



## LEMOSHO ROUTE CLIMBING SUMMARY.

This long, little-used route parallels the lower part of the Shira Route. Tanzania Escapade leads treks up the Lemosho Route. The Lemosho Route is an unspoiled, remote, little-used, and beautiful way up to the Shira Plateau. Above the plateau, you approach Kilimanjaro's great western Breach, and then follow the south circuit to reach the easier Barafu Route. This is one of the few routes where an armed ranger accompanies our groups, since there are still animals in the forest around the Lemosho Glades.

### **Brief Day by Day Detailed Itinerary – 8Days Trek:**

#### **Day 1**

Arrive at the Kilimanjaro International Airport. You will be met at the airport and transferred to your hotel in Moshi for overnight.

#### **Day 2**

Moshi (915 m/3,000 ft) to Londorossi Gate (2,250 m/7,380 ft)  
to Lemosho Glades (2,000 m/6,560 ft)  
to Mti Mkubwa Camp (2,750 m/9,020 ft)  
18 km, 4-5 hours  
Montane Forest

Drive from Moshi or Arusha to the Londorossi Park Gate. From here follow a forest track in a 4WD vehicle for 11 km/7 mi (45 minutes) to Lemosho Glades and a possible campsite. From the Glades, walk for 3 hours along beautiful forest trails to the Mti Mkubwa (big tree) campsite.

#### **Day 3**

Mti Mkubwa Camp (2,750 m/9,020 ft)  
to Shira Camp 1 (3,500 m/11,485 ft)  
12 km, 5 hours  
Semi-Desert

The trail gradually steepens, enters the giant heather moorland zone, then crosses the Shira Ridge at 3,600 m/11,810 ft and drops gently to Shira Camp 1 located by a stream on the Shira Plateau.

#### **Day 4**

**Shira Camp 1 (3,500 m/11,485 ft)  
to Shira Camp 2 (3,840 m/12,600 ft)  
6 km, 2 hours  
Alpine Desert**

A gentle walk across the plateau leads to ShiraCamp 2 on moorland meadows by a stream. A variety of walks are available on the plateau making this an excellent acclimatization day.

#### **Day 5**

**Shira Camp 2 (3,840 m/12,600 ft)  
to Lava Tower (4,630 m/15,190 ft)  
to Barranco Camp (3,950 m/12,960 ft)  
15 km, 7 hours  
Semi-Desert**

After breakfast, you will hike east up a steepening path above the highest vegetation toward Kilimanjaro's looming mass. After several hours, you walk through a rocky landscape to reach the prominent landmark called Lava Tower at 4,630 m/15,190 ft. This chunky remnant of Kilimanjaro's earlier volcanic activity is several hundred feet high, and the trail passes right below it. For extra credit, the sure-footed can scramble to the top of the tower. After a lunch stop near Lava Tower, descend for 2 hours below the lower cliffs of the Western Breach and Breach Wall to Barranco Camp at 3,950 m/12,960 ft. There are numerous photo opportunities on this hike, especially if the walls are festooned with ice. Barranco Camp is in a valley below the Breach and Great Barranco Walls, which should provide you with a memorable sunset while you wait for your dinner. On this day, be careful to notice any signs of altitude sickness.

#### **Day 6**

**Barranco Camp (3,900 m/12,800 ft)  
to Karanga Camp (4,200 m/13,780 ft)  
7 km, 4 hours  
Alpine Desert**

After breakfast, we continue up a steep ridge to the great Barranco Wall, then you climb this imposing obstacle, which turns out to be easier than it looks. Topping out just below the Heim Glacier, you can now appreciate just how beautiful Kilimanjaro really is. With Kibo's glaciers soaring overhead, you descend into the lush Karanga Valley to the Karanga Valley campsite. From the camp, you can look east and see the jagged peaks of Mawenzi jutting into the African sky. After a hot lunch in camp, your afternoon is at leisure for resting or exploring. After two long days, this short day is very important for your acclimatization, since your summit push is about to start.

#### **Day 7**

**Karanga Camp (4,200 m/13,780 ft)  
to Barafu Camp (4,550 m/14,930 ft)  
13 km, 8 hours**

## Alpine Desert

In the morning, you hike east over intervening ridges and valleys to join the Mweka Route, which will be your descent route. Turn left toward the mountain and hike up the ridge through a sparse landscape for another hour to the Barafu Hut where you will receive a hot lunch. The last water on the route is in the Karanga Valley; there is no water at Barafu Camp, even though Barafu is the Swahili word for “ice.” The famous snows of Kilimanjaro are far above Barafu Camp near the summit of the mountain. Your tent will be pitched on a narrow, stony, wind-swept ridge, so make sure that you familiarize yourself with the terrain before dark to avoid any accidents. Prepare your equipment and warm clothing for your summit climb, and drink a lot of fluids. After an early dinner, go to bed for a few hours of precious sleep.

### Day 8

Summit Day!

Barafu Camp (4,550 m/14,930 ft)

to Uhuru Peak (5,895 m/19,340 ft)

to Mweka Camp (3,100 m/10,170 ft)

7 km up, 23 km down

8 hours up,

7-8 hours down

Scree and seasonal snow

You will rise around 11:30 PM, and after some steaming tea and biscuits, you shuffle off into the night. Your 6-hour climb northwest up through heavy scree between the Rebmann and Ratzel glaciers to Stella Point on the crater rim is the most challenging part of the route for most climbers. At Stella Point (5,685 m/18,650 ft) you stop for a short rest and a chance to see a supremely sanguine sunrise. At Stella Point you join the top part of the Marangu Route, but do not stop here too long, as it will be extremely difficult to start again due to cold and fatigue. Depending on the season and recent storms, you may encounter snow on your remaining hike along the rim to Uhuru Peak. On the summit, you can enjoy your accomplishment and know that you are creating a day that you will remember for the rest of your life. After your 3-hour descent from the summit back to Barafu Camp, you will have a well-earned but short rest, collect your gear, and hike down a rock and scree path into the moorland and eventually into the forest to Mweka Camp (3,100 m/10,170 ft). This camp is in the upper forest, so you can expect mist or rain in the late afternoon. Dinner, and washing water will be prepared, and the camp office sells drinking water, soft drinks, chocolates, and beer!

### Day 9

After a well-deserved breakfast, it is a short, scenic, 3-hour hike back to the park gate. Don't give your porters any tips until you and all your gear have reached the gate safely, but do remember to [tip your staff](#) at the gate. At Mweka Gate, you can sign your name and add details in a register. This is also where successful climbers receive their summit certificates. Climbers who reached Stella Point are issued green certificates and those who reached Uhuru Peak receive gold certificates. From the Mweka Gate, you will be driven back to Moshi for an overdue hot shower at the Hotel and Lunch.