

KILIMANIA ADVENTURE · MOSHI, TANZANIA

Kilimanjaro Packing Checklist

2026–2027 · with Kilimania Gear Rental Prices

Prepared by Sabinus Msimba, Senior Kilimanjaro Guide
22 years on the mountain · 300+ Uhuru Peak summits

Safety gear | Layering | Bags | Health kit | Power | Rent or bring | Gear prices

BEFORE YOU PACK

How this checklist works

This is not a generic travel list put together from blogs. Every item comes from real experience guiding on Mount Kilimanjaro:

- Gear checks we carry out with climbers before departure on Machame, Lemosho, Marangu and other routes
- The **20 kg porter load limit** set by Kilimanjaro National Park, built into every bring-or-rent recommendation
- Summit-night conditions at Barafu Camp (4,673 m), where temperatures commonly fall to **–12°C to –15°C**
- What breaks, what freezes and what causes turnarounds, seen over more than 300 summits

Important

Items in the **essential safety** section are safety-critical above 4,000 m. They are not comfort preferences.

How to use it: tick each box as you pack. The sections follow the order most climbers find easiest: safety gear first, then clothing, bags, health, electronics, rent-or-bring decisions and route notes. A final pre-departure check and our **full gear rental price list** are at the end.

Not sure what to bring or rent?

Tell us your route and dates and we will tell you exactly what to rent and what to bring from home.
WhatsApp: +255 756 449 990 · **Email:** info@kilimania.co.tz

CORE SAFETY

Essential mountain safety items

A. Sleep system

☐ Sleeping bag, –15°C **comfort** rating
Comfort rating, not the limit rating.

☐ Sleeping bag liner

B. Footwear

☐ Hiking boots, broken in
At least 8 hours of real walking before the climb.

☐ Camp shoes or sandals

☐ Gaiters

C. Lighting

☐ Head torch with fresh batteries
Plus a full spare set. Test it the night before departure.

D. Hydration

☐ 2 × 1 litre water bottles
Not disposable plastic bottles. Single-use plastics are banned in the national park.

☐ Insulated bottle sleeves

❄ Summit-night warning

Hydration bladders freeze above 5,000 m on summit night. The hose freezes first, then the bag. Use wide-mouth bottles in insulated sleeves for the summit push.

Why these items are non-negotiable

These are the items our guides check before any climber leaves the gate. A missing or inadequate item here is a more common reason for a hard summit night than fitness or altitude tolerance.

CLOTHING

The Kilimanjaro layering system

Four layers, one system. Each layer has one job, and if you remove one the whole system stops working.

Layer	Job	Temperature zone
Base	Moves sweat away from your skin	18 to 25°C
Mid	Traps warm air	0 to 10°C
Outer	Blocks wind and rain	0 to –5°C
Summit	Insulates and protects together	–5 to –15°C

Base layer

- ☐ Moisture-wicking tops (2–3)
- ☐ Thermal underwear / wicking layers (5–6 sets)
- ☐ Wool or synthetic hiking socks (5–6 pairs)

Mid layer

- ☐ Fleece jacket or warm mid-layer
- ☐ Thermal leggings (2 pairs)
- ☐ Warm hat
- ☐ Neck gaiter or buff

Outer layer

- ☐ Waterproof hardshell jacket
- ☐ Waterproof over-trousers

Summit layer: critical

- ☐ Insulated down or synthetic jacket (–15°C rated)
- ☐ Insulated, waterproof gloves
  Not touch-screen gloves.
- ☐ Balaclava

Guide insight

Cotton holds moisture and increases the risk of hypothermia at altitude. Use synthetic or merino wool only in your base and mid layers, never cotton.

BAG LOGISTICS

How your bag system works

YOU CARRY

Daypack · 20–35 litres

- ☐ Water
- ☐ Snacks
- ☐ Jacket layers
- ☐ Camera
- ☐ Rain protection
- ☐ Personal medication

PORTER CARRIES

Duffel bag · about 15 kg of your gear

- ☐ Duffel bag (80–100 litres)
- ☐ Sleeping system
- ☐ Clothing
- ☐ Extra gear

Porter welfare: the 20 kg limit

Kilimanjaro National Park limits each porter's load to **20 kg**. That includes the porter's own share of camp equipment, so please keep your duffel to **about 15 kg**. Kilimania follows KPAP porter welfare standards.

Every kilogram over the limit means a heavier load for a person working at altitude, or an extra porter to share it. Your packing choices directly affect someone else's working day.

WELLBEING ON THE MOUNTAIN

Altitude safety and health kit

- ☐ Personal prescription medication
  Bring a full supply plus a few spare days.
- ☐ Diamox (acetazolamide)
  Prescription medicine. Discuss it with your own doctor before you travel.
- ☐ Ibuprofen or paracetamol
  The most commonly used medicine on the mountain.
- ☐ Sunscreen SPF 50+
  UV exposure rises by roughly 10% for every 1,000 m you climb.
- ☐ Lip balm with SPF
- ☐ UV400 sunglasses
  Wraparound, glacier-style protection is best for the summit.
- ☐ Blister kit
  Compeed or moleskin, antiseptic and tape. The most-used first-aid item on Kilimanjaro.
- ☐ Wet wipes (2–3 packs)
  Your shower substitute on the mountain.
- ☐ Hand sanitiser
  Use it before meals and after the toilet.

Guide insight

Mild altitude headaches are common and usually manageable. Not drinking enough is the most common avoidable problem we see. Drink steadily through the day, not only when you feel thirsty. Always tell your guide how you feel.

POWER ON THE MOUNTAIN

Electronics that actually work up there

- ☐ Head torch
  Fresh batteries plus a full spare set. Non-negotiable.
- ☐ Power bank, at least 20,000 mAh
  There is no electricity at any camp on any route.
- ☐ Phone
  Network signal is patchy and only available at some camps. Download maps and music before you go.
- ☐ Camera
  Bring a spare battery and keep it warm, close to your body, on summit night.
- ☐ Charging cables
  Bring a spare if you can.

❄ Cold drains batteries

Cold can cut battery capacity sharply above 4,000 m. Keep your power bank, phone and spare batteries inside your sleeping bag at night. For head torches, lithium batteries work best in extreme cold.

DECISION GUIDE

What to rent in Moshi and what to bring

Item	Our recommendation	Kilimania rental
Sleeping bag (–15°C)	Rent if this is your first climb	$50
Down / summit jacket	Rent	$30
Trekking poles	Rent, or bring a set you know	$15
Sleeping bag liner	Rent or bring	$15
Duffel bag	Rent	$40
Gaiters	Rent	$10
Waterproof jacket / trousers	Bring if you own them; rent if not	$20 each
Fleece jacket	Bring if you own one; rent if not	$10
Thick or waterproof gloves	Rent or bring	$10
Neck gaiter / buff	Rent or bring	$5
Camp shoes / sandals	Bring if you can; rent if not	$15
Insulated bottle sleeve	Rent or bring	$10
Balaclava / wool hat	Rent or bring	$5
Head torch	Bring your own if possible; rent as back-up	$15
Hiking boots	Bring your own, well broken in	$30 (only if needed)

The best strategy

→ **Bring from home:** boots, socks and base layers. Fit and comfort matter most here.
→ **Rent in Moshi:** bulky warm gear like the sleeping bag and summit jacket. It saves money and airline baggage weight.

The full Kilimania gear rental price list is on the last page.

SMART PLANNING

Does your route change what you pack?

The checklist applies to every route. A few differences are worth knowing:

Route	Duration	Packing note
Machame	6–7 days	Wet rainforest start. Waterproofs are used from day one.
Lemosho	7–8 days	Longer route. Pack extra base layers and more layering flexibility.
Rongai	6–7 days	Drier northern start. Less rain gear needed early on.
Northern Circuit	9 days	Longest route. Bring extra socks and hygiene items.
Marangu	5–6 days	Hut accommodation. No sleeping mat needed; camp shoes matter more.

READY TO GO

Final pre-departure check

- ☐ All essential gear packed and ticked off on this checklist
- ☐ Duffel bag weighed: about 15 kg or less
- ☐ Boots broken in with at least 8 hours of walking
- ☐ Travel insurance covers trekking to 6,000 m, emergency medical treatment and helicopter evacuation
- ☐ Rental gear requested from Kilimania, with your sizes

Ready to confirm your gear?

Send us your route, dates and sizes. We will confirm what to rent and reserve it for you.

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Moshi, Kilimanjaro Region, Tanzania · We reply within 12 hours, 7 days a week

We Walk With You.

Sabinus Msimba & the Kilimania guide team

KILIMANIA GEAR RENTAL

Gear rental price list

Prices in US dollars, per item, for the full climb. Rent only what you need and pay only for what you use.

SLEEPING & BAGS	USD
Sleeping bag	$50
Sleeping bag liner	$15
Duffel bag	$40
Day pack (small)	$30

JACKETS & LAYERS	USD
Down jacket	$30
Fleece jacket	$10
Waterproof jacket	$20
Rain coat	$20
Poncho	$15
Thermal top	$10
T-shirt	$10

TROUSERS	USD
Rain trousers	$20
Warm trousers	$20
Fleece trousers	$10
Thermal underwear (bottoms)	$10

HANDS, HEAD & FEET	USD
Hiking boots	$30
Camp shoes / sandals	$15
Thick (warm) gloves	$10
Waterproof gloves	$10
Liner gloves	$5
Gaiters	$10
Sun / shade hat	$10
Warm hat	$5
Wool hat or balaclava	$5
Neck gaiter / buff	$5
Scarf	$5
Socks (thin & thick pair)	$5

EQUIPMENT	USD
Walking sticks (trekking poles)	$15
Head torch	$15
Sunglasses	$15
Water bottle	$5
Insulated bottle sleeve	$10

How renting works

1. Request when you book, with your sizes, so we can reserve your items. **2. Collect in Moshi** at your pre-climb briefing, where the gear is checked with you. **3. Return it** when you come down from the mountain.

All prices are in US dollars, per item, for the full climb. Rental items are subject to availability.