

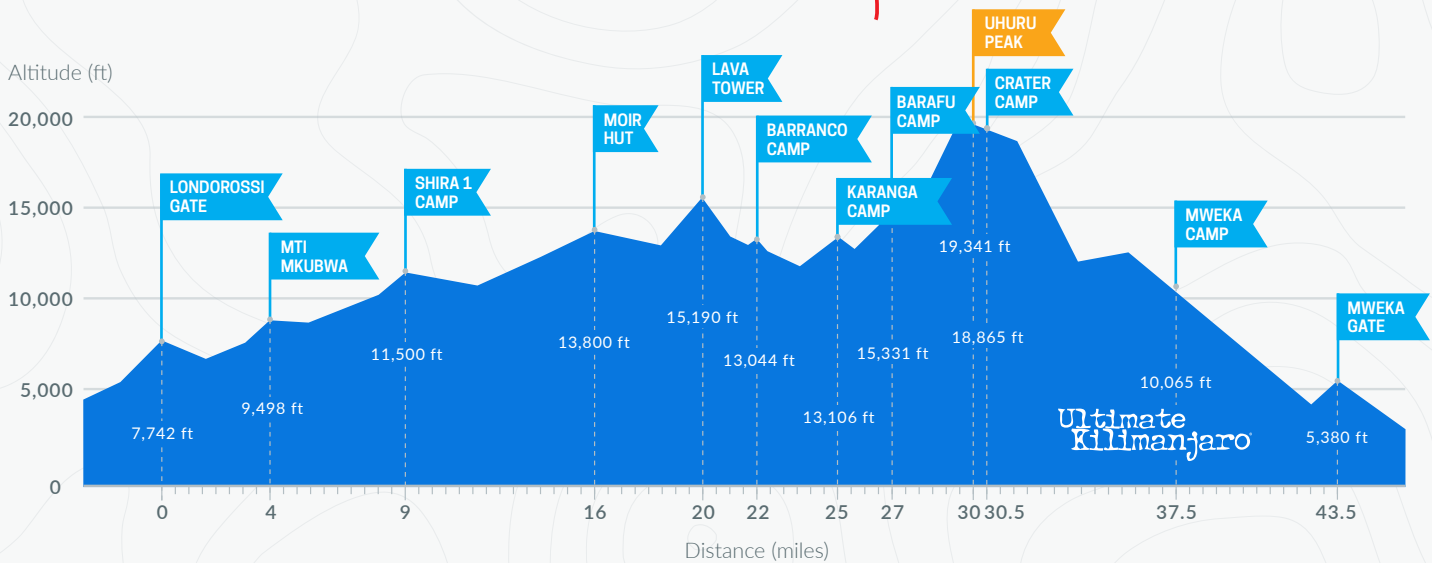
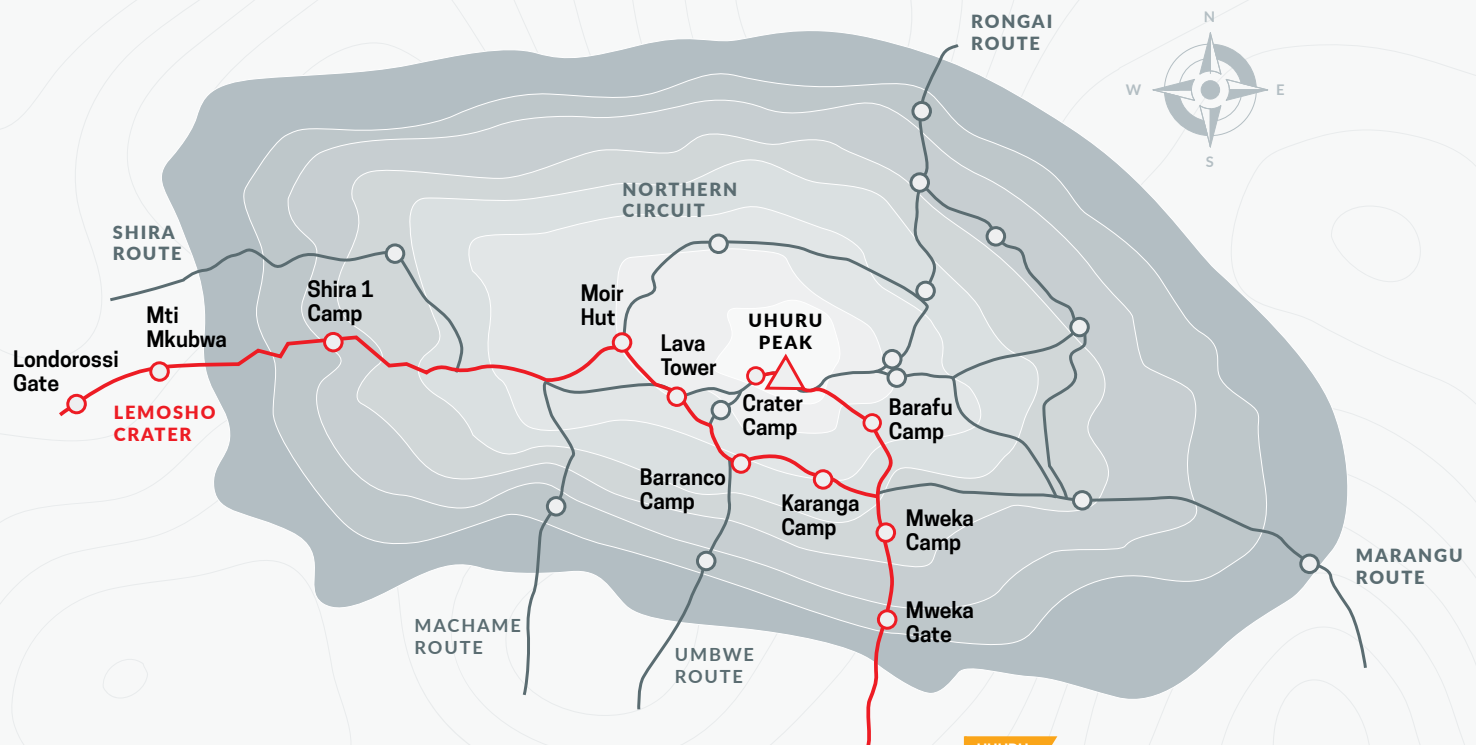
9 DAY LEMOSHO CRATER

The Lemosho Crater Route is considered the most scenic trail on Kilimanjaro, granting panoramic vistas on various sides of the mountain plus an overnight stay next to one of the last remaining glaciers on Kilimanjaro, Furtwangler Glacier. As one of the newer routes, Lemosho is superb and offers a good amount of acclimatization time, making camping at Crater Camp, the highest site on the mountain, safer.

The route approaches Mount Kilimanjaro from the west, beginning with a long drive from Moshi to Londorossi Gate. From there, the first two days are spent trekking through the rain forest to Shira Ridge. The Lemosho route crosses the entire Shira Plateau from west to east in a pleasant, relatively flat hike. Crowds are low until the route joins the Machame route near Lava Tower. Then the route traverses underneath Kilimanjaro's Southern Ice Field on a path known as the Southern Circuit before summiting from Barafu. Afterwards, the route descends to Crater Camp. Descent is made via the Mweka route.

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9 DAY LEMOSHO CRATER ITINERARY

DAY 1

Londorossi Gate to Mti Mkubwa

Elevation: 7,742 ft to 9,498 ft
Hiking Time: 3-4 hours

Distance: 6 km | 4 miles
Habitat: Rain Forest

We depart Moshi for Londorossi Gate, which takes about 4 hours, where you will complete entry formalities. Then drive to the Lemosho trailhead. Upon arrival at trailhead, we begin hiking through undisturbed forest which winds to the first camp site.

DAY 2

Mti Mkubwa to Shira 1 Camp

Elevation: 9,498 ft to 11,500 ft
Hiking Time: 5-6 hours

Distance: 8 km | 5 miles
Habitat: Heath

We continue on the trail leading out of the rain 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. Here we catch our first glimpse of Kibo across the plateau.

DAY 3

Shira 1 Camp to Moir Hut

Elevation: 11,500 ft to 13,800 ft
Hiking Time: 5-7 hours

Distance: 11 km | 7 miles
Habitat: Heath

We explore the Shira Plateau for a full day. It is a gentle walk east on moorland meadows towards Shira 2 Camp. Then we divert from the main trail to Moir Hut, a little used site on the base of Lent Hills. A variety of walks are available on Lent Hills making this an excellent acclimatization opportunity. Shira Plateau is one of the highest plateaus on earth.

DAY 4

Moir Hut to Lava Tower

Elevation: 13,800 ft to 15,190 ft
Hiking Time: 4-5 hours

Distance: 7 km | 4 miles
Habitat: Alpine Desert

Lava Tower to Barranco Camp

Elevation: 15,190 ft to 13,044 ft
Hiking Time: 2-3 hours

Distance: 3 km | 2 miles
Habitat: Alpine Desert

We begin the day climbing up a ridge and then head southeast towards the Lava Tower – a 300 ft tall volcanic rock formation. We descend down to Barranco Camp through the strange but beautiful Senecio Forest to an altitude of 13,000 ft. Although you begin and end the day at the same elevation, the time spent at higher altitude is very beneficial for acclimatization.

DAY 5

Barranco Camp to Karanga Camp

Elevation: 13,044 ft to 13,106 ft
Hiking Time: 4-5 hours

Distance: 5 km | 3 miles
Habitat: Alpine Desert

We begin the day by descending into a ravine to the base of the Great Barranco Wall. Then we climb the non-technical but steep, nearly 900 ft cliff. From the top of the Barranco Wall we cross a series of hills and valleys until we descend sharply into Karanga Valley. One more steep climb up leads us to Karanga Camp. This is a shorter day meant for acclimatization.

DAY 6

Karanga Camp to Barafu Camp

Elevation: 13,106 ft to 15,331 ft
Hiking Time: 4-5 hours

Distance: 4 km | 2 miles
Habitat: Alpine Desert

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

DAY 7

Barafu Camp to Uhuru Peak

Elevation: 15,331 ft to 19,341 ft
Hiking Time: 6-8 hours

Distance: 5 km | 3 miles
Habitat: Arctic

Uhuru Peak to Crater Camp

Elevation: 19,341 ft to 18,865 ft
Hiking Time: 0.5-1 hours

Distance: 1 km | 0.5 mile
Habitat: Arctic

During normal morning hours, we begin our push to the summit. This is the most mentally and physically challenging portion of the trek. We ascend for several hours at a slow but steady pace while taking frequent, but short, breaks. The trail turns into heavy scree as we make the steep climb to the crater rim. At Stella Point (18,900 ft), we see the summit sign in the distance. We continue the around the crater rim until finally we arrive at Uhuru Peak—the highest point on Mount Kilimanjaro and the continent of Africa.

We then descend a short distance to Crater Camp, where the rest of the staff will join us to set up camp. There is an option to hike to Reutsch Crater and the ash pit, or simply explore the areas around Furtwangler Glacier. Sleeping at this high altitude can be dangerous. Serious AMS can develop if adequate altitude acclimatization has not been achieved so the guides will monitor you very closely.

DAY 8

Crater Camp to Mweka Camp

Elevation: 18,865 ft to 10,065 ft
Hiking Time: 4-6 hours

Distance: 12 km | 7 miles
Habitat: Arctic

From Crater Camp, we now make our descent continuing straight down to the Mweka Hut camp site, stopping at Barafu for lunch. The trail is very rocky and can be quite hard on the knees; trekking poles are helpful. 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 9

Mweka Camp to Mweka Gate

Elevation: 10,065 ft to 5,380 ft
Hiking Time: 3-4 hours

Distance: 10 km | 6 miles
Habitat: Rain Forest

On our last day, we continue the descent to Mweka Gate and collect the summit certificates. At lower elevations, it can be wet and muddy. From the gate, we continue another hour to Mweka Village. A vehicle will meet us at Mweka Village to drive us back to the hotel in Moshi.

9 DAY LEMOSHO CRATER ITINERARY

Day	Start	Altitude (m)	Altitude (ft)	Finish	Altitude (m)	Altitude (ft)	Time (hrs)	Distance (km)	Distance (miles)
1	Londorossi Gate	2,360	7,742	Mti Mkubwa	2,895	9,498	3-4	6	4
2	Mti Mkubwa	2,895	9,498	Shira 1 Camp	3,505	11,500	5-6	8	5
3	Shira 1 Camp	3,505	11,500	Moir Hut	4,206	13,800	5-7	11	7
4	Moir Hut	4,206	13,800	Lava Tower	4,630	15,190	4-5	7	4
	Lava Tower	4,630	15,190	Barranco Camp	3,976	13,044	2-3	3	2
5	Barranco Camp	3,976	13,044	Karanga Camp	3,995	13,106	4-5	5	3
6	Karanga Camp	3,995	13,106	Barafu Camp	4,673	15,331	4-5	4	2
7	Barafu Camp	4,673	15,331	Uhuru Peak	5,895	19,341	6-8	5	3
	Uhuru Peak	5,895	19,341	Crater Camp	5,750	18,865	.5-1	1	0.5
8	Crater Camp	5,750	18,865	Mweka Camp	3,068	10,065	4-6	12	7
9	Mweka Camp	3,068	10,065	Mweka Gate	1,640	5,380	3-4	10	6
Total								72	43.5

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