6 Days Umbwe Route

THE STEEP SOUTHERN CHALLENGE

Umbwe rises aggressively through the southern forest and onto a spectacular ridge before joining the Southern Circuit near Barranco. It is physically demanding and offers less early acclimatization time than longer routes; we position it for experienced, well-conditioned trekkers who understand high-altitude risk.

Trip facts

DURATION	6 days
HIGHEST POINT	5,895 m (19,341 ft)
ROUTE	Umbwe Route
ACCOMMODATION	camping
DISTANCE	53 km
STARTS	Umbwe Gate
ENDS	Mweka Gate
INDICATIVE PRICE	US$2,100

Day by day

DAY 01

Umbwe Gate to Umbwe Cave Camp

1,600 m → 2,850 m · 11 km · 5–7 hrs · Rainforest · +1,250 m

A steep, sustained climb through dense forest. Efficient pacing is essential from the first day.

DAY 02

Umbwe Cave to Barranco Camp

2,850 m → 3,900 m · 6 km · 4–6 hrs · Forest to moorland · +1,050 m

Continue along the dramatic ridge as the forest opens, reaching Barranco beneath the Breach Wall.

DAY 03

Barranco to Karanga Camp

3,900 m → 3,995 m · 5 km · 4–5 hrs · Alpine desert · +95 m

Climb the Barranco Wall and traverse to Karanga. The shorter stage gives additional time for recovery.

DAY 04

Karanga to Barafu Camp

3,995 m → 4,673 m · 4 km · 3–4 hrs · High alpine desert · +678 m

Move to summit base camp, rest and complete final health and equipment checks.

DAY 05

Barafu to Uhuru Peak to Mweka Camp

4,673 m → 3,100 m · 17 km · 12–16 hrs · Arctic summit to rainforest · +1,222 m · −2,795 m

A midnight summit push via Stella Point to Uhuru Peak, followed by a major descent to Mweka Camp.

DAY 06

Mweka Camp to Mweka Gate

3,100 m → 1,640 m · 10 km · 3–4 hrs · Rainforest

Finish through the forest and return to Moshi after park formalities.

What is and is not included

Included

- Airport pick-up and drop-off - Kilimanjaro International Airport (JRO) to/from your hotel
- Pre & post-climb accommodation - 2 nights in Moshi (1 night before and 1 night after the climb) on Bed & Breakfast basis
- Private transfers to/from the mountain gate - Hotel to Kilimanjaro trailhead and exit gate to hotel
- Kilimanjaro National Park entrance fees
- Camping fees
- Kilimanjaro National Park rescue fees
- All applicable government taxes & VAT
- Professional, licensed English-speaking Kilimanjaro mountain guide
- Assistant mountain guides - according to group size
- Professional mountain chef/cook
- Porters - to carry group equipment, food and clients permitted duffel luggage
- All mountain crew wages and salaries
- Three freshly prepared meals per day on the mountain - breakfast, lunch and dinner
- Nutritious snacks during the trek
- Clean, purified drinking water throughout the climb
- Hot water for washing each morning and evening where practical
- Quality four-season mountain tents
- Comfortable sleeping mattresses
- Dining/mess tent with tables and chairs
- Cooking tent and complete camp equipment
- Private portable flush/chemical toilet with dedicated toilet tent and porter - throughout the trek
- Emergency supplemental oxygen
- Pulse oximeter for monitoring blood oxygen saturation and pulse during the climb
- First-aid kit and mountain emergency

Not included

- International and domestic flights
- Tanzania entry visa
- Travel and medical insurance - clients should have appropriate coverage for high-altitude trekking up to at least 6,000 metres
- Helicopter/air evacuation or specialist medical evacuation unless specifically included by the client insurance policy
- Personal trekking equipment and clothing, including hiking boots, sleeping bag, down jacket, trekking poles, daypack and other personal gear
- Equipment rental, unless specifically included in the quotation
- Tips/gratuities for mountain guides, assistant guides, cook and porters
- Lunch and dinner at the hotel before or after the climb unless specified
- Soft drinks, alcoholic beverages and bottled drinks outside those specifically included
- Personal snacks and energy bars brought by the client
- Laundry services
- Telephone calls, SIM cards, internet/data charges and other communication expenses
- Additional hotel nights or transfers caused by flight changes, early arrival or late departure
- Single-room or single-tent supplement, where applicable
- Extra porter required for luggage exceeding the permitted mountain weight
- Personal expenses such as souvenirs and shopping
- Any activities, accommodation, meals, transfers or services not specifically stated in the itinerary
- Costs arising from itinerary changes requested by the client or circumstances

Before you travel

Bring boots you have already walked at least fifty kilometres in, layers rather than one thick garment, and travel insurance whose altitude clause covers 5,895 m. The full packing list is at trekupkilimanjaro.com/kilimanjaro-guide/packing-list/.

Talk to us

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Prepared 20 November 2026. Prices and dates are indicative and subject to confirmation.