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KILIMANJARO · LINDO TRAVEL & TOURS

6 Days Kilimanjaro Climbing via Umbwe Route – The Ultimate Challenging Summit Adventure

Umbwe Route · 6 days

The 6 Days Kilimanjaro Climbing via Umbwe Route is an exciting and demanding expedition designed for adventurous trekkers seeking a more challenging approach to the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro, Africa's highest mountain at 5,895 metres above sea level. Renowned for its steep trails, spectacular ridgelines and relatively quiet paths, the Umbwe Route offers a raw and rewarding mountain experience.

Your adventure begins in the lush tropical rainforest on Kilimanjaro's southern slopes, following a steep and narrow ridge through dense vegetation before emerging into the beautiful heathland and moorland zones. As you climb higher, the scenery transforms into dramatic alpine landscapes, with breathtaking views of the mountain's glaciers, valleys and surrounding peaks.

Joining the Southern Circuit at Barranco Camp, you will encounter one of Kilimanjaro's most famous landmarks, the impressive Barranco Wall. The journey continues through the scenic Karanga Valley before reaching Barafu Camp, your final base before the summit attempt.

The highlight of your expedition comes during the unforgettable midnight ascent to Stella Point and onward to

Uhuru Peak (5,895m). Standing at the highest point in Africa, surrounded by magnificent glaciers and spectacular mountain scenery, will be a moment to treasure for a lifetime.

Accompanied by experienced mountain guides and a dedicated support crew, you will experience the beauty and challenge of Kilimanjaro through one of its most adventurous climbing routes. Due to its rapid altitude gain, the Umbwe Route is best suited to physically fit trekkers with previous hiking or high-altitude experience.

Arrival

ARRIVAL

Arrival Day: Welcome to Tanzania

Upon arrival at Kilimanjaro International Airport (JRO), you will be warmly welcomed by your Lindo Travel & Tours representative and transferred to your hotel in Moshi or Arusha. Depending on your arrival time, you can relax and enjoy the peaceful surroundings of your accommodation.

Later, you will meet your professional mountain guide for a detailed pre-climb briefing, equipment inspection and final preparations for your upcoming expedition. Your guide will explain the trekking schedule, altitude considerations, safety procedures and what to expect along the challenging Umbwe Route.

Since this route involves a relatively rapid ascent, it is particularly important to arrive well-rested and properly prepared. Enjoy dinner and a comfortable overnight stay before beginning your journey towards the Roof of Africa.

Arrival accommodation options

Midrange: Panama Garden Resort

Day-by-day itinerary

DAY 1

Moshi – Umbwe Gate to Umbwe Cave Camp (2,850m)



ELEVATION: 1,600m TO 2,850m · DISTANCE: APPROXIMATELY 10–11KM · HIKING TIME: 5–7 HOURS

Your Kilimanjaro adventure begins after breakfast at your hotel in Moshi. You will meet your mountain guide and drive to Umbwe Gate, the starting point of the challenging Umbwe Route. Upon arrival, you will complete the necessary park registration procedures while your mountain crew organizes the climbing equipment and prepares for the expedition.

After a short briefing, you will begin trekking through the beautiful tropical rainforest. The Umbwe trail is famous for its steep and narrow path, which follows a dramatic ridge between deep forested valleys. Towering trees, thick vegetation, colourful birds and the sounds of the forest create a wonderful introduction to the mountain.

As you continue climbing, the trail becomes increasingly steep, requiring careful footing and a steady walking pace. Your experienced guide will ensure that you take regular breaks and remain comfortable throughout the ascent.

After approximately 5–7 hours of hiking, you will arrive at Umbwe Cave Camp (2,850m), where your mountain crew will have prepared your campsite. Enjoy a freshly cooked dinner and settle in for your first night on Mount Kilimanjaro.

Accommodation options

Standard: Umbwe Cave Camp

DAY 2

Umbwe Cave Camp to Barranco Camp (3,960m)



ELEVATION: 2,850m TO 3,960m · DISTANCE: APPROXIMATELY 6KM · HIKING TIME: 5–6 HOURS

After breakfast, you will leave Umbwe Cave Camp and continue your ascent through the upper forest and beautiful heathland vegetation. Today's trek is another demanding section of the Umbwe Route, as the trail climbs steeply along exposed ridges and rocky terrain.

As you gain elevation, the dense rainforest gradually disappears, giving way to giant heather plants, open moorland and fascinating mountain vegetation. The landscape becomes increasingly dramatic, with magnificent views of the surrounding valleys and the towering slopes of Kilimanjaro.

The trail eventually opens into a more expansive mountain environment as you approach the Southern Circuit. You will descend through a distinctive landscape of giant groundsels and alpine vegetation towards Barranco Valley.

Upon reaching Barranco Camp (3,960m), you will enjoy spectacular views of the impressive Barranco Wall and the southern glaciers of Kibo. Your mountain crew will prepare dinner as you relax and recover from another challenging day on the mountain.

Accommodation options

Standard: Barranco Camp

DAY 3

Barranco Camp to Karanga Camp (3,995m)



ELEVATION: 3,960m TO 3,995m · DISTANCE: APPROXIMATELY 5KM · HIKING TIME: 4–5 HOURS

Today begins with one of the most memorable sections of your Kilimanjaro adventure: the famous Barranco Wall. After breakfast, you will leave camp and begin climbing this impressive natural rock formation, which rises dramatically above the Barranco Valley.

Although the wall looks intimidating from below, the climb is a manageable non-technical scramble with the assistance of your experienced mountain guides. As you make your way up the rocky sections, you will enjoy magnificent views of the valley, the surrounding mountain ridges and Kilimanjaro's spectacular glaciers.

After reaching the top of Barranco Wall, the trail continues across a series of beautiful ridges and valleys towards the Karanga Valley. The route involves several short ascents and descents, providing an exciting trekking experience through the alpine desert landscape.

Eventually, you will reach Karanga Camp (3,995m), where you will spend the night. This additional overnight stop is an important part of the six-day Umbwe itinerary, allowing you to rest before continuing towards the final high camp.

Enjoy dinner, take in the incredible mountain scenery and prepare for the next stage of your summit adventure.

Accommodation options

Standard: Karanga Camp

DAY 4

Karanga Camp to Barafu Camp (4,673m)



ELEVATION: 3,995m TO 4,673m · DISTANCE: APPROXIMATELY 4KM · HIKING TIME: 3–4 HOURS

After breakfast, you will leave Karanga Camp and continue towards Barafu Camp, your final base before attempting the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro. Today's trek is relatively short compared to previous days, but the increasing altitude makes it important to maintain a slow and steady pace.

The trail climbs through a rugged alpine desert landscape characterized by rocky slopes, volcanic terrain and sparse vegetation. As you gain elevation, the scenery becomes increasingly dramatic, with breathtaking views of the mountain's southern slopes and the surrounding wilderness.

After approximately 3–4 hours of trekking, you will arrive at Barafu Camp (4,673m). The name Barafu means ice in Swahili, reflecting the cold and exposed environment of this high-altitude campsite.

Upon arrival, you will enjoy an early dinner and receive a detailed briefing from your mountain guide about the upcoming summit attempt. Your crew will prepare everything for the night climb, while you organize your warm clothing, headlamp, water and essential summit equipment.

An early rest is highly recommended, as your summit journey will begin around midnight. Tomorrow, you will take on the final challenge of reaching Uhuru Peak, the Roof of Africa.

Accommodation options

Standard: Barafu Camp

DAY 5

Barafu Camp to Uhuru Peak (5,895m) – Descent to Mweka Camp (3,100m)



ELEVATION: 4,673m TO 5,895m · DESCEND TO 3,100m · HIKING TIME: 12–16 HOURS

Today is the most challenging and rewarding day of your entire Kilimanjaro expedition. Your summit attempt begins around midnight after a light snack and hot drinks at Barafu Camp. Equipped with warm clothing, headlamps and determination, you will begin the demanding ascent towards Stella Point (5,756m) on the crater rim.

The trail climbs gradually through steep volcanic scree and rocky switchbacks under the spectacular night sky. This is a physically demanding section of the climb, requiring patience, endurance and a slow, steady walking pace. Your experienced guides will remain by your side, monitoring your condition and encouraging you throughout the ascent.

As the first light of dawn appears over the African horizon, you will reach Stella Point, where you can witness one of the most beautiful sunrises on Mount Kilimanjaro. From here, you will continue along the crater rim towards Uhuru Peak (5,895m), the highest point in Africa.

Reaching the summit is an extraordinary achievement. Take time to celebrate, capture photographs beside the famous Uhuru Peak sign and admire the magnificent glaciers and panoramic views stretching across the African landscape.

After enjoying your summit experience, you will begin the descent towards Barafu Camp, where you will take a short rest before continuing down the mountain to Mweka Camp (3,100m).

This will be a long and physically demanding day, but arriving at Mweka Camp marks the successful completion of your summit adventure. Enjoy a well-deserved dinner and overnight rest.

Accommodation options

Standard: Mweka Camp

DAY 6

Mweka Camp to Mweka Gate (1,640m) – Return to Moshi



ELEVATION: 3,100m TO 1,640m · DISTANCE: APPROXIMATELY 10KM · HIKING TIME: 3–4 HOURS

After breakfast at Mweka Camp, you will begin your final descent through the beautiful tropical rainforest towards Mweka Gate. Today's trail is a refreshing change from the high-altitude alpine environment, taking you through lush vegetation, towering trees and the peaceful surroundings of Kilimanjaro's lower slopes.

As you descend, you will have an opportunity to reflect on the incredible journey you have completed, from the steep forest trails of Umbwe to the icy summit of Uhuru Peak.

Upon reaching Mweka Gate, you will complete the official park checkout procedures and receive your Kilimanjaro summit certificate, depending on the highest point you successfully reached.

This is also a wonderful opportunity to celebrate your achievement and say farewell to your mountain guides and support crew, whose dedication and teamwork made the expedition possible.

After completing the formalities, our driver will meet you for a comfortable transfer back to your hotel in Moshi or Arusha. Enjoy a relaxing afternoon and celebrate your remarkable achievement of climbing Africa's highest mountain.

Accommodation options

Midrange: Panama Garden Resort

Departure

DEPARTURE

Departure Day: Farewell Tanzania

After breakfast at your hotel, enjoy your final moments in Tanzania before checking out. Depending on your flight schedule, our driver can arrange a transfer to Kilimanjaro International Airport (JRO) for your onward journey home or to your next destination.

Take with you unforgettable memories of conquering Mount Kilimanjaro through the challenging Umbwe Route with Lindo Travel & Tours.

Trip details

Included

- Experienced mountain guides and support crew
- Mountain accommodation and meals
- Park, rescue and camping fees as specified
- Safety briefing and basic medical checks
- Transfers to and from the mountain gate

Not included

- International flights and visas
- Personal trekking gear and expenses
- Tips for mountain crew
- Travel insurance and evacuation cover