

5 Days - Marangu Route

Day 1: Arusha to Mandara Hut

- Elevation: 1700 meters to 2740 meters
- Walking time: 4 to 5 hours
- Distance: 7 kilometers
- Habitat: Montane Forest

After breakfast and briefing, drive to the Kilimanjaro National Park Gate (45 minutes), register and commence the climb. Walk through the rainforest to the Mandara escarpment located at 9000 feet or 2740 meters. On the side you will view Maundi Crater and the surroundings including Northern Tanzania and Kenya. In the rainforest, look for towering Eucalyptus trees, bird life, and Black & White Colobus monkeys. Overnight at Mandara Hut.

Day 2: Mandara to Horombo Hut

- Elevation: 2700 meters to 3700 meters
- Distance: 11 kilometers
- Walking time: 6 to 8 hours
- Habitat: Heartland

After breakfast and briefing, ascend for about one hour leaving the glades of the rainforest to catch the open moorlands to the Horombo encampment. Here you will start viewing the Mawenzi and Kibo summit which are amazing. Along the way you will enjoy seeing the giant lobelias and grounsels. Interestingly you will start to feel the effects of the altitude. Overnight at Horombo Hut.

Day 3: Horombo Hut to Kibo Hut

- Elevation: 3700 meters to 4700 meters
- Distance: 10 kilometers
- Walking time: 6 to 8 hours
- Habitat: Alpine desert

Ascending, you now pass the last watering point, walking onto the saddle of Kilimanjaro between the peaks of Kibo and Mawenzi. Vegetation begins with upper heartland but

then disappears into "moonscape". Dinner, rest at Kibo Hut and prepare for summit climb.

Day 4: Kibo Hut to summit (Uhuru Peak 5895 meters) to Horombo Hut

- Elevation: 4700 meters to 5895 meters to 3700 meters
- Distance: 4 kilometers up / 14 kilometers down
- Walking time: 10 to 15 hours
- Habitat: Alpine desert

Midnight to 2:00 a.m., commence the climb to the summit on steep and heavy scree or snow up to Gilman's point located at the crater rim at 18,640 feet or 5,861 meters for about four to seven hours. Continuing (one to two hours), you now ascend to Uhuru Peak, which is the highest point in Africa; 19,340 feet or 5,895 meters.

Unbelievable views at every turn. Get your pictures taken at the summit to show your friends and families. From here, you now descend, stopping for lunch and a rest at Kibo summit before proceeding to the Horombo encampment for dinner and a tired but happy overnight.

Note: 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. "Pole pole" and an optimistic attitude will get you there!

Day 5: Horombo Hut to Arusha

- Elevation: 3700 meters to 1700 meters
- Distance: 18 kilometers
- Walking time: 5 to 7 hours

After breakfast, a steady descent takes you down through moorland to Mandara Hut (2700 meters or 8858 feet), the first stopping place at the Marangu route. Continue descending through lovely lush forest on a good path to the National Park gate at Marangu (1830 meters or 6004 feet).



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At lower elevations, it can be wet and muddy. Gaiters and trekking poles will help. Shorts and t-shirts will probably be preferable to wear (keep rain gear and warmer clothing handy). A vehicle will meet you at Marangu gate to drive you back to Arusha.