

Northern Circuit Route (9 Days)

Day One: Londorossi Gate (2,100m/6,890ft) to Mti Mkubwa Camp (2,750m/9,023ft)

Elevation Gain: 650 meters, 2,133 feet

Hiking time: 4 to 5 hours

Lemosho is ideal for climbers seeking a more private hiking experience. Although the trail joins with the more popular Machame route on the third evening, the first three days on the mountain are relatively quiet with few other trekking groups on the trail. On the first day, arrive at Londorossi Gate at about 11am. Spend about an hour at the gate while Duma Explorer registers your climb and the porters and guides make final preparations. Please note that the arrival time at the gate may vary depending on road conditions.

After registering at the gate, drive to the trailhead and enjoy a picnic lunch before starting the trek to Mti Mkubwa (Big Tree) Camp. Pass through the rain forests of Kilimanjaro viewing trees and birds along the way. Arrive at the campsite in the late afternoon and relax for the rest of the day.

Day Two: Mti Mkubwa Camp (2,750m/9,023ft) to Shira 1 Camp (3,480m/11,420ft)

Elevation Gain: 730 meters, 2,397 feet

Hiking time: 6 to 8 hours

Hike through the forest on day two for Kilimanjaro's moorland. This is the day that you will enjoy the greatest variety of Kilimanjaro's wildflowers. When the trail flattens out, you will have your first views of Kibo peak. After lunch, you will climb the Shira Plateau, created when Kibo's lava flows filled up the Shira crater. Stop at Shira 1 Camp, where you will relax for the rest of the day.

Day Three: Shira I (3,480m/11,420ft) to Shira Hut (3,860m/12,600ft)

Elevation Gain: 380 meters, 1,180 feet

Hiking time: 3 to 5 hours

This is an acclimatization day that allows you to take day hikes that explore the Shira Plateau. You will hike only a short while and gain just over 100 meters in elevation. Look to the west at sunset and you may catch a glimpse of the twin eruptions from the craters of Ol Donyio Lengai (The Mountain of God), an active volcano 100 kilometers distant.

Day Four: Shira Hut (3,860m/12,600ft) to Moir Hut (4,155m/13,632ft)

Elevation Gain: 295 meters, 1,032 feet

Hiking time: 5 to 7 hours

Follow the trail to Lava Tower (4,542 meters). This day allows you to climb high and sleep low and is critical for acclimatization. Stronger hikes may continue to the ruined camp at Arrow Glacier (4,871 meters). Continue hiking from Lava Tower to Moir Hut.

Day Five: Moir Hut (4,155m/13,632ft) to Buffalo Camp (4,145m/13,600ft)

Elevation Loss: 10 meters, 32 feet

Hiking time: 4 to 7 hours

Start the hike by hiking out of the Moir Valley. Hike to the summit of Lent Hills before returning to the main trail. Continue east through a rock field. Finally reach Buffalo Camp at the end of the day.

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Day Six: Buffalo Camp (4,145m/13,600ft) to Third Cave Camp (3,936m/12,913ft)

Elevation Loss: 209 meters, 687 feet

Hiking time: 5 to 7 hours

Climb to the top of Buffalo Ridge before continuing on through the barren landscape to Third Cave Camp. Cross many gullies during this day.

Day Seven: Third Cave Camp (3,936m/12,913ft) to School Hut (4,717m/15,476ft)

Elevation Gain: 781 meters, 2,563 feet

Hiking time: 4 to 5 hours

Begin the day by backtracking yesterday's trail until the dry riverbed. Head west toward Kibo on a steady upward climb. By the early afternoon, reach School Hut on the eastern slopes of Kibo. The Saddle to Mawenzi lies just a few minutes from the camp. Prepare for your midnight ascent to Uhuru Peak.

Day Eight: School Hut (4,717m/15,476ft) to Summit (5,895m/19,340ft) to Millennium Camp (3,827m/12,566ft)

Elevation Gain: 1,178 meters, 3,864 feet

Elevation Loss: 2,068 meters, 6,777 feet

Hiking time: 11 to 15 hours walking

Due to the steep ascent at high altitude, this is the most challenging day of the ascent. Leave School Hut around midnight to begin your hike to the top of Kibo Crater. It is important to remember to snack during the ascent to keep your energy up. You will likely lose your appetite during this day and begin to feel new effects of altitude sickness. Reach Gilman's Point on the Crater rim. Continue on to Uhuru Peak, the highest point in Africa. The hike to the summit is slow, and will take approximately 1.5 hours from Gilman's Point. After reaching the summit, descend to Barafu Camp for a rest and brunch. Around 1pm, descend to Millennium Camp. Reach Millennium Camp at approximately 6pm.

Day Nine: Millennium Camp (3,827m/12,566ft) to Mweka Gate (1,500m/4,920ft)

Elevation Loss: 2,327 meters, 7,646 feet

Hiking time: 4 to 6 hours After breakfast, finish the trek with a descent to Mweka Gate. Your last hike on Kilimanjaro is a beautiful one, passing through Kilimanjaro's cloud forest. Watch your step during the descent as the trail can be slippery. Duma Explorer vehicles will be waiting at the lower station of Mweka Gate to take you back to Arusha. You will be able to buy t-shirts, souvenirs and sodas at the gate. Enjoy a picnic lunch at the gate before departing the mountain.