



6-day Lemosho Route

The 6-day Lemosho route is less recommended for it is difficult to cover the distance and elevation in the allotted time. Specifically, on day 2, the journey from Forest Camp to Shira 2, is rather long and has an elevation gain of 3,000 feet. It would not be unusual for climbers to have symptoms of altitude sickness while only on the second day of the climb due to the quick pace.

Additionally, day four combined with day five makes for a very tough schedule. Day four is a full day of trekking from Barranco to Barafu. Then after dinner and a partial night's sleep, the very long and strenuous summit day begins around midnight. The 6-day Lemosho route requires 19-24 hours of demanding walking, at extremely high elevation, with only 4-6 hours of sleep.

Day 1

- Lemosho Gate to Forest Camp
- Elevation : 2385m – 2780m
- Distance: 7 km
- Hiking: 4-5 hours
- Habitat: Rain Forest

We depart from your hotel for Lemosho Gate, where you will complete entry formalities. After registration, you start your trek steadily through the forests of the Lemosho glades until you reach the Big Tree Camp where you will spend the night.

DAY 2

- Forest Camp to Shira Camp 2
- Elevation: 2780m – 3900m
- Distance: 16 km
- Hiking Time: 9-10 hours
- Habitat: Moorland

You will trek across a plateau of grassy moorland and heather scattered with volcanic rock. We will trek through Shira 1 Camp, where you will have great views of the Kibo Peak with floating clouds. It is a steady gain to Shira 2 and you will get a chance to see the Northern Ice fields from the western side of the mountain. The steady climb across the moorland will help you acclimate to the altitude and enjoy the majestic panoramic views.

DAY 3

- Shira Camp 2 to Barranco Camp
- Elevation: 3900m – 3960m
- Distance: 10km
- Hiking Time: 7-8 hours
- Habitat: Moorland / Semi-Desert

The Trek will start with an ascent that will have great views. We will continue to the upland desert and the lava ridge, under the glaciers on the Western Breach. We will trek to Lava Tower (4640m), for lunch and then descend to Barranco Camp for the night. This camp is sheltered by towering cliffs that provide extensive views of the plains below.

DAY 4

- Barranco Camp to Karanga Camp to Barafu Camp
- Elevation (ft): 13,000ft to 15,000ft
- Distance: 9km
- Hiking Time: 8-10 hours
- Habitat: Alpine Desert

After breakfast, we leave Barranco and continue on a steep ridge passing the Barranco Wall, to the Karanga Valley campsite. Then, we leave Karanga and hit the junction which connects with the Mweka Trail. We continue up to the Barafu Hut. At this point, you have completed the South Circuit, which offers views of the summit from many different angles. Here we make camp, rest, enjoy dinner, and prepare for the summit day. The two peaks of Mawenzi and Kibo are to be seen from this position.

DAY 5

- Barafu Camp to Summit to Mweka Hut
- Elevation (ft): 15,300ft to 19,345ft (and down to 10,000ft)
- Distance: 5 km ascent / 12 km descent
- Hiking Time: 7-8 hours ascent / 4-6 hours descent
- Habitat: Arctic

Very early in the morning (midnight to 2am), we continue our way to the summit between the Rebmann and Ratzel glaciers. You head in a northwesterly direction and ascend through heavy scree towards Stella Point on the crater rim. This is the most mentally and physically challenging portion of the trek.

At Stella Point (18,600 ft), you will stop for a short rest and will be rewarded with the most magnificent sunrise you are ever likely to see (weather permitting). From Stella Point, you may encounter snow all the way on your 1-hour ascent to the summit. At Uhuru Peak, you have reached the highest point on Mount Kilimanjaro and the continent of Africa. Faster hikers will see the sunrise from the summit.

From the summit, we now make our descent continuing straight down to the Mweka Hut camp site, stopping at Barafu for lunch. You will want gaiters and trekking poles for the loose gravel going down. 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 6

- Mweka Camp to Moshi
- Elevation (ft): 10,000ft to 5,400ft
- Distance: 10 km
- Hiking Time: 3-4 hours
- Habitat: Rain Forest

After breakfast, we continue the descent down to the Mweka Park Gate to receive your summit certificates. At lower elevations, it can be wet and muddy we recommend gaiters and trekking poles. Shorts and t-shirts will probably be plenty to wear (keep rain gear and warmer clothing handy). From the gate, you continue another hour to Mweka Village. A vehicle will meet you at Mweka village to drive you back to the hotel for a hot shower and some relaxation time.