

MOUNT KILIMANJARO 9 DAYS LEMOSHO ROUTE

Thank you for choosing Viva Africa Tours. As per your request, we have provided a schedule for your trek. Please go through the following itinerary, and if you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact us via email or phone.

The 9 days Lemosho Route is one of the lengthiest, most picturesque routes on Kilimanjaro and it is our 'secret favourite'. You will traverse through tranquil trails that feature scenic grandeur. In the rainforest the exquisiteness of dawn's light pierces the lush, emerald sward. Mist embraces the lichen coated bark and the melodic piping of a songbird splits the silence whilst the distinctive blue monkeys swing above. This leads to the smooth surfaces of the stunning Shira Plateau and the magnificent sight of the looming Lava Tower. Barranco Valley provides beautiful sights of the azure glaciers. Vast plains of Savannah are decorated with splotches of wildlife and there is a possibility of encountering elephants or buffalo. The Mweka Route is used to descend and you have a good chance of completing the 9 days Lemosho Route due to the advantageous acclimatisation conditions. Kilimanjaro captivates the hearts of those who reach the summit but this route exceedingly epitomises Africa's magnificence.

Itinerary

Day 1: Kilimanjaro Airport to Moshi

Our driver will pick you up at the airport and proceed to the hotel. Orientation for your trek will take place shortly after you arrive and your guides will provide comprehensive information that will assist you in reaching the summit. Your trekking gear will be checked before you leave.

Day 2: Starting point (2,300m) to Mti Mkubwa (2,750m)

Trekking Time: 3 hours | Distance: 7 km | Altitude Gain: 450m

After enjoying an appetising meal at the hotel, you will embark on a bumpy three-hour drive from Moshi to the Londorossi Gate. We will travel amid the fascinating town of Boma N'gombe and the native people of Sanya Juu. Registration will be completed at the gate and then we will drive to the starting point of your trek at 2,350m. The trail journeys through the thick, untamed rainforest for the duration of the day. Adorable Bush Babies and curious Black and White Colobus Monkeys may peer down from the high trees. Mti Mkubwa Camp is our final destination for the day and the hike is fairly short.



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Day 3: Mti Mkubwa (2,750m) to Shira Camp 1 (3,550m)

Trekking Time: 6-7 hours | Distance: 10 km | Altitude Gain: 800m

The trail heads towards Shira Camp 1 and there is shift in scenery to the heather and moorland zone – an arid landscape sprinkled with contrasting silver fauna and flora as well as the enormous lobelias. Stunning views of Mount Meru engulfing the fiery sunset are present in the west and the gleaming Kibo Peak makes its presence known. The light clouds will begin to float around you as you cross several calming streams to get to the Shira Ridge (3,600m). We will proceed to Shira Camp 1 where a delicious meal awaits.

Day 4: Shira camp1 (3,550m) to Shira Camp 2 (3,840m)

Trekking Time: 3-4hours | Distance: 8km | Altitude Gain: 290m

The moorland landscape remains with its dusty, rocky ground and low grasses and shrubs. The bright everlastings erupt from the ground and the concentric rings of leaves on the celestial lobelias are astonishing. The scenic views of the towering mountain are best observed from this area and the path is generally flat. A steaming hot lunch will be served at Shira Camp and after the short excursions for acclimatisation are complete, you will rest for the remainder of the day. In the evening the stars twinkle from the infinite arch of darkness. In areas they are sapphire balls and beautiful, shimmering in their heavenly finery. The ones on the outermost boundary, virtually outside the span of human comprehension, are like glinting pinpricks in a shroud of blackness.

Day 5: Shira Camp 2 (3,840m) to Barranco camp (3,950m) via Lava Tower

Trekking Time: 6-7 hours / Distance: 11km / Altitude Gain: 110m

Today the Lemosho route connects with the Machame route before approaching Lava Tower. The landscapes are magnificent and the trail begins with a gentle incline towards the beautiful sights Kibo Peak. The first milestone is a jagged ridge named the Shark's Tooth (4,400m) and after crossing the mysterious shadow valleys we will come across the protruding Lava Tower (4,600m). Thousands of years ago enormous volcanos erupted and spluttered the remains of the once molten rocks. The gradual descent to the Barranco Camp features incredible views of the bleached Western Breach and the striking Barranco or 'Breakfast' Wall. This day follows the mountaineering principles of walking high and sleeping low, making it an ideal acclimation day.



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Day 6: Barranco Camp (3,950m) to Barafu Camp (4,700)

Trekking Time: 6 – 7 hours / Distance: 9km / Altitude Gain: 750m

The day begins with a moderate trek up the Barranco Wall, it is steep but the climbing only requires your hands and feet for a short period of time (200m). Feelings of satisfaction will begin to emerge once you witness the beautiful landscape that includes the smoothed edges of Kibo peak and a vantage point of the frosted scenery. The trail begins to fluctuate as we cross various small streams and the Karanga River that excitedly hops over the rocks.

We will stop at the Karanga Campsite for an appetising lunch (3,930m). An hour's climb up a steep, granite lava ridge will lead us to the Barafu Camp. This signifies that you have conquered the South Circuit of the mountain and the views of the summit will shift. The infertile grounds at the Barafu Campsite tend to freeze over and the temperatures shift dramatically. A warm, hearty meal will be prepared and we suggest that you rest early as the midnight climb to the summit (1188m) is only a few hours away.

Day 7: Barafu Camp (4,700m) to Summit (5895m) (Midnight start), descent to Mweka Camp (3100m)

Trekking Time: 6 – 7 hours / Distance: 5km / Altitude Gain: 1195m

You will be awoken at 11:00pm to ensure that you have a light snack and a hot beverage before you embark on your 5km trek to the summit. Sixteen hours are needed to complete the trek, it goes without saying, this is the most taxing day on the 9 days Lemosho Route. The temperatures will dip to lows of up to -10°C. The trail along the stunning valley on the edge of scree fields will gradually increase. Stella's Point (5,672m) is the first milestone and you will pass the glowing Rebmann and Ratzel glaciers. Illuminating rays of orange, red and purple begin to burst from the sky as you reach the southern rim of Kibo (Marks an hour until the summit). Upon reaching Uhuru Peak (5,895m) you will attain an intangible reward, the heaven touching apex of the mountain drenched in a shroud of clouds and splotches of gleaming snow impale the lush floor. Across the horizon you will see the glaciers protruding like a row of thorns. Swaddled around them are necklaces of powdery snow, frosty ice fields and Mawenzi Peak. We will begin descending towards the Barafu Camp where we will have a short break before proceeding to the Mweka Camp (3,100m). The 9km trails features stunning views of the magnificent Kilimanjaro plains. The incline traverses down a rocky scree path through barren moorland and then you will enter the magnificent forest (4-5 hour hike). A tantalising meal will be served at the campsite and you will be able to snuggle in your sleeping bag.



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Day 8: Mweka Camp (3,100m) to Mweka Gate (1,800m)

Trekking Time: 4 – 5 hours / Distance: 10km / Altitude Loss: 1300m

You will enjoy an appetising breakfast before you descent to the Mweka Gate (1,300m). The leisurely stroll provides you with beautiful sceneries. A Gold Summit Certificate will be awarded upon reaching the gate, a token to symbolize successfully tackling the 9 days Lemosho Route. From the tranquil Mweka Village you will be driven back to your hotel.

Day 9: Moshi to Kilimanjaro Airport

Today our driver will transport you to the airport from where you will link your flight back home. If you've chosen to continue on a safari – well, that's a another adventure and we'll manage that for you as well!

Included

- Airport transfer
- Pre and post climb accommodation (B&B) in Moshi
- Park, camping and rescue fees
- Mountain tents and mattresses
- Professional English speaking guide(s); porters & cook
- 8 breakfasts; 7 lunches; 6 dinners
- Water; tea and coffee with meals

Not Included

- Flights
- Lunch and dinner in Moshi
- Travel insurance
- Visa and passport fees
- Raise in park entrance fees
- Personal equipment
- Sleeping bag
- Tips for guide(s), porters & cook
- Soda and Alcoholic beverages

Kilimanjaro Climbing Gear

Packing your suitcase for Mount Kilimanjaro can be a challenging task. However, the good news is that most of the equipment can be rented in Moshi. We advise that you check your wardrobe / trekking gear to ensure you have the necessary gear. If you do not, we advise you purchase the necessary equipment so that you can travel in optimum comfort to the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro.

On the first day, you will need to wear light clothes, but on the day you summit Mount Kilimanjaro you will need to wear winter clothes.



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Packing Checklist for Kilimanjaro



- Head torch
- Spare batteries
- Warm hat
- Sunglasses
- Sun hat
- Scarf or balaclava
- T shirt
- Thermals top and bottom 3 pairs
- Sleeping bag
- Sleeping bag liner
- Fleece
- Down jacket
- Water / wind proof jacket
- Gaiters
- Poncho
- Water proof gloves
- Gloves liner
- Hiking trousers
- Water proof trousers
- Hiking socks 1 pair per day
- Hiking boots
- Water bottle
- Camel back water bag
- Day pack
- Rucksack
- Rucksack cover
- Hiking poles
- Sun screen

Tipping Guidelines

Tip is not included in your tour price. Please find below our guidelines for tipping your mountain crew. The tip is shared amongst all climbers.

- Mountain Guide- \$20.00 per day
- 1 Porter / Waiter- \$7.00 to \$10.00 per day
- 1 Mountain Cook- \$15.00 per day



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