

Northern Circuit Route Description

The Northern Circuit Route receives substantially less trekker volume and interest, making it an attractive option for members seeking a more serene and scenic route to Kilimanjaro's summit. Initially following the same trail as the Lemosho Route, the Northern Circuit features a dense rainforest around the Lemosho Glades that is rich in wildlife. The traverse across the northern slope is long and peaceful, providing exceptional views over the savannah as it ascends toward Kilimanjaro's eastern rim. Summit day highlights beautiful views of the crater landscape and surrounding glaciers as the trail circumvents a section of Kilimanjaro's eastern ridge. The sunrises from the route are consistently glorious – members can enjoy the solitude and wonder of the early sun slowly escaping the horizon as they approach the summit from Stella Point.

Depending on conditions and progress, well acclimatized members are welcome to join one of our guides on a descent to the crater rim to explore the landscape and surrounding glaciers. Fit trekkers may even spend the night in the crater for some once in a lifetime star-gazing. This is a very cool experience. Please see our detailed daily itinerary for more information.

Level of Difficulty

Mt. Kilimanjaro is commonly referred to as a “trekking peak” in the climbing community, and the Northern Circuit Route requires no previous experience or technical skill to complete successfully. Although no prior experience is required and Kilimanjaro has a high number of summiteers each year, those with good cardiovascular fitness have the highest rate of success. The Northern Circuit Route is a moderate, low-angle trail with no permanent snow fields. The route covers approximately 56 miles over nine days. The most significant objective hazard is altitude.

We assist members in developing familiarity with their fitness, tolerance to altitude and acclimatization for safety and success. Please review our detailed daily itinerary with an emphasis on daily altitude advances. We regularly consult with members on their goals, so please don't hesitate to contact us with any questions, comments or concerns.

Preparation

Our first goal is your safety and success. Our second goal is to be the very best guide service on Mt. Kilimanjaro. To that end, S2Kilimanjaro is redefining traditional guiding standards to prepare you for the summit well in advance of your departure. Following fundamental planning principles, we believe preparation is imperative to successful

execution. You'll have the opportunity to consult and work with our guides before your departure.

At the leading edge of safety and success, S2Kilimanjaro has an impressive record on Mt. Kilimanjaro. We don't take any mountain lightly and we approach our profession with a humble respect for the alpine landscape. Our success is a result of careful planning and preparation at the individual level, beginning months in advance of departure. We want you to achieve your goals and we remain committed to your personal needs all the way to the summit. Finally, we are available to our team members on an individual basis to assist in their personal preparation and planning – we want you to summit!

The S2Kilimanjaro Difference

Condition with us. You'll have the opportunity to participate in regularly scheduled conditioning treks with S2 guides to help prepare for your climb to the summit of Kilimanjaro. These treks include personal instruction and are specifically designed to both evaluate and improve your performance. Can't join us for a conditioning trek? No problem – we're available to consult on your fitness and conditioning over the phone.

S2Kilimanjaro guides offer personal assessments of your overall ability, strengths and weaknesses, including physical and mental fitness. While it's important to understand individual weaknesses, we emphasize success built on identification and improvement of existing strengths.

The right gear matters! It's a great feeling knowing you have the right equipment to accomplish the task. Whether you're concerned about how cold it is at the summit or uneven walking conditions, we've got you covered. You'll have the opportunity to conduct gear trials with your guide and, importantly, get professional advice on product selection. Need a pack fitting? Are those new boots a little tight in the toe box on a downhill slope? Not sure what a hydration pack is or if you should use a bottle insulator on summit day? We know gear and we'll share our experience to make sure your trip is comfortable and enjoyable.

Meet your guide and team members. We recommend members participate in regularly scheduled team conference calls (typically three calls leading up to departure) to learn about trip developments, and to collaborate with guides and fellow team members. We also provide initial instruction on acclimatization, gear selection, conditioning and other important topics.

A commitment to your success. You'll have the support of highly skilled guides with extraordinary experience and credentials. We blend the talent of North American and Tanzanian staff to provide you an unsurpassed Kilimanjaro experience. Your safety and success always comes first.

Ten Day Northern Circuit Route Itinerary

Day 1 - Arrivals: Welcome to Arusha, Tanzania (4600'). Members arrive at Kilimanjaro International Airport throughout the day. We'll receive you at the airport and transfer you to lodge accommodation in Arusha. In-country briefings, team orientation and a gear shake-down is typically conducted in the evening.

Note: Many members choose to arrive in Arusha a day before our itinerary begins to rest and adjust for time differences. We arrange lodging for members with early arrivals or late departures for your added convenience.

Day 2 - Forest Camp: This will be the first day on the mountain. After a 4-5 hour drive from Arusha, we arrive at the Londorossi National Park entrance (7742') where we complete registrations with park staff and set out on an easy day of trekking through beautiful forest to Lemosho Forest Camp (9500'). Have your camera ready - this area is home to a variety of wild game, including buffalo, elephant and colobus monkey.

Daily Trekking Data

Elevation Gain: 1758' / 536 m (From Arusha 4900' / 1494 m)
Distance: 3.72 miles / 6 km
Trekking Time: 3-4 hours
Habitat: Rainforest

Day 3 - Shira 1 Camp: Leaving the forest behind, we cross a savannah of high grass and heather before climbing to the rim of the Shira Plateau and the summit of Shira Cathedral, a huge buttress of rock flanked by steep stone pinnacles. We camp near Shira Cave (11500'). The Shira 1 campsite has some of the most excellent views on Kilimanjaro of the rainforest below.

Daily Trekking Data

Elevation Gain: 2000' / 609 m
Distance: 5.0 miles / 8 km
Trekking Time: 5-6 hours
Habitat: Moorland

Day 4 - Moir Hut: Enjoy a morning of gentle ascents and panoramic views as we continue further up the plateau, trekking east toward the glaciers on Kibo. We continue toward Moir Hut (13800'), a beautiful camp at the base of Lent Hills offering excellent opportunities for members to explore the surrounding plateau and ascend nearby ridgelines to improve acclimatization.

Daily Trekking Data

Elevation Gain: 2300' / 701 m
Distance: 8.7 miles / 14 km
Trekking Time: 5-7 hours
Habitat: Moorland

Day 5 - Buffalo Camp: Our route leads us up a moderately steep trail out of Moir Valley

to the sub-peak of Lent Hill (14354'). The short trip to this rocky point improves acclimatization and provides a stunning view of the plateau and rainforest below. From here our route traverses around the northern slope of Kibo as we navigate a series of volcanic drainages fanning out from the glaciers above. Our arrival at Buffalo Camp (13189') is met with grand vistas spanning for miles across Tanzania and the Kenyan savannah to the North. Although the following two days have no elevation gain, they represent an important part of a thoughtful and comprehensive acclimatization schedule as we continue toward the summit.

Daily Trekking Data

Elevation Gain: - 591' / - 180 m
Distance: 7.5 miles / 12 km
Trekking Time: 5-7 hours
Habitat: High Desert

Day 6 - Rongai Third Cave: Our route climbs steadily up the Buffalo ridge to Porfu Camp and then east to the northern slope of Mt. Kilimanjaro. We have circumnavigated nearly half of the mountain by the time we reach the Rongai Third Cave Camp (12467'). Notably, we have experienced a descent of just over 1300'. In preparation for an ascent, a common and prudent strategy among experienced mountaineers is to descend just before a summit bid to "take in some Os." Oxygen volume is higher at lower elevation, allowing us to rest easy and prepare physically and mentally for the climb ahead.

Daily Trekking Data

Elevation Gain: - 722' / - 220 m
Distance: 5.0 miles / 8km
Trekking Time: 4-5 hours
Habitat: Alpine Desert

Day 7 - Kibo Camp: The terrain changes to scree as we slowly ascend to the saddle between Kibo and Mawenzi Peaks. The landscape here is expansive and desolate. Cloud systems regularly roll across our route with changing pressure systems. From Kibo Camp (15748'), Uhuru Peak is very close. We can take in wonderful views of Mawenzi (16890') from our camp as we spend the remainder of the day resting and preparing for a very early departure for Kilimanjaro's summit.

Daily Trekking Data

Elevation Gain: 3281' / 1000 m
Distance: 9.3 miles / 15 km
Trekking Time: 4-5 hours
Habitat: Alpine

Day 8 - Summit Day and Millenium Camp: We frequently have a wake-up time at midnight or before so that we can achieve the summit early in the morning and make a timely descent to Millenium Camp (12959'). Our combined ascent and descent time may take up to 14-16 hours. We navigate through the darkness as we make our way past Hans Meyer Cave and then to Gilman's Point (18638'). It's important to rest and gaze at the stars above from time to time on the way to Gilman's Point. We then traverse along the

inside of the crater as we make our way toward Stella Point (18810'). This is a beautiful section of the route, navigating around massive volcanic blocks and pinnacles that circle the rim. Our movement over the loose volcanic scree is slow and steady. A well deserved break will be waiting for you at Stella Point in preparation for our final push to the summit at Uhuru Peak (19344').

As we traverse across the ridge above Stella Point, the final stretch toward the summit is uniquely wonderful. Kilimanjaro's volcanic rim is crowned with snowy glaciers appointed with walls of blue ice dropping abruptly into the steep slopes around us. A thick cushion of clouds often rests on the earth several thousand feet below us. Those arriving to the summit in the early morning hours are frequently graced with a view of the sun rising into the darkness on the horizon as they make their final steps to Uhuru Peak. After taking in the beautiful view over the African continent, we descend to Millenium Camp (12959') by way of Barafu Campsite (15300') to celebrate our success.

Crater Rim Trek Option: The crater floor of Kilimanjaro is an extraordinary and surreal landscape. After achieving the summit, we extend an opportunity for members to descend into the crater to explore the surrounding glaciers. We encourage our members to join us for this unique adventure at no additional cost. Our ability to enjoy the crater is dependent on weather conditions, as well as individual acclimatization and performance.

Crater Rim Overnight Option: Individuals with a high level of fitness and performance are invited to customize their trip to include an overnight in Kilimanjaro's crater. This provides an extended opportunity to circumnavigate the rim, closely study our landscape and enjoy a walk on the surrounding glaciers. The high altitude and clear atmosphere also gives us an exceptional and unforgettable view of the constellations. Experienced trekkers and mountaineers will also find this option useful in evaluating personal acclimatization, performance and altitude ceilings.

Advance planning for an overnight in Kilimanjaro's crater is required along with an additional cost.

Daily Trekking Data

Elevation Gain:	Kibo Camp to Gilman's Point: 2890' / 881 m Gilman's Point to Stella Point: 190' / 58 m Stella Point to Uhuru Peak: 534' / 165 m Uhuru Peak to Millenium Camp: - 6388' / - 1947 m
Distance:	Ascent: 3.7 miles / 6 km Descent: 6.5 miles / 10.5 km
Trekking Time:	Ascent from Kibo Camp to Gilman's Point: 5-6 hours Ascent from Gilman's Point to Stella Point: 2-3 hours Ascent from Stella Point to Uhuru Peak: 1-2 hours Descent from Uhuru Peak to Milenium Camp: 5-6 hours
Habitat:	Arctic

Day 9 – Mweka Camp: Our descent from Millenium Camp (12959') continues through open moorlands, forest glades and rain forest to the park gate at Mweka (5412'). From Mweka gate we return to our lodge in Arusha by vehicle and celebrate our

accomplishment. This is typically accompanied with several bottles of Tusker, a local beverage!

Daily Trekking Data

Elevation Gain:	- 7579' / - 2310 m
Distance:	6.2 miles / 10 km
Trekking Time:	4-5 hours
Habitat:	Rain Forest

Day 10: Departures for wildlife safaris or Kilimanjaro International Airport for members returning home.

Wildlife Safari Options: Tanzania hosts some of the most stunning wildlife reserves in the world. We encourage our members to consider spending an additional 3-4 days after their Kilimanjaro trek to enjoy one of our safaris customized and priced exclusively for S2 members.

Your safari will be hosted by professional wildlife guides eager to share their knowledge of habitat and wildlife behavior in the backdrop of famous reserves like the Serengeti and Ngorongoro Crater. Best of all, we'll plan a schedule that coincides with your Kilimanjaro trek and accommodates your individual ambitions for viewing Tanzania's wonderful wildlife.