

Kilimanjaro Route Comparison Cheat Sheet

Compare all 7 Kilimanjaro routes before you book.

Prepared by Senior Mountain Guide Sabinus Msimba — 22 years guiding on Kilimanjaro, 300+ summit ascents, KINAPA-licensed mountain guide. Kilimania Adventure is a TATO-registered operator based in Moshi, Tanzania.

✓ Updated for 2026 park regulations



Kilimania climbers and guides at the Uhuru Peak summit sign, 5,895m — Africa's highest point.

ROUTE COMPARISON — ALL 7 KILIMANJARO ROUTES

Route	Days	Difficulty	Scenery	Crowds	Best for	Kilimania pick
Lemosho	8	Moderate	★★★★★	Low	First-timers, photographers	✓ Recommended
Northern Circuit	9	Moderate–Hard	★★★★★	Very low	Maximum scenery, solitude	✓ Recommended
Machame	7	Moderate–Hard	★★★★☆	High	Scenic climbers, limited time	—
Rongai	6	Moderate	★★★☆☆	Low	Rainy-season climbs	—
Shira	7	Hard	★★★★☆	Low	Experienced climbers	—
Umbwe	6	Very hard	★★★★☆	Very low	Experienced mountaineers only	—
Marangu	5	Moderate	★★★☆☆	High	Budget climbers, hut stays	—

Difficulty, scenery, and crowd ratings reflect Kilimania guide observations across 1,247+ guided expeditions, 2019–2026. These are operational assessments, not official TANAPA/KINAPA statistics.

Kilimania's honest recommendation

For most first-time climbers, we recommend the 8-day Lemosho route. It offers the best balance of scenery, acclimatization time, and overall mountain experience of any route we operate.



The acclimatization principle: longer itineraries give your body more time to adjust to altitude. Kilimania does not publish per-route summit percentages — outcomes depend heavily on individual fitness and pacing, not route choice alone. As a general pattern, routes with more acclimatization days tend to see better outcomes than the shortest ones.

WHY ROUTE CHOICE MATTERS

“After 22 years on Kilimanjaro and 300+ summits, I’ve learned one thing: the route you choose changes the whole experience. Lemosho gives you time to acclimatize properly. Marangu gets you up the mountain fast, but climbers who rush often feel it on summit night. My advice: take the extra days. The mountain rewards patience.”

— **Sabinus Msimba**, Senior Mountain Guide, Kilimania Adventure
KINAPA-licensed • 22 years guiding • 300+ summit ascents • 1,247+ guided expeditions



Kilimania climbers above the cloud line near the summit zone.

KINAPA
Licensed guides

TATO
Registered operator

UNESCO
World Heritage Site

WFR
Certified guide

Official Kilimanjaro park fees and data source

Kilimanjaro National Park fees are set and published by the Kilimanjaro National Park Authority (KINAPA), under Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA). Published 2026 rates: **\$70 per day** (adult) and **\$25 per day** (child under 16), plus route-specific camping or hut fees.

Verify current published rates at tanzaniaparks.go.tz before booking. Park fees are set by the Tanzanian government and can change without notice.

Not sure which route fits you? Message Sabinus and the Kilimania team directly — tell us your fitness level, dates, and budget, and we'll recommend the route that fits.

Kilimania Adventure

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Daily departures from:

Kilimanjaro International Airport (JRO)
Arusha Airport (ARK)



Route information reflects Kilimania Adventure guide observations and operational records, 2019–2026. Climbers should compare advice from multiple TATO-registered operators before booking. This document is educational and does not guarantee any specific outcome on the mountain.