

MOUNT KILIMANJARO 8 DAYS RONGAI ROUTE

Thank you for choosing Viva Africa Tours. As per your request, we have provided a schedule for your trek. Please go through the following itinerary, and if you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact us via email or phone.

Kilimanjaro is a metaphor for the compelling beauty of East Africa and this correlates with your trek sublimely. The enchanting views start with the golden savannah, journey amid the ancient caves and travel to the frosty region of the summit. The canopies in the cloud forest are ridden with cracks that allow the mystical light rays and clouds to seep through. The 8 days Rongai Route is the only route that tackles Kilimanjaro from the north side. This offers an exclusive journey to the summit. The neighbouring Kenyan region provides the scenic plains of the Maasai land where conspicuous splotches of wildlife including buffalo, elephants and monkeys emerge. This is the least frequented trail and the tranquillity compels East Africa's fascinating birdlife and you may encounter some of the diverse wildlife whilst on your trek. The drive to get to the gate it is filled with fantastic sights. In the rainy seasons the route is ideal because the north side receives less precipitation, permitting a safer trek.

Itinerary

Day 1: Kilimanjaro Airport to Moshi

Orientation for your trek will take place at the hotel and you will be picked up from the airport. Our guides will provide additional information regarding the 8 days Rongai Route and they will perform an inspection on your trekking gear.

Day 2: Rongai Gate / Nalemoru (1950m) to Simba Camp (2650m) (First Cave Camp) Time: 3-4hrs / Distance: 6.5km / Altitude Gain: 700m

In the morning we will pick you up from your hotel and drive to the Marangu Gate (approximately 1,8km). After the necessary park registration is completed, we will proceed to the Nalemoru Gate (Just under 2km). There will be an opportunity to meet your crew and a comforting hot lunch will be served at the gate. We will embark on the great journey to the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro. Your trek starts with a twisting path that intersects with a field of maize. We will enter the ember canopies of the dense forest and walk along the moist floor. The trees above the misty paths are home to the striking blue monkey, the contrasting black and white colobus and the adorable bush baby. The trek lasts three to four hours. We will spend the night at the Simba Camp (2650m). Comprehensive camping facilities are provided.



Viva Africa Tours | P.O.Box 7292 | Moshi, Kilimanjaro, Tanzania

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Day 3: Simba Camp (2650m) to Kikelewa Caves (3600m) (Third Caves Camp)

Time: 6-7hrs / Distance: 9km / Altitude Gain: 950m

In the morning the journey towards Kibo will resume. At the second ancient cave, an appetising hot lunch will be served. After lunch we will trek through a brief section of the barren dunes of the moorland and continue amid the heather vegetation zone which is studded with ethereal, enormous lobelias. There is a high possibility of viewing the breath-taking display of the Kibo peak. There is also a chance that we may spot jackals and the odd buffalo – there is no need to panic as your guide accompanies you at all times. Once we reach the Kikelewa Caves camp, you can relax for the remaining hours of the day (3600m).

Day 4: Kikelewa Caves (3600m) to Mawenzi Tarn (4330m)

Time: 3-4hrs / Distance: 6km / Altitude Gain: 370m

Breakfast will be served at the campsite. Our day begins on a short inclined pasture that leads to an area of wilderness. A low desert environment will replace the limited vegetation. We will arrive at the Mawenzi Tarn Hut (4,330m) where a delectable hot lunch will be served. There is a possibility of small excursions for acclimatisation taking place but you are likely spend the rest of the day lounging at the campsite.

Day 5: Mawenzi Tarn to Kibo Hut (4700m)

Time: 4-5hrs / Distance: 9km / Altitude Gain: 370m

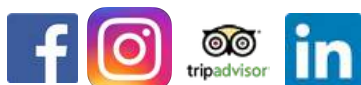
Note that the trail progressively becomes steeper and stonier as we advance further away from the Mawenzi Tarn Hut. We will travel up a desolate site that leads to 'The Saddle' – an extensive lunar lava stone landscape that stretches between Mawenzi and Kibo. The journey is complimented by the marvellous views of the towering upper regions of the Kilimanjaro. Our trek will come to an end when we reach the Kibo Huts (4703m) and a steaming hot meal will be served in the afternoon. You can relax for the remainder of the day. We recommend that you try to get to bed early so you are revitalized for the climb to the summit at midnight.



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Day 6: Kibo Hut to Uhuru Peak (5895m) to Horombo Hut (3700m)

Time: 6-8hrs ascent, 5-6hrs descent / Distance: 5km ascent, 15km descent / Altitude Gain: 1195m, Altitude Loss: 2195m

Our voyage to the summit begins at midnight and this is the longest, most laborious day of the whole trek. The trail consists of a long, sharp slope until we pass the Hans Meyer Cave. At this point the path transforms into a twisting, single-file lane. To reach Gillman's Point (5685m) you will use a brief path with a terrain that is laden with rocks, some climbing is necessary. This is the biggest difficulty of the ascension. Gilman's point or the lips of Kilimanjaro indicate that Uhuru Peak (5895m) is merely a two hour hike away. Once you progress to Uhuru and behold the spectacle of the first peach hued rays of light brushing against the ice laden fields of the Mawenzi Peaks – you will comprehend the magnitude of your victory. We won't spend too much time at Uhuru as we have to start our descent to the Kibo Hut. We will take a short, desirable break. We will proceed to the Horombo Huts and at this point you will beam with joy at the sight of your sleeping bag.

Day 7: Horombo Hut to Marangu Gate (1800m)

Time: 5-6hrs / Distance: 20km / Altitude Loss: 1900m

After breakfast we will descend to the Marangu gate. On our journey we will encounter the Mandara Hut and travel through the lush rainforest once again. When we get to the Marangu gate you will be awarded with a certificate to prove that you completed the 8 days Rongai Route. After the brief festivities with your porters conclude you will be transported back to the hotel – where a piping hot shower, soft mattress and fresh clothes await. You may even want to try one or two Kilimanjaro beers!

Day 8: Moshi to Kilimanjaro Airport

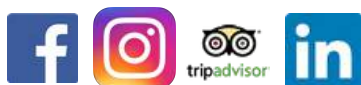
Today we will transfer you to Kilimanjaro Airport, from where you will connect your flight back home. If you've decided to go in a safari – well, that's a another adventure and we'll be happy to arrange it for you!



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Included

- Airport transfer
- Transport from/to park gate
- Pre and post climb accommodation (B&B) in Moshi
- Park, camping and rescue fees
- Mountain tents and mattresses
- Professional English speaking guide(s), porters & cook
- 7 breakfasts; 6 lunches; 5 dinners
- Water; tea and coffee with meals

Not Included

- Flights
- Lunch and dinner in Moshi
- Travel insurance
- Visa and passport fees
- Raise in park entrance fees
- Personal equipment
- Sleeping bag
- Tips for guide(s), porters & cook
- Soda and Alcoholic beverages

Kilimanjaro Climbing Gear

Packing your suitcase for Mount Kilimanjaro can be a challenging task. However, the good news is that most of the equipment can be rented in Moshi. We advise that you check your wardrobe / trekking gear to ensure you have the necessary gear. If you do not, we advise you purchase the necessary equipment so that you can travel in optimum comfort to the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro.

On the first day, you will need to wear light clothes, but on the day you summit Mount Kilimanjaro you will need to wear winter clothes.

Packing Checklist for Kilimanjaro



- Head torch
- Spare batteries
- Warm hat
- Sunglasses
- Sun hat
- Scarf or balaclava
- T shirt
- Thermals top and bottom 3 pairs
- Sleeping bag
- Sleeping bag liner
- Fleece
- Down jacket
- Water / wind proof jacket
- Gaiters
- Poncho
- Water proof gloves
- Gloves liner
- Hiking trousers
- Water proof trousers
- Hiking socks 1 pair per day
- Hiking boots
- Water bottle
- Camel back water bag
- Day pack
- Rucksack
- Rucksack cover
- Hiking poles
- Sun screen



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Tipping Guidelines

Tip is not included in your tour price. Please find below our guidelines for tipping your mountain crew. The tip is shared amongst all climbers.

- Mountain Guide- \$20.00 per day
- 1 Porter / Waiter- \$7.00 to \$10.00 per day
- 1 Mountain Cook- \$15.00 per day