9 Days Northern Circuit Route

THE GRAND KILIMANJARO EXPEDITION

The Northern Circuit is Kilimanjaro’s longest standard route and one of its most complete expeditions. It begins in the west, traverses the quieter northern slopes and approaches the summit from School Hut, giving climbers exceptional time at altitude and a rare sense of wilderness.

Trip facts

DURATION	9 days
HIGHEST POINT	5,895 m (19,341 ft)
ROUTE	Northern Circuit Route
DIFFICULTY	Challenging but well paced
ACCOMMODATION	camping
DISTANCE	84 km
STARTS	Londorossi Gate
ENDS	Mweka Gate
BEST MONTHS	Jan · Feb · Mar · Jun · Jul · Aug · Sep · Oct
INDICATIVE PRICE	US$3,150

Day by day

DAY 01

Londorossi Gate to Mti Mkubwa Camp

2,100 m → 2,650 m · 6 km · 3–4 hrs · Rainforest · +550 m

A controlled first day through montane forest, focused on settling into expedition pace.

DAY 02

Mti Mkubwa to Shira 1 Camp

2,650 m → 3,610 m · 8 km · 5–6 hrs · Heath · +960 m

Climb out of the forest and onto the expansive Shira Plateau.

DAY 03

Shira 1 to Shira 2 / Moir area

3,610 m → 4,200 m · 10 km · 4–6 hrs · Moorland / alpine desert · +590 m

Cross the plateau with optional acclimatization above camp, depending on conditions and group health.

DAY 04

Moir area to Buffalo Camp

4,200 m → 4,020 m · 12 km · 5–7 hrs · Alpine desert

Turn onto the quiet northern flank, traversing beneath the Lent Hills into a much less visited part of Kilimanjaro.

DAY 05

Buffalo Camp to Third Cave

4,020 m → 3,870 m · 8 km · 4–6 hrs · High moorland

A rolling traverse with broad views toward Kenya. The slightly lower sleeping altitude supports recovery.

DAY 06

Third Cave to School Hut

3,870 m → 4,750 m · 5 km · 4–5 hrs · Alpine desert · +880 m

Climb steadily to the final high camp. Rest, hydrate and prepare for the midnight summit departure.

DAY 07

School Hut to Uhuru Peak to Millennium Camp

4,750 m → 3,820 m · 18 km · 12–16 hrs · Arctic summit to moorland · +1,145 m · −2,075 m

Ascend toward Gilman’s Point, continue around the crater rim to Uhuru Peak, then descend via Barafu toward Millennium Camp.

DAY 08

Millennium Camp to Mweka Camp

3,820 m → 3,100 m · 7 km · 3–4 hrs · Moorland to rainforest

A deliberately easier recovery day after summit, descending into thicker vegetation.

DAY 09

Mweka Camp to Mweka Gate

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

Complete the final forest descent and return to Moshi after certificate 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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trekupkilimanjaro.com

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