



7 DAYS

TANZANIA · MOUNTAIN TREKKING

Kilimanjaro Rongai Route: 7-Day Climb

The only route that climbs Kilimanjaro from the north: drier, quieter and gently graded, with a night at Mawenzi Tarn and a descent by Marangu.

DURATION

7 days

DESTINATIONS

1

TRIP STYLE

Mountain Trekking

AT A GLANCE

Experience Overview

Rongai starts near the Kenyan border on the northern side of Kilimanjaro, which lies in the mountain's rain shadow. It gets far less rain than the southern slopes, so this is the route to consider in April, May and November, and at any time if you want a quieter trail.

The gradient is gentle and steady. Over the first days you walk through farmland and pine forest into moorland, with wide views north across the Kenyan plains. The seven-day itinerary turns east on day three towards Mawenzi, Kilimanjaro's jagged second peak, and camps at Mawenzi Tarn, a small lake in a rocky cirque. That detour adds a valuable day of acclimatisation.

From the tarn you cross the Saddle to Kibo Hut and climb to the summit through Gilman's Point. The descent is on the Marangu route, so you cross the mountain from north to south.

Good for: climbers travelling in the wetter months, those who prefer a steady gradient with no scrambling, and anyone who wants fewer people around. The drive to the start takes about three hours from Moshi. Nights are in tents.

DURATION

7 days

DESTINATION

Tanzania

TRIP STYLE

Mountain Trekking

DESTINATIONS

Mount Kilimanjaro National Park

Highlights

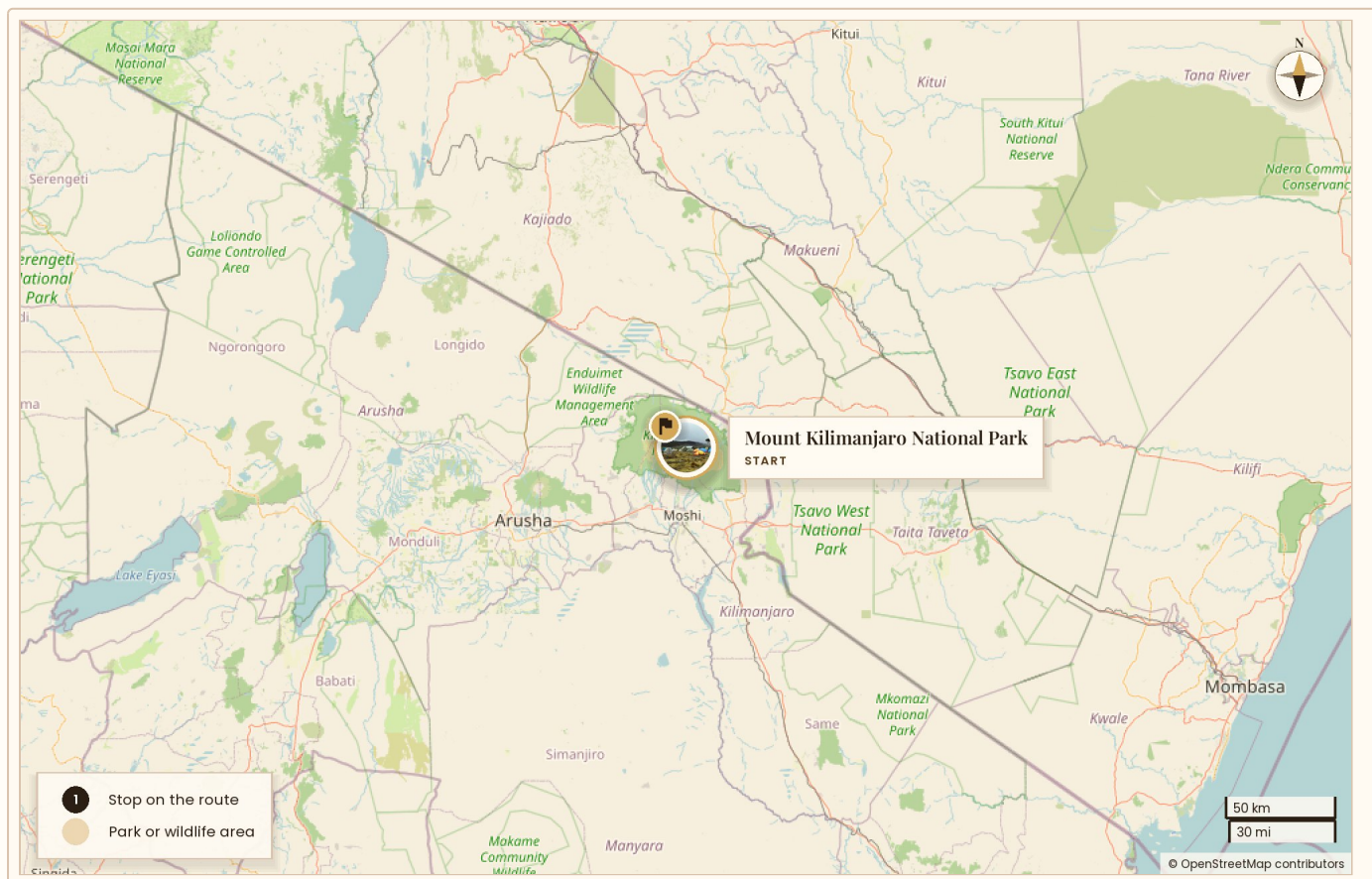
- The drier northern side, good in the rainy months
- Gentle, steady gradient with no scrambling
- A full crossing of the mountain: up Rongai, down Marangu
- A night beside Mawenzi Tarn beneath Mawenzi peak
- Views north across the plains of Kenya
- Summit by Gilman's Point to Uhuru Peak, 5,895 m



TANZANIA

Your route

Where the journey takes you, from the first day to the last.



Mount Kilimanjaro National Park Days 1-7



S Mount Kilimanjaro National Park

DAYS 1-7 • START

Overnight: Kilimanjaro Mountain Camps, Marangu Route Huts

7 DAYS

Day by day

Your journey through Tanzania, one day at a time.



DAY 01

Rongai Gate (1,950 m) to Simba Camp (2,625 m)

After your night in Moshi you drive around the mountain to the Rongai trailhead at Nalemoru. A three- to four-hour walk passes through maize fields and pine forest to the first camp on the edge of the moorland.

DESTINATION Mount Kilimanjaro National Park

OVERNIGHT Kilimanjaro Mountain Camps



DAY 02

Simba Camp to Second Cave (3,450 m)

A steady climb of three to four hours through moorland, with Kibo ahead and the Kenyan plains behind. The afternoon is free to rest.

DESTINATION Mount Kilimanjaro National Park

OVERNIGHT Kilimanjaro Mountain Camps



DAY 03

Second Cave to Kikelewa Camp (3,600 m)

You leave the main trail and head east across open moorland towards Mawenzi. Three to four hours to a sheltered camp among giant groundsels.

DESTINATION Mount Kilimanjaro National Park

OVERNIGHT Kilimanjaro Mountain Camps



DAY 04

Kikelewa to Mawenzi Tarn (4,315 m)

A short, steep climb of three to four hours up grassy slopes to the tarn below the spires of Mawenzi. In the afternoon you walk a little higher on the ridge and return, to help acclimatisation.

DESTINATION Mount Kilimanjaro National Park

OVERNIGHT Kilimanjaro Mountain Camps



DAY 05

Mawenzi Tarn to Kibo Hut (4,720 m)

Cross the wide, empty Saddle between Mawenzi and Kibo in four to five hours. Eat early at Kibo Hut and rest until late evening.

DESTINATION Mount Kilimanjaro National Park

OVERNIGHT Marangu Route Huts



DAY 06

Summit: Uhuru Peak (5,895 m), descend to Horombo Hut (3,720 m)

Start around midnight and climb the scree to Gilman's Point, then follow the rim to Uhuru Peak. Descend to Kibo Hut for a rest and continue down the Marangu route to Horombo. Twelve to fifteen hours.

DESTINATION Mount Kilimanjaro National Park

OVERNIGHT Marangu Route Huts



DAY 07

Horombo Hut to Marangu Gate (1,870 m)

Five to six hours down through moorland and rainforest to Marangu Gate, where you receive your certificate. Transfer to Moshi.

DESTINATION Mount Kilimanjaro National Park

AFRICAN QUEEN ADVENTURES

Where you stay

Lodges and camps chosen for their setting, comfort and service. (or similar, depending on availability)



Kilimanjaro Mountain Camps

DAY 1-4 · MOUNTAIN CAMP · MOUNTAIN STAY

Our crew sets up camp at the official park campsites along your route: sleeping tents with mattresses, a dining tent with table and chairs, and hot meals cooked on the mountain. Wa...

Sleeping tents and mattresses · Dining tent · Warm washing water



Marangu Route Huts

DAY 5-6 · MOUNTAIN HUTS · MOUNTAIN STAY

The A-frame huts of the Marangu route: Mandara in the rainforest, Horombo on the moorland and Kibo below the summit cone. Shared sleeping huts with bunk beds and dining halls; our...

Warm washing water · Bunk beds · Dining hall

KILIMANJARO RONGAI ROUTE: 7-DAY CLIMB

Inclusions & Exclusions

Included

- All KINAPA park fees
- KINAPA-licensed lead guide and assistants
- Porters and private camp chef
- Quality camping equipment
- All meals on the mountain
- Purified drinking water
- Pulse oximetry health checks
- Summit certificate
- Airport transfers
- Pre-trek hotel night in Moshi

Not included

- International flights
- Visa fees
- Travel insurance (mandatory)
- Personal climbing gear
- Gratuities for mountain crew
- Personal snacks



KILIMANJARO RONGAI ROUTE: 7-DAY CLIMB

Make this journey yours

Every itinerary can be changed: dates, pace, lodges and the parks you visit. Tell us how you like to travel and we will shape this trip around you.

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