



## Northern Circuit Route – 8 or 9 Trekking Days

The Northern Circuit is the insider's tip for climbing Kilimanjaro. While Shira, Lemosho, Machame and Umbwe all merge together on the South side of Kibo, you are basically almost alone on the Northern Circuit which passes and approaching Kibo from the North-East. The scenery is breathtaking as you basically walk around Kibo on this trek. The route has a very high summit success rate.

There is a 9-Day option, which passes by Mawenzi peak. This trek is also referred to as the Grand Traverse. If you have sufficient time and want to see Mount Kilimanjaro from all angles, then you should choose this option.

The 8-Day option is also going on the North but doesn't pass by Mawenzi. The trek is also referred to as the Alternative Lemosho Route because starting point is the same. The road then splits on Shira plateau from the normal Lemosho Route.

### Which option should I choose?

#### 8-Day Northern Circuit Route

- ✓ Sufficient time to acclimatize → very high summit success
- ✓ Easy pace, less fatigue before summit day
- ✓ Recommended for most trekkers, especially beginners

#### 9-Day Northern Circuit Route (20 kilometers / 12 miles longer)

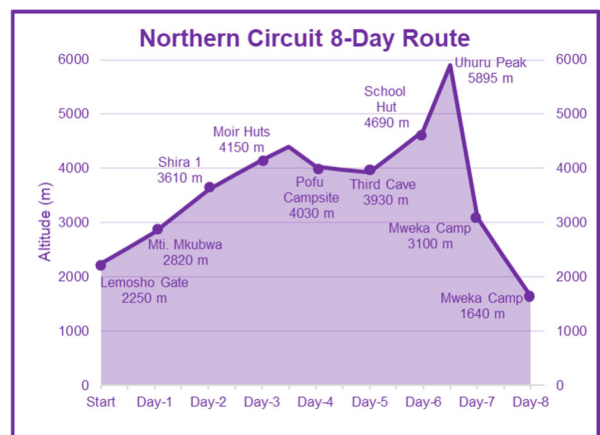
- ✓ You have seen Kilimanjaro from all angles (West, North, East and South)
- ✓ Excellent acclimatization → very high summit success
- ✗ Higher cost (one extra day)

## Northern Circuit Route – 8 or 9 Trekking Days

- Total trail distance - 70 km / 43 miles (8 days) or 90 km / 55 miles (9 days)
- Duration: 10 / 11 days including arrival and departure days. 8 / 9 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: Very high

### Average Daily Hiking Times – Northern Circuit Route (8 Days)

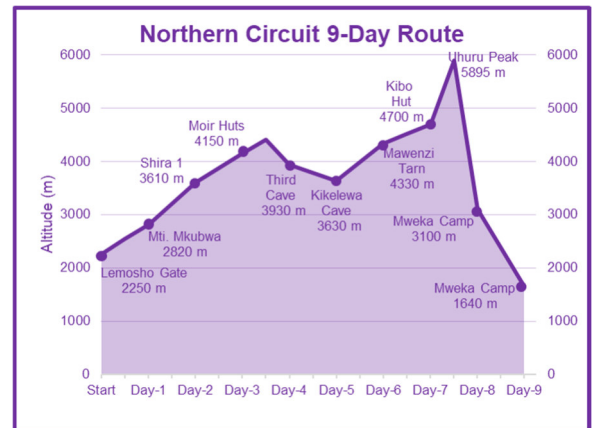
- Arrival Day & Briefing: No hiking
- Day 1 – Lemosho Gate → Mti Mkubwa: 3–4 hrs
- Day 2 – Mti Mkubwa → Shira Camp 1: 5–6 hrs
- Day 3 – Shira Camp 1 → Moir Huts: 5–6 hrs
- Day 4 – Moir Huts → Pofu Campsite: 5–7 hrs
- Day 5 – Pofu Campsite → Third Cave: 3–4 hrs
- Day 6 – Third Cave → School Hut: 4–5 hrs
- Day 7 – Summit Day (School Hut → Uhuru Peak → Mweka Camp): 11–15 hrs
- Day 8 – Mweka Camp → Mweka Gate: 3–4 hrs
- Departure or start of safari





## 🕒 Average Daily Hiking Times – Northern Circuit Route (9 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 → Moir Huts: 5–6 hrs
- Day 4 – Moir Huts → Third Cave: 7–9 hrs
- Day 5 – Third Cave → Kikelewa Cave: 3–5 hrs
- Day 6 – Kikelewa Cave → Mawenzi Tarn: 4–6 hrs
- Day 7 – Mawenzi Tarn → Kibo Hut: 5–6 hrs
- Day 8 – Summit Day (Kibo Hut → Uhuru Peak → Mweka Camp): 11–15 hrs
- Day 9 – 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
- 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 Kibu for the first time. Keep yourself warm at night. At this campsite, temperatures can fall below freezing point after midnight.

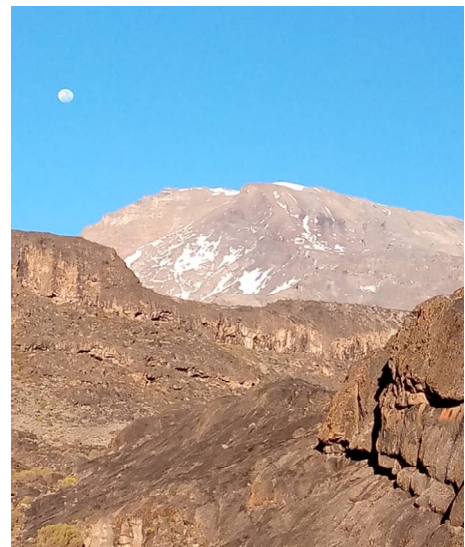
### Day 3 – Shira Camp 1 → Moir Huts

- Start: 3,610 m / 11,840 ft
- End: 4,150 m / 13,610 ft
- Hiking: 5–6 hrs • 10 km • Moorland
- Meals/Stay: B•L•D | Camping

First, relatively easy you trek across the Shira Plateau with panoramic views of snow covered Kibu ahead.

Before reaching Moir Huts the trail gets steeper. Walk slowly to save your breath.

After arriving at the camp you will have lunch. Later in the afternoon your guide will probably invite you for a small acclimatization walk. Don't forget to watch the stars at night.



**After Day 3 the itinerary for the 8 or 9 Day splits. For the 9-Day trek continue on page 5**



### 8 Day Trek: Day 4 - Moir Huts → Pofu Campsite

- Start: 4,150 m / 13,610 ft
- High point: 4,400 m / 14,440 ft
- End: 4,030 m / 13,220 ft
- Hiking: 5–7 hrs • 9 km • Alpine desert → Moorland
- Meals/Stay: B • L • D | Camping

Today is an important acclimatization day. The day starts immediately with the steepest climb of the day. Please walk slowly and drink sufficiently to avoid headache and fatigue. You will reach an altitude of 4,400 m / 14,440 ft as you walk on Kibo's north side. The landscape and terrain is different compared to the south side. Also vegetation changes as you trek along the valleys.

### 8 Day Trek: Day 5 – Pofu Campsite → Third Cave

- Start: 4,030 m / 13,220 ft
- End: 3,930 m / 12,900 ft
- Hiking: 3–4 hrs • 7 km • Alpine desert
- Meals/Stay: B • L • D | Camping

After breakfast, you continue to traverse on the northern slopes of Kibo. There are a little ups and downs but generally you will continue to loose elevation today. This hiking day is shorter by design, helping your body to relax as the next 2 days will be tough.

### 8 Day Trek: Day 6 – Third Cave → School Hut

- Start: Third Cave 3,930 m / 12,900 ft
- End: School Hut – 4,690 m / 15,390 ft
- Hiking: 4–5 hrs • 5 km • Alpine desert
- Meals/Stay: B • L • D | Camping

If you walk around Third Cave Campsite, you can see the goal of today: School Hut. It's basically straight up on the eastern flank of Kibo. The climb is steady and steep. You will gain more than 700 meters in altitude within a few hours.

Previously schools were coming up here. While there is a hut, your team has already prepared your cozy tent for you. After lunch, another acclimatization walk is on the agenda.

You'll 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 at midnight.





### 8 Day Trek: Day 7 – Summit Day! School Hut → Uhuru Peak → Mweka Camp

- Start: 4,690 m / 15,390 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! At midnight, you'll set out with headlamps, climbing slowly up the steep scree slopes. The view is amazing as you see the lights of Kenya and Tanzania far below you. The trail zigzags steeply up scree slopes. The air is thin and the climb is tough, but with patience and steady steps, you'll reach Gilman's Point (5,685 m), where you'll see the first light of dawn. Excitement is high and adrenaline pushes you further while you walk along the crater rim to Stella Point (5,739 m).

Drink plenty, eat some energy bars but don't rest too long. Check yourself for symptoms of altitude sickness. You can already see Uhuru peak but don't underestimate the last few hundred meters. It's again more steeper and the trail is probably snow covered. Your legs are getting tired but you need to continue pushing yourself. If you made it until here, you can also do the last steps 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 lunch 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.

Here it continues on the 9 Day Trek



#### 9 Day Trek: Day 4 - Moir Huts → Third Cave

- Start: 4,150 m / 13,610 ft
- High point: 4,400 m / 14,440 ft
- End: 3,930 m / 12,900 ft
- Hiking: 7–9 hrs • 16 km • Alpine desert
- Meals/Stay: B • L • D | Camping

Today is an important acclimatization day. The day starts immediately with the steepest climb of the day. Please walk slowly and drink sufficiently to avoid headache and fatigue. You will reach an altitude of 4,400 m / 14,440 ft as you walk on Kibo's north side. The landscape and terrain is different compared to the south side. Also vegetation changes as you trek along the valleys on the northern slopes of Kibo. There are a little ups and downs but generally you will continue to loose elevation today. This hiking day is longer than usual.

#### 9 Day Trek: Day 5- Third Cave → Kikelwa Camp

- Start: Third Cave 3,930 m / 12,900 ft
- End: Kikelwa Camp 3,630 m / 11,810 ft
- Hiking: 3–5 hrs • 7 km • Alpine desert → moorland
- Meals/Stay: B • L • D | Camping

After the long hiking day yesterday, today a shorter day to relax. And you continue to loose elevation.



#### 9 Day Trek: Day 6 – Kikelewa Camp → Mawenzi Tarn

- Start: 3,630 m / 11,810 ft
- End: 4,330 m / 14,210 ft
- Hiking: 4–6 hrs • 6 km • Moorland → alpine desert
- Meals/Stay: B • L • D | Camping

Today we are going up again. The trek takes you up through grassy slopes into the alpine desert zone. You'll reach Mawenzi Tarn, a stunning camp beneath the jagged spires of Mawenzi Peak. The dramatic scenery here makes this one of the most memorable camps on the mountain.

### 9 Day Trek: Day 7 – Mawenzi Tarn → Kibo Hut

- Start: 4,330 m / 14,210 ft
- End: 4,700 m / 15,420 ft
- Hiking: 5–6 hrs • 9 km •  
Alpine desert
- Meals/Stay: B • L • D | Camping

You cross the lunar-like saddle between Mawenzi and Kibo, with wide open views and sparse vegetation. The air is thin, and you should walk slowly, saving energy for the summit. You'll arrive at Kibo Hut in the afternoon, have an early dinner, and prepare for your midnight summit push.



### 9 Day Trek: Day 8 – Summit Day! Kibo Hut → Uhuru Peak → Mweka Camp

- Start: Kibo Hut 4,700 m / 15,420 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

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**Day 9 Trek: Day 9 – 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)

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**Day 9 Trek: Day 11 – Moshi/Arusha to Kilimanjaro Airport**

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