to the Londorossi Park Gate located on the western side of Kilimanjaro. At the gate, we pick up our game ranger who will accompany us, as we might encounter elephants and buffaloes during our trek. We drive to the trailhead at Lemosho Glades and start our trek through the rain forest. In places, the vegetation is so untouched that it grows right across the narrow track. The flora and fauna are richer here than on the other more popular routes through the rain forest. Our trek today will be along a little used track known as Chamber's Route. In about 3-4 hours, we reach our camp in the rain forest at Mti Mkubwa (Big Tree).

Day 3: MTI MKUBWA to SHIRA ONE CAMP (11,841 ft.)

Hike time: 5 – 6 hrs, Elevation change + 950 m (3,116 ft)

Estimation distance: 12 km (7.5 miles) Final Elevation 3,610 m (11,841 ft)

Waypoint	Mti Mkubwa	S 2° 59.801' E 37° 10.497'	9,160 ft GPS Altitude
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After breakfast, we start the climb cross the remaining rain forest towards the giant moorland zone. Today is a full day trek with an altitude gain of 2,000 ft. We have a great lunch stop at a beautiful valley just outside the Shira Crater at around 10,000 ft. After lunch, we cross into the Shira Caldera, a high altitude desert plateau that is rarely visited. Shira is the third of Kilimanjaro volcanic cones, and is filled with lava flow from Kibo Peak. The crater rim has been decimated by weather and volcanic action. Today you will get your first close views of Kibo - the dramatic summit of Kilimanjaro.

Day 4: SHIRA ONE CAMP to SHIRA TWO CAMP (12,628 ft.)

Hike time: 5 to 6 hrs Elevation change: + 240 m (787 ft)

Elevation distance: 5 km (3 miles) Final elevation: 3,850 m (12,628 ft)

Waypoint	Shira One Camp	S 3° 00.769' E 37° 13.747'	11,500 ft GPS Altitude
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After breakfast, we continue hiking east across the Shira Plateau past the Shira Cathedral towards Shira Two camp. We only gain 700 feet in elevation - this allows us to acclimatize slowly to the altitude. The views of the plateau are nothing less than spectacular.

Day 5: SHIRA TWO CAMP to BARRANCO HUT (12,956 ft.)

Hike time: 5 hrs, Elevation change: +100 m (328 ft)

Estimated distance: 6 km (4 miles) Final elevation: 3950 m (12.956 ft)

Waypoint	Shira Camp	S 3° 03.898' E 37° 16.567'	12,860 ft GPS Altitude
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Today is the last of the "easy days". It is about a 7-hour superb hike. We pass the Lava Tower, around the southern flank of Kibo, and slowly descend into the spectacular Barranco Valley, interspersed with giant lobelia and senecio plants. After arriving at our most spectacular campsite, everyone stands in awe at the foot of Kibo Peak, looming high above, on our left. Our camp is only 465 feet higher than where we were last night, but during the day, we will have climbed to just over 15,000 feet. This is one of our most valuable days for acclimatization.

Day 6: BARRANCO HUT TO KARANGA VALLEY (13,743 ft.)

Hike time: 3.5 hrs, Elevation change: +240 M (787 ft)

Estimated distance: 4km (2.5 miles), Maximum elevation: 4190 m (13,743 ft)

Final elevation: 4000 M

Waypoint	Karanga Camp	S3 06.655 E37 21.165	12940 ft GPS Altitude
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On the eastern side of the valley, across the stream is the Barranco Wall - a 950 ft. barrier of volcanic rock. Although it is tall and looks steep, it is very easy to climb. This is our first challenge of the day. The views from the wall are magnificent. The rest of the day is spent skirting the base of Kibo peak over our left shoulder. We descend down into the Karanga Valley, where we rest up for the night before the tough climb up to Barafu hut.

Day 7: BARAFU CAMP (15,088 ft.)

Hike time: 3.5 hrs, Elevation changes: +410 M (1,345 ft)

Estimated distance: 4km (2.5 miles), Final elevation: 4600 m (15,088 ft)

Waypoint	BARAFU CAMP	S3 05.956 E37 22.690	15239 ft GPS Altitude
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First thing, you will be making a steep hike out of the valley. The air starts getting quite thin, and you will be running short of breath. It is a tough, but rewarding uphill to the rocky, craggy slopes at the camp. Barafu means, ice in Swahili, and it is extremely cold at this altitude. So, go to bed early because we will be waking you at midnight for the final leg to Uhuru Peak.

Mt Kilimanjaro - Lemosho route

Day 8: BARAFU to UHURU PEAK (19,341 ft.) to Mweka CAMP (9,550 ft.) **SUMMIT DAY!**

Summit time: 7 hrs, Elevation change: +1300 m (4,264 ft)

Estimated distance: 5km (3 miles), Final elevation: 5896 m (19,340 ft)

Descent time: 5 hrs, Elevation change: -2800 m (-9,184 ft)

estimated distance: 12km, Final elevation: 3100 m (9,551 ft)

Waypoint	Kibo crater rim	S3 04.682 E37 21.759	18471 ft GPS Altitude
Waypoint	SUMMIT	S3 04.585 E37 21.240	19098 ft GPS Altitude

Dress warmly, because we start climbing around midnight, on the steepest and most demanding part of the mountain. The moon, if out, will provide enough light, and we will reach the Crater rim by sunrise, after a 7 hour hike, and welcome a new dawn.

From the Crater rim, rugged Mawenzi Peak is a thrilling sight, with the Kibo saddle still in darkness beneath you, and the crater's ice-walls looming ahead. We now continue to Uhuru Peak (1-2 hrs.) This is the highest point in Africa, and the world's highest solitary peak (19,340 ft). It is the best view in Africa!

The descent is invigorating. It is a good idea to have a little rest once in awhile as you continue down back to Barafu Camp (4 hours), and then down the Mweka route to Mweka camp (5 hours). This is where we spend our last night on the mountain.

Day 9: MOSHI

Descent time: 4 hrs, Elevation change: -1250 m (4,100 ft)

estimated distance: 10km (6 miles), Final elevation: 1828 m (5,996ft)

Waypoint	Millenium Camp	S3 07.918 E37 22.339	12599 ft GPS Altitude
Waypoint	Mweke Hut	S3 09.383 E37 22.027	10204 ft GPS Altitude
Waypoint	Mweke Gate	S3 13.176 E37 20.479	5423 ft GPS Altitude

in the morning we walk down to the road head. This takes about 3 - 3^{1/2} hours after a lunch, it is time to say "kwaheri" to the porters. We then get a lift back to the Hotel for a shower and rest. Your trip includes transportation back to Kilimanjaro International Airport for your flight home.

Optional Add-ons

Before or after your trek up Kilimanjaro, you may want to extend your trip. Tanzania is a country with incredible scenery, a rich blend of African and European culture, world-renowned safari's, and idyllic beaches. We can arrange a complete itinerary for you to experience:

Safari - Tanzania is a country of history, Great White Hunters and the intrepid explorers of the past. Tanzania, the largest country in East Africa, offers the ultimate exotic adventure in a spectacular world. Legendary names like Serengeti and Ngorongoro present the finest experience of safari.

Tanzania's extensive networks of National Parks protect and conserve an area that affords one of the highest concentrations of wildlife in the world where literally millions of animals eternally roam in search of grassland. A safari with MEM offers the full flavor of the sights and experiences. See and feel the real Africa. Enjoy privacy and freedom in an area with abundant wildlife.

Zanzibar - Zanzibar Island is approximately 95 km long and located 35km from the Tanzania mainland. Few countries in the world equal Zanzibar's long white sand beaches. The warm aquamarine waters provide the backdrop for excellent diving and snorkeling. With a history steeped in the slave trade and as an important trading post for cloves and spices, the island is now a popular tourist destination.

Zanzibar's old quarter, Stone Town, is a fascinating maze of narrow streets and alleyways which lead past old houses, mosques, ornate palaces, shops, and bazaars. Many buildings in the Stone Town date from the 15th-century slave boom. A feature of many houses in Stone Town is a brass-studded door and elaborately carved frame. Come experience this unique blend of African, Middle East, and European culture in a spectacular setting!

Mt Meru - Mount Meru is an active volcano located just 70 kilometers (44 miles) west of Mount Kilimanjaro. It reaches 4,566 meters (14,978 feet) in height. Mount Meru is the topographic centerpiece of Arusha National Park. Its fertile slopes rise above the surrounding savanna and support a forest that host's diverse wildlife, including nearly 400 species of birds, and also monkeys and leopards. We can add a 3 day trek up Kilimanjaro to help you acclimatize and experience a unique and exhilarating hike.

Contact us and we can arrange your dream vacation!

