



## **MOUNT KILIMANJARO LEMOSHO ROUTE**

This is the longest and most remote route to Kilimanjaro. After beautiful forests and moorlands it crosses the Shira Plateau to meet up with the Machame Route. Groups may be accompanied on the first day by an armed ranger as the forests around the Lemosho Glades are rich in buffalo, elephant and other game. The South Circuit is then followed, offering superb views of the Southern Icefields, past the Barranco Hut then on to Barafu and hence the summit. Descent is by the Mweka Route.

This is a steep, tough trek within the limits of a fit individual used to walking in mountain areas.

Mount Kilimanjaro (5895m) lies just 3 degrees south of the equator and is one of the highest volcanoes in the world. It rises some (4572m) above the surrounding plains and savannahs. The Kilimanjaro National Park covers some 1864 sq. Km. The base of this immense mountain has diameter of 80 Km and the outstanding features are its three major volcanic centers: Shira (4160m) in the west. Mawenzi (5280m) to the east and the permanently snow-capped Kibo in the middle.

In climbing, the terrain passes from a tropical to an arctic climate in just a few days. The encircling rain forest ensures the fertility of the lower lying shambas and is rich in birdlife. Above the rain forest lies the Alpine Meadow, a beautiful moorland, offering many splendid views. Exotic plants such as the giant Lobelia and the fork-like Groundsel are to be seen. The latter blooming once every 50–70 years. Leaving the Alpine Meadow we reach the Alpine Desert and eventually the “snows of Kilimanjaro”.



## LEMOSHE ROUTE

DAY	ITINERARY
Day 1	Arrive at Kilimanjaro International Airport and transfer to Hotel.
Day 2	After breakfast, drive to the Londorosi Park Gate, elevation 7'300 ft. The drive is about 5 hours. Continue driving up towards to the Gate, starting point, then walk up to Mti mkubwa campsite at approximately 11'000ft elevation, stopping for lunch. Arrive at the campsite, set up camp, and eat dinner during early evening. The drive through the Shira plateau is one of the best opportunities to see big game on Kilimanjaro.
Day 3	Wake to breakfast, breaks the camp, and begins the short hike from Mti Mkubwa to Shira hut campsite, elevation 12'500ft. This is usually takes no more than 2 hours, but this rest is required for adequate acclimatization. The west face of Kibo volcano (usually referred as Kilimanjaro) looms above the campsite. Have lunch, set up camp, rest or take a day hike, and eat dinner during early evening. This hike traverses the lower moorland where large shrubs and wildflowers dominate the landscape.
Day 4	Wake to breakfast, break camp, and begin the hike during mid morning. This 5 to 6 hours hike continues through the lower moorland sometimes climbing steeply and sometime descending just as steeply to reach Barranco Hut campsite directly below the south face of Kibo (stopping halfway for lunch as usual). Elevation is 12'800ft. The view of northern Tanzania and Mount Meru to the west are amazing, not to mention the view of Kibo itself. Set up camp, rest and eat dinner during early evening.
Day 5	Wake to breakfast, break camp, and begin the final day of hiking/climbing before the summit day. Climb to Barafu hut campsite on the southeast side of Kibo to meet the summit trail, again stopping for lunch. This 4 to 5 hours hike traverses the alpine desert where the sheer ruggedness of Kilimanjaro is breathtaking. Barafu hut campsite is situated at an elevation of 15'100ft. Set up camp, eat a very early dinner and get some rest. The summit day starts early.
Day 6	Wake at about 1230am to alight snack and begin the summit climb. The winding switchbacks climb slowly toward the crater rim and Stella Point (approx. 18'500ft). From Stella Point, one can see the inner crater and the ash cone not to mention the amazing glaciers covering the South face of Kilimanjaro. Continue another half hour to the rooftop of Africa – Uhuru Peak at 19'340ft. Stop for a bit of rest and photo opportunity. Views of Mawenzi to the east and Mount Meru to the west as well as the rift valley, northern Tanzania, and southern Kenya are breathtaking. At this range, Kilimanjaro glaciers are as awe-inspiring as they are pristine. After a rest, descend back to Barafu hut campsite, break camp and descend to Mweka hut campsite at 9'850ft elevation. Set up camp, eat dinner and get some well-deserved rest. A long day of hiking totaling to approximately 12-14 hours, depending on the fitness of the climber.
Day 7	Begin the short hike to the park gate at Mweka at approximately 5'500ft elevation. Drive from park gate back to Moshi.
Day 8	Depart for the airport.