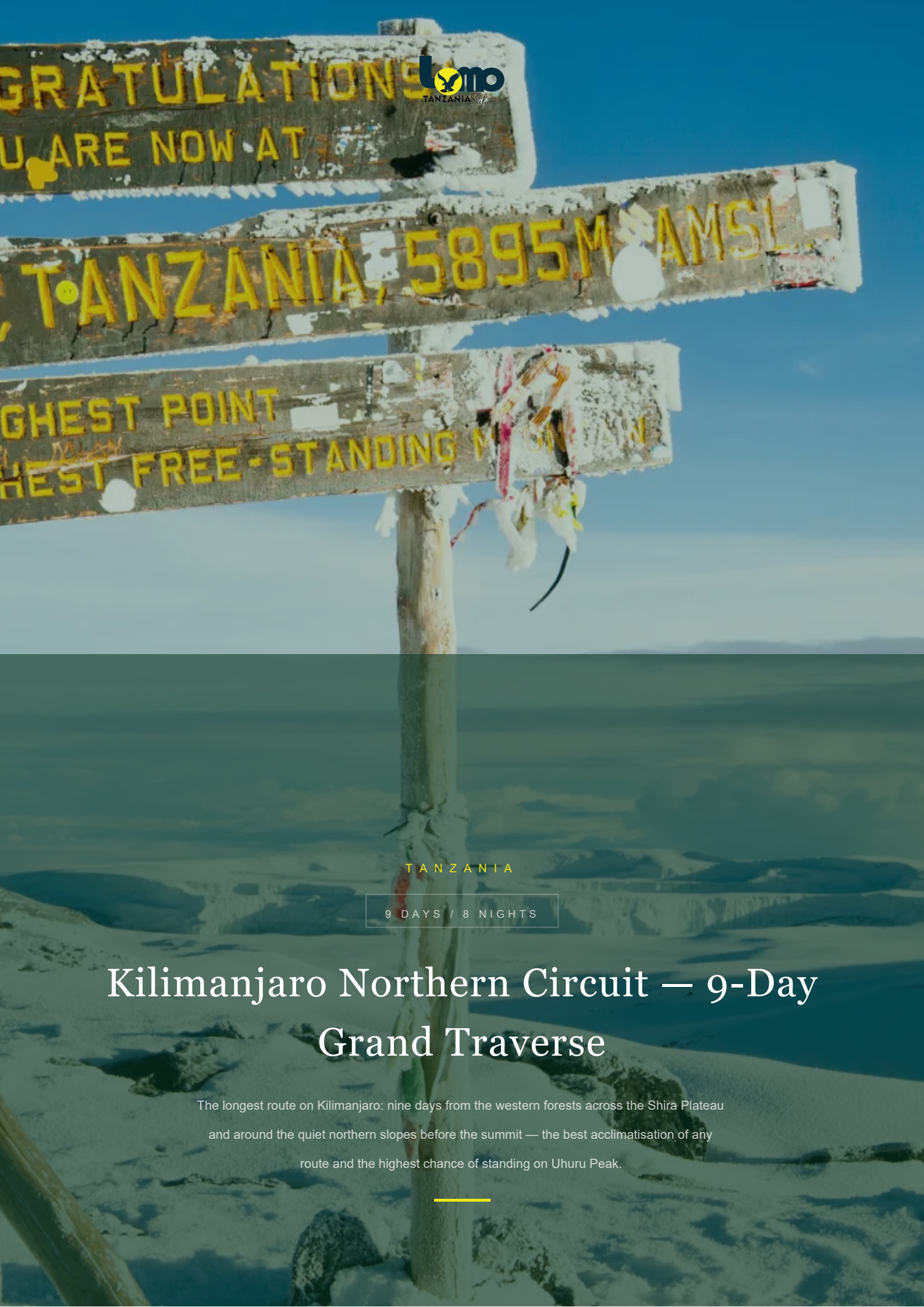


TANZANIA

9 DAYS / 8 NIGHTS

Kilimanjaro Northern Circuit — 9-Day Grand Traverse

The longest route on Kilimanjaro: nine days from the western forests across the Shira Plateau and around the quiet northern slopes before the summit — the best acclimatisation of any route and the highest chance of standing on Uhuru Peak.

EDITORIAL OVERVIEW

Experience Overview

The Northern Circuit is the longest and newest route on Kilimanjaro, and the quietest. It circles most of the mountain before the summit attempt, and with nine days on the mountain it offers the best acclimatisation of any route — and with it the best chance of reaching the top.

Around the quiet side of the mountain

Starting on the Lemosho trail in the western forest, you cross the Shira Plateau and climb to Lava Tower before turning north to Moir Hut. For the next three days you traverse the remote northern slopes, a region few climbers ever see, with views of the northern ice fields, the plains of Kenya and, on clear mornings, Mount Meru far to the west.

An unhurried summit

From School Hut on the eastern side, summit night leads up to Gilman's Point on the crater rim and along the rim past Stella Point to Uhuru Peak (5,895 m), before descending via the Mweka Route. The extra days turn the climb into an extended wilderness journey rather than a race to the top, with quiet campsites and plenty of time to adapt to the altitude.

SIGNATURE MOMENTS

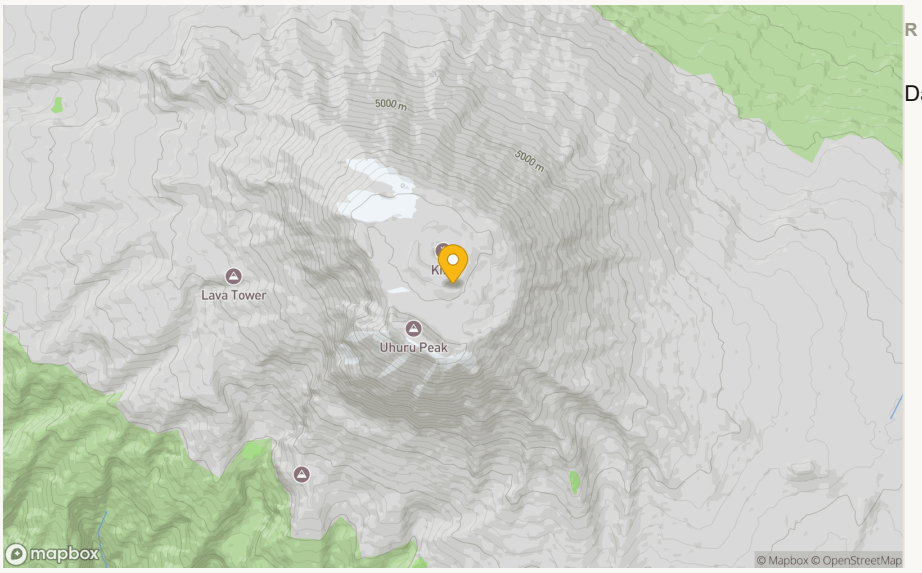
Highlights

- ★ The best acclimatisation and summit chances of any Kilimanjaro route
- ★ A near-complete circuit of the mountain
- ★ Remote northern slopes that few climbers see
- ★ Views of the northern ice fields and glaciers
- ★ Nine days for a gradual, unhurried ascent
- ★ Quiet campsites and real wilderness solitude
- ★ Views towards Mount Meru and the plains of Kenya

SAFARI ROUTE

Journey Route

Follow your journey across Tanzania's iconic landscapes



ROUTE SUMMARY

Day 1–9 — Mount Kilimanjaro National Park

Itinerary

Your day-by-day journey through Tanzania

DAY 1

Londorossi Gate to Mti Mkubwa (2,650 m)

Drive to Londorossi Gate (2,250 m) on the western side of Kilimanjaro to register, then continue to the Lemosho trailhead and meet your crew. Walk through undisturbed rainforest with giant trees and hanging moss, where colobus monkeys are often seen, to Mti Mkubwa, the “Big Tree” Camp. Distance about 6 km, walking time 3–4 hours. Overnight: Mti Mkubwa Camp (Full Board)

DESTINATION · Mount Kilimanjaro National Park





DAY 2

Mti Mkubwa to Shira 2 Camp (3,850 m)

Leave the forest and climb through giant heather onto the Shira Ridge, then walk across the Shira Plateau, an ancient high caldera with wide views of Kibo ahead. This is a long but gradual day, rewarded by sunset views of the summit from Shira 2 Camp. Distance about 14 km, walking time 7–8 hours. Overnight: Shira 2 Camp (Full Board)

DESTINATION · Mount Kilimanjaro National Park

DAY 3

Shira 2 to Moir Hut via Lava Tower (4,200 m)

Climb through alpine desert to Lava Tower (4,630 m) for acclimatisation and lunch, then leave the busy southern routes and head north to Moir Hut, a quiet camp in a valley below the Lent Group of hills. If you still have energy, your guide can take you on a short walk above camp for views across the Shira Plateau. Distance about 14 km, walking time 6–7 hours. Overnight: Moir Hut Camp (Full Board)

DESTINATION · Mount Kilimanjaro National Park





DAY 4

Moir Hut to Buffalo Camp (4,020 m)

Begin the traverse of the northern slopes, climbing over a ridge and following a path that undulates around the mountain. Views open to the north over the plains of Kenya and up to the northern ice fields of Kibo. There are very few other climbers on this side of the mountain, and the silence is remarkable. Distance about 12 km, walking time 5–7 hours. Overnight: Buffalo Camp (Full Board)

DESTINATION · Mount Kilimanjaro National Park

DAY 5

Buffalo Camp to Third Cave (3,870 m)

Continue the traverse eastwards across ridges and valleys of old lava, with Mawenzi's jagged peaks coming into view ahead. Third Cave Camp lies below the Saddle, the high desert between Kibo and Mawenzi, and the short day helps your body continue to adapt. Distance about 8 km, walking time 5–6 hours. Overnight: Third Cave Camp (Full Board)

DESTINATION · Mount Kilimanjaro National Park





DAY 6

Third Cave to School Hut (4,750 m)

Climb steadily across the Saddle to School Hut at the foot of Kibo's eastern face. Arrive in the early afternoon to rest, drink plenty of water and prepare your summit clothing and headtorch. Your guides check your health and explain the plan before an early dinner. Distance about 5 km, walking time 4–5 hours. Overnight: School Hut Camp (Full Board)

DESTINATION · Mount Kilimanjaro National Park

DAY 7

Summit Day — Uhuru Peak (5,895 m)

Start around midnight and climb the steep scree by headtorch to Gilman's Point (5,681 m) on the crater rim. Walk along the rim past Stella Point to Uhuru Peak (5,895 m), the highest point in Africa, ideally around sunrise. After photographs, descend the southern slopes via Stella Point to Barafu and on to Millennium Camp for a well-earned rest. A demanding day of 12–14 hours in total. Overnight: Millennium Camp (3,950 m, Full Board)

DESTINATION · Mount Kilimanjaro National Park





DAY 8

Millennium Camp to Mweka Camp

An easier day descending through the alpine desert and heather zone to Mweka Camp at the edge of the rainforest. In the evening, celebrate your climb with your crew around dinner — a traditional moment of songs and thanks on many Kilimanjaro climbs. Distance about 8 km, walking time 3–4 hours. Overnight: Mweka Camp (3,100 m, Full Board)

DESTINATION · Mount Kilimanjaro National Park

DAY 9

Mweka Camp to Mweka Gate

Walk down through the rainforest to Mweka Gate (1,640 m), sign out of the park and receive your summit certificate. Say farewell to your mountain team. Distance about 10 km, walking time 3–4 hours. Transfer to your hotel in Moshi or Arusha. End of trek.

DESTINATION · Mount Kilimanjaro National Park



WHERE YOU'LL STAY

Accommodation

Accommodation recommendations will be finalized with your chosen travel dates.

PACKAGE DETAILS

What's Included

Included

- ✓ All KINAPA park fees
- ✓ KINAPA-licensed lead guide and assistants
- ✓ Porters and private camp chef
- ✓ Premium camping equipment (4-season tents, thick sleeping mats)
- ✓ All meals on the mountain
- ✓ Purified drinking water
- ✓ Daily pulse oximetry and health monitoring
- ✓ Summit certificate
- ✓ Airport transfers
- ✓ Pre-trek hotel night in Moshi

Excluded

- ✗ International flights
- ✗ Visa fees
- ✗ Travel insurance (mandatory)
- ✗ Personal climbing gear
- ✗ Gratuities for mountain crew
- ✗ Personal snacks and extras

BESPOKE PLANNING

Ready to plan your journey?

Share your preferred travel dates and let us tailor this experience around your pace, interests, and preferences.

VIEW THIS TOUR

PLAN YOUR SAFARI

LESS ON OURSELVES, MORE ON OTHERS

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VIEW ITINERARY

END OF ITINERARY