



## **MOUNT KILIMANJARO CLIMB**

To conquer one of the most glorious, record-breaking mountains in the world is a dream come true to many adventurers and Kaliwa Lodge is the best at providing amazing Mt. Kilimanjaro hikes, climbs, adventures, and trekking.

Mount Kilimanjaro is deemed the “Greatest Natural Wonder of the World” and is considered beginner-friendly, with intermediate as well as difficult treks too. What’s great is that you don’t even need any special training, technical skills, special gear, or even previous trekking experience to reach the top.

It’s not just about the climb! Amazingly, Mount Kilimanjaro enjoys 5 climate zones so it’s like traversing through different worlds within just a few hours. Mount Kilimanjaro also hosts about 140 mammals, 25 carnivores and massive numbers of birds, and what’s even more intriguing is that mainly because of its high altitude, you will see animals that are wildly unique and can rarely be found anywhere else in the world.

The trip can typically take 5-8 days: the longer routes give you more time to acclimatize and therefore a much better chance of reaching the summit. Our award-winning staff and experienced guides can help you decide what route best suits you.

For those with limited fitness or mobility, it’s possible to drive all the way up to the Shira Plateau and then gently explore the surrounding areas on foot. Reasonable levels of fitness would be ideal for the longer hike.

Whatever you decide, Kaliwa is excited to accommodate all of your needs and desires while providing the best and most experienced guides for your climbing adventure. Anything is possible and we look forward to making your dreams and journeys unforgettable.

### **How to Visit Kilimanjaro**

#### **Getting There**

Most climbs begin in Tanzanian base towns like Moshi, Marangu, and Arusha. Travelers typically arrive by way of a nonstop flight to Arusha, which is accessible from regional international capitals like Nairobi and Dar es Salaam. Car transfers can be made in advance from Arusha to Moshi and Marangu.

#### **Why You Need to Go Guided**

Trekking Kilimanjaro without a guide is prohibited by Tanzanian law. Aside from the physical endurance required to reach the summit, altitude sickness and below-freezing temperatures make a guide essential. Plus, you’ll need camping gear and food for at least five nights, as almost every route on the

mountain has little to no tourist infrastructure (aside from the Marangu route's A-frame wooden huts).

## **How Fit Do I Need To Be?**

You don't need to be an athlete to climb Mt. Kilimanjaro. In fact, children and grandparents have made it to the top without any problems. You do need to be able to walk 7 hours a day at a slow pace at a slight incline. The choice with the greatest chance of success is the Lemosho route. An estimated 90% of all trekkers who take this track make it to the top. One of the newer routes on Mount Kilimanjaro, this particularly scenic path is also one of the longest, taking up to eight days to complete.

## **Different Routes Up Kilimanjaro**

While there are a number of more obscure and technical routes to the top, if you're a casual mountaineer, hiker or traveler, it's recommended to tackle either the Marangu, Rongai or Lemosho route.

### **Marangu Route**

Miles: 48.2 Round Trip

Elevation Gain: 13,340 feet

Typical Length of Trip: 5-10 Days Total

The only climb up Mount Kilimanjaro to offer accommodation with huts provided for hikers. This six-day climb begins at the Marangu gate and each evening, climbers stay in picturesque A-frame huts with incredible views of Kilimanjaro National Park's most rugged scenery. This hike is best for those who need a quicker way to the top and have more experience in high-altitude zones. Departing Kibo Hut in the middle of the night, hikers usually reach the summit in time for sunrise over Uhuru Peak.

### **Rongai Route**

Miles: 45 Round Trip

Elevation Gain: 12,940 feet

Typical Length of Trip: 5-10 Days Total

Of all the trails to Kilimanjaro's peak, the Rongai route is the only path approaching Kilimanjaro from the north. Beginning near the Kenyan border, this seven-day climb is often regarded as the quieter, wilder path to the summit. Eventually merging with the Marangu route for the final summit night at Kibo hut, Rongai has a more gradual slope than the mountain's other routes and is recommended for climbers with less backpacking experience.

### **Lemosho Route**

Miles: 47.5 Round Trip

Elevation Gain: 12,340 feet

Typical Length of Trip: 7-11 Days Total

The Lemosho route offers one of the longest paths to the top of Kilimanjaro, allowing ample time for acclimatization. Typically taking eight days to summit, this route begins on the western side of the mountain and is one of the least traveled paths to the top. Access begins in Tanzania at the towns of Moshi or Arusha and the trek begins in a lush rainforest then weaving through juniper

and pine trees, climbers reach the Shira Plateau and the gateway to the 300-foot Lava Tower, a picturesque volcanic rock formation and one of the highlights of the route. After traversing Shira Plateau and the Southern Circuit, a nocturnal wake-up call at Kosovo basecamp is the precursor to the final, seven-hour ascent to Uhuru Peak.

## **WHICH ROUTE SHOULD I CHOOSE?**

The easiest route up Kilimanjaro is often thought to be the Marangu route, the so called 'Coca Cola' route. Best known as being the only one that offers hut accommodation. However, with too many trekkers attempting to summit in the minimum 5 days required for this route, and many underestimating its physical challenge, it's actually the route with the lowest success rate.

The choice with the greatest chance of success is the Lemosho route. An estimated 90% of all trekkers who take this track make it to the top. One of the newer routes on Mount Kilimanjaro, this particularly scenic path is also one of the longest, taking up to eight days to complete. Allowing lots of time to acclimatize makes it an ideal choice for anyone new to high altitude environments.

## **Other Top Sites to See in Tanzania**

With an abundance of natural wonders, extending your trip in Tanzania offers incredible safari and tropical island experiences. From witnessing the great migration in the Mara-Serengeti ecosystem to island hopping through the region's stunning archipelagos. Contact us for more information and bookings. We look forward to giving you the adventure of a lifetime!

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