KILIMANJARO ITINERARY

EXPLORING THE REMOTE CORNERS OF THE WORLD

8-day Lemosho Route

EMBARK
EXPLORATION CO.





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Kilimanjaro | 8-day Lemosho Route



Climb Overview

Lemosho is our favorite way to enter the mountain. At 72 km (almost 45 miles), the longer route allows for more thorough acclimatization and a higher success rate to the summit. The trail passes through five ecosystems, from dense forest and heather up through alpine desert and the glorious summit. The route begins on the Western slopes of Kilimanjaro. Winding across the famous Shira Plateau and wrapping across the southern flanks in an undulating curve, ultimately this trail meets up with the Machame route and up to the summit via Stella Point. From jungle to high desert, to snowy terrain this is one of the more exciting routes on the mountain, but still manageable by the average adventurer.

1 DAY 1
ARRIVE MOSHI

2 DAY 2
FREE IN MOSHI. OVERNIGHT IN HOTEL

3 DAY 3
LEMOSHO GATE TO MTI MKUBWA

4 DAY 4
MTI MKUBWA TO SHIRA CAMP 1

5 DAY 5
SHIRA CAMP 1 TO SHIRA CAMP 2

6 DAY 6
SHIRA CAMP 2 TO BARRANCO CAMP

7 DAY 7
BARRANCO CAMP TO KARANGA CAMP

8 DAY 8
KARANGA CAMP TO BARAFU CAMP

9 DAY 9
BARAFU CAMP TO SUMMIT TO MWEKA HUT

10 DAY 10
MWEKA CAMP TO GATE

11 DAY 11
DEPARTURE

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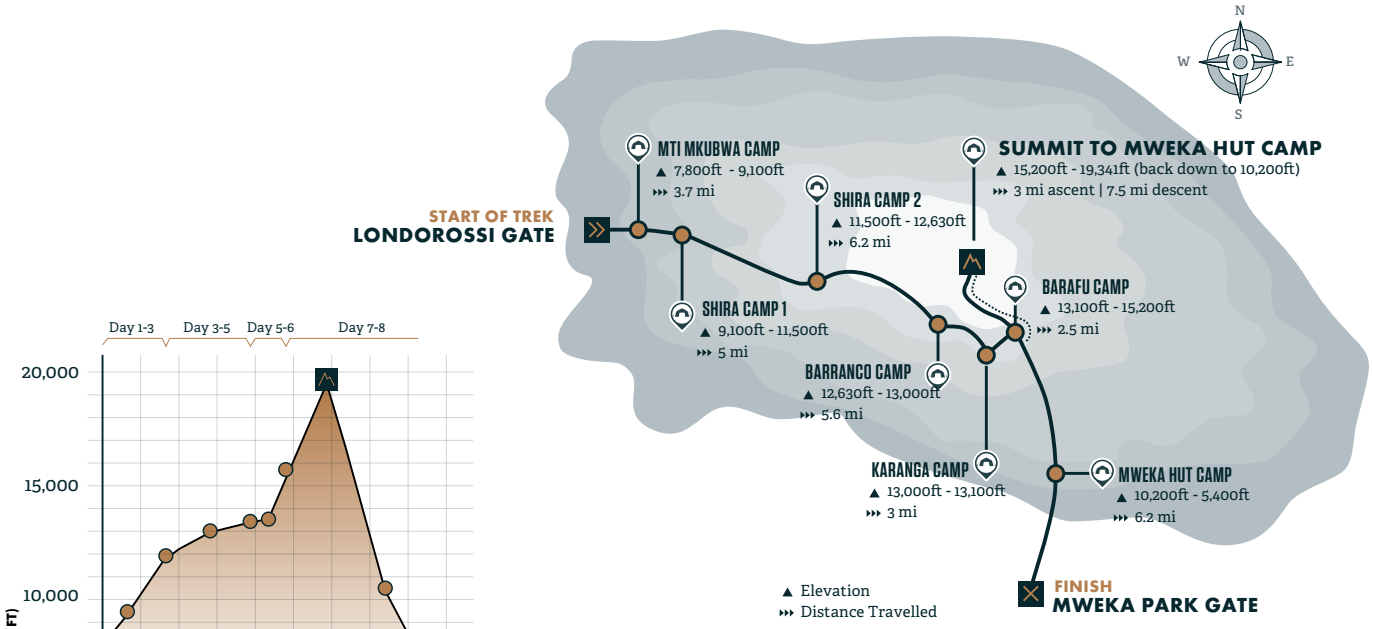
8 DAYS / 7 NIGHTS

Schedule



KILIMANJARO MAP



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DAY 1 Arrive Moshi

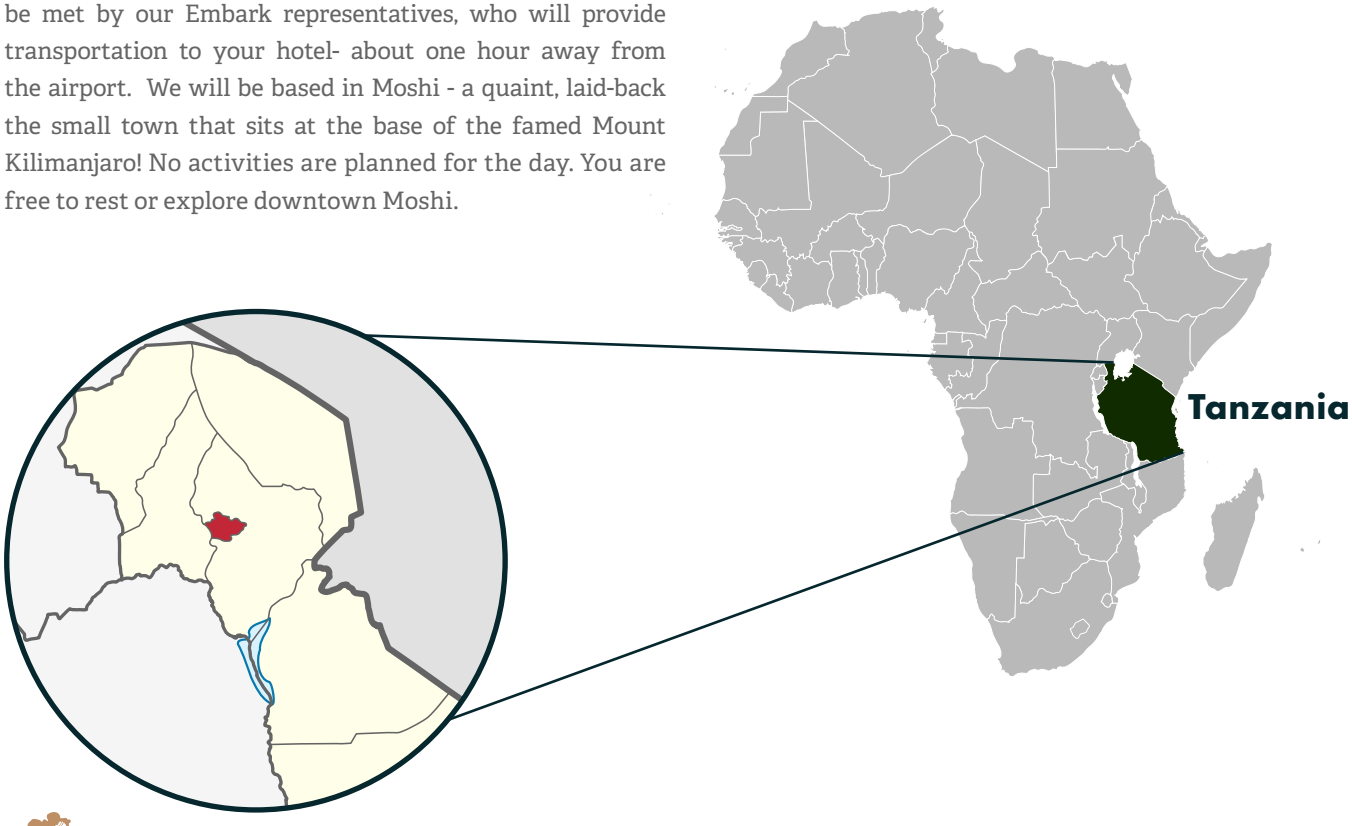
9 October 2027

Elevation: 2,300 ft – 3,120 ft





Upon arrival in Kilimanjaro International airport you will be met by our Embark representatives, who will provide transportation to your hotel- about one hour away from the airport. We will be based in Moshi - a quaint, laid-back the small town that sits at the base of the famed Mount Kilimanjaro! No activities are planned for the day. You are free to rest or explore downtown Moshi.



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DAY 2

Free in Moshi. Overnight in hotel

10 October 2027

Meals: Breakfast





Today we have our group briefing and pre-trip discussion. You will be introduced to your trekking guide, have a comprehensive gear check.

You are free to explore some more, take part in informal group tour around town; visit the market or a local coffee shop for lunch.

Moshi is a relatively small, comfortable city that has a reputation for being somewhat laid-back compared to it's sister city of Arusha so feel free to wander.

There will also be time to do last-minute shopping or gear rentals for the trek if needed.

Moshi District



DAY 3 Lemosho Gate to Mti Mkubwa

11 October 2027

Elevation: 7,500 ft – 9,200 ft
Total Elevation Gain: 1,390 ft
Total Elevation Loss: 107 ft
Distance: 4 mi
Meals: B, L, D



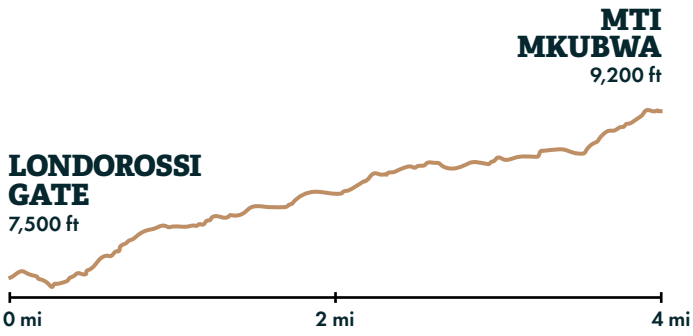


This morning we depart Moshi for Londorossi Gate, which takes about 2 hours, where you will complete entry formalities. Today is a busy day for our team as we have lots of logistical details to sort out. Our staff will need to check official documentation for each of our hikers with the Kilimanjaro park staff as well as get all of our gear weighed and in order according to park rules and regulations. Today we will not begin our hike until after lunch due to these preparations. However, once you set out in that magnificent rain forest, you will feel a great sense of excitedment as you comprehend that you have just started your climb up the tallest mountain in Africa!

With flora and fauna heavier and richer here than on any other route through the thick rainforest, the Lemosho Route cuts through underbrush that is so untouched it at times grows right across the narrow trail.

We will wind our way through dense forest, often spying a monkey or two and an abundance of birds. After 3-4 hours, we will reach our camp, Mti Mkubwa, which means "Big Tree" in Kiswahili. This camp envelopes you in comfort with it's amazing tree canopy; you will sleep well tonight surrounded by the sounds of grasshoppers and the soft chatter of other campers.

Trekking distance: 4 mi



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DAY 4

Mti Mkubwa to Shira Camp 1

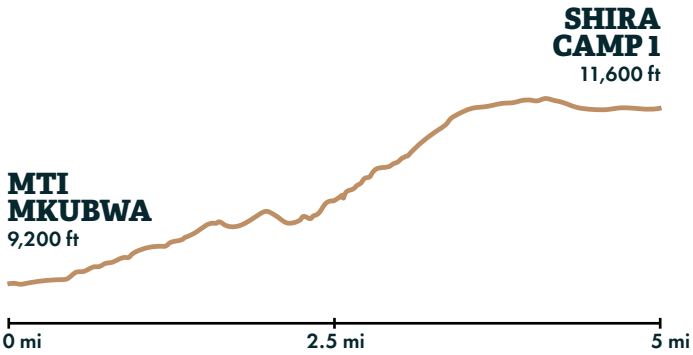
12 October 2027

Elevation: 9,200 ft – 11,600 ft
Total Elevation Gain: 2,590 ft
Total Elevation Loss: 250 ft
Distance: 5 mi
Meals: B, L, D





Trekking distance: 5 mi



Today will be a more challenging day- with over 2,000ft elevation gain. Immediatley after leaving our camp we come out of the jungle and have to contend with a distinct lack of cover, leaving us explosed to the sun. The border between the two ecozones is obvious - in less than 100 feet we transition from rainforest to moorland. Along the way we will have a hot lunch to fuel us as we wind our way over more than one false summits. We follow long ridge lines, coming up our final ascent on the Shira Ridge. Near the end of the day, we descend slightly into the Shira plateau and to Shira Camp 1. This is our first real view of Kilimanjaro since setting out yesterday.

DAY 5 Shira Camp 1 to Shira Camp 2

13 October 2027

Elevation: 11,600 ft – 12,700 ft
Total Elevation Gain: 1,210 ft
Total Elevation Loss: 0 ft
Distance: 5 mi
Meals: B, L, D

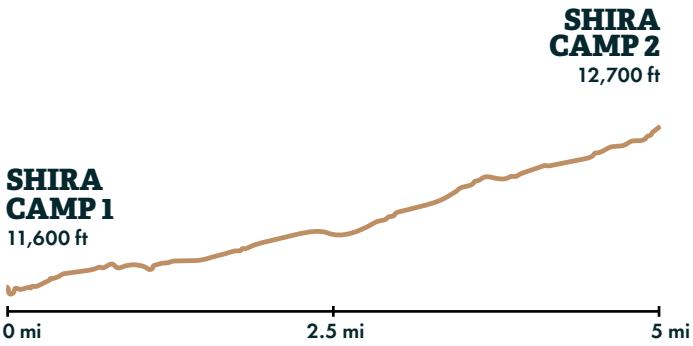




After breakfast we head east across the Shira Plateau and past the Shira Cathedral to Shira Camp. Shira is one of the highest plateaus on earth. It is about a four-hour hike to camp.

On the way, we pass the first of many Giant Senecios, some of Kilimanjaro's otherworldly massive plants. These are endemic to East African volcanoes and have lots of interesting adaptation to survive at such high altitudes, including having natural anti-freeze to protect them against the cold. Today is mostly flat with the expansive African sky unfolding all around. If weather cooperates we get great views today of the distinctive Kilimanjaro massif that looms always in front of us, getting closer throughout the day.

Trekking distance: 5 mi



DAY 6

14 October 2027

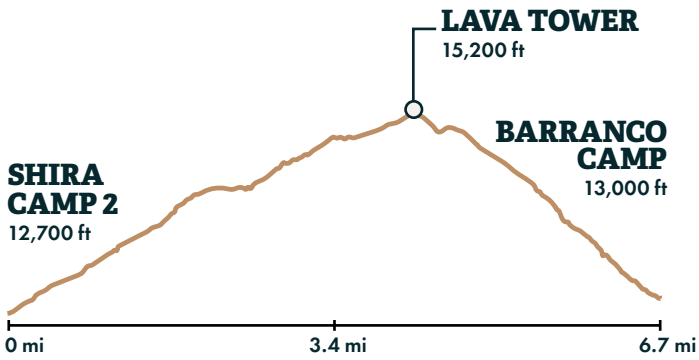
Shira Camp Two - Lava Tower- Barranco Camp

Elevation: 12,700 ft to 15,200 ft to 13,000 ft
Total Elevation Gain: 2,360 ft
Total Elevation Loss: 2,150 ft
Distance: 6.7 mi
Meals: B, L, D





Trekking distance: 6.7 mi



From the Shira Plateau, we continue to the east up a ridge, passing the junction towards the peak of Kibo. As we continue, our direction changes to the South East towards the Lava Tower, called the "Shark's Tooth."

Here we have a full hot meal in our mess tent to celebrate our acclimatization accomplishment. Afterwards, with full stomachs - and feeling recharged - we continue down to the Barranco Hut at an altitude of 13,000ft. Here we rest, enjoy dinner, and overnight. Although you end the day at almost the same elevation as when you started, this day is very important for acclimatization and will help your body prepare for summit day.

DAY 7 Barranco Camp to Karanga Camp

15 October 2027

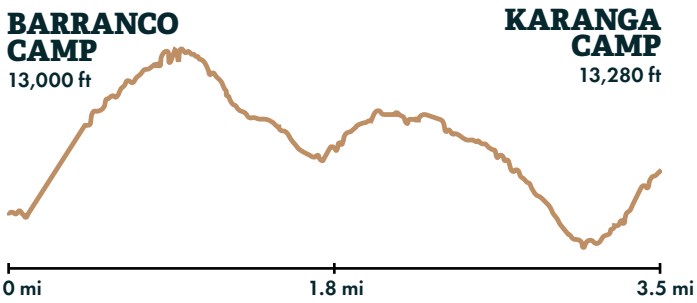
Elevation: 13,000 ft – 13,280 ft
Total Elevation Gain: 1,300 ft
Total Elevation Loss: 1,130 ft
Distance: 3.5 mi
Meals: B, L, D





After breakfast, we leave camp and continue on a steep ridge passing the Barranco Wall, to the Karanga Valley campsite. Today is a much anticipated day for many hikers as we have an early morning ascent up the famous Barranco Wall. The sight of this expansive rock formation rising high above camp can be intimidating. However, the work of actually getting to the top of this obstacle is not as complicated or strenuous as one might think. The paths are well-worn and our staff is well-versed in the different hand- and foot-holds that will get you to the top. Indeed, it can actually be a fun change to the daily pace and before you know it, you'll be rejoicing at the top of the Barranco Wall. Afterwards we proceed to descend slightly before another gradual ascent or two, meandering our way to Karanga camp.

Trekking distance: 3.5 mi



DAY 8

Karanga Camp to Barafu Camp

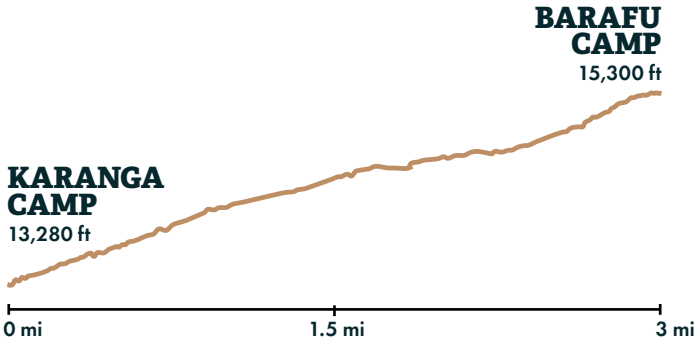
16 October 2027

Elevation: 13,280 ft – 15,300 ft
Total Elevation Gain: 1,970 ft
Total Elevation Loss: 0 ft
Distance: 3 mi
Meals: B, L, D





Trekking distance: 3 mi



This morning we leave Karanga and hit the junction, which connects with the Mweka Trail. We continue up to the Barafu Hut. At this point, you have completed the South Circuit, which offers views of the summit from many different angles. Barafu means ice and at this exposure and altitude we will notice a dip in temperatures. Wonderful views of Mawenzi and Kibo peaks can be seen from this position. This afternoon we, rest, enjoy an early dinner, and prepare for the summit night.

DAY 9

17 October 2027

Barafu Camp to Summit to Mweka Hut

Elevation: 15,300 ft to 19,341 ft to 10,200 ft
Total Elevation Gain: 4,075 ft
Total Elevation Loss: 9,974 ft
Distance: 3 mi up, 7.5 mi down
Meals: B, L, D

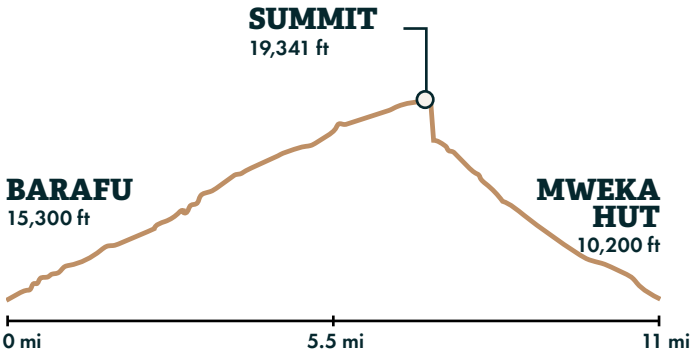




Very early in the morning (midnight to 2am), we start our our journey to the summit between the Rebmann and Ratzel glaciers. We begin by heading in a northwesterly direction winding our way up a number of swithbacks in the dead of night. At this hour of the day and elevation it is cold and the darkness can challenge our morale. But that will change remarkable the moment the sun begins its rise over the African plains. As we head into an area of heavy scree towards Stella Point on the crater rim you will feel a renewed energy as you surprass the most mentally and physically challenging portion of the trek.

At Stella Point (18,600 ft), you will stop for a short rest and will be rewarded with the most magnificent sunrise you are ever likely to see (weather permitting). From Stella Point, you may encounter snow all the way on your 1-hour ascent to the summit. At Uhuru Peak, you have reached the highest point on Mount Kilimanjaro and the continent of Africa. Faster hikers will see the sunrise from the summit. From the summit, we now make our descent continuing straight down to the Mweka Hut camp site, stopping at Barafu for lunch. You will want gaiters and trekking poles for the loose gravel going down. Mweka Camp is situated in the upper forest and mist or rain can be expected in the late afternoon. Later in the evening, we enjoy our last dinner on the mountain and a well-earned sleep.

Trekking distance: 3 mi up, 7.5 mi down



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DAY 10 Mweka Camp to Gate

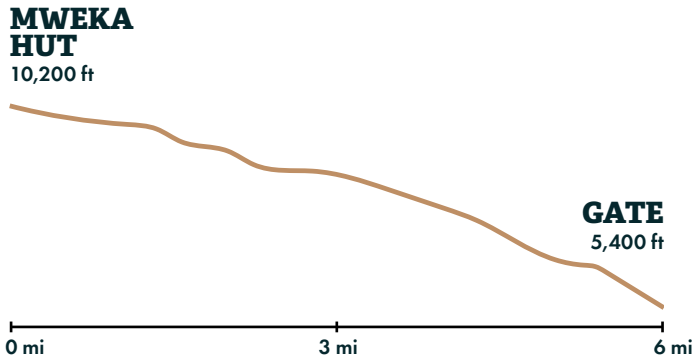
18 October 2027

Elevation: 10,200 ft – 5,400 ft
Total Elevation Gain: 35 ft
Total Elevation Loss: 4,685 ft
Distance: 6 mi
Meals: B, L





Trekking distance: 6 mi



After breakfast, we continue the descent down to the Mweka Park Gate to receive your summit certificates. You will have a wonderful morning walk through the lush forest, maybe catching glimpses of wildlife, it can be wet and muddy.

Gaiters and trekking poles will help. Shorts and t-shirts will probably be plenty to wear (keep rain gear and warmer clothing handy).

DAY 11 Departure or Safari

19 October 2027

Meals: Breakfast

Departure for airport for international flight home or add-on safari

Note:: (if participating in a safari; please make sure to book your international flight home after 5pm).



Join us for a safari
After summiting Kilimanjaro, you deserve it!

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATED COSTS TO PARTICIPANTS

*Single Supplement $595

Airfare: $ 1.500 – $ 2.000 per person.

Supplemental medical insurance: $ 200 – $ 700 per person (varies widely based on what you want to insure, base cost of just medical insurance is less than insuring the cost of your trip).

Tips for support staff: $ 500 per person for groups of 4+, $ 800 for groups of 2+.

Gear: $500 (will vary based on personal needs and what you already have).

This pricing is based on eight days on the mountain and 3 additional nights in hotels, double occupancy in hotels and tents. Extra nights in a hotel are approximately $150 depending upon room type, availability and double-occupancy.

INCLUDED

- ✓ All international & domestic airport transfers as per the program by private vehicle
- ✓ Moshi to Lemosho gate drive by private vehicle
- ✓ Mweka gate to Moshi drive by private vehicle
- ✓ 3 nights Accomodation in Moshi & breakfasts while at the hotel
- ✓ All park fees
- ✓ All meals and accommodations while on climb
- ✓ Accommodation, meals, insurance, equipment, transportation and allowances of guide and porter
- ✓ All applicable government taxes

NOT INCLUDED

- ✗ Lunch & dinner in Moshi prior and post-climb.
- ✗ Any sightseeing tours in Moshi
- ✗ International and domestic airfare
- ✗ Bottled drinks (mineral water, any cold drinks, and alcoholic drinks).
- ✗ Travel insurance & overseas medical insurance coverage
- ✗ Expenses of personal nature (tips for guide, porter and driver, laundry, bar bill, telephone calls etc.)
- ✗ Liability for expenses against sickness, flight cancellation, road blockage, accidents and other occurrence beyond our control
- ✗ Tanzanian visa fee
- ✗ Any other expenses not mentioned above

Disclaimer: Hiking times are approximations only and will differ based on individual fitness levels. The outlined itinerary is a guide that the Embark Exploration Co. will adhere to. The final itinerary may differ in the order that you visit areas and the places where you stay overnight. We reserve the right to make changes based on weather, road and/or operating conditions imposed by owners of accommodation facilities, etc.



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