

7 Days Rongai Route

The Rongai Route is one of the easiest routes and the success rate is very high.

The route starts on the north side of the mountain just south of the Kenyan border and is one of the least traveled routes. The descent is down the Marangu Route on the south side of the mountain, so climbers see the mountain from many viewpoints.

The drive to the trailhead takes about 3 hours from Moshi through many villages and coffee plantations, including a stop to register climbing permits at Marangu.

The Rongai Route can also be accessed from Amboseli National Park in Kenya. Allow 2 hours including the border crossing. We will need copies of passports ahead of time. Kilimanjaro + Safari Combo Discount: Save \$50/person when you book a Kilimanjaro Trek and Safari (5 days or more).

All our Kilimanjaro treks are offered as a private trip, starting on any day. We offer group departures on the Machame Route only.

Day 1: Kilimanjaro Airport - Transfer to Arusha

Upon arrival at Kilimanjaro Airport, you will be met by our representative. Who will assist you with your luggage and drive to your hotel in Arusha, brief you on your itinerary and help you with your check-in at your hotel.

Overnight at accommodation in Arusha.

Meal Plan: Breakfast.

Day 2: Drive to Kilimanjaro National Park Rongai Gate (Nale Moru), Hike to Simba Camp

Drive to the attractive wooden village of Nale Moru (about 2 hours including a stop to get permits at Marangu). After signing in and preparing the porters, you will begin the hike on a wide path that winds through fields of maize and potatoes before entering the pine forest. The track then starts to climb consistently but gently through an attractive forest that shelters a variety of wildlife. The forest begins to thin out and the first camp is at the edge of the moorland zone with extensive views over the Kenyan plains.

-- Elevation: 2000m/6560ft to 2650m/8700ft

-- Distance: 6km/4mi

-- Hiking Time: 3-4 hours

-- Habitat: Montane Forest

Meals included: Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Simba Camp

Day 3: Hike Simba Camp to Second Cave

The morning hike is a steady ascent up to the Second Cave with superb views of Kibo and the Eastern ice fields on the crater rim.

-- Elevation: 2650m/8700ft to 3450m/11,300ft

-- Distance: 6km/4mi

-- Walking Time: 3-4 hours

-- Habitat: Moorland

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Second Cave Camp

Day 4: Hike Second Cave to Third Cave

Today we continue our hike from the Second Cave to the Third Cave.

-- Elevation: 3450m/11,300ft to 3880m/12,700ft

-- Distance: 9km/5mi

-- Walking Time: 2-3 hours

-- Habitat: Semi-desert

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Third Cave Camp

Day 5: Hike Third Cave to Kibo Hut

Hike to Kibo Hut at the bottom of the Kibo crater wall. The remainder of the day is spent resting in preparation for the final ascent and a very early day!

-- Elevation: 3880m/12,700ft to 4750m/15,600ft

-- Distance: 5km/3mi

-- Hiking Time: 3-4 hours

-- Habitat: Alpine Desert

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Kibo Hut Camp

Day 6: Hike Kibo Hut to Summit, and down to Horombo Hut

Very early in the morning (midnight to 2 am), commence the climb to the summit on steep and heavy scree or snow up to Gilman's Point located on the crater rim (elev 700m/18,700ft). Continuing, we now ascend to Uhuru Peak, which is the highest point in Africa. There are unbelievable views at every turn. Have your picture taken at the summit to show your friends and family. From here we descend, stopping for lunch and a rest at Kibo before continuing on to the Horombo encampment. The beginning of this climb is done in the dark and requires headlamps or flashlights. It will be very cold until you start descending, so you will need all of your warm layers. This is by far the most difficult part of the trek with many switchbacks. Going slowly "pole pole" and an optimistic attitude will get you there!

-- Elevation: 4700m/15,500ft to 5895m/19,340ft

-- Down to 3700m/12,200ft

-- Distance: 6km/4mi up / 15km/9mi down

-- Hiking Time: 6-8 hours up / 15km/9mi down

-- Habitat: Alpine Desert

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Horombo Hut Camp

Day 7: Hike Horombo Hut to the trailhead, drive to Moshi / Arusha / Airport

After breakfast, a steady descent takes us down through moorland to the Mandara Hut. Continue descending through the lush forest path to the National Park gate at Marangu. At lower elevations, it can be wet and muddy. Gaiters and trekking poles will help. Shorts and t-shirts will probably be plenty to wear (keep rain gear and warmer clothing handy). A vehicle will meet you at Marangu village to drive you back to your hotel in Moshi (about 1 hour). Don't forget to tip your guides and porters. It is time for celebration!

-- Elevation: 3700m/12,200ft to 1700m/5500ft

-- Distance: 20km/12.5mi

-- Hiking Time: 4-5 hours

-- Habitat: Forest

Meals included: Breakfast