

Umbwe Route – 6 Trekking Days

The Umbwe Route is the most challenging route because it's the most direct and dramatic trail on Mount Kilimanjaro. It starts deep in the rainforest on the mountain's southern side and climbs sharply up a narrow ridge before joining the Machame Route at Barranco Camp. The scenery is stunning and wild - from dense jungle to giant heathers, from towering ridges to sweeping glaciers. This route is ideal for experienced trekkers looking for solitude and a true sense of adventure.

There is the possibility for an extra night at Karanga Camp, improving comfort and summit success chances. This will make the trip a 7 day trekking. Or you skip Karanga Camp completely for a 5 day trek.

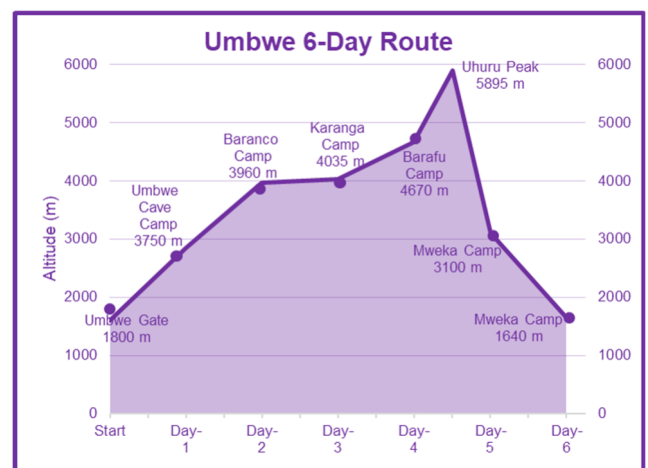
Key Differences

- 7-Day Route: 2 nights at Karanga Camp (shorter day, overnight stop, better acclimatization)
- 5-Day Route: Barranco Camp → Barafu Camp (longer, tougher day, no overnight at Karanga, less acclimatization).

All other days are the same, with identical start and finish points.

Umbwe Route – 6 Days

- Total trail distance - 53 km / 33 miles
- Duration: 8 days including arrival and departure days. 6 days trekking
- Start Point: Umbwe Gate – 1,600 m / 5,250 ft
- Highest Point: Uhuru Peak – 5,895 m / 19,341 ft
- End Point: Mweka Gate – 1,640 m / 5,380 ft
- Difficulty: Very challenging – steep sections, long trekking days
- Success Rate: Moderate. Better on the 7-day trek.



Average Daily Hiking Times – Umbwe Route (6 Days)

- Arrival Day & Briefing: No hiking
- Day 1 – Umbwe Gate → Umbwe Cave Camp: 5–6 hrs
- Day 2 – Umbwe Cave Camp → Barranco Camp: 5–6 hrs
- Day 3 – Barranco Camp → Karanga Camp: 4–5 hrs
- Day 4 – Karanga Camp → Barafu Camp: 4–5 hrs
- Day 5 – Summit Day (Barafu → Uhuru Peak → Mweka Camp): 11–15 hrs
- Day 6 – 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 – Umbwe Gate → Umbwe Cave Camp

- Start: 1,600 m / 5,250 ft
- End: 2,850 m / 9,350 ft
- Hiking: 5–6 hrs • 10 km • Rainforest
- Meals/Stay: B • L • D | Camping

After breakfast, you'll drive to Umbwe Gate for registration with the National Park.

Your porters will prepare equipment while you enjoy lunch and meet your crew.

The trail immediately plunges into dense rainforest, winding steeply up a narrow ridge.

Expect roots, mossy trees, and the sounds of colobus monkeys in the canopy.

After a challenging day's climb, you'll arrive at Umbwe Cave Camp, set deep within the forest..

Day 2 – Umbwe Cave Camp → Barranco Camp

- Start: 2,850 m / 9,350 ft
- End: 3,960 m / 13,000 ft
- Hiking: 4–6 hrs • 5 km • Moorland
- Meals/Stay: B • L • D | Camping

This morning, the forest quickly gives way to a rocky ridge and the wide-open landscapes of moorland. As you climb higher, the views expand dramatically, and on clear days you can see Mount Meru in the distance. The trail eventually leads onto the Shira Plateau, a vast high-altitude plain. Shira Camp sits in an open space with incredible sky views at night. In the afternoon, your guide may suggest a short acclimatization walk before dinner.





Day 3 – 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 4 – Karanga Camp → Barafu Camp

- Start: 4,035 m / 13,250 ft
- End: 4,670 m / 15,230 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 5 – Summit Day! Barafu → Uhuru Peak → Mweka Camp

- Start: 4,670 m / 15,230 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 begin the slow, steady climb up the slopes of Kibo. The air is thin and the climb is challenging, but your guides will set a safe, steady pace. By sunrise, you'll reach Stella Point (5,739 m), where the rising sun paints the sky in breathtaking colors. 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 6 – 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.