

Lemosho Route Itinerary

7days,6nights

Day1•

Londorossi Gate to Forest Camp(big tree camp)

- Elevation (ft): 7,800ft to 9,500ft
- Distance: 6 km
- Hiking Time:3-4 hours
- Habitat: Rain Forest

We depart Arusha for Londorossi Gate, which takes about 4 hours, where you will complete entry formalities. Then drive to the Lemosho trailhead (another hour to reach the trailhead). Upon arrival at trailhead, we eat lunch, then commence through undisturbed forest which winds to the first camp site.

DAY 2

- Forest Camp to Shira 2 Camp
- Elevation (ft): 9,500ft to 12,700ft
- Distance: 17 km
- Hiking Time 7-9 hours
- Habitat: Moorland

We continue on the trail leading out of the forest and into a savannah of tall grasses, heather, and volcanic rock draped with lichen beards. As we ascend through the lush rolling hills and cross several streams, we reach the Shira Ridge before dropping gently down to Shira 1 camp. The view of Kibo from across the plateau is amazing. We explore the Shira plateau for a full day. It is a gentle walk east toward Kibo's glaciated peak, across the plateau which leads to Shira 2 camp on moorland meadows by a stream.. A variety of walks are available on this day making this an excellent acclimatization opportunity. Shira is one of the highest plateaus on earth.

DAY 3

- Shira2-Barranco Camp
- Elevation (ft): 12,700ft to 13,000ft
- Distance: 10 km
- Hiking Time: 6-8hours
- Habitat: Semi Desert

From the Shira Plateau, we continue to the east up a ridge, passing the junction towards the peak of Kibo. As we continue, our direction changes to the South East towards the Lava Tower, called the “Shark’s Tooth.” Shortly after the tower, we come to the second junction which brings us up to the Arrow Glacier at an altitude of 16,000ft. We now continue down to the Barranco Hut at an altitude of 13,000ft. Here we rest, enjoy dinner, and overnight. Although you end the day at the same elevation as when you started, this day is very important for acclimatization and will help your body prepare for summit day.

DAY 4

- Barranco Camp to Karanga Camp
- Elevation (ft): 13,000ft to 13,200ft
- Distance: 6km
- Hiking Time: 4-5 hours
- Habitat: Alpine Desert

After breakfast, we leave Barranco and continue on a steep ridge passing the Barranco Wall to the Karanga Valley campsite. The breakfast wall climb is a bit like Rock climb at the beginning but the rest to the top of the wall is gradual, you will have a spectacular view right at the top of the wall and you will realize how beautiful the mountain it is when the day is clear. At the top of the wall always is a nice place for taking pictures Then before you get to the campsite, there is a big drop which will lead you cross the last water point. The campsite is right the other side of Karanga valley

DAY 5

- Karanga Camp to Barafu Camp
- Elevation (ft): 13,200ft to 15,200ft
- Distance: 4km ascent
- Hiking Time: 3-4 hours ascent
- Habitat: Alpine desert

We leave Karanga and hit the junction which connects with the Mweka Trail. We continue up to the Barafu Hut. At this point, you have completed the South Circuit, which offers views of the summit from many different angles. Here we make camp, rest, enjoy dinner, and prepare for the summit day. The two peaks of Mawenzi and Kibo are to be seen from this position.

DAY 6

- Barafu Camp to Summit to Mweka Hut
- Elevation (ft): 15,200ft to 19,341ft (and down to 10,000ft)
- Distance: 5 km ascent / 12 km descent
- Hiking Time: 6-8 hours ascent / 4-6 hours descent
- Habitat: Summit zone & back to Moorland

Very early in the morning (midnight at 12am), we continue our way to the summit between the Rebmann and Ratzel glaciers. You head in a northwesterly direction and ascend through heavy scree towards Stella Point on the crater rim. This is the most mentally and physically challenging portion of the trek. At Stella Point

(18,600 ft), you will stop for a short rest and will be rewarded with the most magnificent sunrise you are ever likely to see (weather permitting). From Stella Point, you may encounter snow all the way on your 1-hour ascent to the summit. At Uhuru Peak, you have reached the highest point on Mount Kilimanjaro and the continent of Africa. Faster hikers will see the sunrise from the summit.

From the summit, we now make our descent continuing straight down to the Mweka Hut camp site, stopping at Barafu for lunch. You will want gaiters and trekking poles for the loose gravel going down. Mweka Camp is situated in the upper forest and mist or rain can be expected in the late afternoon. Later in the evening, we enjoy our last dinner on the mountain and a well-earned sleep.

DAY 7

- Mweka Camp to Mweka Gate & Back to the hotel
- Elevation (ft): 10,000ft to 5,400ft
- Distance: 10 km
- Hiking Time: 3-4 hours
- Habitat: Rain Forest

After breakfast, we continue the descent down to the Mweka Park Gate to receive your summit certificates. At lower elevations, it can be wet and muddy. Gaiters and trekking poles will help. Shorts and t-shirts will probably be plenty to wear (keep rain gear and warmer clothing handy). A vehicle will meet you at Mweka gate to drive you back to hotel in Arusha. At Mweka village you will get the fresh lunch before we head back to the hotel for the shower and celebrations.

END OF THE TRIP