

# Kilimanjaro Trek

Trek to the roof of Africa along the Rongai Route



# Mount Kilimanjaro Trek, Rongai Route

## Conquer the tallest freestanding volcano in the world, Mount Kilimanjaro

Kilimanjaro is one of Africa's most magnificent sights, and at 5985m it is her highest peak. It is the tallest freestanding volcano in the world and Kibo, which is the central crater, rests on its two sisters Mawenzi and Shira.

We will be ascending by the Rongai route, which retains a sense of untouched wilderness. It has a relatively gentle gradient and short daily stages.

From cultivated farmlands on the lower levels, our route takes us through lush jungle, alpine meadow and finally across a barren lunar landscape to the summit of Kibo where we start our final ascent to stand on the roof of Africa!



# Detailed itinerary

## Day 1: Depart London to Nairobi

### Day 2: Nairobi to Arusha

Arrive Nairobi and join connecting flight to Kilimanjaro airport. Upon arrival transfer to hotel where we will meet our guides, have our trek briefing and prepare for the challenge ahead.

### Day 3: Naremoru Gate to Simba Camp, 3-4hrs (2600m)

Early start for a 3-4 hour drive to Rongai. Upon arrival we will meet our guides and porters, and complete the park formalities. Our ascent begins from Naremoru Gate (1950m), and we trek through farmers fields and the forest zone. There is a good chance to see the colourful Colobus monkeys on route; and if the weather is clear, we should get good late afternoon views across Tsavo in Kenya. Our camp is just out of the fores

### Day 4: Simba Camp to Kikelewa Camp 7-9hrs (3678m)

We leave Simba Camp and climb through the moorland. As we climb, the trees become sparser and later disappear; even the heather starts to shrink at higher altitudes. We break at a lava tube for lunch before traversing to our campsite at Kikelewa Cave .

### Day 5: Kikelewa Camp to Mawenzi Tarn 4-5hrs (4295m)

A steeper trek to Mawenzi tarn Hut at 4295m, arriving for lunch. Set in moraines in a glaciated valley our camp has good views of the jagged peaks of Mawenzi above us. In the afternoon we will have a short circular acclimatisation walk to a higher altitude.

### Day 6: Mawenzi Tarn Acclimatisation Day

### Day 7: Mawenzi Tarn to Kibo, 5-6hrs (4700m)

A slow trek across “the Saddle” – an alpine desert between the volcanic peaks of Mawenzi and Kibo. Upon arrival at 4700m, we will rest and prepare for the summit day.

### Day 8: Summit day, 12-16hrs

This is an extremely long and challenging day, walking up to 16 hrs. We get up shortly after midnight and climb from our camp at Kibo to Gilman’s point (5680m) on the rim of the volcanic crater for sunrise. If the day is clear there are spectacular views over the savannah plains with the possibility of seeing Mt Kenya some 360km away.

We then continue across the snow around the rim for a further 2 hrs for the final push to Uhuru Peak (5895m) – Africa’s highest point. It is a hard hike, but is well worth it to see the glaciers and have your photo taken with a sign confirming your achievement.

We descend to Gillman’s Point and then onto Kibo where there will be the opportunity to have a short rest and refuel before our trek to Horombo Huts where we stay overnight.

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## Day 9: Horombo to Marangu Gate

We retrace our steps and stop at Mandara for lunch. Transport will then be waiting at Marangu gate for the journey back to our hotel in Arusha. Gala Dinner and overnight.

## Day 10: Depart Kilimanjaro for London

Transfer to Kilimanjaro airport for afternoon flight to London via Nairobi.

## Day 11: Arrive London, UK

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*This itinerary is complex and subject to change*

## Best time of year:

January, February, June, July, September, October

