

7 DAYS- RONGAI ROUTE

DAY 1: Arusha to Rongai Cave

- Elevation: 2200 meters to 2800 meters
- Walking time: 3 to 4 hours
- Distance: 6 kilometers
- Habitat: Rain Forest

After breakfast and briefing we drive from Arusha to Marangu Gate for permits before taking a short transfer to the Rongai Gate trailhead. The path winds through corn and potato fields and then climbs gently through the forest which is home to a variety of wildlife, including the black and white colobus monkey.

DAY 2: Rongai Cave to Kikelewa Cave

- Elevation: 2800 meters to 3900 meters
- Walking time: 3 to 4 hours
- Distance: 6 kilometers
- Habitat: Heath

Early morning we commence a steady incline up to Second Cave. We continue trekking through moorland, leaving the main trail for a smaller path towards the jagged peaks of Mawenzi, before finally arriving at Kikelewa Cave for the night.

DAY 3: Kikelewa Cave to Mawenzi Tarn

- Elevation: 3900 meters to 4300 meters
- Walking time: 3 to 4 hours
- Distance: 5 kilometers
- Habitat: Alpine Desert

The hike today is short and steep up a grassy slope. Views of the wilderness area are stunning. As we exit the heath zone and emerge into the Alpine Desert zone, the landscape changes dramatically. Our camp is situated beneath the jagged spires of Mawenzi, at Mawenzi Tarn. The rest of the day can be spent relaxing or exploring the area.

DAY 4: Mawezi Tarn to Mawezi Ridge

- Elevation: 4300 meters to 4500 meters
- Walking time: 1 to 2 hours
- Distance: 2 kilometers
- Habitat: Alpine Desert

This is an extra day meant for acclimatization and can be spent day hiking on Mawenzi Ridge. The unique landscape offers motivating views of Kibo and Mawenzi. After spending a few moments exploring the area we head back to Mawenzi Tarn for camp.

DAY 5: Marwenzi Ridge to Kibo Hut

- Elevation: 4300 meters to 4720 meters
- Walking time: 5 to 6 hours
- Distance: 8 kilometers
- Habitat: Alpine Desert

We climb gradually, then cross the lunar desert of the “Saddle” between Mawenzi and Kibo. Our camp, Kibo Hut, sits at the bottom of the Kibo crater wall. Once we are there we rest and enjoy an early dinner to prepare for the summit day.

DAY 6: Kibo Hut to Uhuru Peak

- Elevation: 4720 meters to 5895 meters
- Walking time: 6 to 8 hours
- Distance: 6 kilometers
- Habitat: Arctic

Very early in the morning (around midnight), we begin our push to the summit. This is the most mentally and physically challenging portion of the trek. The wind and cold at this elevation and time of day can be extreme. We ascend in the darkness for several hours while taking frequent, but short, breaks. At Gilman’s point (18,600 ft), you will be rewarded with the most magnificent sunrise you are ever likely to see coming over Mawenzi Peak. Finally, we arrive at Uhuru Peak- the highest point of Mount Kilimanjaro and the continent of Africa.

After spending a few moments taking in the plains of Africa and your accomplishment, we descend to Horombo Hut (Uhuru Peak (5895M) to Horombo Hut(3720M) taking about 4 to 5 hours). Later in the evening, we enjoy our last dinner on the mountain and a well-earned sleep.



DAY 7: Horombo Hut to Marangu Gate

- Elevation: 3720 meters to 1800meters
- Walking time: 5 to 7 hours
- Distance: 20 kilometers
- Habitat: Rain Forest

On our last day, we have a long trek mostly downhill through the tropical rainforest. We will receive summit certificates at the park headquarters which is at Marangu gate. A vehicle will meet us here and drive us back to the hotel in Arusha.