

## Climb Kilimanjaro - Northern Circuit Trail - 8 Day Itinerary

DAY 1: Elevation: 2385m to 2780m, Distance: 7 kms, Hiking Time: 3-4 hours, Habitat: Mountain Forest

### **LONDOROSI GATE TO MTI MKUBWA FOREST CAMP**

Drive from your hotel towards the western side of Kilimanjaro where we sign in at Londorosi Gate and get a permit to start our climb. We will drive again for 45minutes (11KM), to the trail where we will find our climbing crew ready and waiting to start our climbing. Our cook will prepare a hot lunch for you before we start our ascent along the Forest Trail to Mti Mkubwa (Big Tree Campsite).

DAY 2: Elevation: 2780m to 3500m, Distance: 12 kms, Hiking Time: 6-7 hours, Habitat: Heather & Moorland

### **MTI MKUBWA TO SHIRA 1**

This morning we ascend to Shira Camp which is located along the Shira Caldera. The hike will take about 2 hours before we are out of the forest zone and into the heather zone. Here we stop for a hot lunch then continue on to the Shira Ridge and camp in the Shira Caldera with its dramatic views of Kibo Vulcananic cone forming the main summit of Mount Kilimanjaro.

The land here looks like a savanna grassland with a beautiful view of heather bushes which grow into a "colony" formed to resist the cold weather as well as wind.

On a clear night you can see dramatic views of stars across the whole sky. Sometimes you will hear Jackal barking at night. You will also see some signs of Buffalo, Eland, Servaservile and other animals during the hike.

The trek gets steeper as you go on this day.

DAY 3: Elevation 3500m to 4170m, Distance: 9 Kms, Hiking Time: 5-6 Hours

### **SHIRA I CAMP TO MOIR HUT**

Today's hike is not very long with just two steep sections of the trek. You will start your trek before 9am in the morning, cross some streams and visit Fischer's Memorial on the way. Camp will be in the upper heather zone at the foot of Giant Lava Flow.

DAY 4: Elevation: 4,170m to 4,017m, Distance: 9 kms, Hiking Time: 6-7 Hours, Habitat: Semi Desert

### **MOIR HUT TO POFU**

Today you continue to wind your way from the foot of Kibo starting with the steep climb of the Moir Valley. From the top of the Valley, after enjoy the view, the trail passes through a field of rock slabs. The last part of today's trek undulates as we cross several valleys until reaching Pofu Campsite.

DAY 5: Elevation: 4,017m to 3,900m, Distance: 6 Kms, Hiking Time: 3.5 hours, Habitat: Semi Desert

### **POFU CAMP TO 3RD CAVE CAMP**

After breakfast we continue eastward. Mawenzi Peak starts getting closer, and the Kibo Saddle comes into view as our trail intersects with the Rongai Route. 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-day.

DAY 6: Evaluation: 3,900m to 4,720m, Distance: 5 kms, Hiking Time: 2-3 hours, Habitat: Alpine Desert

**3RD CAVE CAMP TO SCHOOL HUT CAMP**

We leave our camp to cross the lunar desert of the 'Saddle' between Mawenzi and Kibo to reach School Hut campsite (4,720m) at the bottom of the Kibo Crater wall by early afternoon. The remainder of the day is spent resting in preparation for the final ascent!

DAY 7: Elevation: 4720m to 5895m (3000M), Distance & Hiking Time: 5 Kms, (6-7 hours ascent), 12kms (5 hours Descent), Habitat: Stone Scree & Ice-capped Summit

**SCHOOL HUT TO SUMMIT TO MWEKA CAMP VIA MILLENNIUM**

You will be waken at 23:00 and start dressing for the summit. At 23:30 you will have a quick breakfast (normally oats porridge, some fruit, tea, biscuits and toasted bread). At midnight we will start our trek into the cold night air towards the summit Uhuru Peak. The climb is gradual and not very difficult, the altitude however can make it more challenging.

It can be very cold at night on these sections, but it will be quite warm by the end of the hiking day. Upon reaching Uhuru, we take some photos before beginning the descent to Millennium Camp arriving in time for lunch. After lunch our journey continues onto your last camp on Kilimanjaro, Mweka Camp.

DAY 8: Elevation: 3000m to 1630m, Distance: 8 kms, Hiking Time: 5-6 Hours, Habitat: Heather & Mountain Forest

**MWEKA CAMP TO MWEKA GATE**

After breakfast , we finish the trek with a descent to Mweka gate to receive your summit certificate. The vehicle will be waiting at the Mweka gate to take us back to Arusha after having lunch in Moshi town.