

# **KILIMANJARO TREKKING**

## **"RONGAI ROUTE"**



### **RONGAI ROUTE (DURATION: 5 - 6 DAYS)**

#### **OVERVIEW**

The Rongai route is the least well travelled route on the mountain. It is on the northern side and whilst it is a long drive to starting point but you are rewarded by fantastic views and the like hood that you will be only climbers around. Our experienced team will prepare you delicious meals and be there to answer any of your queries as they arise. The day before your climb you will receive a full briefing from our climbing team, all your equipment will receive a final check and we will be able to answer any of your questions.

#### **DAY 1**

Pick up at Kilimanjaro airport and transfer to the hotel by private car. Dinner and overnight at **Planet Lodge** or **Ilboru Safari Lodge**.

#### **DAY 2**

### **RONGAI GATE (1,950M) to FIRST CAVES CAMP (2,600M)**

**HIKING TIME:** APPROX FIVE HOURS

**DISTANCE:** APPROXIMATELY EIGHT KILOMETRES

**HABITAT:** MOUNTAIN FOREST

After a hearty breakfast your guides will come to collect you and you will drive 45 minutes from the lodge to Marangu village/gate. After registering at the gate you will transfer (approximately 2 ½ hours) to the Rongai trailhead. Here you will begin your hike from the Nale Moru village. The small winding path crosses maize fields before entering pine forest, and then climbs gently through a forest. The trail is gentle and the countryside is beautiful. The first night's camp is at First Cave, at about 2,600 metres. There is a toilet and a wooden table with benches, but no hut. Water can be found just down the trail below First Cave.

## **DAY 3**

### **FIRST CAVE (2,600M) to KIKELEWA (3,600M)**

**HIKING TIME:** APPROXIMATELY SIX AND A HALF HOURS

**DISTANCE:** APPROXIMATELY SIXTEEN KILOMETERS

**HABITAT:** MOORLAND

The trail continues up towards Kibo, passing Second Cave (3450m) en-route, and reaching Kikelwa Cave at about 3600 metres. As the continues the views become more and more spectaculat. You will really begin to feel the awe of the mountain. You will overnight at 3rd Cave camp (Kikelewa Caves).

## **DAY 4**

### **KIKELEWA CAVE (3,600M) to MAWENZI TARN CAMP (4330M)**

**HIKING TIME:** APPROXIMATLY THREE AND HALF HOURS

**HABITAT:** MOORLANDS

After breakfast you continue to trek, today the hike is short but steep as you climb up the grassy slopes. You are rewarded with splendid views of the wilderness. You will soon leave the vegetation behind as you move towards the Mawenzi Tarn. This is situated below the towering spokes of Mawenzi. Here you will relax and spend the afternoon acclimatising.

## **DAY 5**

### **MAWENZI TARN CAMP (4330M) to KIBO HUT (4700M)**

**HIKING TIME:** APPROXIMATLY FOUR TO FIVE HOURS

**HABITAT:** ALPINE DESERT

After breakfast you continue to trek, today you will cross the mighty saddle joining Mawenzi and Kibo. After about 4 hours you will reach the Kibo hut, where you will spend the rest of the day preparing for the final ascent. This will begin around midnight.

## **DAY 6: SUMMIT ATTEMPT**

### **KIBO HUT (4,700M) to UHURU PEAK (5,895M) to HOROMBO HUT (3,720M)**

**HIKING TIME:** APPROXIMATELY EIGHT HOURS TO REACH UHURU PEAK AND ANOTHER SIX HOURS TO DESCEND TO HOROMBO

**DISTANCE:** APPROXIMATELY SIX KILOMETRES ASCENT – AND A FURTHER TWENTY ONE KILOMETRES DESCENT

**HABITAT:** STONE SCREE AND ICE-CAPPED SUMMIT

At about 23h30 you will be awoken to some tea and biscuits and will make a move into the night. You will head to Hans Meyer cave (5,150m). The path then zigzags up to Gillman's point (5,681m) on the crater rim. Many climbers find this walk the most mentally and physically challenging aspect of the climb. From Stella Point you will

normally encounter snow all the way on your 2-hour ascent to Uhuru Peak, the highest point in Africa and an achievement you will remember for the rest of your life. The walk back to Kibo hut from the summit, takes about 3 hours. Here you will have a well earned but short rest and collect the rest of your gear, before heading down to Horombo hut. The route is not difficult and will take you down the rock and scree path into the moorland and eventually into the forest. Here you will rest and feel proud of your achievement.

## **DAY 7**

### **HOROMBO HUT (3,720M) to MARANGU GATE (1,980M)**

**HIKING TIME:** APPROXIMATELY SIX HOURS

**DISTANCE:** APPROXIMATELY TWENTY SEVEN KILOMETRES

**HABITAT:** FOREST

After an early and well-deserved breakfast, you will continue a 6 hour descent passing Mandara hut, and down to the Marangu gate. Here you will receive your certificates; those climbers who reached Gillman's point (5,681m) are issued with green certificates and those who reached Uhuru Peak (5,895m) receive gold certificates. You will be picked up and brought back to lodge for a warm welcome, a cold celebratory drink and a hearty meal.

Dinner and overnight at **Planet Lodge** or **Ilboru Safari Lodge**.

## **DAY 8**

After breakfast transfer to Kilimanjaro airport by private car.

With reference to the quote, we shall be providing you with all your camping equipment, along with tents and sleeping mats. What are not included are sleeping bags (although these can be hired), water canteens, flashlights and clothing, of which I have provided a list of suggestions.

## **EQUIPMENT**

- 1 Mountaineering Sleeping bag (usually a -10 degree rating or better is recommended)
- 1 litre water canteen (sturdy plastic or steel).  
We have some at the Lodge, but it is difficult to know whether or not they will be in use at the time.
- 1 LED Flashlight with spare batteries - or if you can get a wind-up one that is even better!
- 1 Pair of comfortable trekking boots
- 2 pairs of thick thermal socks and several pairs of regular socks
- 2 Fleeeces
- 1 down jacket or long-sleeved wind-breaker (down jacket is unnecessary if you have good fleeces)

- 1 set of thermal underwear (i.e. thermal vest & long-johns)
- 2 pairs of trekking trousers
- 1 waterproof jacket
- 1 pair of waterproof trousers
- 1 balaclava or ski-mask
- 1 sun hat
- water purification tablets

Contact our office for a quotation  
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*The price includes transfers listed in the program, professional staff (guides, cooker and porters), park fees, food, drinkable water, rescue fees and camping gear (except the sleeping bag).*

For more details see "[booking conditions](#)" on our website.