



8 DAY LEMOSHO ROUTE ON KILIMANJARO

BRIEF ITINERARY

- Day 1: Fly to Kilimanjaro – Overnight at Hotel in Arusha
- Day 2: Londrossi Gate onto Big Tree Camp
- Day 3: Shira Camp 1
- Day 4: Shira Camp 2
- Day 5: Barranco Camp
- Day 6: Karanga Camp
- Day 7: Kosovo Camp
- Day 8: Kosovo – Summit– Mweka Camp
- Day 9: Mweka – exit gate – Overnight at Hotel in Arusha
- Day 10: Hotel - Airport transfer

Day 1: Arrive at Kilimanjaro International Airport

You should aim to arrive as early as possible this day or you are welcome to arrive in earlier if you choose. Once you arrive, you will be picked up from the airport and taken on a 50-minute transfer to the hotel in Arusha, where you will be booked on a shared bed and breakfast basis. You will have a group briefing in the evening with our head guide to prepare you for the journey ahead. Our head guide was named the Mountain Guide of the year in 2019 on Kilimanjaro and you can read more about him here: <https://iantaylortrekking.com/blog/kilimanjaro-mountain-guide-of-the-year-2019/>.

Day 2: Londorossi Gate to Mti Mkubwa (9,186ft / 2,800m)

After breakfast at the hotel, our local team will be there to pick the team up to start the journey! Normally, the meeting time will be 8am, but this will be confirmed at the briefing the night prior. A three-hour drive from Arusha takes us to the Londorossi Park Gate, located on the western side of Kilimanjaro, where we should arrive by midday, to register at the gate and enter the Kilimanjaro Park, this process can take up to a couple of hours. While we wait, we will have our lunch at the gate and sign in to the National Park. Here you will begin to realize that we are on one of the least trodden routes compared to the "standard" lines of ascent such as Machame and Marangu. The flora and fauna are richer here and in places the vegetation is so untouched that it grows right across the narrow track. Our trek today will be along a little used track known as Chamber's Route. In approximately three hours, we will reach our camp in the forest at Mti Mkubwa, otherwise known as Big Tree Camp, at 2,800m/9,186ft.

Day 3: Mti Mkubwa to Shira One Camp (11,480ft / 3,500m)

After breakfast, we start the climb through the rainforest towards the giant moorland zone. Today is a full day's trek with a significant gain in height. So it will be tough, even at a relatively low altitude. We will take a lunch stop at the crest of a ridge, just



below the Shira Crater at approximately 3,000m/9,850ft. After lunch, we follow the ridgeline steadily upwards towards the Shira Caldera, a high altitude desert plateau, which is rarely visited. Shira is the third of Kilimanjaro's volcanic cones, and is filled with lava flow from Kibo Peak. The crater rim has been massively eroded over time by weather and volcanic action. Today we'll get our first close views of Kibo - the central volcanic cone and literally "the Roof of Africa". The second of the 3 volcanic spouts that make up Kilimanjaro is Mawenzi, but this lies hidden for the time being to the east of Kibo. Today's walk will be approximately 6 hours before reaching the camp at 3,500m/11,480ft.

Day 4: Shira One Camp to Shira Two Camp (12,795 ft / 3,900m)

After breakfast, we continue to hike east across the Shira Plateau past the Shira Cathedral (12,470ft / 3,880 m), towards Shira Two camp. The views of the plateau, across the mountain and to the plains below are nothing less than spectacular. After lunch we will hike up to 4,000m/13,123 ft. for some additional acclimatization.

Day 5: Shira Two Camp to Baranco Camp (12,795 ft / 3,900 m)

Today is a tough seven-hour hike in superb country. We start the day before lunch in a steady uphill ascent towards the Lava Tower. Today, we will focus on a similar pattern/pace that will happen on the summit night. Once we reach the Lava Tower at 4,640m/15,223ft, we will stop for a hot lunch and rest before we slowly descend to Baranco, our most spectacular campsite, situated at the foot of the Kibo Peak. As we travel, we will look up to the hanging cliff of the Breach Wall, which has given the likes of Messner some extremely hard climbing – when he took a new route up a hanging icicle draped from the top of the wall. As we descend to Baranco, the southern ice-fields will come more clearly into view. Sleeping at a similar height as we did the night before, gives excellent acclimatization after reaching a new height record for the trip at the Lava Tower. Today we will be hiking for approximately 7 hours and will be a challenging but rewarding day.

Day 6: Baranco Camp to Karanga Camp (13,300ft / 4,050m)

After breakfast, our first challenge is to overcome the Baranco Wall, which is 300m/984ft high and takes us to an altitude of 4,244m/13,924ft. The Baranco Wall will look daunting from the camp, however it is definitely less difficult than it looks! It looks as if it is a steep path, however the path which we take, winds its way up the wall and never feels exposed or dangerous. There are short sections of easy scrambling, which are fun and quickly overcome. From the top, the receding Heim Glacier on Kilimanjaro's south face is clearly visible. The route then continues eastwards underneath the Decken and Rebman Glaciers to the Karanga Camp (4050m/13,287ft), which is situated above the Karanga Valley. Today will be a fun four to five-hour trek to the Karanga Camp at (4,050m/13,300ft).

Day 7: Karanga Camp to Kosovo Camp (16,010ft / 4,880m)



Today is another reason that we are different from other trips! From Karanga camp, we will head steadily upward to the high camp of Kosovo, which will give our teams a better chance of reaching the summit. A 4-hour steady walk takes us to Kosovo Camp (4,900m/16,010ft) from where we will set up to make our summit attempt. This is a short day, but included to give some essential pre-summit acclimatisation, without being too physically exhausting. The air is noticeably thin now, and you will be running short of breath as you climb out of the Karanga Valley. It is a slow tough hike up to the Kosovo Camp and we will be moving extremely slow as a group as we pass Barafu camp, where most other teams will be stopping for the day. On arrival, we begin to get ourselves ready for our summit attempt. This means preparing all our gear and water for the push up to the top, as well as getting as much to eat and drink as possible, and going to bed very early. We will wake at 11/ 11:30pm to prepare for our summit attempt! If the weather is not in our favour, and it is too windy at the Kosovo Camp, we may have to stay a bit lower at the Barafu Camp at (15,250ft/4,650m), but our goal will always be to reach Kosovo Camp!

Day 8: Kosovo Camp to Uhuru Peak (19,340 ft / 5,896m) to Mweka Camp

When we wake up at 11/11:30pm in the Kosovo Camp, we will get ourselves dressed in all of our warmest summit gear as we will begin walking well before dawn, and the coldest part of the day comes just before sunrise. This summit day proves to be the steepest and most demanding part of the mountain, and we will be taking it very slowly as we move up the trail. The moon may provide some light, but we'll be using head-torches for several hours until the sun rises. We will aim to reach Stella Point on the Crater Rim by sunrise after approximately 5 hours of constant up-hill walking. At dawn, from the Crater rim, rugged Mawenzi is a thrilling sight, with the Kibo saddle still in darkness beneath you, and the crater's ice-walls looming ahead. From Stella Point, we turn left, and continue along a good path for approximately one hour more, cresting the top of the crater, until we reach Uhuru Peak, the summit of Kilimanjaro! The crater wall stands steeply over the crater floor about 200 feet below us to our right. As the sun rises, light hits the crater floor, illuminating the Furtwangler Glacier and the warmth of the sun will be a welcomed feeling! This will be by far the toughest day you will have on the trek and the views from the summit will make you realize why you decided to put yourself through the pain! After about thirty minutes or so on the summit, we will begin the long slog back down to the camp on the same trail we came in on. It will take us approximately 2 to 3 hours walking before we arrive back at the camp, and you will be welcomed with tea and brunch and a quick rest before we continue our way down the mountain. We will have another 4 hours of walking from Kosovo camp to reach our final destination of the night, Mweka Camp. Having started this extraordinary day out as early as mid-night, and not finishing the day until the sun is setting, you can imagine how exhausted your body will be as you rest in celebration of your success on the highest point in Africa!

Day 9: Mweka Hut to Mweka Gate to Arusha



We will wake early in the morning today to begin our final walk off of Kilimanjaro. The walk today will take us approximately 3 hours to get from the Camp to the Mweka gate. When we arrive at the gate, we will say 'kwaheri' or goodbye to our porters and take a short 5-minute ride in the vehicle to our final lunch spot, where you will also have a chance to do a little souvenir shopping before getting back in the vehicle for the two-and-a-half-hour journey back to Arusha. Here you will get to enjoy a well-deserved shower and bed to sleep in!

Day 10: Arusha

Today will be spent at leisure in Arusha. You can decide to sit by the pool at the hotel or exploring the town of Arusha. We will transfer you back to the airport to catch your international flight home. There is also an option for you to stay on in Tanzania and do one of our Safari options, sampling some of the world's most unique wildlife: <https://iantaylor trekking.com/trek-africa/safari-in-tanzania/>.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

Every effort will be made to keep to the above itinerary, but as this is Adventure Travel in a remote mountain region, we cannot guarantee it. Weather conditions, road conditions, vehicle breakdowns and the health of participants can all contribute to changes. The Trek Leader will try to ensure that the trip runs according to plan, but an easy going nature will be an asset!

What the price includes:

- 1). National Park fees and Peak Permits
- 2). 2 night's hotel B&B on a shared basis – The Karama Lodge and Spa Hotel
- 3). Airport transfers
- 4). All road transport by private vehicles.
- 5). All camping facilities and meals during the trek (quality menu & tents)
- 6). All portage costs (15kg/33lbs per person)
- 7). All costs for Tanzanian guides, cook staff, camp crew and porters (not including tips. We recommend \$250 to \$300 per person)
- 8). 5 days a week professional office support before your trek
- 9). Flying doctor's insurance cover
- 10). Toilet tents & 3, 3 course meals per day

What the price does not include:

- 1). Visa fees (\$50 - \$100)
- 2). Bar bills and laundry
- 3.) Lunch and dinner in Arusha
- 3). Travel insurance. (Compulsory)
- 4). Optional trips (e.g. a Safari Extension) and sightseeing tours
- 5). Tips (US\$250 - \$300 per person)

