



Climb Itinerary

DETAILED ITINERARY:

DAY 1: RONGAI GATE TO FIRST CAVE'S CAMP

Elevation (m): 1950m to 2600m, Distance: 8km, Time: 4 hours, Habitat: Montane Forest

Transfer from your hotel to Marangu Gate for registration and then a further transfer to the Rongai trailhead (approx. 2½ hours). Our porters prepare and pack our supplies and luggage before we start our ascent through the village of Nale Moru. The small winding path crosses maize fields before climbing gently through a pine forest until we reach First Cave at 2,600m altitude.

DAY 2: FIRST CAVE TO KIKELEWA CAVE

Elevation (m): 2600m to 3600m, Distance: 9km, Time: 6 - 7 hours, Habitat: Moorland

The trail continues up towards Kibo, passing Second Cave (3450m) en-route, and reaching Kikelewa Cave at 3600m. From here the views start to open up and you will see for yourself how huge a mountain Kilimanjaro really is. We overnight at Third Cave Camp (Kikelewa Caves).

DAY 3: KIKELEWA CAVE TO MAWENZI TARN

Elevation (m): 3600m to 4330m, Distance: 6km, Time: 4 hours, Habitat: Moorland.

A short but steep climb up grassy slopes is rewarded by superb all-round views and a tangible sense of wilderness. We leave the vegetation behind shortly before reaching the next camp at Mawenzi Tarn (4330 m), spectacularly situated in a cirque directly beneath the towering spires of Mawenzi. The afternoon will be free to rest or explore the surrounding area as an aid to acclimatization.

DAY 4: MAWENZI TARN

Elevation (m): 4330m, Habitat: Moorland.

We will spend an extra day at Mawenzi Tarn to help with acclimatisation.

DAY 5: MAWENZI TARN TO KIBO CAMPSITE

Elevation (m): 4330m to 4750m, Distance: 4 km, Time: 3 hours, Habitat: Alpine desert

We cross the lunar desert of the 'Saddle' between Mawenzi and Kibo to reach Kibo campsite (4750m) at the bottom of the Kibo crater wall. The remainder of the day is spent resting in preparation for the final ascent tomorrow!



DAY 6: KIBO CAMPSITE TO SUMMIT TO HOROMBO HUT

Elevation (m): 4750m to 5895m, Distance: 6 km ascent/16km descent, Time: 6-8 hours ascent/4-5 hours descent Habitat: Stone scree and ice-capped summit.

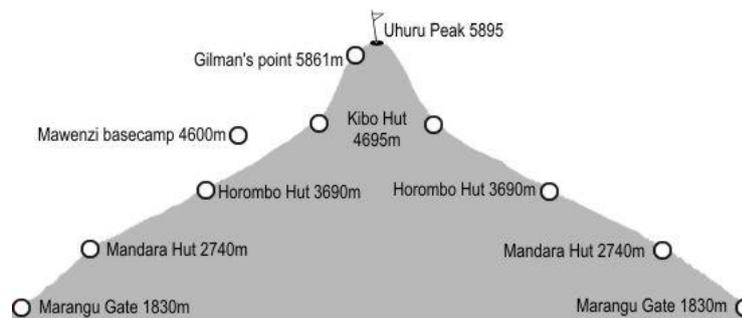
We will rise around 23.30 hours and after some tea and biscuits. We will start our ascent. This is where the going really gets tough. The first section of the trail consists of a rocky path to the Hans Meyer Cave (5150m). We then zigzag up to Gillman's point (5681m), on the crater rim. This section is very steep with much stone scree and is the most demanding section of the route. From Gillman's Point we could encounter snow all the way up to Uhuru Peak (5895m), the highest point in Africa. Total exhilaration and satisfaction - you made it! Weather conditions on the summit will determine how long we can spend, taking photographs, before we descend back to Kibo Hut and then Horombo where we will stay overnight. Later in the evening we enjoy our last on the mountain and a well-earned sleep.

DAY 7: HOROMBO HUT TO MARANGU GATE

Elevation (m): 3720m to 1980m, Distance: 20km, Time: 5-7 hours, Habitat: Moorlands.

After breakfast we continue our descent, passing Mandara Hut, down to the Marangu Gate where you will receive your summit certificates. A vehicle will meet you to drive you back to the Hotel.

TOPOGRAPHY:



SUMMARY:

The only northern approach route to Kilimanjaro, the Rongai route offers the closest to a wilderness experience. The trek in is through a remote and barren landscape where the rainforest has sadly been lost to agriculture. For those looking to get away from the crowds on Kilimanjaro's popular routes, though this offers a much quieter trail.

Like the Marangu route, the Rongai route suffers from a low summit success rates as the topography does not allow the climber to "walk high, sleep low". There is a variation of the Rongai route that offers better acclimatisation: the "Rongai Route Variation". This starts with the traditional route but then traverses to the east to meet up with the Machame route at Barafu. We do not offer this route, although it is promoted heavily by some operators, as we feel it is too arduous and dangerous for our porter team with severe exposed ridge crossings.

The biggest attraction of the Rongai route is that it is quiet so you have a good chance of seeing wildlife.

The minimum time taken to climb via this route is 6 days, however, it is highly recommended if you do choose this route that you add at least one extra day to assist acclimatisation.