

ITINERARY for 8Days, 7Nights KILIMANJARO TREKKING

The 8 day Lemosho variation is the ideal schedule for this route. On the 8 day Lemosho route, the trek from Barranco to Barafu is broken up into two days, allowing for a short day just prior to the summit attempt. This is important because summit day begins very early, around midnight, so climbers are bit sleep deprived going into the toughest day on the mountain. By having a short day beforehand, climbers can be better rested.

Day 1

- Londorossi Gate to Big Tree Camp (Mti Mkubwa Campsite)
- Elevation (ft): 7,800ft to 9,200ft
- Distance: 6 km
- Hiking Time:3-4 hours
- Habitat: Rain Forest

We depart Ilboru Safari Lodge for Londorossi Gate, which takes about 3 hours, where you will complete entry formalities. Then drive to the Lemosho trailhead. Upon arrival at trailhead, we eat lunch then continue through undisturbed forest which winds to the first camp Mti Mkubwa Campsite for Dinner and overnight.

DAY 2

- Big tree camp to Shira Camp 1
- Elevation (ft): 9,200ft to 11,500ft
- Distance: 9km
- Hiking Time 5-6 hours
- Habitat: Moorland

We continue on the trail leading out of the forest and into a savannah of tall grasses, heather, and volcanic rock draped with lichen beards. As we ascend through the lush rolling hills and cross several streams, we reach the Shira Ridge before dropping gently down to Shira 1 camp. The view of Kibo from across the plateau is amazing.

DAY 3

Shira1 to Shira2 camp
Elevation: 11,500ft - 12630ft
Distance: 12km/
Hiking time: 5-7 hours
Habitat: Moorland

We explore the Shira plateau for a full day. It is a gentle walk east toward Kibo's glaciated peak, across the plateau which leads to Shira 2 camp on moorland meadows by a stream. A variety of

hikes are available on the plateau, making this an excellent acclimatization day. Shira is one of the highest plateaus on earth.

DAY 4

Shira 2 to Lava Tower to Barranco Camp

- Elevation (ft): 12,630ft to 15200ft then to 13,000ft
- Distance: 10km
- Hiking Time: 6-8hours
- Habitat: Semi Desert/ Alpine Desert

From the Shira Plateau, we continue to the east up a ridge, passing the junction (where Machame & Lemosho route meet) towards the peak of Kibo. As we continue, our direction changes to the South East towards the Lava Tower, called the “Shark’s Tooth.” Shortly after the tower, we come to the second junction which brings us up to the Arrow Glacier at an altitude of 16,000ft. We now continue down to the Barranco Hut at an altitude of 13,000ft. Here we rest, enjoy dinner, and overnight. Although you end the day at the same elevation as when you started, this day is very important for acclimatization and will help your body prepare for summit day.

DAY 5

- Barranco Camp to Karanga Camp
- Elevation (ft): 13,000ft to 13,100ft
- Distance: 5km
- Hiking Time: 3-5 hours
- Habitat: Alpine Desert

After breakfast, we leave Barranco and continue on a steep ridge passing the Barranco Wall, to the Karanga Valley campsite. This is a short day meant for acclimatization. Dinner and overnight at Karanga Camp, one night before start the final attempt.

DAY 6

- Karanga Camp to Barafu Camp
- Elevation (ft): 13,100ft to 15,200ft
- Distance: 5km
- Hiking Time: 3-5 hours
- Habitat: Alpine Desert

After breakfast, we leave Karanga and hit the junction which connects with the Mweka Trail. We continue up to the Barafu Hut. At this point, you have completed the South Circuit, which offers views of the summit from many different angles. Here we make camp, rest, enjoy dinner, and prepare for the summit day. The two peaks of Mawenzi and Kibo are to be seen from this position.

DAY 7

- Barafu Camp to Summit to Millenium camp

- Elevation (ft): 15,200ft to 19,341ft (and down to 12590ft)
- Distance: 5 km ascent / 9km descent
- Hiking Time: 6-8 hours ascent / 4-6 hours descent
- Habitat: Summit & back to the Moorland

Very early in the morning (midnight from 12:00am), we continue our way to the summit between the Rebmann and Ratzel glaciers. You 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 portion of the trek.

At Stella Point (18,600 ft), you will stop for a short rest and will be rewarded with the most magnificent sunrise you are ever likely to see (weather permitting). From Stella Point, you may encounter snow all the way on your 1-hour ascent to the summit. At Uhuru Peak, you have reached the highest point on Mount Kilimanjaro and the continent of Africa. Faster hikers will see the sunrise from the summit.

From the summit, we now make our descent continuing straight down to the Millenium camp site, stopping at Barafu for lunch. We recommend to have not more than 1 hour rest after the summiting before heading to Millenium camp. You will want gaiters and trekking poles for the loose gravel going down. Millenium Camp is situated in the upper moorland. Later in the evening, we enjoy our last dinner on the mountain and a well-earned sleep. This is the day when you get together and organize with your hikers for tipping the team and always tipping is done in the morning, the last day you prepare to leave the mountain.

DAY 8

Millenium Camp to Mweka gate.

- Elevation (ft): 12,590 to 5,400ft
- Distance: 14km
- Hiking Time: 5-7hours
- Habitat: Rain Forest

After breakfast, we continue the descent 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 probably be plenty to wear (keep rain gear and warmer clothing handy). We will have lunch at the Mweka gate and after finishing celebrating our successful climb with our team, the vehicle will be waiting for you and drive you back to hotel.