

MOUNT KILIMANJARO 9 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.

In the northern region, the base of Kilimanjaro is covered in a dense blanket of rusty gold savannah. The spectacular landscapes of the Masaai land feature elephants, monkeys and gleaming silhouettes of the contrasting black buffalo whilst colourful flocks of East Africa's enticing birdlife soar the blue skies. The tranquil route travels through many different climate zones. The towering peak of the mountain is drenched in brilliant light, spikes of thin emerald impale the snow in distinctive directions. The enchanted cloud forest beckons one into its pulsing heart. Steeped in plushness and opulence with coils of vaporous mist and light illuminating through fractured canopies. The long drive to the gate is crammed with beautiful sights and the 9 days Rongai Route is considered to be moderately difficult. During the wet season this route is favoured due to the fact that there is less precipitation in the area – this allows for enjoyable, drier conditions.

Itinerary

Day 1: Kilimanjaro Airport to Moshi

You will be picked up from the airport, from there you will go to the hotel for orientation on your hike. Your guides provide relevant information for your specific route and perform a comprehensive inspection on your 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 transport you from your hotel to the Marangu Gate (1,8km). Park registration will be completed upon arriving and then we will proceed to the Nalemoru gate (Under 2km). The extended trip to the gate is packed with astonishing sceneries and ventures through a native village. An appetising hot lunch will be served at the gate and introductions between you and your crew members will take place. We will embark on the 9 days Rongai Route to the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro. The coiling path amid the golden maize field leads to entrance of the oak-brown forest. Fallen leaves will crackle beneath your feet as you marvel at the immensity of the emerald canopy. The knotted ember arms of the tree rise towards the sky, assisting the blue monkeys with their trapeze performance. The orchestra of birdsong floats through the mist covered air. You may encounter the striking Black and White Colobus or the adorable Bush Baby. We will arrive at the Simba Campsite where we will spend the night (2650m / 3-4 hours of hiking).



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Day 3: Simba Camp (2650m) to Second Caves Camp 3150m

Time: 3-4hrs / Distance: 4km / Altitude Gain: 500m

After a delicious breakfast we will continue to move in the direction of the looming peak of Kibo to the Second Cave. We will venture on a gentle incline through the fuscous brown moorland and heather vegetation zones. The arid plains are scattered with hoary desert plants and the heather is dominated by whimsical plantation and celestially enormous trees. Hot lunch will be provided at the Second Caves Camp (3150m / 3-4 hours). There is a possibility of small excursions towards the Third Cave – this will aid the acclimatisation process, relaxing is also an option. The excursions will increase your chances of witnessing marvellous sights including the distinct crown of Mawenzi's serrated, dark peak speckled with snow. Encountering wildlife such as buffaloes or jackals is conceivable and the spectacular figure of Kibo Peak (the summit peak) is best observed at this angle. Your tents will be assembled at the Second Cave.

Day 4: Second caves Camp (3150m) to Kikelewa Caves (3600m)

Time: 3-4hrs / Distance: 5km / Altitude Gain: 450m

The trek advances towards Kibo and we will begin after breakfast is served. We will venture through an exposed area of moorland and heather foliage to reach the Kikelewa Caves Camp. Your chances of viewing Kibo, which is shrouded in ghost-grey mist, are high. You may spot the great buffalo with winding horns and more jackals. A tantalising lunch will be served at the campsite.

Day 5: Kikelewa Caves (3600m) to Mawenzi Tarn (4330m)

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

We will travel to the Mawenzi Tarn Hut (4,330m) after breakfast. We will traverse on a malachite-green slope. The chatter of the birds breaking the quiet of the world whilst clouds shaped like tufty pillows glide slowly across the sky. The parched fauna and flora of the moorland is temporarily banished as we travel through a region of wilderness. Our trek proceeds through a low desert area. The comforting aromas of your delicious hot lunch will drift through the entrance of the Mawenzi Tarn Hut. (6000m / 3-4 hour trek). Brief excursions for acclimatisation may occur but the remaining hours of the afternoon will be spent lounging around the campsite.



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Day 6: Mawenzi Tarn to Kibo Hut (4700m)

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

The route gradually develops into a steeper, rockier trail as we further ourselves from the Mawenzi Tarn Hut. Traveling along the meek landscape of the ashen 'Saddle', an expansive lava stone ridge amid Mawenzi and Kibo, provides stunning views of the lofty peak of Kilimanjaro. An appetising, warm meal will be served when we arrive at the Kibo Hut (4703m). You will have a relaxing evening and an early bedtime to ensure that you are well rested for the midnight trek to the summit.

Day 7: 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

We will depart from the huts shortly after midnight and undertake the most demanding day of the entire trek. Until we reach the beautiful Hans Meyer Cave the trail ensues an extended screed incline, at this stage it adapts into a single-file zigzag. A rocky path with wildflowers bursting from the earth with their azure gongs attached will lead us to Gillman's Point (5685m). The pollen travels like floating grains of pixie dust, scattered by the blustery wind. This is the most challenging section of the route. Gillman's Point signifies the last two hours of the hike to Uhuru Peak are upon us (5895m). On Africa's rooftop the gleaming landscape is smothered in wispy clouds and pasty streaks. An amethyst-purple tint invades the skies as the sun begins to emerge, soon the sky will be a-fire in the warm glow of tree-flame. Sun washes the ice fields with a golden radiance and the sugar-frosted coating glints. We will marvel at the view and celebrate what you have accomplished before starting the descent to Kibo Hut where we will take a break. Horombo Hut is our final destination for the day and you can enjoy a well-deserved slumber.

Day 8: Horombo Hut to Marangu Gate (1800m) to Moshi

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

After enjoying an appetising breakfast we will circle past the Mandara Hut and through the magnificent rainforest before reaching the Marangu gate. You will receive your summit certificates for completing the 9 days Rongai Route and short festivities with your porters will occur. You will be transported you to your hotel where a steaming shower and plush bedding await.

Day 9: Moshi to Kilimanjaro Airport

A driver will bring you to Kilimanjaro Airport, where it is time to say goodbye to Tanzania and its friendly people. If you've decided to go on a safari – well, that's a different adventure and we'll take care of that too!



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Included

- Airport transfer
- 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
- 8 breakfasts; 7 lunches; 6 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