

**American Alpine Institute  
Kilimanjaro  
Lemosho Crater Route**

**Day 1: Arrival/Mbahe Village Farm Cottages**

We will pick you up upon arrival at the Kilimanjaro International Airport and bring you to Mbahe Village, located in the foothills of Mount Kilimanjaro, approximately 2 hours from the airport. Accommodations are in private cottages at Simon Mtuy's (our lead Kili guide) Mbahe Village Farm.

**Day 2: Mbahe Village Farm Cottages**

You have the morning to rest and relax. Enjoy delicious "homebrew" coffee, grown and roasted on the farm, and meals made with fruits and vegetables from the garden. Your trip leader will provide a climb orientation and equipment check. This is also a day to take a guided tour around Mbahe Village, the Mtuy family farm, and to swim in the river and waterfall running through Simon's land.

**Day 3: Londorossi Gate to Big Tree Camp**

After breakfast we drive to Londorossi Gate, where you will meet your other guides and mountain crew and enter the Kilimanjaro National Park. From the trailhead we walk for a few hours uphill through the thick and undisturbed montane forest to our camp for the night. Many beautiful flowers are seen en route and with luck we will observe colobus monkeys at play. In the evening you may hear the unforgettable shrieking call of the tree hyrax.

**Day 4: Big Tree Camp to Shira 1 Camp**

Today we reach the west side of the Shira Plateau in a hiking time of 6 hours. Taking our time walking through the forest allows us to observe its animal and bird life. The day's hike takes us from the montane forest, through a transition zone, and into the heather zone, where old lava flows are visible. Your guides will point out unique environmental differences that characterize each zone. After a picnic lunch we reach the edge of the Plateau and eventually our camp that offers a dramatic view of Kilimanjaro and its permanent glaciers.

**Day 5: Shira 1 Camp to Shira 2 Camp**

Today is an easy paced acclimatization day of 4 to 5 hours hiking. Camp is set higher on the Shira Plateau with more expansive views of Kilimanjaro. There is a conditioning hike in the afternoon where you can examine the clusters of giant lobelias and senecios that grow at this elevation.

**Day 6: Shira 2 Camp to Lava Tower Camp**

Today is another important day for acclimatization as we hike for 5 hours to an elevation above 15,000 feet. We will pass through the alpine moorland zone where plants are extremely hardy and consist of lichens, grasses, and heather, to reach Kilimanjaro's alpine desert zone.

### **Day 7: Lava Tower Camp to Karanga Camp**

After an initial descent from Lava Tower camp we climb the Great Barranco Wall - not too steep but still an exhilarating challenge – which our guides make safe and accessible for everyone by ascending “pole pole”(slowly). You will be able to see the breathtaking Heim Glacier from the top of the Wall. Descend into the Karanga Valley and then climb again to our camp on a ridge above the Valley, where you will enjoy a well-deserved rest and your daily afternoon tea and snacks.

### **Day 8: Karanga Camp to Barafu Camp**

As we begin hiking today the trail turns steadily uphill. Temperatures are noticeably colder and the landscape more sparse as we work our way to Barafu camp. Barafu means “ice” in Kiswahili. Hiking time is 4 to 5 hours. We will rest and acclimatize here to prepare for our climb into the arctic zone and up to the crater the following morning.

### **Day 9: Barafu Camp to Crater Camp**

Today we slowly wind our way up from Barafu to the rim of the crater by the afternoon. Hiking this section during the day gives us magnificent views of Mawenzi, Kilimanjaro’s second highest peak at 16,890 feet. From the rim we will descend across the arctic moonscape of the wide crater floor to the Crater Camp, set in soft sand near the indigo streaked Furtwangler Glacier.

### **Day 10: Crater Camp to Uhuru Peak to Millennium Camp**

After an early breakfast we make the final ascent to Uhuru Peak, reaching the 19,340 foot summit of Kilimanjaro by 8 a.m. At this early hour, before the clouds close in, you will have spectacular views of Africa in all directions. After a brief stay for photos, hugs, and high fives, we descend 2 to 3 hours to Barafu Camp for lunch, rest, and to take off extra layers. Continuing downhill 3 to 4 hours to the edge of the Mweka Forest, we reach the final night’s camp - 7,000 feet below the summit! Eat, share your experiences of the climb, and sleep soundly. Congratulations, you touched the Roof of Africa!

### **Day 11: Millennium Camp to Mweka Gate; Moshi Town**

Our last day is another descent of 7,000 feet with 4 to 5 hours of hiking to the exit at Mweka Gate. After a hearty celebration lunch with the whole team on private land near the exit gate to say goodbye to the mountain crew, the trip leaders bring you to your hotel in Moshi Town to relax, have dinner, and enjoy a dip in the swimming pool.

### **Day 12: Moshi Town /Departure**

Those heading out on safari or to Zanzibar will depart after breakfast to continue your African adventure. For those returning home we offer you a guided tour of Moshi Town with its colorful market and curio shops. You may eat lunch in town or back at the lodge (lunch not included). Transfer to the Kilimanjaro Airport.