

Lemosho Route – 8 Trekking Days

The Lemosho Route is often considered the most beautiful trail on Kilimanjaro. Beginning on the remote western side of the mountain, it passes through untouched rainforest, vast plateaus, and dramatic valleys before joining the Machame Route. The scenery is breathtaking, and the route has a high summit success rate.

This is the 8-Day Lemosho Route itinerary. The 7-Day option is almost the same but skips an extra acclimatization night at Karanga Camp, giving your body less time to adjust to the altitude.

Which option should I choose?

8-Day Lemosho Route

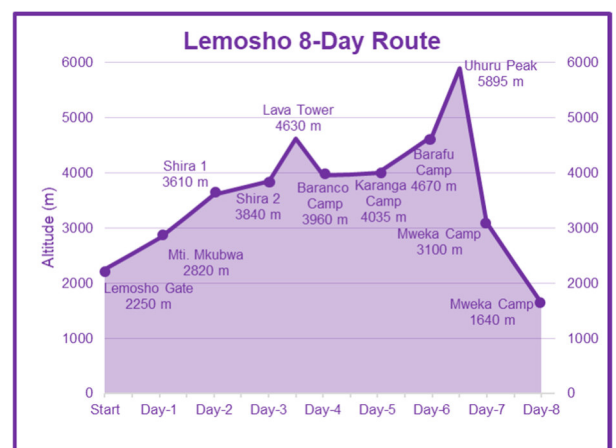
- ✓ More time to acclimatize → higher summit success
- ✓ Easier pace, less fatigue before summit day
- ✓ Recommended for most trekkers, especially beginners
- ✗ Costs slightly more

7-Day Lemosho Route

- ✗ Lower summit success rate compared to 7 days
- ✗ Faster pace and less time for acclimatization
- ✓ Shorter trip overall → less time away from home/work
- ✓ Slightly cheaper (one less day)

Lemosho Route – 8 Trekking Days

- Total trail distance - 70 km / 43 miles
- Duration: 10 days including arrival and departure days. 8 days trekking
- Start Point: Lemosho Gate – 2,250m / 7,380ft
- Highest Point: Uhuru Peak – 5,895 m / 19,341 ft
- End Point: Mweka Gate – 1,640 m / 5,380 ft
- Difficulty: Challenging – long days, steep sections, summit night very tough
- Success Rate: Higher on the 8-day option (better acclimatization)



Average Daily Hiking Times – Lemosho Route (8 Days)

- Arrival Day & Briefing: No hiking
- Day 1 – Lemosho Gate → Mti Mkubwa: 3–4 hrs
- Day 2 – Mti Mkubwa → Shira Camp 1: 5–6 hrs
- Day 3 – Shira Camp 1 → Shira Camp 2: 4–5 hrs
- Day 4 – Shira Camp 2 → Lava Tower → Barranco Camp: 4 hrs
- Day 5 – Barranco Camp → Karanga Camp: 4–5 hrs
- Day 6 – Karanga Camp → Barafu Camp: 4–5 hrs
- Day 7 – Summit Day (Barafu → Uhuru Peak → Mweka Camp): 11–15 hrs
- Day 8 – Mweka Camp → Mweka Gate: 3–4 hrs
- Departure or start of safari

Arrival Day & Pre-Trek Briefing

Welcome to Tanzania! Our driver will meet you at the airport and transfer you to your hotel in Moshi or Arusha. In the evening, your mountain guide will join you for a detailed briefing about the climb. Together you'll check your gear, go over final packing tips, and talk about the adventure ahead. Afterward, enjoy dinner, relax, and get a good night's sleep before your adventure begins.



Day 1 – Lemosho Gate → Mti Mkubwa (Big Tree) Camp

- Start: 2,250 m / 7,380 ft
- End: 2,820 m / 9,250 ft
- Hiking: 3–4 hrs • 6 km • Rainforest
- Meals/Stay: B • L • D | Camping

Your trek begins with registration at the park gate and lunch, then a gentle hike through rainforest filled with monkeys and tropical birds. By afternoon you'll reach Mti Mkubwa Camp, set among trees at the forest edge. Enjoy the noise of monkeys and birds in the night.

Day 2 – Mti Mkubwa → Shira Camp 1

- Start: 2,820 m / 9,250 ft
- End: 3,610 m / 11,840 ft
- Hiking: 5–6 hrs • 8 km • Moorland
- Meals/Stay: B • L • D | Camping

Leaving the forest behind, the trail climbs into heather and moorland with wide-open views. At the end of your hike you reach the wide Shira Plateau where you, weather permitting, will see Kibo for the first time. Keep yourself warm at night. At this campsite, temperatures can fall below freezing point after midnight.





Day 3 – Shira Camp 1 → Shira Camp 2

- Start: 3,610 m / 11,840 ft
- End: 3,840 m / 12,600 ft
- Hiking: 4–6 hrs • 7 km • Moorland
- Meals/Stay: B•L•D | Camping

A relatively easy day to help your body acclimatize. You trek across the Shira Plateau with panoramic views of snow covered Kibu ahead. You will probably not walk the direct route across the plateau. Your pace and condition permitting, your guide will lead you for a little longer acclimatization walk.

Day 4 - Shira 2 → Lava Tower (lunch) → Barranco Camp

- Start: 3840 m / 12,600 ft
- High point: Lava Tower – 4,630 m / 15,190 ft
- End: 3,960 m / 13,000 ft
- Hiking: 6–8 hrs • 10 km • Alpine desert → Moorland
- Meals/Stay: B • L • D | Camping

Today is an important acclimatization day. The trail climbs gradually toward the Lava Tower, a striking rock formation where you'll stop for lunch at high altitude. Many trekkers feel the thinner air here it's normal, and the key is to move slowly, drink plenty of water, and follow your guide's advice. In the afternoon, the path descends into the spectacular Barranco Valley, dotted with giant senecio plants. Your camp sits beneath the dramatic Barranco Wall an unforgettable place to spend the night.



Day 5 – Barranco Camp → Karanga Camp

- Start: 3,960 m / 13,000 ft
- End: 4,035 m / 13,250 ft
- Hiking: 4–5 hrs • 5 km • Alpine desert
- Meals/Stay: B • L • D | Camping

After breakfast, you'll face the famous Barranco Wall a fun, non-technical scramble that rewards you with breathtaking views from the top. From there, the trail follows gentle ups and downs across high ridges to Karanga Camp. You'll arrive by early afternoon, giving you time to rest, enjoy some snacks, and take a short acclimatization walk. This day is shorter by design, helping your body adjust to the altitude.



Day 6 – Karanga Camp → Barafu Camp

- Start: 4,035 m / 13,250 ft
- End: 4,640 m / 15,220 ft
- Hiking: 4–5 hrs • 4 km • Alpine desert
- Meals/Stay: B • L • D | Camping

From Karanga, the trail makes a steady climb up to Barafu Camp, the high altitude base camp for your summit attempt. The landscape here is stark and rocky, with sweeping views over the plains far below. You'll arrive in the afternoon, have an early dinner with hot drinks, and prepare your gear: warm layers, headlamp, snacks, insulated water bottles. After final instructions from your guide, you'll head to bed early - your summit push begins just before midnight.

Day 7 – Summit Day! Barafu → Uhuru Peak → Mweka Camp

- Start: 4,670 m / 15,330 ft
- Summit: Uhuru Peak – 5,895 m / 19,341 ft
- End: 3,100 m / 10,170 ft
- Hiking: 11–15 hrs total • 17 km
- Terrain: Scree → crater rim → descent to moorland
- Meals/Stay: B • L • D | Camping

This is the day you've been waiting for! Just before midnight, you'll set out with headlamps, climbing slowly up the steep scree slopes. The air is thin and the climb is tough, but with patience and steady steps, you'll reach Stella Point (5,739 m) at sunrise – a magical moment.



From here it's a final walk along the crater rim to Uhuru Peak - the Roof of Africa!

After celebrating and taking photos, you'll begin your descent, stopping at Barafu for a short rest and hot drink before continuing down to Millennium or Mweka Camp, nestled back in the moorland zone. It's a long, tough day, but also the most rewarding.

📍 For our itineraries, we list Mweka Camp as the standard overnight stop, but please know that Millennium Camp is also an option depending on your pace and condition.

Day 8 – Mweka Camp → Mweka Gate → Moshi/Arusha

- Start: 3,100 m / 10,170 ft
- Finish: Mweka Gate – 1,640 m / 5,380 ft
- Hiking: 3–4 hrs • 10 km • Rainforest
- Meals: B • L (packed or hot lunch)

Your final day on the mountain! After breakfast, you'll descend through lush rainforest filled with birdlife and fresh mountain air. In just a few hours you'll reach Mweka Gate, where you'll receive your official summit certificate a proud reminder of your achievement.

After goodbyes to your mountain crew, a private transfer will take you back to your hotel in Moshi/Arusha. The evening is yours to relax, celebrate, and reflect on your unforgettable Kilimanjaro adventure.

Departure or Safari – Moshi/Arusha to Kilimanjaro Airport

A private car will bring you to the airport or you will start with our team your safari.