



## **7 DAY RONGAI ROUTE ON KILIMANJARO**

The Rongai Route offers a truly unique approach to climbing Kilimanjaro, beginning on the remote northern side of the mountain near the Kenyan border. Sheltered in Kilimanjaro's rain shadow, this lesser-traveled trail reveals a dramatically different landscape—drier, more open, and with sweeping vistas that are rarely experienced on the southern routes. Its peaceful solitude, gradual incline, and excellent acclimatization profile make Rongai an ideal choice for those seeking a quieter and more scenic ascent.

Our head guide was voted Kilimanjaro's number 1 guide in 2019, and he manages our team of highly experienced guides and support staff. Our 7-day Rongai itinerary is designed for trekkers who want a more off-the-beaten-path experience without compromising safety, comfort, or success. With industry-leading summit success rates, top-tier logistics, and a strong focus on acclimatization, our Rongai climbs offer a premium and personal way to stand on the roof of Africa. We can also move this itinerary to an 8-day itinerary if you want more acclimatization!

### **BRIEF ITINERARY**

- Day 1: Arrive at Kilimanjaro – Overnight at Hotel in Arusha
- Day 2: Marangu Gate – First Cave Camp
- Day 3: Kikelelwa Cave
- Day 4: Kikelelwa Cave
- Day 5: Mawenzi Tarn Hut
- Day 6: Kibo Hut
- Day 7: Summit 19,341 ft – Horombo
- Day 8: Marangu Gate – Overnight at Hotel in Arusha
- Day 9: Hotel - Airport transfer

### **DETAILED ITINERARY**

#### **Day 1: Arrive at Kilimanjaro International Airport**

You should aim to arrive as early as possible the day before the trek. Once you arrive, you will be picked up from the airport and taken on a 50-minute transfer to the hotel in Arusha, where you will be booked on a shared bed and breakfast basis. You will have a group briefing in the evening with our head guide to prepare you for the journey ahead. Our head guide was named the Mountain Guide of the year in 2019 on Kilimanjaro and you can read more about him here: <https://iantaylortrekking.com/blog/kilimanjaro-mountain-guide-of-the-year-2019/>.



### **Day 2: First Cave Camp (8,530ft / 2,600m)**

After an early breakfast in the hotel in Arusha, you will be picked up in your private transfer to the start of the Rongai route. The climb begins from the attractive wooden village of NoaleMoru (1,950m/6,398 feet) on a small path that winds through fields of maize and potatoes before entering the forest. The track then starts to climb consistently, but gently, through beautiful forest that shelters a variety of wildlife, including the beautiful Kilimanjaro Colobus monkeys. These monkeys are black with long 'capes' of white hair and a flowing white tail. The forest begins to thin out, and the first camp is at the edge of the moorland zone (2,600m/8,530 feet) with extensive views over the Kenyan plains of Tsavo and Amboseli. The hike today will cover approximately 8km/5 miles and should take approximately 3-4 hours of hiking time through the Montane Forest.

### **Day 3: Kikelelwa Camp (11,811 ft / 3,600m)**

Today, the trail continues up towards Kibo, passing Second Cave en-route, and reaching Kikelwa Cave. You will be walking through the Moorlands today and it should take approximately 6 – 7 hours to reach the camp. The views start to open, and you begin to feel you're on a big mountain! Water is in the obvious stream below the cave, although you might have to wander downhill a way to find some. Overnight at 3<sup>rd</sup> Cave Camp (Kikelewa Caves) and the total distance covered will be approximately 12km/ 7.5 miles today.

### **Day 4: Kikelelwa Camp (11,811 ft / 3,600m)**

Critical acclimatization at Kikelewa Cave 3,600m/11,811ft. We will spend another night at this height helping you gain the acclimatization needed for a safer journey to altitude. This is where we differ. We want you to get to the summit so taking this extra day will significantly improve your chances at success. We will hike up above 4,000m/ 13,123ft with some great views of Kilimanjaro and then head back down to Kikelewa cave camp at 3,600m/ 11,811ft. The hike today should only be approximately 3 hours, so there will be plenty of time to rest and recover in the camp this afternoon.

### **Day 5: Mawenzi Tarn Camp (14,160 ft / 4,315 m)**

A short but steep climb up grassy slopes offers superb views of this wilderness area. The vegetation zone ends shortly before you reach your next camp at Mawenzi Tarn spectacularly situated beneath the towering spires of Mawenzi. Reaching camp today should take approximately 3 – 4 hours and you will be able to spend the afternoon acclimatizing and exploring the area.



### **Day 6: Kibo Hut (15,420ft / 4,700m)**

Today will be different views as we will reach the Alpine Desert Habitat today! Continue ascending on the east side of Kibo, crossing the saddle between Mawenzi and Kibo, which will take approximately 4 to 5 hours to reach Kibo Hut. The remainder of the day is spent resting in preparation for the final ascent, which begins around midnight. Overnight at Kibo Camp.

### **Day 7: Kibo Hut to Uhuru Peak (19,340 ft / 5,896m) to Horombo Camp**

When we wake up at approximately 12am (midnight) in the Kibo Hut Camp, we will get ourselves dressed in all our warmest summit gear as we will begin walking well before dawn, and the coldest part of the day comes just before sunrise. This summit day proves to be the steepest and most demanding part of the mountain, and we will be taking it very slowly as we move up the trail. The moon may provide some light, but we'll be using head-torches for several hours until the sun rises. We will aim to reach Gilman's Point, at 18,600ft/5,700m, you will be rewarded with the most magnificent sunrise coming over Mawenzi Peak! Finally, after approximately 8 hours of hiking in the dark, we will arrive at Uhuru Peak, the summit of Kilimanjaro! The Crater wall stands steeply over the Crater floor about 200 feet below us to our right. As the sun rises, light hits the Crater floor, illuminating the Furtwangler Glacier and the warmth of the sun will be a welcomed feeling! This will be by far the toughest day you will have on the trek and the views from the summit will make you realize why you decided to put yourself through the pain! After about thirty minutes or so on the summit, we will begin the long slog back down the mountain! Having started this extraordinary day out as early as midnight and not finishing the day until the sun is setting, you can imagine how exhausted your body will be as you rest in celebration of your success on the highest point in Africa!

The total distance covered today will be 22km/ 13.7 miles! This summit day will take approximately 12 – 15 hours to complete. After standing on the top of Africa this morning, reaching Horombo Camp at 3,720m/ 12,200 feet, and all the oxygen at that altitude, will be all you need for a great night sleep!

### **Day 9: Marangu Gate to Arusha**

After your final breakfast on the mountain, you will hike back to the Marangu Gate and park's headquarters. At the gate, you will sign your name and details in a register and receive your climbing certificate! You will jump in your private transportation for the drive back to the hotel in Arusha where you will have a welcomed shower and bed in the hotel for the night!



## **Day 10: Arusha**

Today will be spent at leisure in Arusha. You can decide to sit by the pool at the hotel or exploring the town of Arusha. We will transfer you back to the airport to catch your international flight home. There is also an option for you to stay on in Tanzania and do one of our Safari options, sampling some of the world's most unique wildlife:

<https://iantaylortrekking.com/kilimanjaro-treks/safari-in-tanzania/>

### **IMPORTANT NOTE:**

Every effort will be made to keep to the above itinerary, but as this is Adventure Travel in a remote mountain region, we cannot guarantee it. Weather conditions, road conditions, vehicle breakdowns and the health of participants can all contribute to changes. The Trek Leader will try to ensure that the trip runs according to plan, but an easy-going nature will be an asset!

### **What the price includes:**

- National Park fees and Peak Permits
- 2 night's hotel B&B on a shared basis
- Airport transfers
- All road transport by private vehicles
- All camping facilities and meals during the trek (quality menu & tents)
- All portage costs (15kg / 33lbs per person)
- All costs for Tanzanian guides, cook staff, camp crew and porters (not including tips)
- 5 days a week professional office support before your trek
- Toilet tents & 3, 3 course meals per day

### **What the price does not include:**

- Visa fees (\$50 - \$100)
- Bar bills and laundry
- Lunch and dinner in Arusha
- Travel insurance (Compulsory)
- Optional trips (e.g. a Safari Extension) and sightseeing tours
- Tips (US \$300 per person)