



## Rongai Route- 7 Days

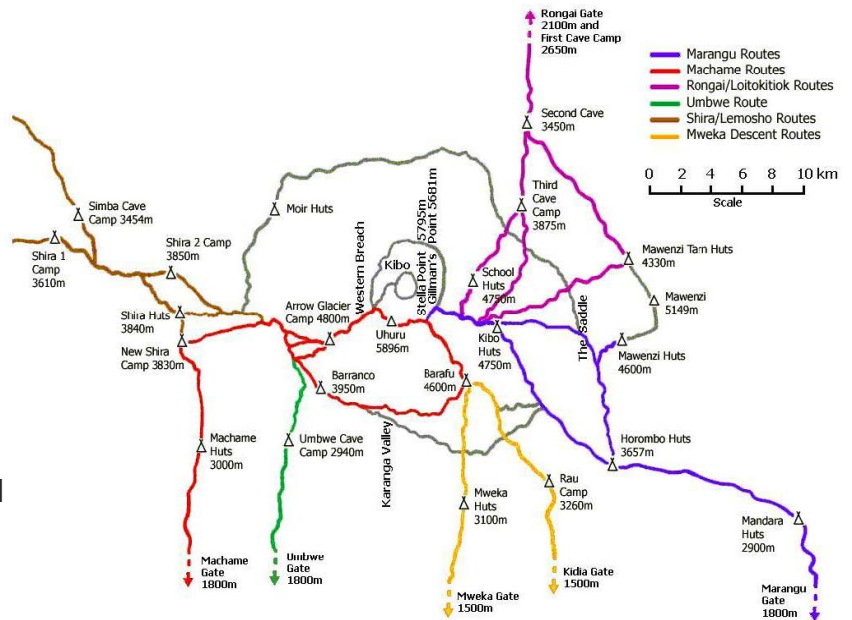
**Day One: Rongai Gate (Also known as NaleMuru) (1,800m/5,900ft) to Simba Camp (2626m/8615ft)**

**Elevation Gain: 760 meters, 2,000 feet**

**Hiking time: about 4 hours**

**Distance: about 6.7 km**

After an early breakfast in Arusha at SG Resort, we will drive to the Rongai Gate, near the Kenya border. This is over some rough roads. After registering at the gate, and meeting your porters, you will begin your climb from Nale Muru village to Uhuru Peak, the roof of Africa. During the first day, you will hike through forests where you may see and hear wildlife. You will eat a picnic lunch on the trail before continuing to the first campsite. Rongai ascends via the less forested northern side of the mountain.



Rongai Route is one of the least crowded routes on Kilimanjaro because of the long drive to the gate. The Rongai trail is thought to be the best chance for viewing wildlife.

**Day Two: Simba Camp (2626m/8615ft) to Second Cave Camp (3450m/11,318ft)**

**Elevation Gain: up to 1,000 meters, 3,280 feet**

**Hiking time: about 4 - 5 hours**

**Distance: about 11.8 km**

During day two, you will hike through Kilimanjaro's moorland. The Rongai route is relatively short and steep, making for shorter hiking times. During this

day, you can view Mawenzi Peak ahead.

**Day Three: Second Cave Camp (3450m/11,318ft) to Kikelewa Camp (3,600m/11,810ft)**

**Elevation Gain: 150 meters, 490 feet**

**Hiking time: about 3 hours**

**Distance: about 3.7 km**

This day is an acclimatization day, allowing you to hike in the beginning of the day and rest in the afternoon and evening. The hike is relatively short, up grassy slopes.

**Day Four: Kikelewa Camp (3,600m/11,810ft) to Mawenzi Tarn Camp (4,330m/14,200ft)**

**Elevation Gain: 730 meters, 2,390 feet**

**Hiking time: about 4 hours**

**Distance: about 3.7 km**

Day four has another relatively short, but steep hike to Mawenzi Tarn. The Mawenzi Tarn Camp is situated below Mawenzi Peak and offers stunning views of both Mawenzi and Kibo.

**Day Five: Mawenzi Tarn Camp (4,330m/14,200ft) to Kibo Hut (4,700m/15,430ft)**

**Elevation Gain: 380 meters/1230 feet**

**Hiking time: about 5 hours**

**Distance: about 9 km**

Cross the lunar landscape of the saddle on this day to arrive at the final camp. On the way across the saddle you will pass by the wreckage from a plane crash. This is an interesting stopping point for a short rest. By mid-afternoon you will arrive at Kibo Hut. Kibo Hut is situated directly below the Kibo cone, giving you views of your final destination.

You will spend the remainder of the day resting in preparation for the final ascent, which will begin around midnight.

**Day Six: Kibo Hut (4,700m/15,430ft) to Uhuru Peak (5,895m/19,340ft) to Horombo Hut (3,720m/12,200ft)**

**Elevation Gain: 1,145 meters, 3,760 feet**

**Hiking time: about 7-8 hours**

**Distance: about 5.4 km**

**Elevation Loss: 2,175 meters, 7,140 feet**

**Hiking time: about 6-8 hours**

**Distance: about 15 km**

Around midnight, you will begin the final ascent to Uhuru Peak, the highest point in Africa. For the next six hours, you will hike by the light of your headlamp. The ascent to the crater rim is the most challenging part of the entire trek. The first section of the trail consists of a rocky path to the Hans Meyer Cave (5150m), which can be a good resting spot for a brief rest- you won't want to sit long, as you will get very cold, very fast. The trail is very steep and you will climb in a switch back fashion on scree, until you reach the crater rim at Gilman's Point (5681m). This section will require great physical and mental effort. You won't need much of a reminder to go slowly- "pole pole", as you will have great difficulty breathing.

The hike from Gilman's to Uhuru Peak is a gradual climb and, as far as hikes go, not very difficult. The altitude, however, makes the hike long and tiring. The crater rim hike takes approximately two hours, reaching Stella Point at about halfway. Upon reaching Uhuru Peak, you can take photos of your group at the peak before beginning the descent to Kibo Hut for breakfast and a short break, before you continue on down to Horombo Hut. This is a VERY LONG day- you will be on your feet for many hours, but you may have a celebratory beer or soft drink (which may be available for sale), when you arrive at Horombo Hut.

**Day Seven: Horombo Hut (3,720m/12,200ft) to Marangu Gate (1,800m/5,905ft)**

**Elevation Loss: 1,920 meters, 6,295 feet**

**Hiking time: about 6 hours**

**Distance: about 19.7 km**

After breakfast, you will finish the trek with a descent to Marangu Gate. Your last hike on Kilimanjaro is a beautiful one, passing through Kilimanjaro's cloud forest. Watch your step during the descent, as the trail can be slippery. At the Marangu Gate, you will sign your name and provide your details in the register. There will be a celebration at the gate, with certificates for all those successful with their climbs. GM Expedition vehicles will be waiting at Marangu Gate to take you back to Moshi or Arusha. (Dinner on own)