



# JOY CLIMBERS EXPEDITION

## 8 Day Northern Circuit

You will be picked up at the Kilimanjaro International Airport and transferred to your hotel, you will meet your guide who will brief you on your upcoming trek and do an equipment check to make sure you have all the necessary mountain gear. The missing gear can be rented on this day. The Northern Circuit offers some of the best views as you will have 360 degrees of beautiful scenery. This route has very low traffic and with eight days you have a very high summit success rate. This is the longest route on Kili but will allow you to experience the best the mountain has to offer.

### Day 1 – Londorossi Gate (2,100 meters) – start point 2,360 meters to Mti Mkubwa Camp (2,820 meters)

- **Distance:** ~5.5km / 3 miles
- **Trekking time:** 3-4 hours
- **Zone:** Rainforest

The Northern Circuit Route begins at Londorossi Gate (2,100 meters) in the West, the same start point as the Lemosho Route. The drive to Londorossi Gate takes approximately two hours from hotel and considerably longer from Arusha. Registration with the Kilimanjaro National Park authorities occurs at the gate and then you will be driven further up the mountain to the trailhead starting point. Most tour operators serve lunch here before the short first day trek to Mti Mkubwa Camp (2,820 meters) begins. You may get lucky and spot large wildlife like elephant and buffalo that sometimes emerge from the rainforest onto the path as you trek towards your first camp. Dinner will be served when you reach Mti Mkubwa Camp.

### Day 2 – Mti Mkubwa Camp (2,820 meters) to Shira Camp 1 (3,610 meters)

- **Distance:** ~8km / 5 miles
- **Trekking time:** 5-6 hours
- **Zone:** Rainforest / Low Alpine Zone

On day two you will spend the first hour trekking through the last section of rainforest path before entering the low alpine moorland zone which follows up onto the Shira Plateau. The trek is relatively short and gradual, ending at Shira Camp 1 (3,610 meters).

### Day 3 – Shira Camp 1 (3,610 meters) to Moir Camp (4,200 meters)

- **Distance:** ~14km / 8 miles
- **Trekking time:** 6-8 hours
- **Zone:** Rainforest / Low Alpine Zone/ High alpine zone

On day three the trek crosses the Shira Plateau from Shira Camp 1 to Shira Camp 2 for lunch. Here nine day trekkers usually spend the night at Shira Camp 2 where they will join trekkers from the Machame Route. However, 8day trekkers will continue with trek heading east which passes through the 'Garden of the Senecios' and then enters the high alpine desert zone, then you will join the northern circuit heading down to Moir Camp at 4,200.

### Day 4 – Moir Camp (4,200 meters) to Buffalo Camp (4,020 meters)

- **Distance:** ~12km / 7 miles
- **Trekking time:** 5-7 hours
- **Zone:** High alpine zone

Day four involves a moderately steep climb out of Moir Valley. Trekkers can take a small detour here to climb the summit of Little Lent Hill at 4,375 meters before returning to the Northern Circuit trail. From here the route follows a series of inclines and declines, skirting around the northern slopes of Kibo to Buffalo Camp (4,020 meters). The trek gives great vistas out across the plains that lie north of Kilimanjaro and stretch out to the Kenyan / Tanzanian border. You will arrive at Buffalo Camp just after midday, where you will have lunch and have time to rest after a long day hiking.

#### **Day 5 – Buffalo Camp (4,020 meters) to Rongai Third Cave (3,800 meters)**

- **Distance: ~8km / 5 miles**
- **Trekking time: 5-7 hours**
- **Zone: High alpine zone and low alpine zone**

Day five starts with a climb up the Buffalo ridge and down into Porfu Camp where lunch is usually served. The route then continues east around the northern slopes to the Rongai Third Cave at 3,800 meters. The trek is shorter than the day before and by now you should be feeling well acclimatized to the altitude. You will arrive at the Third Cave just around mid-afternoon.

#### **Day 6 – 3rd Cave (3,800 meters) to School Hut (4,800 meters)**

- **Distance: ~15km / 8 miles**
- **Trekking time: 4-5 hours**
- **Zone: High alpine zone and glacial zone**

Day six involves a steady incline up and over the Saddle which sits between the peaks of Kibo and Mawenzi Peak. Trekkers then continue walking south-west up to School Hut (4,800 meters). After arriving at School Hut you will be served an early dinner and then you should get some rest as you will be awoken before midnight to start your summit attempt. Remember to prepare all your gear, including warm clothes, insulated water bottles, snacks, headlamp, batteries and camera before going to bed.

#### **Day 7 – School Hut (4,800 meters) to Uhuru Peak (5,895 meters) and then onto Millennium Camp (3,950 meters)**

- **Distance: ~6km / 3.5 miles ascent and 10.5km / 6 mile descent**
- **Trekking time: 6-8 hours ascent and then 4-6 hour descent**
- **Zone: Glacial zone and all preceding zones**

You will be awoken around 11:30PM – 2AM with hot tea and biscuits and will then begin the steep incline up the slopes of Kibo under the cover of darkness. Your first check-point is Hans Meyer Cave where you will take a short break. The climb steepens as you approach Gilman's Point (5,681 meters), which will be around 5-6 hours after departing School Hut. Take a moment to enjoy the approaching dawn and incredible view out and across to Mawenzi Peak, but remember you still have 2 hours trekking to reach Uhuru Peak so dig deep for the energy.

The slope flattens as you head west around the crater rim and you should arrive at the summit at or just after sunrise. Your stay here will be brief so get as many pictures as you can of the incredible views and surrounding glaciers. You will then retrace your steps back around the crater rim to Stella Point (5,739 meters) where you will turn south and head down the heavily scree slopes of Kibo to Barafu Camp (4,680 meters). Most trekkers take a short break here before continuing down to Millennium Camp (3,950 meters) for your final night on the mountain. In total you will be trekking for 14-16 hours on day eight so it is important to pace yourself, remain hydrated and keep your blood sugar levels up.

#### **Day 8 – Millennium Camp (3,950 meters) to Mweka Gate (1,640 meters) Distance: ~10km / 6.5 miles**

- **Trekking time: 3-4 hours**
- **Zone: Rainforest zone**

The final day is a short hike through the dense montane rainforest from Millennium Camp (3,950 meters) to Mweka Gate (1,640 meters). At the gate you will need to sign-out with the authorities, who will also provide you with your official certificate. We now drive you back to your hotel for a hot shower and some relaxation.