



## Rongai Route – 7 Trekking Days

The Rongai Route approaches Kilimanjaro from the North, close to the Kenyan border. It is one of the quieter trails, offering a wilderness feel and a gradual ascent profile. With fewer crowds and beautiful scenery ranging from forest to alpine desert, Rongai is a great option for those seeking a more remote experience.

This is the 7-Day Rongai Route itinerary. The 6-Day option is the same trek but skips the acclimatization night at Mawenzi Tarn.

### Which option should I choose?

#### 7-Day Rongai Route

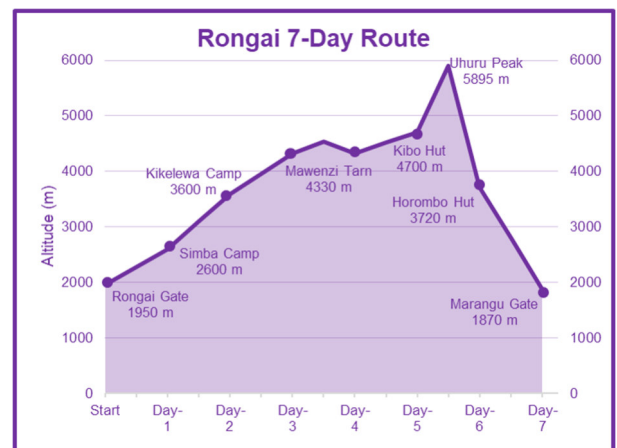
- ✓ More time to acclimatize → higher summit success
- ✓ Easier pace, less fatigue before summit
- ✓ Recommended for most trekkers, especially beginners
- ✗ Costs slightly more

#### 6-Day Rongai Route

- ✗ Lower summit success rate compared to 7 days
- ✗ Less time to acclimatize
- ✓ Shorter trip overall → less time away from home/work
- ✓ Slightly cheaper (one less day)

### Rongai Route – 7 Trekking Days

- Total trail distance - 73 km / 45 miles
- Duration: 9 days including arrival and departure days. 7 days trekking
- Start Point: Rongai Gate – 1,950 m / 6,398 ft
- Highest Point: Uhuru Peak – 5,895 m / 19,341 ft
- End Point: Marangu Gate – 1,870 m / 6,135 ft
- Difficulty: Moderate – gradual ascent, but summit night is tough
- Success Rate: Higher on the 7-day option (better acclimatization)



### Average Daily Hiking Times – Rongai Route (7 Days)

- Arrival Day & Briefing: No hiking
- Day 1 – Rongai Gate → Simba Camp: 4–5 hrs
- Day 2 – Simba Camp → Second Cave → Kikelewa Camp: 6–7 hrs
- Day 3 – Kikelewa Camp → Mawenzi Tarn: 4–5 hrs
- Day 4 – Acclimatization at Mawenzi Tarn: 2–3 hrs short hikes
- Day 5 – Mawenzi Tarn → Kibo Hut: 5–6 hrs
- Day 6 – Summit Day (Kibo → Uhuru Peak → Horombo Hut): 11–15 hrs
- Day 7 – 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 – Rongai Gate → Simba Camp

- Start: 1,950 m / 6,398 ft
- End: 2,600 m / 8,530 ft
- Hiking: 4–5 hrs • 7 km • Forest → Moorland
- Meals/Stay: B • L • D | Camping

Your trek begins with a gentle climb through farmland and pine forest, gradually entering moorland terrain. You may spot colobus monkeys in the trees along the way. By late afternoon you arrive at Simba Camp with wide views of the plains below.



## Day 2 – Simba Camp → Second Cave → Kikelewa Camp

- Start: 2,600 m / 8,530 ft
- End: 3,600 m / 11,810 ft
- Hiking: 6–7 hrs • 11 km • Moorland
- Meals/Stay: B • L • D | Camping

The path continues upward across open moorland, with sweeping views of Kibo and the eastern ice fields of Kilimanjaro. You stop for a break at Second Cave before heading on to Kikelewa Camp, tucked in a sheltered valley near giant groundsels.



## Day 3 – Kikelewa Camp → Mawenzi Tarn

- Start: 3,600 m / 11,810 ft
- End: 4,330 m / 14,210 ft
- Hiking: 4–5 hrs • 6 km • Alpine desert
- Meals/Stay: B • L • D | Camping

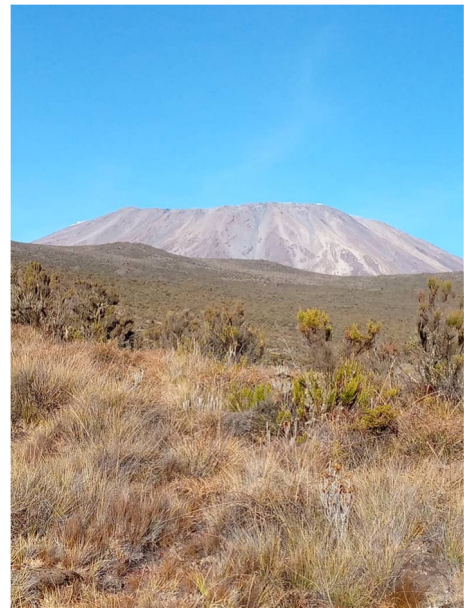
Today's climb is shorter but steeper, taking you up grassy slopes into the alpine desert zone. You'll reach Mawenzi Tarn, a stunning camp beneath the jagged spires of Mawenzi Peak. The dramatic scenery here makes this one of the most memorable camps on the mountain.



#### Day 4 – Acclimatization at Mawenzi Tarn

- Altitude: 4,330 m / 14,210 ft
- Hiking: 2–3 hrs short walks • Alpine desert
- Meals/Stay: B • L • D | Camping

A full day at Mawenzi Tarn to help your body adjust to the altitude. Your guide will likely lead a short acclimatization hike into the surrounding ridges before returning to camp. Plenty of rest, hydration, and preparation for the summit attempt ahead.



#### Day 5 – Mawenzi Tarn → Kibo Hut

- Start: 4,330 m / 14,210 ft
- End: 4,700 m / 15,420 ft
- Hiking: 5–6 hrs • 9 km • Alpine desert
- Meals/Stay: B • L • D | Camping

You cross the lunar-like saddle between Mawenzi and Kibo, with wide open views and sparse vegetation. The air is thin, and you should walk slowly, saving energy for the summit. You'll arrive at Kibo Hut in the afternoon, have an early dinner, and prepare for your midnight summit push.

#### Day 6 – Summit Day! Kibo → Uhuru Peak → Horombo Hut

- Start: 4,700 m / 15,420 ft
- Summit: Uhuru Peak – 5,895 m / 19,341 ft
- End: 3,720 m / 12,200 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 Uhuru Peak the highest point in Africa! After photos and celebrations, you descend back to Kibo for a rest, then continue down to Horombo Hut for the night.

#### Day 7 – Horombo Hut → Marangu Gate → Moshi/Arusha

- Start: 3,720 m / 12,200 ft
- Finish: 1,870 m / 6,135 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.