

Earthbound Expeditions

Kilimanjaro Rongai Trek

9 days, from US$1,850 per person

Duration	Group size	Country
9 days	**15 people**	**Tanzania**

Kilimanjaro Rongai Trek Overview

Climb Kilimanjaro (5,895 m), the highest peak in Africa, via the Rongai route, the easiest and most remote of its seven official routes.

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The Rongai route is the only trail that approaches Kilimanjaro from the north, on the Kenyan border side. It is becoming increasingly popular because it remains wild and offers a remote experience. It is also the easiest route up Kilimanjaro and has an excellent success rate.

The Rongai route begins near the Kenyan border, with views over the African plains and the rugged peak of Mawenzi. The trail passes Simba Camp, the forest zone and the Kikelewa Caves before reaching Mawenzi Tarn. Just after Mawenzi Tarn Camp, trekkers pass the only mountain lake in Kilimanjaro National Park on the way to the Kibo Huts.

The summit climb from Kibo Hut is steep and follows the same path as the Marangu route, passing Gilman's Point (5,700 m) on the way to Uhuru Peak at 5,895 metres. From Uhuru Peak, you have panoramic views of the surrounding peaks and savannah. After the summit, the Rongai route descends via the Marangu trail, through lush rainforest with wildlife.

Kilimanjaro can be climbed in six, seven or eight days via the Rongai route. We strongly recommend the seven- or eight-day itineraries, as they give you extra days to acclimatise to the altitude.

The Rongai route suits travellers looking for an alternative to the popular Marangu route who would like a more remote hike.

Itinerary

Day 1

Arrive at Mountain Inn

Arrive at Mountain Inn. Pre-climb briefing on the trek and overnight at Mountain Inn.

Altitude: 890 m On foot: None, arrival day Night: Hotel, Moshi Meals: Dinner

Day 2

Drive to Nalemuru Gate and trek to Simba Camp

Go to Marangu Gate for registration, then drive to Nalemuru Gate (2020m) and start the climb through the mountain's forest. Trekking time: 3 to 4 hours, approx. 8km. Overnight at Simba Camp (2625m).

Altitude: 2,625 m On foot: 8 km, 3–4 hrs Night: Tented camp, Simba Camp Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 3

Trek to Second Cave Camp

A steady trek through the forest zone into the heather and moorland. Trekking time: 3 to 5 hours, approx. 7km. Overnight at Second Cave Camp (2625m).

Altitude: 3,450 m On foot: 7 km, 3–5 hrs Night: Tented camp, Second Cave Camp Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 4

Trek to Kikelewa Cave Camp

Continue through the heather and moorland. Today's route is steeper, rockier and slightly more physically demanding than on previous days. Trekking time: 4 to 5 hours, approx. 8km. Overnight at Kikelewa Cave Camp (3630m).

Altitude: 3,630 m On foot: 8 km, 4–5 hrs Night: Tented camp, Kikelewa Cave Camp Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 5

Trek to Mawenzi Tarn Camp

Continue from the heather and moorland into the highland desert zone towards Mawenzi. Trekking time: 3 to 4 hours, approx. 5km. Overnight at Mawenzi Tarn Camp (4310m).

Altitude: 4,310 m On foot: 5 km, 3–4 hrs Night: Tented camp, Mawenzi Tarn Camp Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 6

Trek to Kibo Camp

Cross the saddle between Mawenzi and Kibo. Trekking time: 3.5 to 5 hours, approx. 8km. Overnight at Kibo Camp (4700m).

Altitude: 4,700 m On foot: 8 km, 3.5–5 hrs Night: Tented camp, Kibo Camp Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 7

Summit Uhuru Peak and descend to Horombo Camp

Start for the summit at around midnight, climbing to Gilman's Point (5681m) and then continuing to Uhuru Peak (5895m). Descend to Horombo Camp. Trekking time: 12 to 16 hours, approx. 21km. Overnight at Horombo Camp (3720m).

Altitude: 5,895 m at Uhuru Peak On foot: 21 km, 12–16 hrs Night: Tented camp, Horombo Camp Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 8

Descend to Marangu Gate and transfer to Moshi

Continue the descent through the heather and moorland and the forest to Marangu Gate (1860m). Transfer to Moshi. Trekking time: 5 to 6 hours, approx. 12km. Overnight at Mountain Inn.

Altitude: 890 m On foot: 12 km, 5–6 hrs Night: Hotel, Moshi Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 9

Departure

Check out. Continue on a safari or transfer to the airport. Our services end here.

Altitude: 890 m On foot: None, departure day Night: No overnight Meals: Breakfast

What's included

- 2 nights' accommodation at Mountain Inn on a half-board basis (1 double or twin room)
- Kilimanjaro National Park (KINAPA) conservation fees (entry fees)
- Kilimanjaro National Park compulsory rescue fees
- Kilimanjaro National Park camping fees
- KINAPA-trained and certified English-speaking guide(s)
- KINAPA-trained and certified porters (1 porter per person for personal mountain luggage of 15kg max.)
- KINAPA-trained and certified cook, with utensils, cutlery, crockery and so on

- All meals on the mountain on a full-board basis
- Camping chairs, tables and dining tent
- Three- or four-season light dome tent, shared between two travellers
- 1 transfer from Moshi to the park gates per group
- 1 transfer from the park gates to Moshi per group
- Safe and luggage storage at Mountain Inn while you are on the trek
- Boiled drinking water on the trek
- Basic first aid kit per group
- Additional day(s) for acclimatisation

Not included

- Tips and gratuities
- Additional transfers from the park gates to Moshi
- Airport transfers
- Extra nights' accommodation at Mountain Inn
- Personal mountain equipment such as sleeping bags, walking poles, mattresses, duffel bags and so on (please ask for prices)
- Specialised trekking equipment such as oxygen cylinders (please ask for prices)
- Drinks such as soft drinks and alcohol
- Metal water bottles, water bladders and so on (please note: soft plastics are not permitted on the mountain)
- Personal expenses

Photos, videos and reviews of this trip: earthbound.rajansimkhada.com/kilimanjaro-rongai-trek