



# 12 DAY

# NORTHERN CRATER ROUTE

**T**he Northern Crater Route is a variation of the Northern Circuit Route that adds an additional night of camping at Crater Camp. Crater Camp is near Furtwangler Glacier—part of the ice cap that once crowned the summit of Kilimanjaro. From there, you can take the short hike over to the Reusch Crater and Ash Pit—a site rarely seen by most climbers. The Northern Crater route is for the thrill seeker who wants a unique experience on Kilimanjaro. It takes an already difficult task—climbing Kilimanjaro and amplifies it by sleeping at extreme elevation. The route starts from the west and travels north around Kilimanjaro. It traverses nearly the entire mountain before you summit. This is the most scenic route on the mountain and has almost no foot traffic on its northern face.

**DAY 1** Arrive anytime at your lodge in Moshi, Tanzania. With prior arrangement, airport pick up and private transfers to your lodge are available from Kilimanjaro International Airport (JRO), or simply make your own way by taxi. We will gather in the evening for a pre-climb briefing and an equipment check. We will also confirm you have the appropriate mandatory medical coverage and travel insurance.

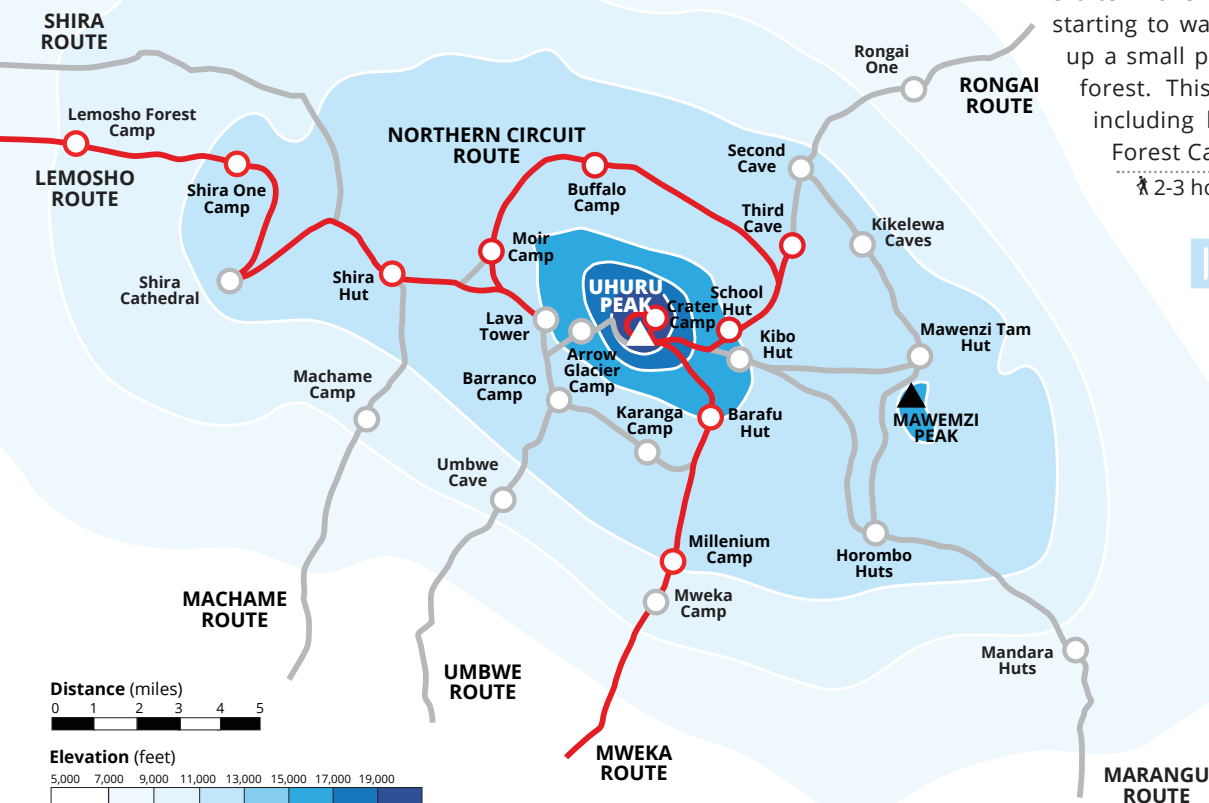
🚗 drive: 45 minutes

**DAY 2** After completing the necessary registration formalities at Londorossi National Park gate, we drive through varied farmland with open views over the plains to reach the Lemosho road head. We often have our lunch in the glades before starting to walk. It is an easy day of walking up a small path through beautiful and lush forest. This area has a variety of game, including buffalo. We camp at Lemosho Forest Camp (8,600 ft).

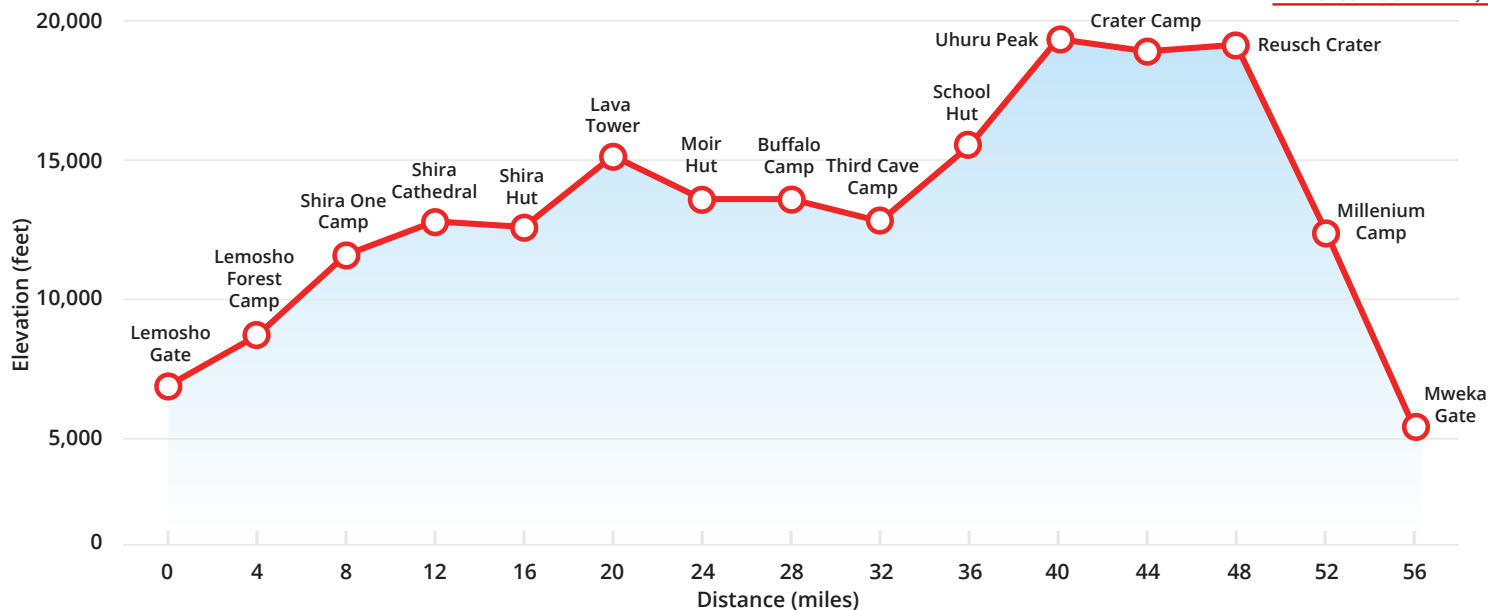
⌚ 2-3 hours · 2.9 miles · elevation: +1,700 ft

**DAY 3** We soon leave the forest behind and enter the moorland zone of giant heather. The trail climbs steadily with wide views to reach the rim of the Shira Plateau. There is a tangible sense of wilderness, especially if afternoon mists come in! We camp in the center of the plateau at Shira One Camp (11,600 ft).

⌚ 6-7 hours · 4.9 miles  
elevation: +3,000 ft



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**Day 4** An easy day to help acclimatization and explore the volcanic rock formations of Shira Plateau. We walk to the summit of Shira Cathedral (12,800 ft) before reaching the next camp at Shira Hut (12,600 ft). This campsite has stunning views, close to the glaciated dome of Kibo and the jagged rim of Shira Plateau. The view from here of Mt. Meru floating on the clouds is simply unforgettable.

⚡ 4-5 hours · 9.9 miles · elevation: +1,000 ft.

**Day 5** In the morning we follow the main trail up to Lava Tower (15,150 ft), and for those feeling strong there is a possibility to climb up to the ruined hut at Arrow Glacier (15,700 ft). We then continue from Lava Tower to reach our campsite at Moir Hut.

⚡ 5-7 hours · 7.2 miles · elevation: +1,000 ft.

**Day 6** We climb out of the Moir Valley and take a short detour to reach the summit of Lent Hills (15,400 ft). After admiring the views we return to the trail and head eastwards around the northern circuit trail. Here the trail passes through a rocky field that clink as they are walked on. The final section of today's walk undulates until reaching Buffalo Camp (13,600 ft). At the camp there is a huge feeling of space as the Kenyan plains stretch out far below to the north.

⚡ 4-7 hours · 4.4 miles · elevation: +1800 gain · -1800 loss.

**Day 7** From Buffalo Camp we climb to the top of 'Buffalo Ridge' and cross numerous ridges and gullies. The trail continues eastwards through a landscape that has increasingly sparse vegetation to eventually reach Third Cave Camp (12,800 ft).

⚡ 5-7 hours · 5.1 miles · elevation: -800ft.

**Day 8** There is a steady ascent to reach the saddle, a lunar landscape between the peaks of Kibo and Mawenzi. From here we continue upwards and reach School Hut (15,500 ft) in the early afternoon. The remainder of the afternoon is spent resting and preparing for the summit day.

⚡ 4-5 hours · 3.0 miles · elevation: +2,700 ft.

**Day 9** We start the final and most demanding part of the climb by headlamp around 1 a.m. We plod very slowly in the darkness on a switchback trail through loose volcanic scree to reach the crater rim at Gilman's Point (18,600 ft). Those who are still feeling strong can make the three-hour round trip to Uhuru Peak (19,345 ft), passing close to the spectacular glaciers and ice cliffs that still occupy most of the summit area. We leave the summit heading northwest, down steep switchbacks for a short distance to Crater Camp (18,900 ft), where the rest of the crew will join us to set up camp. There is an option to hike Reusch Crater and the Ash Pit (19,140), or stay in the area and explore Furtwangler Glacier. Sleeping at this high altitude can be dangerous. Serious AMS can develop if adequate altitude acclimatization has not been achieved so the guides will monitor you very closely.

⚡ 7-10 hours · ~4.6 miles · elevation: +3,845 ft. gain · -445 ft. loss

**Day 10** We descend from Crater Camp (18,900 ft) stopping at Barafu Camp (14,800 ft) for lunch before continuing our descent. This goes surprisingly fast as we pass through the Alpine Desert to the Moorland Region and arrive at Millenium Camp (12,500 ft.)

⚡ 4-6 hours · 7.3 miles · elevation: -6,400 ft.

**Day 11** A sustained descent on a well-constructed path takes us through a lovely tropical forest alive with birdsong. Our route winds down to the Kilimanjaro National Park gate at Mweka (5,400 ft) and on through coffee and banana farms to Mweka village, as we are transferred to your lodge in Moshi.

⚡ 4-6 hours · 7.3 miles · elevation: -6,400 ft.

**Day 12** After breakfast, we can arrange for a private transfer or taxi to Kilimanjaro International Airport (JRO).

🚗 drive: 45 minutes

Questions? Email: [info@peakplanet.com](mailto:info@peakplanet.com) Call: 480-463-4058