



Marangu Route – 6 Trekking Days

The Marangu Route is the only trail on Kilimanjaro that provides hut accommodations, with simple bunk beds, communal dining halls, and solar lighting. Trekkers climb and descend on the same path, making it one of the most social routes, where climbers often meet and share stories in the huts. The Marangu Route is also known as the “Coca-Cola Route” because previously you were able to buy Coca Cola in the huts.

This is the 6-Day Marangu Route itinerary. It is the recommended version of the Marangu climb. The only difference compared to the 5-Day itinerary is the inclusion of an extra acclimatization night at Horombo Hut or Mawenzi Tarn. This additional day greatly improves your body’s ability to adjust to the altitude, making the summit attempt safer and more comfortable.

Which option should I choose?

6-Day Marangu Route

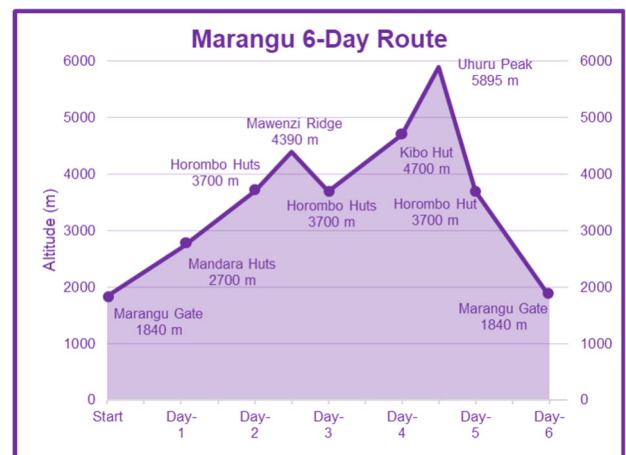
- ✓ More time to acclimatize → higher summit success
- ✓ Easier pace, less fatigue before summit
- ✓ Recommended for most trekkers, especially beginners
- ✗ Costs slightly more

5-Day Marangu Route

- ✗ Lower summit success rate compared to 6 days
- ✗ Less time to acclimatize
- ✓ Shorter trip overall → less time away from home/work
- ✓ Slightly cheaper (one less day)

Marangu Route – 6 Trekking Days

- Total trail distance - 72 km / 44 miles
- Duration: 8 days including arrival and departure days. 6 days trekking
- Start Point: Marangu Gate – 1,840 m / 6,040 ft
- Highest Point: Uhuru Peak – 5,895 m / 19,341 ft
- End Point: Marangu Gate – 1,840 m / 6,040 ft
- Difficulty: Moderate terrain, easier thanks to extra acclimatization
- Accommodation: Mountain huts (Mandara, Horombo, Kibo)
- Success Rate: Higher on the 6-day option (better acclimatization)



Average Daily Hiking Times – Marangu Route (6 Days)

- Arrival Day & Briefing: No hiking
- Day 1 – Marangu Gate → Mandara Huts: 4–5 hrs
- Day 2 – Mandara Huts → Horombo Huts: 6–8 hrs
- Day 3 – Horombo Huts → Mawenzi Ridge → Horombo Huts: 4–5 hrs
- Day 4 – Horombo Huts → Kibo Huts: 6–8 hrs
- Day 5 – Summit Day (Kibo → Uhuru Peak → Horombo Hut): 11–15 hrs
- Day 6 – Horombo Hut → Marangu Gate: 5–7 hrs
- Departure or start of safari

Arrival Day & Pre-Trek Briefing

Welcome to Tanzania! Our driver will meet you at the airport and transfer you to your hotel in Moshi or Arusha. In the evening, your mountain guide will join you for a detailed briefing about the climb. Together you'll check your gear, go over final packing tips, and talk about the adventure ahead. Afterward, enjoy dinner, relax, and get a good night's sleep before your adventure begins.

Day 1 – Marangu Gate → Mandara Huts

- Start: 1,840 m / 6,040 ft
- End: 2,700 m / 8,860 ft
- Hiking: 4–5 hrs • 8 km • Rainforest
- Meals/Stay: B • L • D | Hut

After breakfast, you'll meet your guide and transfer to Marangu Gate. Here you'll complete registration with the National Park while your porters organize supplies.

The trek begins through dense rainforest, where you'll hear birdsong and may spot black and white colobus monkeys leaping overhead. The path can be muddy, but the lush green atmosphere is unforgettable.

By late afternoon you'll reach Mandara Hut, where you'll be welcomed with a hot meal. Before dinner, your guide may take you for a short acclimatization walk to Maundi Crater, offering wide views across Kenya on clear days.



Day 2 – Mandara Huts → Horombo Huts

- Start: 2,700 m / 8,860 ft
- End: 3,700 m / 12,140 ft
- Hiking: 6–8 hrs • 12 km • Moorland
- Meals/Stay: B • L • D | Hut

Leaving the forest behind, the trail climbs into moorland. The vegetation shifts to heathers, lobelias, and giant groundsels. The scenery opens up, and on clear days, both Mawenzi and Kibo peaks dominate the horizon.

By late afternoon you'll arrive at Horombo Hut, a bustling overnight stop with plenty of trekkers. Here you'll rest, enjoy dinner, and prepare for your acclimatization day tomorrow.

Day 3 – Horombo Huts → Mawenzi Ridge → Horombo Huts

- Start: 3,700 m / 12,140 ft
- High Point: 4,390 m / 14,400 ft
- End: 3,700 m / 12,140 ft
- Hiking: 4–5 hrs • 6 km • Alpine desert
- Meals/Stay: B • L • D | Hut

This is an acclimatization day, crucial for improving your chances of summit success. You'll take a short hike to nearby Zebra Rocks (about 4,000 m) or (recommended) toward the





base of Mawenzi, Mawenzi Ridge (4,390 m). These hikes help your body adjust to higher altitude, following the “climb high, sleep low” principle. After the acclimatization walk, you’ll return to Horombo Hut for late lunch, relaxation, and an extra night’s rest

Day 4– Horombo Huts → Kibo Huts

- Start: 3,720 m / 12,200 ft
- End: 4,700 m / 15,400 ft
- Hiking: 6–8 hrs • 10 km • Alpine Desert
- Meals/Stay: B • L • D | Hut

Today you cross the vast saddle a wide, high- altitude desert between Mawenzi and

Kibo. The landscape is stark and barren, resembling the surface of the moon. The air is dry and thinner, so it’s important to hydrate and conserve energy.

By afternoon you’ll reach Kibo Hut, a simple stone hut at the foot of Kibo. Dinner will be early, followed by final preparations for summit night. Rest as much as possible the summit push begins just before midnight.

Day 5 – Summit Day! Kibo Huts → Uhuru Peak → Horombo Huts

- Start: 4,700 m / 15,420 ft
- Summit: Uhuru Peak – 5,895 m / 19,341 ft
- End: 3,700 m / 12,140 ft
- Hiking: 11–15 hrs total • 19 km • Scree → Crater rim → Moorland
- Meals/Stay: B • L • D | Hut

Just before midnight, you’ll begin your toughest challenge: the climb to Uhuru Peak. The trail zigzags steeply up scree slopes toward Gilman’s Point (5,685 m), where you’ll see the first light of dawn. From there, it’s a final push along the crater rim to Stella Point and then followed by Uhuru Peak the highest point in Africa! After photos and celebrations, you descend back to Kibo Huts for a rest, then continue down to Horombo Huts for the night.





Day 6 – Horombo Huts → Marangu Gate → Moshi/Arusha

- Start: 3,700 m / 12,140 ft
- Finish: 1,840 m / 6,040 ft
- Hiking: 5–7 hrs • 18 km • Rainforest
- Meals: B • L (packed or hot lunch)

Your final descent takes you through the rainforest, alive with birds and lush greenery. At Marangu Gate, you'll receive your summit certificate and say farewell to your mountain crew. A private transfer will take you back to your hotel in Moshi/Arusha. The evening is yours to relax, celebrate, and reflect on your unforgettable Kilimanjaro adventure.

Departure or Safari – Moshi/Arusha to Kilimanjaro Airport

A private car will bring you to the airport or you will start with our team your safari.