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Company: Mohakin Travel  
Comfort Street  
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Nanyuki – Kenya

## Shira Route – 9 Days

 <b>People</b>	Min. 1 – max. 12
 <b>Fitness level</b>	Able to hike 10 km / 6.2 miles a time
 <b>Level of difficulty</b>	Level 4 of 6 - Relatively Hard
 <b>Meeting point</b>	We'll pick you up at Kilimanjaro International Airport. It will depend if you will spend the night at the hotel in Moshi or in Londorossi Gate. Where trekking begins the following day.
 <b>Availability</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ January through mid-March</li><li>○ Mid-June through October</li><li>○ December</li><li>○ look at our Tour Calendar on Website - mohakintravel.com</li></ul>
 <b>Duration</b>	9 days inclusive 2 days at hotel
 <b>Trek From - To</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Trek begins: Londorossi Gate</li><li>○ Trek ends: Mweka Gate</li></ul>
 <b>Max. Altitude</b>	5,895 m / 19,341 ft
 <b>Tour Start &amp; End</b>	Kilimanjaro International Airport or Hotel In Tanzania
 <b>Drive Times</b>	Drive times are estimated times. Because of the traffic, location of the accommodations, and several other factors, actual drive times may vary. Driving distances are approximate and do not account for exact places.
 <b>About your guide</b>	All of our guides have extensive experience and training, certification, and knowledge of the area and all of the routes. You'll be in great hands from top to bottom and by the end of the trip, you'll be sad to say goodbye! Depending on the number of hikers, there will be generally 1 guide for every 2 people and 3 porters per person.
 <b>Meals</b>	On all of our tours, all of our meals are freshly prepared on the mountain by our talented chef, so when we arrive to camp after a long day of hiking, we have a delicious hot meal waiting for us. Please note: we can accommodate any dietary needs, so please let us know what your meal requirements are and we will be sure to have our chef whip you up something yummy!



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## Tour Description

The Shira route is another path that approaches Kilimanjaro from the west, and it is nearly identical to the Lemosho route. In fact, Shira was the original route and Lemosho is the improved variation. While Lemosho starts at Londorossi Gate and treks through the rain forest to Shira 1 Camp, the Shira route bypasses this walk by using a vehicle to transport climbers to Shira Gate, located near the Shira Ridge. The route approaches Mount Kilimanjaro from the west, beginning with a long drive from Moshi to Shira Ridge. The vehicle bypasses the rain forest zone and the hiking trail begins on Shira Ridge. This route crosses the entire Shira Plateau from west to east in a pleasant, relatively flat hike. Then the route traverses underneath Kilimanjaro's Southern Ice Field on a path known as the Southern Circuit before summiting from Barafu. Descent is made via the Mweka route.

### Day 1 - Arrival and Airport Pickup – Kilimanjaro

- ⇒ **Elevation:** 950 m / 3,120 ft
- ⇒ **Distance:** 42.2 km / 26.2 miles
- ⇒ **Drive Time:** 1 – 1.5 hours
- ⇒ **Habitat:** Town/ Municipality / County

You will be picked up at the airport.

You will be transferred to Hotel in Nairobi where you will check-in in one of the best hotels in Nairobi Town.

Have lunch, after be ready to sort out your hiking gears to reduce chances of inconvenience.

Dinner and breakfast at the hotel.

### Day 2 - Moshi – Shira Gate – Simba Camp

- ⇒ **Elevation:** 950 m / 3,120 ft – 3,597 m / 11,800 ft – 3,597 m / 11,800 ft
- ⇒ **Distance:** 80 km / 49.7 miles (1.5 - 2 hrs drive time)
- ⇒ **Hiking Distance:** 4 km / 2.5 miles
- ⇒ **Drive Time:** 1 – 2 hours
- ⇒ **Habitat:** Heath

We depart Moshi for Londorossi Gate, which takes about 4 hours; here we will complete entry formalities while guides and porters prepare equipment. We then continue to drive up a steep path to the Shira Gate where we will begin the hike. The trek starts through shrubs and giant heather until we reach Simba Camp.



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### Day 3 - Simba Camp – Shira 2 Camp

- ⇒ **Elevation:** 3,597 m / 11,800 ft – 3,810 m / 12,500 ft
- ⇒ **Hiking Distance:** 6 km / 3.73 miles
- ⇒ **Hiking Time:** 2 hours
- ⇒ **Habitat:** Heath

Today is a fairly easy day to help with acclimatization. We begin by exploring the grassy moorland and volcanic rock formations on the plateau. Then we take a scenic path to the Shira Cathedral, a huge buttress of rock surrounded by steep spires and pinnacles, before settling at Shira 2 Camp.

### Day 4 - Shira 2 Camp – Lava Tower – Barranco Camp

- ⇒ **Elevation:** 3,810 m / 12,500 ft – 4,630 m / 15,190 ft – 3,975 m / 13,044 ft
- ⇒ **Hiking Distance:** 10 km / 6.3 miles
- ⇒ **Hiking Time:** 7 – 8 hours
- ⇒ **Habitat:** Alpine Desert

We continue to the east up a ridge and then head southeast towards the Lava Tower – a 300 ft tall volcanic rock formation. We descend down to Barranco Camp through the strange but beautiful Senecio Forest to an altitude of 13,000 ft. Although you begin and end the day at the same elevation, the time spent at higher altitude is very beneficial for acclimatization.

### Day 5 - Barranco Camp – Karanga Camp

- ⇒ **Elevation:** 3,975 m / 13,044 ft – 3,995 m / 13,106 ft
- ⇒ **Hiking Distance:** 5 km / 3.12 miles
- ⇒ **Hiking Time:** 4 – 5 hours
- ⇒ **Habitat:** Alpine desert

We begin the day by descending into a ravine to the base of the Great Barranco Wall. Then we climb the non-technical but steep, nearly 900 ft cliff. From the top of the Barranco Wall we cross a series of hills and valleys until we descend sharply into Karanga Valley. One more steep climb up leads us to Karanga Camp. This is a shorter day meant for acclimatization.



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## Day 6 - Karanga Camp – Barafu Camp

- ⇒ **Elevation:** 3,995 m / 13,106 ft – 4,673 m / 15,331 ft
- ⇒ **Hiking Distance:** 4 km / 2.5 miles
- ⇒ **Hiking Time:** 4 – 5 hours
- ⇒ **Habitat:** Alpine desert

We leave Karanga and hit the junction which connects with the Mweka Trail. We continue up to the rocky section to Barafu Hut. At this point, you have completed the Southern Circuit, which offers views of the summit from many different angles. Here we make camp, rest and enjoy an early dinner to prepare for the summit day. The two peaks of Mawenzi and Kibo are viewable from this position.

## Day 7 - Barafu Camp – Uhuru Peak – Mweka Camp

- ⇒ **Elevation:** 4,673 m / 15,331 ft – 5,895 m / 19,341 ft – 3,067 m / 10,065 ft
- ⇒ **Hiking Distance:** 17 km / 10.6 miles
- ⇒ **Hiking Time:** 12 – 13 hours
- ⇒ **Habitat:** Arctic and Rain Forest

Very early in the morning (around midnight), we begin our push to the summit. This is the most mentally and physically challenging portion of the trek. The wind and cold at this elevation and time of day can be extreme. We ascend in the darkness for several hours while taking frequent, but short, breaks. Near Stella Point (18,900 ft), you will be rewarded with the most magnificent sunrise you are ever likely to see coming over Mawenzi Peak. Finally, we arrive at Uhuru Peak- the highest point on Mount Kilimanjaro and the continent of Africa. From the summit, we now make our descent continuing straight down to the Mweka Hut camp site, stopping at Barafu for lunch. The trail is very rocky and can be quite hard on the knees; trekking poles are helpful. 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.

## Day 8 - Mweka Camp – Mweka Gate – Moshi

- ⇒ **Elevation:** 3,067 m / 10,065 ft – 1,639 m / 5,380 ft – 950 m / 3,120 ft
- ⇒ **Hiking Distance:** 10 km / 6.3 miles
- ⇒ **Hiking Time:** 3 – 4 hours
- ⇒ **Driving Distance / Time:** 25 km / 16 miles (1 hrs drive)
- ⇒ **Habitat:** Rain forest

On our last day, we continue the descent to Mweka Gate and collect the summit certificates. At lower elevations, it can be wet and muddy. From the gate, we continue another hour to Mweka Village. A vehicle will meet us at Mweka Village to drive us back to the hotel in Moshi.



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## Day 9 - Exiting Moshi hotel to Kilimanjaro Airport or for further safari

- ⇒ **Elevation:** 950 m / 3,120 ft
- ⇒ **Distance:** 422 km / 262 miles
- ⇒ **Drive Time:** 1 – 1.5 hours
- ⇒ **Habitat:** Town / Municipality

After Break First Check and make sure as you leave the hotel that everything is in good condition and intact. Get ready to be driven back to the Airport or embark on other safaris in Tanzania or Kenya with an unforgettable safari experience with us.

## Important Details

### Gear list

#### Bags

- 65-75 liter rucksack (for a porter to carry your main gear) with cover
- 35-45 liter day sack (for you to carry each day)
- Dry bags of different sizes for clothes, sleeping bag and so on.

#### Shell

- Waterproof jacket and trousers
- Waterproof gaiters
- Umbrella (optional)

#### Warmth

- Warm jacket – could be fleece or down jacket, potentially ski jacket. Make sure you can put the waterproof jacket over the top.
- 2 or 3 Fleece tops or hiking shirts/sweatshirts
- 2 or 3 base layers or T-shirts
- Pair of trekking trousers and shorts
- Leggings or thermal bottoms or running tights
- Several sets of underwear – cotton best avoided. Sports bras and cycling shorts are good.

#### Extremities

- Warm hat and a buff or scarf
- Sun hat
- Warm gloves or mitts, and thin liner gloves are also useful

#### Feet

- Several pairs of good quality trekking socks
- Waterproof trekking boots
- Trainers or flip flops/sandals

#### Sleeping

- 3-4 season sleeping bag (comfort -5degC or lower)
- Sleeping bag liner cotton/fleece/silk (optional)
- Stuff sack for sleeping bag
- Thick foam mat or self-inflating mat (like a Thermo-A-Rest)

#### Personal

- Sunglasses
- Walking Poles
- Some favorite snack bars



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- Head torch
- Power pack for charging phones etc
- Wash kit – no showers on the mountain but you can have a bucket wash
- Papers – passport, money, insurance
- 2 water bottles
- Flask for hot drinks – useful on summit night
- Earplugs
- Wet wipes, tissues
- Anti-bacterial hand gel

#### First AID suggestions

- Paracetamol – temperature, colds
- Painkiller – headaches, very good for altitude related symptoms
- Antiseptic wipes and a few plasters and tape, antiseptic cream
- Blister Plasters
- Oral rehydration Sachets
- Sunblock and lip salve
- Knee/Ankle Support
- Personal Medications eg anti-malaria tablets, inhalers, anti-histamine

## Included in the price

- ✓ Full organization of Mohakin Travel from / to Nairobi Airport
- ✓ Airport pick-up and drop-off
- ✓ All transfers, excursions and sightseeing according to the program
- ✓ Full board during the trekking tour / climbing tour / safari
- ✓ Boiled water, black tea, coffee and powdered milk for the ascents
- ✓ Transportation to and from the hotel and trailhead
- ✓ Accommodation in Mountain Tents (2-man tent, 4-season tent, mess tent, kitchen tent, chairs and tables)
- ✓ Sleeping mat
- ✓ Support team (certified guides, porters, and cooks)
- ✓ Guides, cook and porters and their payment
- ✓ Experienced English speaking Kenyan guide
- ✓ All park and camp fees for the tour
- ✓ Preparatory talk on the phone (WhatsApp)

## NOT Included in the price

- ✗ International flights
- ✗ Visa
- ✗ Tips for the support team
- ✗ Sleeping bags and other personal gear
- ✗ Rental gear
- ✗ Lunch and dinner at the hotel
- ✗ Single supplement in Hotel
- ✗ Drinks and snacks
- ✗ You must have your own Personal insurance - also in the case of emergency, we can organize for the airlifting
- ✗ Climbing Guide (only for Batian & Nelion Peak) which is 500 \$ for whole climbing process
- ✗ Climbing equipment (only for Batian & Nelion Peak), which is 50 \$ per person



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## Terms and Conditions

*Reservations:* A deposit of 35% is required at the time of booking and the balance at least before the tour begins or full payment/part payment before treks or safaris arranged on short notice. Although special payment can be made direct with the office.

*Cancellation:* Any monies paid will be refunded less 35% of the cost and any cost levied by hotels or any additional food expenses. Rates: Includes all expenses in respect of vehicles or drives as per itinerary/general information. Also includes meals on safari and entrance fees to National parks/Game reserves.

*Transportation:* Cars, minibuses, 4WD's, coaches or trucks will be provided according to the route and number of clients. The right is reserved to employ the services of sub-contractors as appropriate. English speaking driver/guide are provided.

*Accommodation:* Where possible rooms with a private shower are provided. Single rooms are available at an additional cost but cannot be guaranteed. Hotels/lodges are named as an indication of category and room may be reserved at similar hotels and lodges. Accommodation is specific to client's requirements as budget class, middle class and luxury class is available as per accommodation information.

*Alteration to Tours/treks:* We reserve the right to alter arrangement or cancel the operation of scheduled trek/safari should the circumstance necessitate. We also reserve the right to decline or accept or retain any person as a member of any tour at any time, in which case an equitable amount will be refunded. Prices are based on tariffs and other costs prevailing at the time of printing and are subject to change without notice, but a full explanation will be given.

*Liability:* We do not accept responsibility for personal injury, accident, loss whilst clients are on treks/safari and advise all clients to take out separate insurance cover. Mohakin Travel act only as agents when employing the use of sub-contractors and act as only agents of the passenger/client in all matters relating to Hotel/Lodge Accommodation, tours, transport, etc. and shall not be liable for injury, delay, loss or damage in any manner. The company's liability to passengers carried in its own vehicle is governed by the laws of the country in which the tour takes place and no other country. All claims are subject to jurisdiction of the courts of the country in which the action arises. The company reserves the rights to employ sub-contractors for all parts services.

*NOTE:* All expeditions involve an element of personal risk and times can be hazardous nature, Expedition members must accept this risk, we are not liable for any loss, damage, injury, expense, delay or inconvenience caused to your baggage as a result, whether directly or indirectly, or any matter or whatever nature which is outside our control. All participants are advised to take out an insurance policy to cover personal accidents and medical expenses. We can arrange this at low cost. The guide reserves the right to withdraw participants from treks, safari due to inclement weather, irresponsible behaviors, poor health or any other sound reason the guide gives.

## Quality Guarantee

Mohakin Travel clients can expect the following guarantees to ensure proper service:

- Your guide will introduce himself and your driver, and cover the laid out tour/safari itinerary in advance.
- We will double-check that all gear and supplies are prepared for your custom tour/safari.
- During the tour/safari, we will ensure that your needs are met and you are well cared for.
- We will address any issues that arise out of our control, to give our clients the smoothest and most enjoyable adventure possible.
- We will ensure the drivers /sub-contractors are on time and presentable.
- We will give information about surrounding areas and points of interest.
- Each day, we set time aside to let our clients know what is happening for that day.
- At the end of your tour/safari, we will ask for your feedback to ensure the quality of our service.



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## Health and Safety

Mountains in the world can sometimes be dangerous and hazardous – especially in high altitude. It is therefore important to:

1. Be well equipped
2. Let your expedition leader know your health history
3. Have good communication system
4. Have good basic first aid kit and know how to use it
5. Be able to identify mountain illnesses.

### HOW TO RECOGNISE ALTITUDE RELATED ILLNESS

At high altitudes the amount of oxygen decreases dramatically. This can result in medical urgency that must be a concern to every hiker.

#### **AMS** (Acute Mountain Sickness)

Signs include: Headache, nausea, fatigue, malaise, loss of appetite and difficulty in sleeping.

##### *Treatment*

Slow down, stay in camps, drink water and rest while the body adjusts to the altitude. If symptoms persist after 48 hours descend.

#### **HAPE** (High Altitude Pulmonary Aedema)

Symptoms include: Shortened breath during exercise progressing to shortened breath while resting, a dry cough deteriorating to a frothy sputum, audible gurgling (rales) from the chest area, increased heart and breathing rate.

##### *Treatment*

Descend immediately and seek medical attention. Descending is the treatment. It can progress quickly to a point where the patient cannot walk. It doesn't improve with rest at the same altitude.

#### **HACE** (High Altitude Cerebral Aedema)

Symptoms include:- Ams that progress to severe headaches, loss of co-ordination, slurred speech, irrational behaviour, coma and death.

##### *Treatment*

Descend immediately, Hace can quickly progress to lethal stage.

#### Prevention of AMS, HAPE and HACE

Allow 2 nights at 10,000ft or at higher nuts at around 14,000ft Before proceeding higher, increase fluid intake to 4-6 liters per day. Avoid extreme physical exertion and eat a light diet rich in carbohydrates. Take symptoms seriously. Rest and acclimatize if Ams is suspected. Report to ranger rescues station and descend immediately if Hape or Hace is suspected.

However it is important to drink plenty of water slowly to allow your body get used to the altitude.