

Usambara Mountain Magic!



- Price
- Duration
- Best months
- Why this trip?

Number of People	2	3	4	5	6+
2024/2025 US	\$2,425	\$1,850	\$1,585	\$1,525	\$1,475

per person, double occupancy (single supplement US \$275)

7 days / 6 nights (4 days cycling)

Not recommended in April and May

For those looking for a true back roads cycling experience with rewarding vistas, downhills, and friendly people at every turn.

Highlights

- Travel from the northwest edge of the Usambara range to its southeast corner and down to the ocean
- Discover a part of Tanzania few tourists ever see
- Perfect mode of travel to experience the sights and sounds of life
- Ride 40 to 80 km per day almost exclusively on dirt roads and footpaths
- Beach bungalow resort for the final two nights

Itinerary Overview

Day 1: Kilimanjaro to Mambo Village (drive). Mambo View Point EcoLodge.

Day 2: Mambo Village to Mkuzi Village. Biking distance: 37mi / 61km.

Day 3: Mkuzi Village to Kizara Village (includes drive segment). Biking distance: 26mi / 42km.

Day 4: Kizara Village to Amani Nature Reserve. Biking distance: 23mi / 38km.

Day 5: Amani Nature Reserve to Pangani. Capricorn Beach Cottages. Biking distance: 48mi / 78km.

Day 6: Pangani. Capricorn Beach Cottages.

Day 7: Pangani to Kilimanjaro (drive). Departure.

Detailed Itinerary

Day 1: Kilimanjaro to Mambo Village

Drive from Kilimanjaro to the edge of the Usambara Mountains, which offer wide vistas, a cool climate, winding paths, and picturesque villages. Optional 4-hour hike from the base of the escarpment to the ridgeline, where Mambo View Point EcoLodge sits at an altitude of 1,900 meters. Breathtaking views of the Pare Mountains, Mkomazi National Park, and Mount Kilimanjaro.

Overnight: Mambo View Point EcoLodge.

Meals: L,D.

Approx. drive time: 4 hours

Day 2: Mambo Village to Mkuzi Village

Today's ride takes us through multiple lush valleys and small villages into Shume, a former German colonial outpost where many of the early settlers' buildings are still in use. Outside of Shume we have long ascents across two forested mountain ridges followed by a long descent into a densely settled valley.

Overnight: Muller's Mountain Camp.

Meals: B,L,D.

Biking distance: 37mi / 61km.

Day 3: Mkuzi Village to Kizara Village

Start with a climb up a steep dirt track into the forest, eventually opening up to stunning views in all directions. From there we have a long descent through villages nestled on the mountain slope. We continue over ridges with gentle drops to the fertile valleys below, and one long 5.5km uphill hugging a mountainside. The day's ride ends at Bumbuli (42 km.) or 15 kilometers farther at Funta. Load the bikes onto the trailer and drive 50 kilometers across the hot and dry Lwengera Valley. Camp is at the road's end on the edge of the Nilo Nature Reserve.

Overnight: Nilo Nature Reserve Camp.

Meals: B,L,D.

Biking distance: 26mi / 42km.

Day 4: Kizara Village to Amani Nature Reserve

The first several kilometers are on a dirt track through the dense forest of the Nilo Nature Reserve before opening out to views of the eastern Usambaras and a series of small villages along a mountain ridge. We ride this ridge as we pass between villages, forests, and numerous tea plantations, strategically sited on steep mountain slopes. After a long downhill enter Amani Nature Reserve and the final kilometers uphill to our Emau Hill Camp.

Overnight: Emau Hill Forest Camp.

Meals: B,L,D.

Biking distance: 23mi / 38km.

Day 5: Amani Nature Reserve to Pangani

The final day covers the most distance, but is almost all downhill. Start with a gentle descent through dense tropical forest from Amani in the mountains to the gateway town of Muheza. Cross a tarmac road marking an abrupt change from lush mountain environment to coastal plain. The soil is sandy, the scent of the sea is in the air, and the tropical heat intensifies. The coast is home to the Swahili people, whose livelihood comes from the sea, and whose villages have a distinctly different look and feel than those in the mountains. The Indian Ocean draws us along on this mostly flat section to our final destination at the beach.

Overnight: Capricorn Beach Cottages.

Meals: B,L,D.

Biking distance: 48mi / 78km.

Day 6: Pangani

Day at your leisure to enjoy the beach and ocean.

Overnight: Capricorn Beach Cottages.

Meals: B.

Day 7: Pangani to Kilimanjaro/Departure

Depart mid-morning for the six-hour drive back to Kilimanjaro to catch your flight home or continue on to your next adventure. Lunch en route.

Meals: B,L.

Inclusions

- All accommodations (three nights lodging; three nights camping)
- All meals as indicated (B,L,D)
- Bottled or filtered water (by Katadyn Expedition® filter) and coffee, teas, cocoa

- Services of trip leader, camping crew, and support vehicle
- Use of Kona or Bergamont mountain bicycles and bicycle helmets
- All camping and dining equipment (excluding sleeping bag)
- Transfers to/from Kilimanjaro International Airport, Moshi, or Arusha

Exclusions

Tips and gratuities to leaders, guides, crew, or other staff; cold drinks and alcohol; additional accommodations and meals made necessary by airline schedule changes, inability to complete the ride, or other factors; pre-trip expenses such as immunizations, travel insurance, passports, and visas; international airfare; airport departure taxes; and any expenses of a personal nature such as souvenirs and laundry.

Disclaimer

Trip prices are based on SENE costs, fees, and supplier prices in effect at the time of booking. SENE reserves the right to alter trip prices should inflation, cost of fuel, labor, materials, or exchange rates change. If the Tanzania National Parks Authority (TANAPA) raises park fees, or any hotel, lodge, camp, airline, or any other service provider raises their rates, SENE reserves the right to require additional payment from the client.