Williamson Adventures

Explore with Elegance

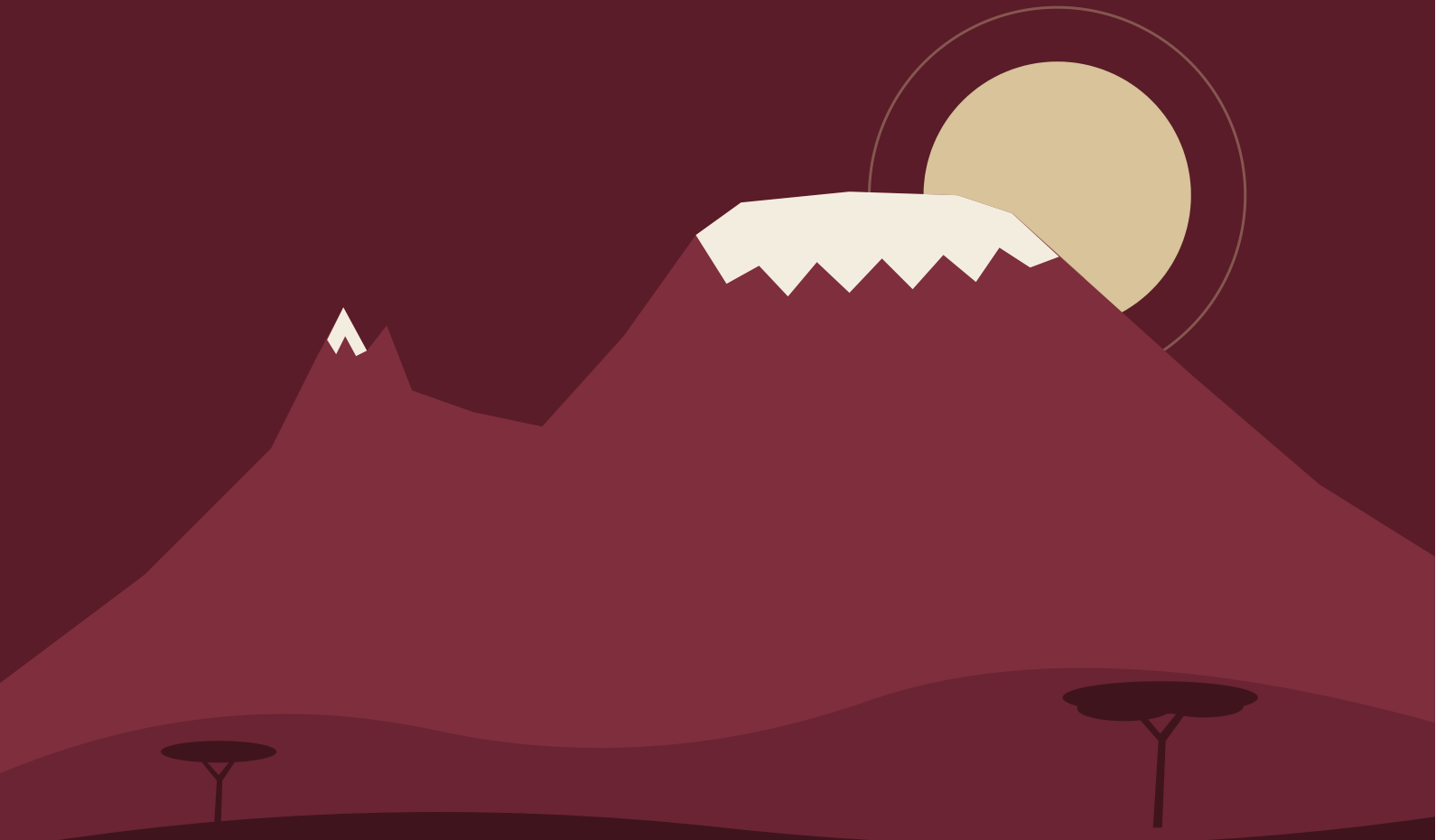
MOUNT KILIMANJARO
TANZANIA

THE ESSENTIAL GEAR GUIDE

Kilimanjaro

Packing List

Expert-curated gear for every route to Uhuru Peak, 5,895 m.
Most technical gear can be rented in Moshi.



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01 · INTRODUCTION

Prepare for the roof of Africa

Kilimanjaro takes you from farmland and rainforest to arctic summit ice in a single climb. This list, curated by our Moshi team, covers what you need to stay comfortable, safe and ready for summit night, whichever route you choose.

Tick as you pack

Every item has a checkbox. Print this guide and work through it the week before you fly.

Rent in Moshi

Most technical gear can be rented locally. Ask us before you buy anything for a single climb.

Pack to 15 kg

Porters carry your duffel between camps, up to a 15 kg maximum. You carry only your daypack.

Five climate zones, one climb

Why layering matters: what to wear as you go higher.

Arctic summit 5,000–5,895 m	Every layer + down jacket
Alpine desert 4,000–5,000 m	Fleece, shell, hat & gloves
Heath & moorland 2,800–4,000 m	Base layer + fleece
Rainforest 1,800–2,800 m	T-shirt, rain shell to hand
Cultivation 800–1,800 m	Light trekking clothes

Routes to the Summit

Six routes lead to Uhuru Peak. The kit in this guide works for all of them.

Lemosho

7–8 days

A remote, scenic western approach with a gradual ascent.

Acclimatisation	Crowds
●●● Excellent	●●○ Moderate

Machame

6–7 days

The most popular route, steep and richly scenic.

Acclimatisation	Crowds
●●○ Good	●●● Busy

Northern Circuit

8–9 days

The longest route, circling the quiet northern slopes.

Acclimatisation	Crowds
●●● Excellent	●○○ Quiet

Rongai

6–7 days

The only route that approaches from the north; drier slopes.

Acclimatisation	Crowds
●●○ Good	●○○ Quiet

Marangu

5–6 days

Hut accommodation, with the same path up and down.

Acclimatisation	Crowds
●○○ Fair	●●● Busy

Umbwe

6–7 days

The steepest, most direct line, for experienced trekkers.

Acclimatisation	Crowds
●○○ Fair	●○○ Quiet

Our advice: choose seven days or more where you can. Extra days on the mountain give your body time to adjust to altitude before summit night.

Clothing & Footwear

Dress in layers you can add and remove as the temperature swings from tropical to sub-zero.

1
Base layer
Wicks sweat away from your skin

2
Mid layer
Fleece or soft-shell traps warmth

3
Insulation
Down or synthetic for summit night

4
Hard shell
Blocks wind, rain and snow

Clothing — layering system

13 ITEMS

- [ ] 2–3 moisture-wicking base layer tops (long sleeve)
- [ ] 2 base layer bottoms (thermal)
- [ ] 1 insulated jacket (down or synthetic, summit night)
- [ ] 1 fleece or soft-shell mid layer
- [ ] 1 waterproof / windproof hard-shell jacket with hood
- [ ] 1 pair waterproof over-trousers
- [ ] 2 pairs hiking trousers (1 convertible)
- [ ] 3–4 hiking t-shirts
- [ ] Warm hat / beanie and sun hat with brim
- [ ] Buff or neck gaiter
- [ ] Inner gloves plus insulated waterproof outer gloves
- [ ] 4–5 pairs hiking socks + 1 thick summit pair
- [ ] Underwear and sports bras (5 sets)

Footwear

- [ ] Waterproof, broken-in hiking boots with ankle support
- [ ] Camp shoes or trainers
- [ ] Gaiters (dust and scree protection)

SUMMIT-NIGHT TIP

Wear all four layers

Summit night is the coldest part of the climb. Start fully layered, and keep your thick socks and outer gloves dry until then.

Camp, Packs & Trekking Kit

Warm nights, dry kit and steady footing: the gear that keeps you going day after day.

Sleeping & camp

- [ ] Four-season sleeping bag rated to –10 °C / 14 °F or lower
- [ ] Sleeping bag liner (adds warmth)
- [ ] Inflatable pillow (optional)
- [ ] Headtorch with spare batteries

Packs

- [ ] Duffel bag, 70–90 L (carried by porters, max 15 kg)
- [ ] Daypack 30–35 L with rain cover
- [ ] Dry bags or heavy-duty bin liners to waterproof kit

Trekking equipment

- [ ] Adjustable trekking poles (highly recommended)
- [ ] 2× 1 L water bottles plus 2–3 L hydration bladder
- [ ] Insulated bottle cover (water freezes on summit night)
- [ ] Sunglasses, category 4 or glacier glasses

Health & toiletries

- [ ] High-factor sunscreen (SPF 50) and SPF lip balm
- [ ] Personal medication + Diamox (consult your doctor)
- [ ] Basic first aid: blister plasters, painkillers, rehydration salts
- [ ] Wet wipes, hand sanitiser, quick-dry towel
- [ ] Toothbrush, toothpaste, biodegradable soap
- [ ] Toilet paper and small zip bags for waste

What goes where

Duffel · porters carry

Sleeping bag, spare clothes, toiletries and camp shoes. Max 15 kg.

Daypack · you carry

Water, rain shell, a warm layer, snacks, sunscreen and camera.

Documents, Extras & Rentals

The paperwork and small comforts that are easy to forget, and the big items you don't need to own.

Documents & extras

7 ITEMS

- [ ] Passport (6 months validity) and visa
- [ ] Yellow fever certificate if arriving from an endemic country
- [ ] Power bank, chargers and universal adaptor
- [ ] Camera, spare batteries (cold drains them fast)
- [ ] Travel and evacuation insurance covering 6,000 m
- [ ] Cash in USD for tips and extras
- [ ] Snacks, energy bars and electrolyte tablets

Rent it in Moshi

Most technical gear can be hired locally. Commonly rented items:

- Four-season sleeping bag
- Insulated jacket
- Trekking poles
- Gaiters
- Waterproof over-trousers
- Duffel bag

PACK WISELY · CLIMB WELL

Questions about gear?

Our Moshi team will advise on rentals and summit-night kit.

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