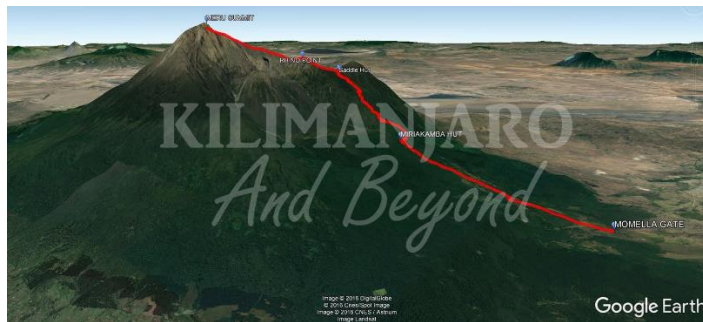




Rongai Route

Duration of climb: 7 days



DAY 1

RONGAI GATE TO FIRST CAVE CAMP

Elevation: 6,398ft (1950m) to 8,530ft (2600m)

Distance: 5 miles (8km)

Time: 4 to 5 hours

Habitat: Montana Forest

After breakfast we will collect you from the hotel for your transfer to Marangu Gate for registration and then a further transfer to the Rongai trailhead (approximately 1½ hours). Our porters and cook prepare and pack our supplies and luggage before we start our ascent through the village of Nale Moru. The small winding path crosses maize fields before climbing gently through a pine forest until we reach First Cave Camp at 2,600m altitude.

DAY 2

FIRST CAVE CAMP TO KIKELEWA CAMP

Elevation: 8,530ft (2600m) to 11,811ft (3600m)

Distance: 5.5 miles (9km)

Time: 5 to 6 hours

Habitat: Moorland



The trail continues up towards Kibo, passing Second Cave 11,319ft (3450m) en-route, and reaching Kikelewa Caves at 11,811ft (3600m). From here the views start to open up and you will see for yourself how huge a mountain Kilimanjaro really is. We overnight at Kikelewa Camp

DAY 3

KIKELEWA CAMP TO MAWENZI TARN

Elevation: 11,811ft (3600m) to 14,206ft (4330m)

Distance: 3.7 miles (6 km)

Time: 4 hours

Habitat: Moorland

A short but steep climb up grassy slopes is rewarded by superb all-round views and a tangible sense of wilderness. We leave the vegetation behind shortly before reaching the next camp at Mawenzi Tarn 14,206ft (4330 m), spectacularly situated in a cirque directly beneath the towering spires of Mawenzi. The afternoon will be free to rest or explore the surrounding area as an aid to acclimatization. DAY 4 MAWENZI TARN Elevation: 14,206ft (4330m) Habitat: Moorland We will spend an extra day at Mawenzi Tarn to help with acclimatization.

DAY 5

MAWENZI TARN TO KIBO CAMPSITE

Elevation: 14,206ft (4330m) to 15,584ft (4750m)

Distance: 5 miles (8km)

Time: 5-6 hours

Habitat: Alpine desert

We cross the lunar desert of the Saddle between Mawenzi and Kibo hut to reach Kibo Campsite 15,584ft (4750m) at the bottom of the Kibo crater wall. The remainder of the day is spent resting in preparation for the final ascent tomorrow.

DAY 6

KIBO CAMPSITE TO SUMMIT TO HOROMBO HUT

Elevation: 15,584ft (4750m) to 19,341ft (5895m) and down to 12,204ft (3720m)

Distance: 3.7 miles (6km) ascent / 10 miles (16 km) descent

Time: 5 to 8 hours ascent, 4-5 hours descent

Habitat: Stone screed and ice-capped summit



We will rise around 23:30 hours and after some tea and biscuits we will start our ascent. This is where the going really gets tough. The first section of the trail consists of a rocky path to the Hans Meyer Cave 16,896ft (5150m). We then zigzag up to Gillman's Point 18,639ft (5681m) on the crater rim. This section is very steep with much stone scree and is the most demanding section of the route. From Gillman's Point we could encounter snow all the way up to Uhuru Peak 19,341ft (5895m), the highest point in Africa. Weather conditions on the summit will determine how long we can spend taking photographs before we descend back to Kibo Campsite and then Horombo Hut where we will stay overnight. 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: 12,204ft (3720m) to 6,496ft (1980m)

Distance: 12.5 miles (20 km)

Time: 5-7 hours Habitat: Moorlands

After breakfast we continue our descent passing Mandara Hut down to the Marangu Gate. You will then be transferred to your hotel for some well deserved celebration!