

8 Days Kilimanjaro Climb - Lemosho Route

📍 Mount Kilimanjaro National Park



The **Lemosho Route** offers the most scenic path to the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro. This eight-day trek provides excellent acclimatization, varied landscapes, and a high chance of reaching the summit. It is ideal for adventurers who want to experience Africa's tallest mountain fully.

The climb begins in the lush rainforest. You may spot monkeys, exotic birds, and unique plants as you ascend. The trail then opens to the **Shira Plateau**, revealing panoramic views of Kilimanjaro's snowcapped peak. Along the way, you trek past dramatic landmarks such as **Lava Tower** and the famous **Barranco Wall**, adding both challenge and breathtaking scenery. Each day balances trekking and rest, allowing your body to adjust to the altitude safely.

The journey's highlight is the **summit night**. Starting just before midnight from Barafu Camp, you climb steadily with support from experienced guides. Reaching **Uhuru Peak (5,895m)**, the highest point in Africa, rewards you with a spectacular sunrise over the continent. This moment marks the pinnacle of your adventure and a lifetime achievement.

The descent takes you through different ecological zones. You celebrate at Mweka Gate before returning to Moshi or Arusha for rest. The route combines the thrill of adventure with the comfort of structured support.

With its striking scenery, diverse terrain, and gradual ascent, the **8 Days Lemosho Route** provides one of the safest and most rewarding ways to climb Kilimanjaro. Every step offers a mix of challenge, beauty, and the satisfaction of reaching Africa's highest peak.

Tour Facts

Group Size:
2-10
Duration:
8

Language:
English, France, Germany, Spain
Tour Type:
continuous

Tour Itinerary

Day 1 : Arrival in Moshi / Arusha - Pre-Climb Preparation



Arrive at **Kilimanjaro International Airport (JRO)**, where your guide will meet you and transfer you to your hotel in **Moshi or Arusha**. Upon arrival, check in and take some time to rest and acclimatize to the local environment. In the afternoon, attend a **comprehensive pre-climb briefing** with your guide, covering the Lemosho Route itinerary, trekking schedule, safety measures, gear requirements, and altitude preparation tips. This is also a great opportunity to check and organize your personal equipment and meet your trekking team. Depending on your arrival time, you can explore the local town, enjoy the hotel facilities, or simply relax in preparation for the climb ahead.

Accommodation: Kili Wonders Hotel or similar

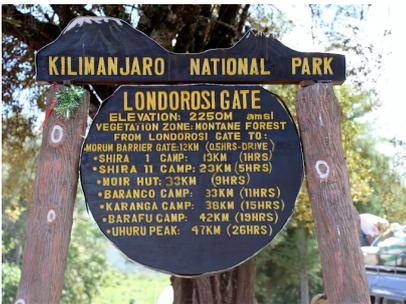
Meals: Dinner included at the hotel

Altitude: 1,000-1,200m

Meals Included
DINNER,

Duration
5 Hours

Day 2 : Londorossi Gate - Mti Mkubwa Camp (2,820m) - Entering the Rainforest



After an early breakfast at your hotel in Moshi or Arusha, you will drive **2-3 hours** to **Londorossi Gate**, the starting point of the Lemosho Route. At the gate, your guide will help you complete park registration and briefing, and meet your trekking team of porters and cooks. You'll have time to organize your personal trekking pack, ensuring essential items like water, snacks, and warm layers are ready.

The trek begins in **lush rainforest**, a habitat filled with towering trees, hanging moss, and an array of exotic birds. You may encounter monkeys and colobus monkeys as you make your way along well-marked trails. The initial section is relatively gentle, giving your body a smooth introduction to altitude and trekking.

Over the course of **6 km in 3-4 hours**, you will gradually ascend to **Mti Mkubwa Camp (2,820m)**. Along the way, your guide will point out unique plants, trees, and local wildlife, offering educational insights into the Kilimanjaro ecosystem. Once at camp, you can rest, enjoy a warm meal prepared by the mountain cook, and take in the serene forested surroundings. This first night on the mountain helps your

body start acclimatizing while offering a preview of the natural beauty ahead.

Trekking Distance: 6 km

Hiking Time: 3-4 hours

Elevation: 2,820m

Habitat: Rainforest

Highlights: Waterfalls, exotic birds, playful monkeys, lush forest trails

Accommodation: Mti Mkubwa Camp (tented)

Meals: Breakfast, lunch, and dinner included

Meals Included

LUNCH, DINNER, BREAKFAST,

Duration

6 Hours

Day 3 : Mti Mkubwa Camp - Shira 1 Camp (3,500m) - Ascending into the Moorlands



After an early breakfast at **Mti Mkubwa Camp**, you will begin your trek higher up the mountain. The trail gradually emerges from the **dense rainforest** into the **heather and moorland zone**, where the scenery transforms dramatically. Towering trees give way to giant lobelias, flowering groundsels, and expansive open landscapes, offering your first panoramic views of **Kibo Peak** in the distance.

On this day, you will trek approximately **8 km in 5-6 hours**. The path is moderately challenging, with gentle inclines that allow your body to **acclimatize gradually to the increasing altitude**. Along the way, your guide will explain the unique flora and fauna of this zone, helping you appreciate the changing ecosystems of Kilimanjaro. Midway, there will be rest stops for water, snacks, and short breaks to take photographs of the striking landscapes.

You will arrive at **Shira 1 Camp (3,500m)** in the early afternoon, giving you time to **rest, enjoy a hot meal, and soak in the views** of the plateau. For those feeling energetic, a short acclimatization walk around the camp is possible, which further prepares your body for the higher altitudes ahead. The evening offers stunning sunsets over the plateau, a perfect time for photography and reflection.

Trekking Distance: 8 km

Hiking Time: 5-6 hours

Elevation: 3,500m

Habitat: Heather and moorland

Highlights: Panoramic views of Kibo, giant lobelias, flowering groundsels, open plateau landscapes

Accommodation: Shira 1 Camp (tented)

Meals: Breakfast, lunch, and dinner included

Meals Included

LUNCH, DINNER, BREAKFAST,

Duration

7 Hours

Day 4 : Shira 1 Camp - Shira 2 Camp (3,840m) - Crossing the Shira Plateau



After breakfast at **Shira 1 Camp**, you will continue trekking across the **stunning Shira Plateau**, one of Kilimanjaro's most scenic areas. The landscape is a high-altitude desert interspersed with unique flora such as **giant lobelias** and **giant groundsels**, and offers unobstructed views of **Kibo Peak** and the surrounding valleys. The trail is relatively gentle, which allows you to **acclimatize gradually** while enjoying the breathtaking scenery.

Today's trek covers approximately **7 km in 4-5 hours**, with several breaks for hydration, snacks, and photography. Your guide will point out natural features and explain the ecological importance of the plateau. You may also see dramatic rock formations and small streams along the way. The trail gradually ascends, preparing your body for higher altitudes as you move closer to the summit zones.

You will arrive at **Shira 2 Camp (3,840m)** in the early afternoon. The camp is located in a wide, open area with panoramic mountain views. You will have time to rest, enjoy a hot meal prepared by the trekking cooks, and take a short **acclimatization walk** around the camp. Evening brings stunning sunsets over the plateau, giving you a perfect opportunity for photography and reflection before an early dinner and overnight rest.

Trekking Distance: 7 km

Hiking Time: 4-5 hours

Elevation: 3,840m

Habitat: Moorland and alpine desert

Highlights: Shira Plateau vistas, giant lobelias, unique alpine flora, panoramic Kibo views

Accommodation: Shira 2 Camp (tented)

Meals: Breakfast, lunch, and dinner included

Meals Included

LUNCH, DINNER, BREAKFAST,

Duration

8 Hours

Day 5 : Shira 2 Camp - Lava Tower (4,630m) - Barranco Camp (3,960m)



Today is one of the most important days of your Kilimanjaro adventure, as it is specifically designed for **acclimatization**. After breakfast at **Shira 2 Camp**, you will begin your trek eastward, gradually climbing toward the imposing **Lava Tower**, a striking volcanic rock formation that rises dramatically to **4,630 meters**.

The trek to Lava Tower takes around **4-5 hours** and exposes you to higher altitudes, allowing your body to adjust to the thin air. The trail passes through rugged alpine desert terrain, where vegetation is sparse but the dramatic views of **Kibo's glaciers** and rugged ridges make the climb unforgettable. Upon reaching the Lava Tower area, you will enjoy a **packed lunch** and take some time to rest while your body adapts to the altitude.

After lunch, you will descend steadily into the **Barranco Valley**, a stunning region filled with **giant senecio trees** and lush greenery fed by glacial streams. The descent takes about **2-3 hours**, and although you end the day at a lower elevation than Lava Tower, this "climb high, sleep low" strategy is essential for successful acclimatization and increases your chances of reaching the summit.

By late afternoon, you will arrive at **Barranco Camp (3,960m)**, nestled at the foot of the towering

Barranco Wall. The camp offers one of the most scenic overnight stops on the entire mountain, with breathtaking sunsets and a close-up view of the dramatic wall you will climb the next day. After a hot dinner, your guide will brief you on the following day's challenge before you rest under the stars.

Trekking Distance: 10 km

Hiking Time: 6-7 hours

Elevation: From 3,840m (Shira 2) to 4,630m (Lava Tower), down to 3,960m (Barranco)

Habitat: Alpine desert descending to lush valley vegetation

Highlights: Lava Tower acclimatization, stunning views of Kibo, unique Barranco Valley scenery

Accommodation: Barranco Camp (tented)

Meals: Breakfast, lunch, and dinner included

Meals Included

LUNCH, DINNER, BREAKFAST,

Duration

7 Hours

Day 6 : Barranco Camp (3,960m) - Barranco Wall - Karanga Camp (4,035m)



After an early breakfast, today begins with one of the most memorable and exciting parts of the Kilimanjaro climb — the **Barranco Wall**. This steep rock face rises nearly **300 meters** above camp, and although it looks intimidating, the climb is non-technical. Using both hands and feet, you will scramble up the natural rock steps under the guidance of your experienced crew. The ascent usually takes **1-2 hours**, and once

at the top, you are rewarded with **sweeping views across the Karanga Valley** and the distant plains below.

From the top of the Barranco Wall, the trail continues on undulating terrain with several smaller ascents and descents. You will traverse ridges and valleys carved by ancient glaciers, with the southern glaciers of **Kibo Peak** visible on a clear day. The path gradually leads you into the **Karanga Valley**, where you will descend before making a short, steep climb to reach **Karanga Camp (4,035m)** by early afternoon.

This camp is often used as a base for acclimatization, giving climbers time to rest, hydrate, and adjust to the thinning air. After lunch, you can spend the rest of the day relaxing, taking short acclimatization walks with your guide, or simply soaking in the dramatic views of **Uhuru Peak** towering above.

Dinner will be served in the mess tent, and your guide will brief you about the next day's push toward Barafu Camp — the final staging point before the summit attempt.

Trekking Distance: 5-6 km

Hiking Time: 4-5 hours

Elevation: From 3,960m (Barranco) to 4,035m (Karanga)

Habitat: Alpine desert with rocky ridges and valleys

Highlights: Exciting climb up Barranco Wall, acclimatization at Karanga, magnificent views of Kibo and southern glaciers

Accommodation: Karanga Camp (tented)

Meals: Breakfast, lunch, and dinner included

Meals Included

LUNCH, DINNER, BREAKFAST,

Duration

8 Hours

Day 7 : Karanga Camp (4,035m) – Barafu Camp (4,640m)



Today marks the **final push before your summit attempt**. After an early breakfast, you'll leave **Karanga Camp** and start the gradual climb toward **Barafu Camp**, which serves as the high base camp for summiting Uhuru Peak.

The trail ascends steadily through the **alpine desert zone**, with sparse vegetation and a rugged, rocky terrain underfoot. The air becomes noticeably thinner as you gain altitude, and you may find each step requires more effort. The route offers **panoramic views of the summit glaciers** as well as sweeping vistas of **Mawenzi Peak** rising to the east.

After approximately **4-5 hours of trekking**, you'll reach **Barafu Camp at 4,640 meters**. "Barafu" means "ice" in Swahili, and true to its name, the camp sits on an exposed, cold ridge with little vegetation. Despite its harsh environment, Barafu provides spectacular views of **Kibo's jagged peak** and the route you'll take during your midnight summit attempt.

Upon arrival, you'll rest, have a hot lunch, and prepare for the most challenging part of your journey — the summit night. Your guide will brief you on the gear you'll need, clothing layers, and the pace for the night climb. After an early dinner, climbers are encouraged to **sleep or rest from around 6:00–7:00 PM** to conserve energy for the summit push, which begins around **midnight**.

Trekking Distance: 4-5 km

Hiking Time: 4-5 hours

Elevation: From 4,035m (Karanga) to 4,640m (Barafu)

Habitat: Alpine desert, rocky terrain

Highlights: Final preparation for summit, stunning views of Mawenzi and Kibo glaciers

Accommodation: Barafu Camp (tented)

Meals: Breakfast, lunch, and early dinner included

Meals Included

LUNCH, DINNER, BREAKFAST,

Duration

8 Hours

Day 8 : Barafu Camp (4,640m) – Uhuru Peak (5,895m) – Mweka Camp (3,100m)



This is the **most challenging and rewarding day** of your Kilimanjaro climb. Summit day begins in the dead of night. Around **midnight to 1:00 AM**, your guides will wake you with hot tea and a light snack. You'll gear up with warm layers, headlamps, and trekking poles before beginning the slow, steady ascent toward the roof of Africa.

The trail starts with a steep climb up the **scree slopes of Kibo**, winding through switchbacks under a star-filled sky. As you ascend, the air becomes thin and each step demands effort, but your guides will set a **"pole pole" (slowly, slowly)** pace to conserve energy.

After **5-7 hours of climbing**, you'll reach **Stella Point (5,756m)** on the crater rim just in time for sunrise. From here, it's another **45 minutes to 1 hour** along the rim to reach **Uhuru Peak (5,895m)** — the highest

point in Africa. Standing at the summit, you'll be rewarded with breathtaking views of the **glaciers, crater, and endless African plains** below. This is a once-in-a-lifetime moment to celebrate and capture photos at the iconic Uhuru Peak sign.

After spending a short time at the summit, you'll begin your descent back to **Barafu Camp**, which takes about **3-4 hours**. Here, you'll rest briefly and enjoy a warm meal.

From Barafu, the descent continues down the rocky slopes into lower altitude zones, passing from alpine desert back into the **moorland and forest belt**. After another **4-5 hours of trekking**, you'll arrive at **Mweka Camp (3,100m)**. The oxygen-rich air and warmer climate will feel like a relief after the high-altitude push.

At camp, you'll enjoy a hearty dinner and a well-deserved night of deep sleep, knowing you've just conquered the highest peak in Africa.

Trekking Distance: 16-18 km

Hiking Time: 10-14 hours total (7-8 hours up, 6-7 hours down)

Elevation: From 4,640m (Barafu) → 5,895m (Uhuru Peak) → 3,100m (Mweka Camp)

Habitat: Arctic zone to alpine desert, moorland, and forest

Highlights: Sunrise at Stella Point, summit of Uhuru Peak, descent through dramatic ecological zones

Accommodation: Mweka Camp (tented)

Meals: Breakfast (early at Barafu), lunch at Barafu, dinner at Mweka Camp

Meals Included

LUNCH, DINNER, BREAKFAST,

Duration

8 Hours

Day 8 : Mweka Camp (3,100m) → Mweka Gate (1,640m) → Arusha / Moshi



After a good night's rest at Mweka Camp, you'll wake up to the sounds of the forest and enjoy a relaxed breakfast. This is your final trekking day on Kilimanjaro. The trail descends steadily through lush montane forest filled with towering trees, ferns, and the chance to spot colobus monkeys and colorful birdlife.

The path can be slippery, especially if it has rained, so trekking poles will help as you make your way down. After about 3-4 hours of descent, you'll arrive at **Mweka Gate (1,640m)**, where you'll sign out of the park register. Here, your successful climb will be officially recorded, and you'll receive your **summit certificate** (green for reaching Stella Point, gold for reaching Uhuru Peak).

At the gate, you'll say farewell to your mountain crew with songs and celebrations. A vehicle will be waiting to transfer you back to **Arusha or Moshi**, where a hot shower, soft bed, and well-earned rest await.

- **Trekking Distance:** 10 km
- **Hiking Time:** 3-4 hours

- **Elevation:** From 3,100m (Mweka Camp) → 1,640m (Mweka Gate)
- **Habitat:** Montane forest
- **Highlights:** Scenic descent through rainforest, summit certificate award, transfer back to town
- **Accommodation:** Hotel in Moshi/Arusha (your choice of standard, mid-range, or luxury)
- **Meals:** Breakfast at camp, lunch en route, dinner at hotel (optional depending on your plan)

Meals Included	Duration
LUNCH, BREAKFAST,	6 Hours