7 Days Rongai Route

THE QUIET NORTHERN APPROACH

Approaching Kilimanjaro close to the Kenyan border, Rongai offers a quieter perspective of the mountain and a gradual early profile. The route crosses the Saddle toward Kibo Hut and descends via Marangu, creating a satisfying north-to-southeast traverse.

Trip facts

DURATION	7 days
HIGHEST POINT	5,895 m (19,341 ft)
ROUTE	Rongai Route
DIFFICULTY	Moderately challenging
ACCOMMODATION	camping
DISTANCE	73 km
STARTS	Rongai Gate
ENDS	Marangu Gate
BEST MONTHS	Jan · Feb · Mar · Jun · Jul · Aug · Sep · Oct · Nov
INDICATIVE PRICE	US$2,450

Day by day

DAY 01

Rongai Gate to Simba Camp

1,950 m → 2,625 m · 8 km · 4–5 hrs · Forest / heath · +675 m

Begin on the quieter northern side through cultivated land, forest and open heath.

DAY 02

Simba Camp to Second Cave

2,625 m → 3,450 m · 6 km · 3–4 hrs · Heath · +825 m

A steady climb with increasingly open views across the northern plains.

DAY 03

Second Cave to Kikelewa Camp

3,450 m → 3,600 m · 6 km · 3–4 hrs · Moorland · +150 m

Traverse southeast toward the jagged Mawenzi massif. The modest sleeping gain supports acclimatization.

DAY 04

Kikelewa to Mawenzi Tarn

3,600 m → 4,330 m · 5 km · 4–5 hrs · Alpine desert · +730 m

Climb beneath Mawenzi’s dramatic spires to one of Kilimanjaro’s most striking camps. Optional acclimatization walk if appropriate.

DAY 05

Mawenzi Tarn to Kibo Hut

4,330 m → 4,700 m · 8 km · 5–6 hrs · Alpine desert · +370 m

Cross the lunar Saddle between Mawenzi and Kibo to the final summit base.

DAY 06

Kibo Hut to Uhuru Peak to Horombo Hut

4,700 m → 3,720 m · 20 km · 12–16 hrs · Arctic summit to moorland · +1,195 m · −2,175 m

Climb via Gilman’s Point and the crater rim to Uhuru Peak, then make the long descent to Horombo Hut.

DAY 07

Horombo Hut to Marangu Gate

3,720 m → 1,860 m · 20 km · 5–7 hrs · Moorland / rainforest

Descend through Mandara and forest to Marangu Gate, then transfer to Moshi.

What is and is not included

Included

- Airport pick-up and drop-off - Kilimanjaro International Airport (JRO) to/from your hotel
- Pre & post-climb accommodation - 2 nights in Moshi (1 night before and 1 night after the climb) on Bed & Breakfast basis
- Private transfers to/from the mountain gate - Hotel to Kilimanjaro trailhead and exit gate to hotel
- Kilimanjaro National Park entrance fees
- Camping fees
- Kilimanjaro National Park rescue fees
- All applicable government taxes & VAT
- Professional, licensed English-speaking Kilimanjaro mountain guide
- Assistant mountain guides - according to group size
- Professional mountain chef/cook
- Porters - to carry group equipment, food and clients permitted duffel luggage
- All mountain crew wages and salaries
- Three freshly prepared meals per day on the mountain - breakfast, lunch and dinner
- Nutritious snacks during the trek
- Clean, purified drinking water throughout the climb
- Hot water for washing each morning and evening where practical
- Quality four-season mountain tents
- Comfortable sleeping mattresses
- Dining/mess tent with tables and chairs
- Cooking tent and complete camp equipment
- Private portable flush/chemical toilet with dedicated toilet tent and porter - throughout the trek
- Emergency supplemental oxygen
- Pulse oximeter for monitoring blood oxygen saturation and pulse during the climb
- First-aid kit and mountain emergency

Not included

- International and domestic flights
- Tanzania entry visa
- Travel and medical insurance - clients should have appropriate coverage for high-altitude trekking up to at least 6,000 metres
- Helicopter/air evacuation or specialist medical evacuation unless specifically included by the client insurance policy
- Personal trekking equipment and clothing, including hiking boots, sleeping bag, down jacket, trekking poles, daypack and other personal gear
- Equipment rental, unless specifically included in the quotation
- Tips/gratuities for mountain guides, assistant guides, cook and porters
- Lunch and dinner at the hotel before or after the climb unless specified
- Soft drinks, alcoholic beverages and bottled drinks outside those specifically included
- Personal snacks and energy bars brought by the client
- Laundry services
- Telephone calls, SIM cards, internet/data charges and other communication expenses
- Additional hotel nights or transfers caused by flight changes, early arrival or late departure
- Single-room or single-tent supplement, where applicable
- Extra porter required for luggage exceeding the permitted mountain weight
- Personal expenses such as souvenirs and shopping
- Any activities, accommodation, meals, transfers or services not specifically stated in the itinerary
- Costs arising from itinerary changes requested by the client or circumstances

Before you travel

Bring boots you have already walked at least fifty kilometres in, layers rather than one thick garment, and travel insurance whose altitude clause covers 5,895 m. The full packing list is at trekupkilimanjaro.com/kilimanjaro-guide/packing-list/.

Talk to us

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Prepared 20 November 2026. Prices and dates are indicative and subject to confirmation.