

# MOUNT MERU

Mount Meru is an often overlooked, but spectacular volcano located in the center of Arusha National Park. At 14,980 feet high, Meru serves as a great warm up to Mount Kilimanjaro or a complete standalone hike in it of itself. The crowds that can be seen on Kilimanjaro are non-existent here, allowing for a solitary, peaceful trek. Accommodations are in wood huts.

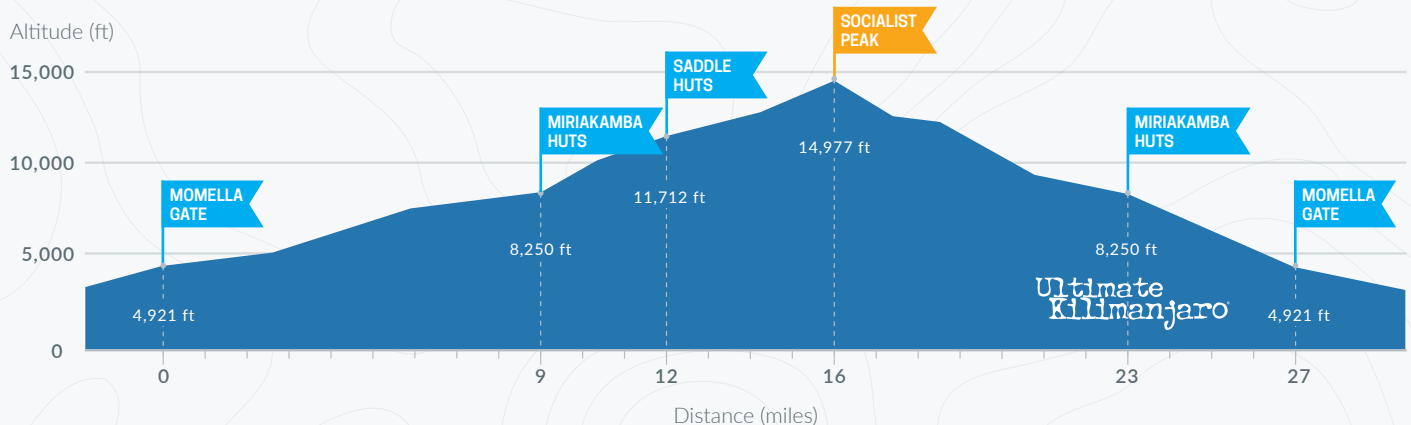
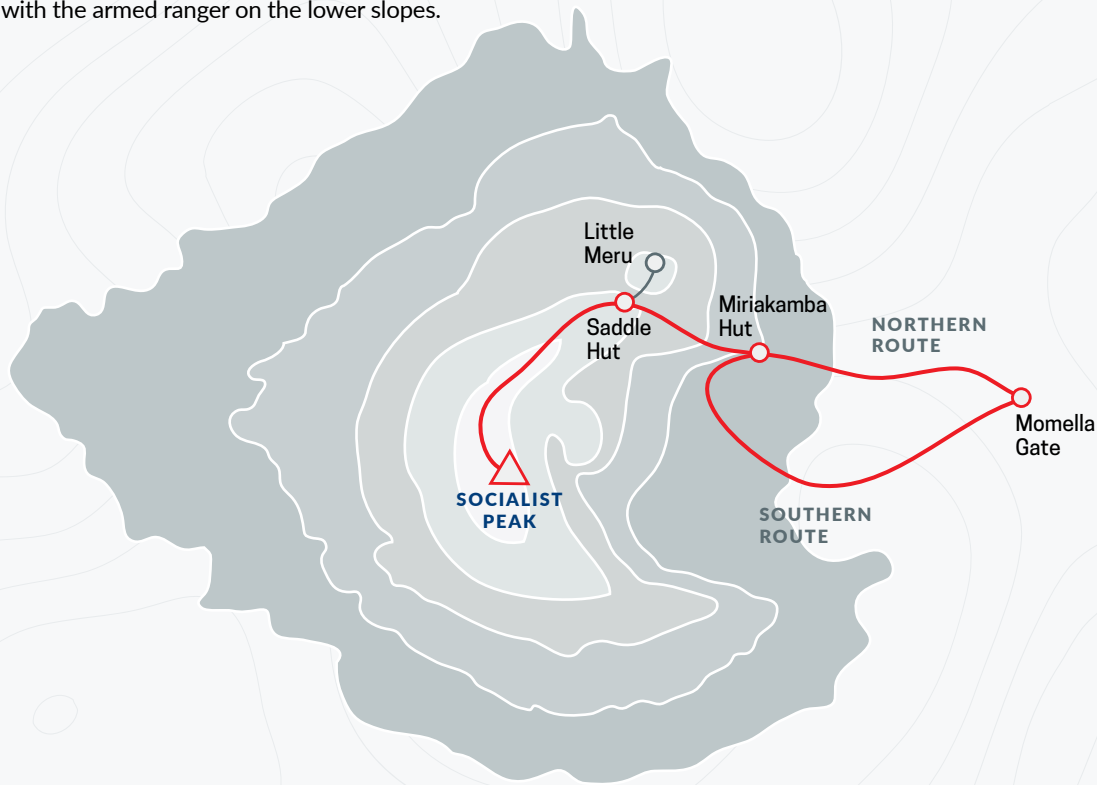
On the lower slopes of the mountain and inside the park, there is a good chance of spotting animals. An armed ranger will accompany your party on the first stage to protect against any wildlife threats. The trail follows the north rim of the crater, along a dramatic ridgeline. Once at the summit, the views of Mount Kilimanjaro and down into Meru crater are unforgettable.

Ultimate Kilimanjaro® offers Mount Meru as a four day private climb. However, clients from different parties and operators are often combined to walk with the armed ranger on the lower slopes.

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Phone: (702) 570-4970

Email: info@UltimateKilimanjaro.com



# 4 DAY MOUNT MERU ITINERARY

## DAY 1

### Momella Gate to Miriakamba Huts

**Elevation:** 4,921 ft to 8,250 ft      **Distance:** 14 km | 9 miles  
**Hiking Time:** 4-6 hours      **Habitat:** Rain Forest

We depart Moshi or Arusha for Momella Gate in Arusha National Park for the necessary formalities before beginning our trek. The hiking trail begins in open grassland with an armed ranger as the possibility of seeing wildlife – giraffe, zebras, antelope, elephant and buffalo – is high. Our hike on the Southern Route takes us through the rain forest to Maio Waterfalls and Fig Tree Arch until we reach Miriakamba Huts, situated in a grassy glade.

## DAY 2

### Miriakamba Huts to Saddle Huts

**Elevation:** 8,250 ft to 11,712 ft      **Distance:** 6 km | 3 miles  
**Hiking Time:** 3-5 hours      **Habitat:** Heath

We continue climbing through the rain forest until we enter the heath zone accompanied by giant heather and other moorland vegetation. Along the ridge of the saddle, we have views of Mount Meru Crater and the Ash Tray. After arriving at Saddle Huts, there is an option to hike to the top of Little Mount Meru for superb views and to further aid acclimatization.

## DAY 3

### Saddle Huts to Summit

**Elevation:** 11,712 ft to 14,977 ft      **Distance:** 6 km | 4 miles  
**Hiking Time:** 4-6 hours      **Habitat:** Alpine Desert

### Summit to Miriakamba Huts

**Elevation:** 14,977 ft to 8,250 ft      **Distance:** 12 km | 7 miles  
**Hiking Time:** 4-6 hours      **Habitat:** Heath

Very early in the morning (around midnight), we begin our climb to the summit. The trail is steep to Rhino Point and then Cobra Point. The path continues along the ridge of ash and rock to the summit - Socialist Peak. Here we enjoy magnificent views of Kilimanjaro and the sunrise before returning to Miriakamba Huts.

## DAY 4

### Miriakamba Huts to Momella Gate

**Elevation:** 11,712 ft to 4,921 ft      **Distance:** 7 km | 4 miles  
**Hiking Time:** 2-4 hours      **Habitat:** Rain Forest

On our last day, we descend quickly through the tropical rainforest to Momella Gate. At the base of the mountain, our vehicle will meet us and drive us back to the hotel in Arusha or Moshi.

Day	Start	Altitude (m)	Altitude (ft)	Finish	Altitude (m)	Altitude (ft)	Time (hrs)	Distance (km)	Distance (miles)
1	Momella Gate	1,500	4,921	Miriakamba Huts	2,514	8,250	4-6	14	9
2	Miriakamba Huts	2,514	8,250	Saddle Huts	3,570	11,712	3-5	6	3
3	Saddle Huts	3,570	11,712	Summit	4,565	14,977	4-6	6	4
	Summit	4,565	14,977	Miriakamba Huts	2,514	8,250	4-6	12	7
4	Miriakamba Huts	2,514	8,250	Momella Gate	1,500	4,921	2-4	7	4
Total								45	27