

Route Overview

The **Northern Circuit Route** is Kilimanjaro's longest and newest trail, offering the most comprehensive journey around the mountain. Starting from the west, it traverses the Shira Plateau before circling around the northern slopes. This route provides excellent acclimatization, fewer crowds, and diverse scenery. With 9 days, it is the safest and most successful route to the summit.

- **Duration:** 9 days / 8 nights
- **Difficulty:** Challenging but with the highest success rates due to gradual ascent
- **Accommodation:** Tented camps only
- **Best for:** Climbers seeking a scenic, quiet, and well-paced trek with maximum acclimatization

Day-by-Day Itinerary

Day 1: Londorossi Gate → Mti Mkubwa Camp

Your trek begins at **Londorossi Gate** (2,100m). After registration, you drive to the trailhead and enter Kilimanjaro's rainforest. The trail is alive with monkeys, birds, and towering trees. By evening, you reach **Mti Mkubwa Camp** (2,650m).

Day 2: Mti Mkubwa Camp → Shira 1 Camp

The trail climbs steeply out of the forest into moorland. Vegetation changes dramatically, with giant heathers and volcanic rock formations. By midday, you reach the expansive **Shira Plateau** and camp at **Shira 1 Camp** (3,500m).

Day 3: Shira 1 Camp → Shira 2 Camp

A shorter trek across the Shira Plateau allows for acclimatization. You hike through moorland with sweeping views of Kilimanjaro's glaciers. By afternoon, you arrive at **Shira 2 Camp** (3,850m).

Day 4: Shira 2 Camp → Lava Tower → Moir Hut

This is an acclimatization day. Trek upward to **Lava Tower** (4,600m), where lunch is served. The thin air tests your endurance, but descending to **Moir Hut** (4,200m) restores energy. This "climb high, sleep low" strategy helps your body adjust.

Day 5: Moir Hut → Buffalo Camp

The trail heads north, away from the crowds. You trek across rugged terrain with views of the northern slopes and Kenyan plains. By evening, you arrive at **Buffalo Camp** (4,200m).

Day 6: Buffalo Camp → Third Cave Camp

Continue eastward across alpine desert. The landscape is barren yet striking, with sweeping views of Mawenzi Peak. Camp at **Third Cave** (3,900m), a quiet and remote spot.

Day 7: Third Cave Camp → School Hut

The trail ascends steadily toward **School Hut** (4,800m), located near Kibo. This is the base for your summit attempt. Dinner is early, and climbers rest before the midnight push.

Day 8: School Hut → Uhuru Peak → Mweka Camp

Summit night begins at midnight. With headlamps glowing, you ascend slowly in freezing air. The climb is steep and demanding, but as dawn breaks, you reach **Gilman's Point** (5,681m), then continue to **Uhuru Peak** (5,895m), the highest point in Africa. The sunrise over the glaciers is unforgettable. After celebrations, you descend back to **Mweka Camp** (3,100m).

Day 9: Mweka Camp → Mweka Gate

The final descent takes you back through rainforest alive with birds and monkeys. At **Mweka Gate** (1,800m), climbers receive official summit certificates. Guides and porters celebrate with you, marking the end of your Kilimanjaro adventure.

At the end of your descent, you'll gather with your guides and porters to celebrate your achievement and receive your official summit certificate — a proud reminder that you've conquered Kilimanjaro. After hugs, photos, and heartfelt goodbyes, we'll transfer you back to your hotel in Moshi or Arusha. There, a hot shower, a soft bed, and a delicious celebration meal await — the perfect way to relax, reflect, and enjoy the memories of your incredible journey.

✓ Inclusions

- **Professional guides & crew** – Certified, English-speaking guides, assistant guides, porters, and cooks.
 - **Park fees & permits** – Entry fees, camping/hut fees, rescue fees, and government VAT.
 - **Camping or hut accommodation** – High-quality tents (4-season) or huts on the Marangu Route.
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- **Meals & water** – Freshly prepared hot meals daily, clean drinking water, tea/coffee, and snacks.
 - **Group equipment** – Dining tent, kitchen tent, cooking utensils, sleeping pads, and medical kit with oxygen.
 - **Daily health monitoring** – Pulse oximeter checks, altitude assessments, and emergency protocols.
 - **Airport transfers** – Round-trip transfers between Kilimanjaro International Airport (JRO) and hotel in Moshi/Arusha.
 - **Hotel stays before & after trek** – Typically 2 nights (1 before, 1 after climb).
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✕ Exclusions

- **International flights** – Airfare to/from Tanzania.
- **Visa fees** – Tourist visa (varies by nationality).
- **Travel insurance** – Must cover high-altitude trekking and emergency evacuation.
- **Personal trekking gear** – Boots, sleeping bag, insulated clothing, rain gear, backpack, trekking poles.
- **Tips for guides & porters** – Standard practice, a key income source for staff.
- **Personal expenses** – Souvenirs, drinks, laundry, optional activities.
- **Extra hotel nights** – Beyond the standard 2 nights included.