



## Climb Itinerary

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Spectacular western approach crossing the remote Shira Plateau with fantastic views of the dramatic Shira Cathedral.
- Offers good acclimatisation even though it starts at a higher altitude than other routes.
- Joins up with Machame route after Day 2.

### DETAILED ITINERARY:

#### DAY 1: LONDROSSI GATE to MTI MKUBWA

Elevation (m): 2360m to 2895m, Distance: 6 km, Time: 3-4 hours, Habitat: Montane forest

4WD transfer to Londorossi Park Gate for registration. Our porters prepare and pack our supplies and luggage before we start our ascent along the forest trail to Mti Mkubwa (big tree) campsite at 2895m. We will stay here overnight.

#### DAY 2: MTI MKUBWA TO SHIRA 1

Elevation (m): 2895m to 3500m, Distance: 8 km, Time: 5-6 hours, Habitat: Moorland

Our journey continues eastwards across the Shira Plateau with spectacular views of Shira Cathedral. We cross moorland meadow to reach Shira 1 camp for dinner and overnight camping at 3500m. By now we will be able to see the stunning glaciers of Western Breach. It will be colder tonight than the previous night with temperatures possibly falling below freezing.

#### DAY 3: SHIRA 1 TO MOIR HUT

Elevation (m): 3500m to 4200m, Distance: 14 km, Time: 5-7 hours, Habitat: Semi desert.

We leave the forest behind now, the trail gets steeper as it enters the moorland zone. A gentle grade walk takes you across the high altitude Shira Caldera to Shira Cave with fabulous views of Arrow glacier. We will camp here for the night at 4200m.

#### DAY 4: MOIR HUT to (LAVA TOWER) to BARRANCO

Elevation (m): 4200m to 4600m to 3950m, Distance: 12 km, Time: 6-7 hours, Habitat: Semi desert.

Today we will climb up to 4600m to the base of the Lava Tower for lunch and acclimatization. This will be our toughest day so far and you may, for the first time, feel the altitude. After lunch we will descend again by almost 650m to Barranco camp, following “walk high, sleep low” golden rule of acclimatisation.

Our descent to Barranco camp takes about 2 hours and offers great opportunities to take some beautiful photographs of the Western Breach and Breach Wall. The camp is situated in a valley below the Breach and Great Barranco Wall



### DAY 5: BARRANCO CAMP TO KARANGA CAMP

Elevation (m): 3950m to 3930m, Distance: 7 km, Time: 4 hours, Habitat: Alpine Desert.

A short, but fun day, starting with a scramble, to the top of the Great Barranco Wall. We then traverse over scree to the Karanga Valley (3930m) beneath the icefalls of the Heim, Kersten and Decken Glaciers. We will stay overnight at Karanga campsite.

### DAY 6: KARANGA CAMP TO BARAFU CAMP

Elevation (m): 3930m to 4600m, Distance: 6km, Time: 3 hours, Habitat: Alpine Desert

We leave Karanga campsite behind to meet the junction connecting with the Mweka descent Trail. From here we continue up to the Barafu Hut. You have now completed the Southern Circuit, which offers views of the summit from many different angles. At camp, we can rest, enjoy dinner, and prepare for the summit day. The two peaks of Mawenzi and Kibo are to be clearly seen from this position.

### DAY 7: BARAFU CAMP TO SUMMIT TO MWEKA HUT

Elevation (m): 4600m to 5895m to 3100m), Distance: 7km ascent / 23km descent, Time: 6- 8 hours ascent / 7-8 hours descent, Habitat: Stone screed and ice-capped summit.

You will be woken at 23:30 with tea and biscuits. We start our trek to the summit between the Rebman and Ratzel glaciers through heavy scree up to Stella Point on the crater rim. This is the most mentally and physically challenging part of the trek. At Stella Point (5732m), we will stop for a short rest and hopefully be in time to witness the magnificent sunrise (weather permitting). We are now only an hour away from the summit, Uhuru Peak (5895m), the highest point on Mount Kilimanjaro and the continent of Africa.

From the summit, we descend down to the Mweka Hut camp site, via Barafu for lunch. Trekking poles will be needed for the loose scree going down to Mweka Camp (3100m). Later in the evening, we will enjoy our last dinner on the mountain and a well-earned sleep.

### DAY 8: MWEKA CAMP TO MWEKA GATE

Elevation (m): 3100m to 1800m, Distance: 10 km, Hiking Time: 3-4 hours, Habitat: Forest

Your final day on the trek, departing after breakfast we descend a further 1300m to the Mweka Park Gate to pick up your summit certificates from the Park Headquarters. Transfer to your hotel.

### TOPOGRAPHY:





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### SUMMARY:

The Lemosho route is a relatively new trail and was introduced as an improvement on the original Shira route as it starts much lower than Shira thus improving acclimatisation.

It is one of our highly recommended routes, not only for the beautiful scenery but also the high summit success due to the longer and steadier walk in improving acclimatisation. The first two days of the route have low traffic and are quite unspoilt, however, thereafter it joins with the Machame route to the summit.

Starting from Londorossi Gate, the first two days are spent trekking through rainforest, where you may see wild game. It then traverses up to Shira Ridge, Kilimanjaro's third summit. From here you will ascend and cross the expansive Shira Plateau with fantastic views of Shira Cathedral.

The descent is via the Mweka Route. The minimum time taken for the Lemosho route is 7 days, but again an extra day to acclimatise is recommended to improve the chances of summiting.



View of Mawenzi Peak from Barafu Camp, 4700m