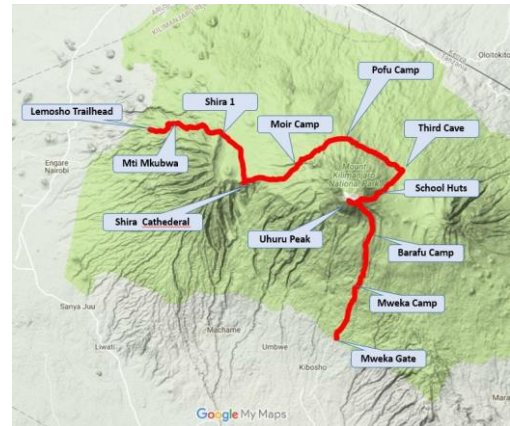




Northern Circuit Route

Duration of climb: 9 days



DAY 1

LONDROSSI GATE TO MTI MKUBWA

Elevation: 7,742ft (2360m) to 9498ft (2895m)

Distance: 3.7 miles (6 km)

Time: 3-4 hours

Habitat: Montane Forest

After breakfast we will collect you from your hotel for your transfer to Londorossi Gate, which takes around 1 hour and 40 minutes. Our porters prepare and pack the supplies and luggage before we start our ascent along the forest to Mti Mkubwa (big tree) campsite at 2895m. We will stay here overnight.

DAY 2

MTI MKUBWA TO SHIRA 1 CAMP

Elevation: 9498ft (2895m) to 11482ft (3500m)

Distance: 5 miles (8 km)

Time: 5-6 hours

Habitat: Moorland

Our journey continues eastwards across Shira Plateau and Shira Cathedral. We will cross moorland meadow to reach Shira 1 camp for dinner and overnight camping at 3810m. By now we will be able to see, in an easterly direction, the Western Breach of Kilimanjaro, with its stunning glaciers.



DAY 3

SHIRA 1 CAMP TO SHIRA 2 CAMP

Elevation: 11482ft (3500m) to 12500ft (3810m)

Distance: 4.3 miles (7 km)

Time: 3-4 hours

Habitat: Moorland

Today we walk to the summit of Shira Cathedral, a huge buttress of rock surrounded by steep spires and pinnacles. There is a tangible sense of wilderness here, especially when the afternoon mists roll in. From our camp near Shira Hut, we take in the unforgettable views of Mt. Meru.

DAY 4

SHIRA 2 CAMP TO MOIR HUT

Elevation: 12500ft (3810m) to 13779ft (4200m)

Distance: 6.2 miles (10 km)

Time: 5-6 hours

Habitat: Semi desert

We leave the forest behind now and a gentle grade walk takes you across the high altitude Shira Caldera to Shira Cave with fabulous views of Arrow glacier We will camp here for the night at 4200m.

DAY 5

MOIR HUT TO POFU CAMP

Elevation: 13779ft (4200m) to 13188ft (4020m)

Distance: 7.5 miles (12 km)

Time: 7-8 hours

Habitat: Semi desert

We climb out of the Moir Valley and take a short detour to reach the summit of Lent Hills (4,700m). After admiring the views we return to the trail and head eastwards around the northern circuit trail. The final section of today's walk undulates until reaching the location of Pofu Camp.

DAY 6

POFU CAMP TO THIRD CAVE



Elevation: 13188ft (4020m) to 12992ft (3960m)

Distance: 4.3 miles (7 km)

Time: 6 hours

Habitat: Semi desert

From Pofu Camp we cross numerous small valleys as the trail continues eastwards through a landscape that has increasingly sparse vegetation to eventually reach Third Cave Camp.

DAY 7

THIRD CAVE TO SCHOOL HUT

Elevation: 12992ft (3960m) to 15715ft (4790m)

Distance: 3.7 miles (6 km)

Time: 5 hours

Habitat: Alpine desert

There is a steady ascent to reach the Saddle, a lunar landscape between the peaks of Kibo and Mawenzi. From here we continue upwards and reach School Hut in the early afternoon. The remainder of the afternoon is spent resting and preparing for the summit day.

DAY 8

SCHOOL HUT TO UHURU PEAK TO MWEKA CAMP

Elevation: 15715ft (4790m) to 19341 ft (5895m) and down to 10170ft (3100m)

Distance: 3.7 miles (6 km) ascent, 8 miles (13 km) descent

Time: 6-8 hours ascent / 7-8 hours descent

Habitat: Stone scree and ice-capped summit

We start the final and most demanding part of the climb around 1 a.m on a switchback trail through loose volcanic scree to reach the crater rim at Gillman's Point. We rest here for a short time to enjoy the spectacular sunrise over Mawenzi. We then head on to Uhuru Peak, passing close to the spectacular glaciers and ice cliffs that still occupy most of the summit area. We retrace our steps along the crater rim to Stella Point and then descend through Barafu Camp to descend to Mweka Camp.

DAY 9

MWEKA CAMP TO MWEKA GATE

Elevation: 10170ft (3100m) to 5905ft (1800m)



Distance: 6.2 miles (10 km)

Time: 3-4 hours

Habitat: Tropical forest

Descent on a lovely tropical forest to the Kilimanjaro National Park gate at Mweka. Transfer to your hotel in Moshi for a hot shower.