

MOUNT KILIMANJARO UMBWE ROUTE 8 DAYS

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 notorious 8 Days Umbwe Route is our newest tour and the toughest route to tame the summit of Kilimanjaro. If you're an experienced, bold climber you'll relish challenging yourself on the unforgiving but uncrowded and beautiful terrain. You'll enjoy breathtaking sights that few travellers see. You'll experience the raw, primitive beauty of sun bleached rocky outcrops and balance along knife-edge ridges with water-carved ravines swooping giddily below. You'll clamber upon the gnarled tree roots of ancient rainforest trails, traverse ice fields shimmering like frosted diamonds in the African sun, and sleep under sweeping star-filled skies. You'll skirt round the dangerous mist-clad Western Breach, crossing each grade of alpine and glacier zone. Every moment will be a feast to your senses and a challenge to your body and character. The Umbwe Route is like no other; a test of endurance amongst the majesty and grace of Kilimanjaro. As you stand proudly on Uhuru Peak at sunrise, you can say that you have conquered Umbwe.

Although not technical, this route is arduous and the steep but short physical climb early on in the tour means there's no time for altitude acclimatization. If you're undecided or less experienced, try our Machame Route; more gentle but just as amazing.

Itinerary

Day 1: Kilimanjaro Airport to Moshi

Our driver will pick you up at the airport and take you to the hotel for briefing. Your guides will provide you with a detailed orientation and will examine your gear. If you arrive at midday or before, you will have time to explore Moshi, a chilled-out blend of African and Asian influences with a colourful market and a choice of coffee houses and bars. Overnight at Moshi.

Day 2: Moshi to Umbwe Cave Camp

This morning you'll meet your crew, who will be with you at all times during your trip. After a sustaining breakfast you'll be driven the 45-minute trip from your hotel through a lush landscape of bustling villages and coffee smallholdings sheltered by banana palms to the Umbwe Gate. Here, your crew will register you for your climb, while the porters and guides make last minute preparations. After lunch the real work starts. Your journey begins through dense green mountain rainforest. The air, warm and heavy with moisture, is redolent of the lush vegetation as you scramble and slide your way up an often muddy track through a dense canopy of rubber and giant fig trees.



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The route steepens between the Umbwe and Lonzo rivers, and you'll need every ounce of strength to pull yourself upwards using the wild, strong tree roots. As you climb, you'll see Kibo, unexpected, glimmering in the distance. Beneath your feet drop deep gorges. After a sumptuous dinner, you'll rest overnight at the lonely Umbwe Cave Camp, nestling amongst giant trees and deep undergrowth, with the mystery of Umbwe Cave a short walk away.

Day 3: Umbwe Cave Camp to Barranco Camp

After a good, energy-rich breakfast you'll prepare for today's climb which takes you out of the rainforest and into the drier, crisper air of moorland broken with rocky outcrops. You'll ascend through cloud forest, past thinning, moss-entwined trees, glimpsing more and more of the bright blue sky as you ascend the hair-raising and spectacular Umbwe Route ridge with sides that drop steeply until it flattens out near to the Barranco Valley. The Barranco Camp nestles in the valley below the Western Breach and the Great Barranco Wall, which you should study as this is your first climb after breakfast tomorrow! Enjoy a filling and delicious dinner gazing on the dramatic colours of a glowing African sunset.

Day 4: Barranco Camp to Karanga Camp

The first thing that greets you this morning is the scaling of the 257 meter Great Barranco Wall, often called the Breakfast Wall as it's the first thing you'll do after breakfast! It's challenging but more of a scramble than a climb and you'll enjoy a total-body workout. You'll top out just below the glorious Helm Glacier soaring above you, and from here the views are incredible. You'll descend through a tumbling up-and-down route across scree and ridges through alpine desert towards the Karanga Valley, lying beneath the icefalls of the Decken, Heim and Kersten Glaciers. Overnight after a satisfying dinner at Karanga Camp.

Day 5: Karanga Camp to Barafu Camp

After a good breakfast you'll attack the path that starts climbing as you leave Karanga Camp. The Southern ice fields of Kibo sparkle to your left as you journey the arid and surreal high alpine landscape, such a contrast to the green lushness of earlier days. The route takes you up a constant climb then shelves into a shallow valley with a short, sharp scramble and hike leading you into Barafu Camp. Barafu Camp is situated on a rocky and desolate ridge, exposed to the elements but with glorious panoramic views from 15,000 feet up. You'll be gazing at clouds below your feet and ice fields and the summit above you. It's a tough environment for you to prepare your equipment and your mind-set for your final ascent tonight. Grab as much rest as you can before your 11pm push for the Uhuru Peak summit.



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Day 6: Barafu Camp to Uhuru Peak to Mweka Camp

It's summit day and you'll be woken at 11pm for hydration, food and a quick medical check. You're very close now; but this section of the climb is the most dangerous. You'll be climbing a steep gradient of heavy scree in darkness through the night as the temperature drops to below freezing. But as you reach Stellar Point, something amazing begins. Imperceptibly at first, then more quickly, the sky pales to the softest blue and as you look east, the sun rises apricot, pink and gold above the cloud horizon. Tramping through iridescent ice fields burnished gold by the colours of sunrise and past impressive, impassive Rebmann and Ratzel Glaciers, look west to see the giant shadow of Kilimanjaro spreading across the plains far below you. In another hour you'll reach Uhuru Peak. You have conquered Umbwe Route. Marvel at the glorious vista with Mawenzi silhouetted against the blue skies and the dawn clouds gliding below. There'll be time for pictures before you make your descent via breakfast at Barafu Camp. Your journey isn't over, yet. You've a long descent over loose gravel through ice-capped outcrops and down to the welcoming moorland of the lower reaches. Mweka Camp nestles in lush vegetation in the mists of the upper forest and you'll enjoy good food and good company as your body recovers from the harsh but beautiful experience of the night before.

Day 7: Mweka Camp to Mweka Gate to Moshi

With Uhuru Peak a glorious memory far behind you, you'll begin your hike back to civilisation on a full stomach. The slope here is gentler than the ascent at Umbwe, but it can be slippery so watch those knees! You'll have time to take in the misty cloud forest and perhaps even spot a Colobus monkey or two. Arriving at Mweka Gate you'll receive your summit certificates and there's an opportunity to buy sodas and t shirts. Our Viva Africa Tours vehicle will take you back to your hotel in Moshi. What a difference a week makes!

Day 8: Moshi to Kilimanjaro Airport

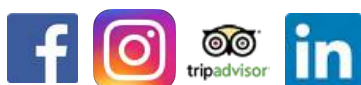
Transfer to Kilimanjaro Airport, from where you will connect your flight back home. If you've opted to go on a safari – well, that's a new adventure and we'll be pleased to arrange it for you!



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Included

- Airport transfer
- Transport from/to park gate
- 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
- 7 breakfasts; 6 lunches; 5 dinners
- Water; tea and coffee with meals

Not Included

- Flights
- Lunch and dinner in Moshi
- Travel insurance
- Visa and passport fees
- Increase in park 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
- 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
- Sleeping bag
- Sleeping bag liner
- Fleece
- 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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