



# KILIMANJARO UMBWE ROUTE WILD FRONTIERS

## Route Overview

Lose yourself in the incredible beauty of the lush rainforest of the Umbwe route as you make your way towards the Umbwe Caves. Giant tree ferns flourish underneath massive tropical trees covered with Oldman's Beard (**usnea lichen**) and pretty flowers including a variety of lilies and hibiscus. Colobus and Blue Monkeys may often be seen jumping between tree branches with an abundance of birdlife in the trees above.

The Umbwe route is a challenging route, though the shortest in distance of the available routes on Kilimanjaro, it is the steepest and ascend is at a rapid rate.

**WILD FRONTIERS**  
*travel* AFRICA

**Quality Expeditions**

---

**All Major Routes**

---

**In-house Equipment  
Rental**

---

**Good Guide/Porter to  
Hiker Ratio**

---

**Member of TATO**

**WILD FRONTIERS**

E-mail:  
reservations@wildfrontiers.com  
Tel: +27 (0) 11 702 2035  
www.wildfrontiers.com  
www.kilimanjaramarathon.com  
www.vicfallsmarathon.com

A steep ascent on the first two days lead you up to a picturesque alpine desert where the harsh terrain ensures that only the toughest of plants survive. From here the summit beckons – permanently iced she tempts you to reach the highest point in Africa – Uhuru peak. A magnificent feeling.

Continue the hike on the southern slopes of the mountain admiring giant glaciers on the higher peaks along the way. Great photo opportunities unfold with red sunlight playing on the cliffs and ice fields visible from the camp at dusk and dawn. Hikers can expect to wake up above the clouds on the fourth day on the mountain with breath-taking views into the distance below.

Further along the trail it leads you up and down the rocky path to the base camp before heading for the summit. There are stunning views of Mwenzi Peak and Kibo's glaciers. A long early morning hike in pitch darkness takes you to the crater rim with most hikers arriving just before dawn. Uhuru Peak (19,340 ft/5 895 m), the highest point in Africa and the summit of the worlds' highest free standing mountain is now tantalizingly close, just a few hundred metres away! A soft red-yellow glow on the horizon greets you en-route to the summit – as you experience a once in a life time sunrise over Africa!



After all the excitement of the summit the trail leads you back down the dusty path past the base camp towards Mweka Camp, where you spend your last night on the mountain. Interesting mountain vegetation to look out for around the lower foothills include Proteas (*Protea kilimandscharica*), Impatiens (*impatiens kilimanjari*), daisies (*euryps brownie*).

The last day is a short walk through montane forest to Mweka Gate from where you will be taken to the Keys Hotel, for your last night in Moshi and with plenty to celebrate!



**Trail length:** 6 day/5 night or may be done as a 7 day/6 night hike

**Start:** Umbwe Gate (1,800 m/5,905 ft)

**Highest point reached:** Uhuru Peak (5,895 m / 19,340 ft)

**Finish:** Mweka Gate (1,980 m/6,500 ft)

**Total trail distance:** 81 km / 50,3 miles

**Pre/post night accommodation:** Keys Hotel, Moshi

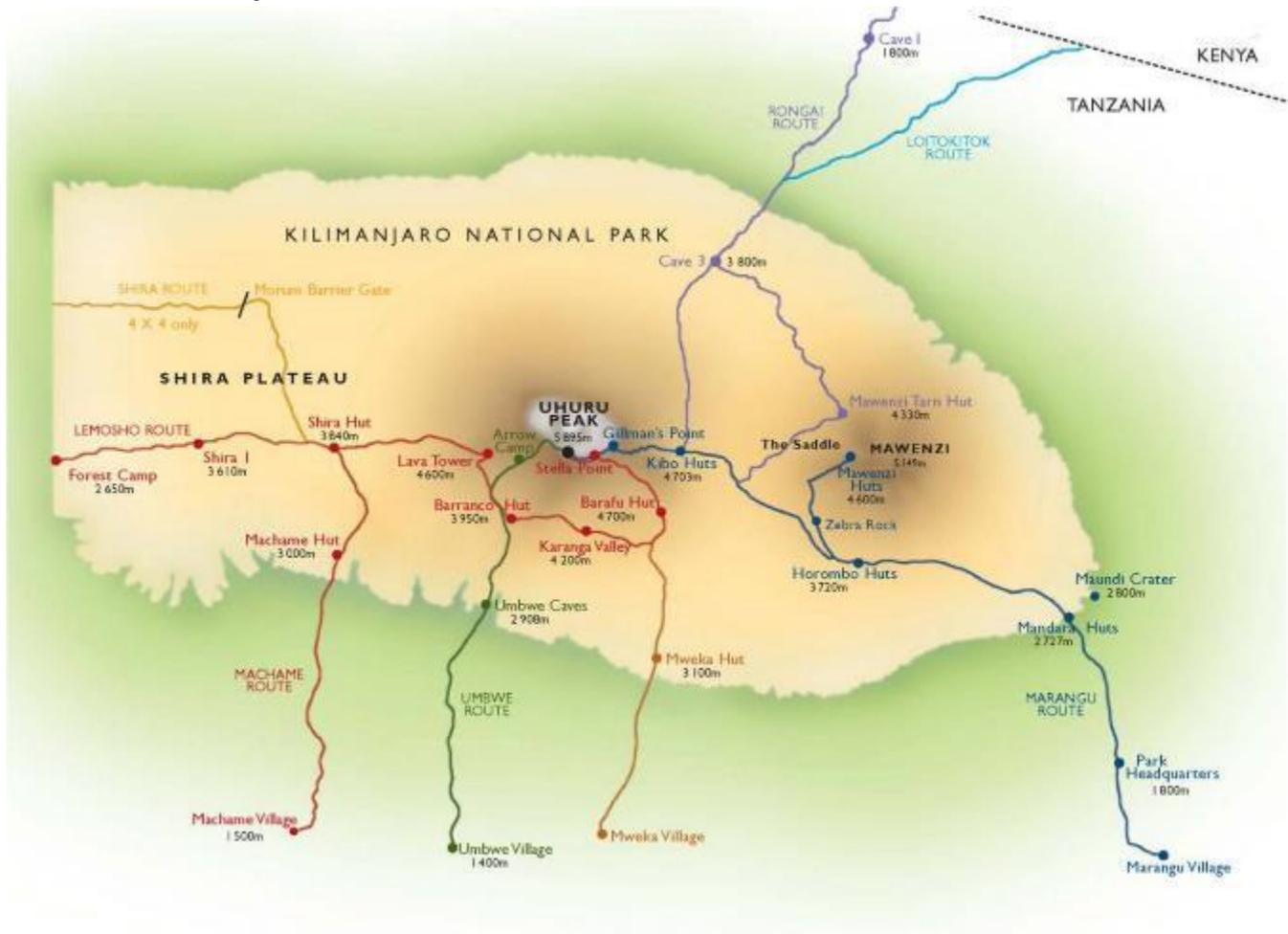
**Departs:** Daily or join a scheduled trip.

**Nearest international airport:** Kilimanjaro International Airport (JRO)

**Country:** Tanzania

**Best time to go:** January-March and the end June-October

## Detailed Itinerary:



### Day 1 – Moshi, (888 m / 2,913 ft) BB

Transfer on arrival from Kilimanjaro airport to Keys Hotel, Moshi. The Keys is a basic but comfortable hotel, with friendly staff, and is the perfect base from which to prepare for your climb. A climb briefing is scheduled for today in order to meet your guides and discuss the expedition with you in person.

Overnight **Keys Hotel** including breakfast.

**Day 2 – Umbwe Gate (1,800 m/5,905 ft) – Umbwe Camp (2,800 m/9,186 ft) FB**

*Walking distance: 8 km/4,9 miles*

*Walking time: 5-7 hours*

*Altitude gain: 1000m/ 3,281ft*

Today is the day you have prepared for and dreamt about for months, if not years. Time to tick conquering Africa's highest free standing mountain off your Bucket list. After breakfast you will be transferred to the Umbwe Gate at Kilimanjaro National Park from where your hike starts. Today's trekking pace is slow and very comfortable, ensuring you have enough time to enjoy the natural surroundings as you walk through beautiful rainforest with dense vegetation, often on a muddy trail with steep climbs. Take time for a photo and nibble on your packed lunch that we provide. The first campsite, Umbwe Camp, is positioned in a steep valley with rock overhangs between the Lonzo and Umbwe rivers.



**Day 3 – Umbwe Camp (2,800 m/9,186 ft) – Baranco Camp (3,950 m/12,960 ft) FB**

*Walking distance: 7 km/4,3 miles*

*Walking time: 4-6 hours*

*Altitude gain: 1,150 m/3,774 ft*

From Umbwe Camp the trail continues over steep terrain. The vegetation changes to increasingly sparse trees and from bushes to moorland. Views of Kibo and Uhuru peak with it's snow-capped summit become a regular sight as you near Baranco Camp. The sun paints the rocks in front of camp a dreamy red-yellow colour with the white ice of the high peaks shining bright. Looking towards the south you may see the little town of Moshi far below. You often sleep above the clouds at Barranco Camp.





**Day 4 – Barranco Camp (3,950 m/12,960 ft) - Karanga Camp (4,040 m/13,255 ft) FB**

*Walking distance: 5.8 km/3.4 miles*

*Walking time: 4-5 hours*

*Altitude gain: 90 m/295 ft*

After breakfast you cross the Great Barranco Wall, topping out at about 4 420 m before dropping to the camp at the Karanga River at about 4040 m. The hike up the Barranco Wall is steep. You pass below the famous Breach Wall, the largest ice and rock face in Africa. The Breach Wall climbing route, known as 'The Icicle', was first climbed in the early 1970's by Reinhold Messner. Daytime temperatures can reach up to 26C, while evening temperatures often drop below freezing.

**OPTIONAL EXTRA NIGHT TO DO A 7 DAY/6 NIGHT HIKE**

**Day 5 - Barranco Camp (3,950 m/12,960 ft) – Lava Tower (4,630 m/15,190 ft) – Barranco Camp (3,950 m/12,960 ft) FB**

Walk to Lava Tower today through the "Garden of the Senecios", which features many of the huge senecio plants as well as lobelia plants. Return to Barranco Camp.

Should you choose to do the Umbwe Route hike as a **6 day/5 night climb**, you will continue to Karanga Valley on day 5 and not overnight a second night at Baranco Camp.

**Day 5/6 – Karanga Camp (4,040 m/13,255 ft) - Barafu Camp (4,550 m/14,930 ft) FB**

*Walking distance: 3.5 km/ 2.2 miles*

*Walking time: 4-5 hours*

*Altitude gain: 510 m/1,675 ft*

Today's path takes you up and across a rocky zone where very little vegetation can be found on the inhospitable terrain. A field of sedimentary rocks litter the ground. You leave Karanga and hit the junction which connects with the Mweka Trail. Continue up to the Barafu Camp. At this point, you have completed the South Circuit, which offers views of the summit from many different angles. Amazing views of Kilimanjaro's two peaks, Mawenzi and Kibo, are to be seen from Barafu Camp. An early dinner will be served in order for you to get the maximum rest before the final ascent starting at around midnight.

**Day 6/7 – Barafu Camp (4,550 m/14,930 ft) - Summit via Stella Point (5,752 m/18,871 ft) to Uhuru Peak (5,895 m/19,340 ft) and descent to Millennium Camp (3,820 m/12,530 ft) or to Mweka Camp (3,100 m/10,170 ft) FB**

*Walking distance: 7 km/4.3 miles ascent + 23 km/14.2 miles descent*

*Walking time: 5-6 hrs + 1-2 hours up, 7-8 hours down (the overall walking time may vary between 10-16 hours)*

*Altitude gain: 1,202 m/3,940 ft (Stella Point) or 1,345 m/4,410 ft (Uhuru Peak)*

*Descent: 2,795 m/9,170 ft Mweka Camp*

Wake up very early to have a quick bite to eat and something warm to drink before setting out in darkness. The hike to Stella Point is a very slow steep walk on volcanic scree for about 5-6 hours. The headlamps on the trail towards the summit almost look like fireflies flying in a long row. As you approach the crater rim you will enjoy the most memorable sunrise you may ever experience – the sunrise over Africa! Often you see the curving of the earth at this high altitude and the sunrise on the horizon just accentuates it. Keep your camera ready at all times as there are plenty of photo opportunities along the summit. Once you reach Stella Point on top of the crater rim Uhuru Peak is in sight. Hike along fairly flat terrain for about 40-45 min to reach Uhuru Peak. Spend a few minutes at the top and get that photo of you next to the sign marking the summit - definitely one for your collection.



Descend from Uhuru Peak in high spirits as you have just achieved your goal. The trail down from Stella Point on the Mweka route is often enjoyed by hikers sliding down the scree slope, which entails skidding down the loose gravel with big steps and some sideways moves. Try it, it is fun! With every step going down your body enjoys having more oxygen to breathe in. Depending on how you feel, you may enjoy a short rest at Barafu Camp before descending down to Millennium Camp or Mweka Camp. Most of our expeditions overnight at Mweka Camp this evening.

**Day 7/8 – Mweka Camp (3,100 m/10,170 ft) - Mweka Gate (1,980 m/6,500 ft) BB**

*Walking distance: About 15 km, 9.3 miles Walking time: 3-4 hours*

*Descend: 1,120m/ 3,670ft*

Enjoy a slow hike through the rainforest to Mweka Gate. It is not a rare sight to spot Black and White Colobus Monkeys in the trees as well as Blue Monkeys. Take time to enjoy the lush vegetation with the Old Man's Beard (tree moss) growing on the giant trees as well as some Giant Ferns towering high over the forest bed. The path has many steps leading you down to Mweka Gate where you may find a cold beer or soft-drink to start celebrating your assault of Kilimanjaro. You will be transferred back to Moshi, Keys Hotel, to overnight and celebrate (breakfast included).





Liaise with your head guide regarding tips - we recommend an amount of USD190-USD220 per climber for a 6-day climb (based on 4 climbers in a group), which the guide will apportion out amongst the group. Whilst the above figure is anticipated for a job well done - anything above that is totally at your discretion.

In accordance with the Kilimanjaro Porters Assistance Project guidelines, we've introduced a system where every climber, on completion of the climb, completes a form with the amount that you are giving as a tip.

This evening your guides will meet you to hand out your Kilimanjaro Certificates. Option to enjoy a barbeque at the hotel to celebrate your hike (needs to be booked prior to the climb and is for own account).

### Day 8/9 – End

Transfer to Kilimanjaro International Airport for your flight home or continue on a safari/ beach holiday.

### Umbwe Route Elevation Profile



### Included in the standard land package:

- \* Pre- and post-night accommodation at Keys Hotel on a bed and breakfast basis (Umbwe route)
- \* Gear storage at Keys Hotel for duration of hike (the stuff you don't want to take on the hike)
- \* Transfers to/from Kilimanjaro National Park Gates
- \* Services of an experienced Kilimanjaro registered head guide and assistant guides during hike
- \* Porter service (hiker's baggage weight limit 12kg)
- \* Climb briefing before the hike in Moshi
- \* Guide and porter fees as stipulated by Kilimanjaro National Park
- \* National Parks Mountain rescue fees
- \* Government tourist tax
- \* Three meals per day on the trail prepared by a seasoned Kilimanjaro cook
- \* Camping equipment (alpine tents, enclosed mess tents, compressed foam sleeping mats, camping chairs, tables, cutlery and crockery)
- \* Water during the hike (boiled for consumption and washing)
- \* Portable oxygen for emergency use plus Pulse Fingertip Oximeter
- \* Detailed itinerary and Kilimanjaro hike information pack
- \* Kilimanjaro certificate issued by Kilimanjaro National Park (if you reach Stella /Gilman's Point or Uhuru Peak)

**Land only package excludes:** Return airport transfers from Kilimanjaro Airport , airfare, taxes, visa (if required), travel/medical insurance, health requirements, equipment rental, tips, drinks, all items of a personal nature and any service not specified.

**NOTE:** We will organise your airport transfers on request and can assist with booking any additional services such as a tour extension to Zanzibar, Serengeti, and gorilla trekking in Uganda/Rwanda etc., on request. We can also assist in booking your flights from South Africa or between the safari/island destinations. Enquire for options.

We offer many other fabulous safaris to this part of the world with activities ranging from walking, photography, bird-watching and spa treatments. We tailor make itineraries from camping to upmarket lodge safaris for individuals and groups.

#### **BOOKINGS AND ENQUIRIES MAY BE MADE VIA BELOW:**

##### **Websites:**

- [www.wildfrontiers.com](http://www.wildfrontiers.com)
- [www.ugandaexclusivecamps.com](http://www.ugandaexclusivecamps.com)
- [www.tanzaniawildernesscamps.com](http://www.tanzaniawildernesscamps.com)
- [www.kilimanjaromarathon.com](http://www.kilimanjaromarathon.com)
- [www.vicfallsmarathon.com](http://www.vicfallsmarathon.com)

##### **Contact:**

**Wild Frontiers PTY (LTD.) - HEAD OFFICE -  
Johannesburg**

Tel: +27 11 702 2035

Fax: +27 86 689 6159

Central Reservations: [reservations@wildfrontiers.com](mailto:reservations@wildfrontiers.com)

**Members of : Atta / AUTO / TATO**

**© Copyright WILD FRONTIERS 2019**

*Copyright and database rights protection exists in this publication and all rights are reserved. The document is furthermore provided for the information of WILD FRONTIERS' clients only. This publication or any part thereof may not be reproduced, transmitted, conveyed, communicated or used in any form or by any means, whether in whole or in part, without the prior written permission of WILD FRONTIERS.*

*All business is conducted in terms of our Standard Terms and Conditions, the full text of which is available at [www.wildfrontiers.com](http://www.wildfrontiers.com) or on request from our offices. All clients doing business with Wild Frontiers (Pty) Ltd will be deemed to have read and accepted to be bound by our Standard Terms and Conditions. **All prices are subject to change due to rate of exchange fluctuation or any unforeseen price increase. Terms & Conditions apply. E. & O.E***