

ADVENTURE | TANZANIA

8 Days Hike Rongai Route

DURATION	FROM (PER PERSON)	TRIP STYLE	TRIP CODE
8 days / 7 nights	£2,354.40	Adventure	WTE-3763

Overview

The Rongai Route is the only trail that approaches Mount Kilimanjaro from the north, close to the Kenyan border. It is quieter than the southern routes, drier during the rainy seasons, and offers a gradual climb through wild, untouched landscapes.

The route passes beneath the jagged spires of Mawenzi Peak and crosses the stark saddle between Mawenzi and Kibo before your summit attempt. You then descend on the opposite side of the mountain via the Marangu Route, so you see two very different sides of Kilimanjaro.

Highlights

- Montane forest from Rongai Gate, home to colobus monkeys
- Views across the eastern ice fields
- A night at Mawenzi Tarn, beneath the dramatic peaks of Mawenzi
- A midnight summit push via Gilman's Point to Uhuru Peak (5,895m)
- Descent via Horombo Hut to Marangu Gate

Who it suits

Trekkers who prefer a quieter trail and a steady, gradual climb, and anyone climbing during the wetter months, when the northern side stays drier.

Day-by-Day Itinerary

DAY 01

Arrival in Arusha / Moshi

Upon arrival at Kilimanjaro International Airport, you'll be met by our driver and transferred to your lodge in Arusha or Moshi for pre-climb briefing and equipment check. Rest and prepare for the adventure ahead.

Accommodation: Hotel in Arusha/Moshi

DAY 02

Rongai Gate (1,950m) – Simba Camp (2,600m)

After breakfast, drive to the Rongai Gate near the Kenyan border for registration. Begin your trek through beautiful montane forests, home to Colobus monkeys and tropical birds. A gentle ascent brings you to Simba Camp overlooking the plains.

Hiking Time: 4–5 hours

Distance: 7 km

Vegetation: Forest Zone

Accommodation: Simba Camp

DAY 03

Simba Camp (2,600m) – Second Cave (3,450m)

The trail climbs steadily through moorland, offering stunning views of the eastern ice fields. Lunch is served en route before arriving at Second Cave Camp, where you'll enjoy clear skies and incredible mountain vistas.

Hiking Time: 6–7 hours

Distance: 9 km

Vegetation: Moorland

Accommodation: Second Cave Camp

DAY 04

Second Cave (3,450m) – Kikelewa Camp (3,600m)

Continue your ascent through grassy slopes dotted with giant heathers and lobelias. The landscape opens up to reveal the towering peaks of Mawenzi. Camp near a sheltered valley at Kikelewa Camp.

Hiking Time: 4–5 hours

Distance: 6 km

Vegetation: Moorland

Accommodation: Kikelewa Camp

DAY 05

Kikelewa Camp (3,600m) – Mawenzi Tarn (4,330m)

A short but steep climb leads you to the Mawenzi Tarn, dramatically situated beneath the jagged spires of Mawenzi Peak. Spend the afternoon acclimatizing and exploring the area with short hikes.

Hiking Time: 4–5 hours

Distance: 7 km

Vegetation: Alpine Desert
Accommodation: Mawenzi Tarn Camp

DAY 06

Mawenzi Tarn (4,330m) – Kibo Hut (4,700m)

Cross the barren saddle between Mawenzi and Kibo peaks, a stark but striking landscape leading to Kibo Hut. Rest early in preparation for your midnight summit attempt.

Hiking Time: 5–6 hours
Distance: 8 km
Vegetation: Alpine Desert
Accommodation: Kibo Hut

DAY 07

Summit Day – Kibo Hut (4,700m) to Uhuru Peak (5,895m) & Descend to Horombo Hut (3,720m)

Begin your ascent around midnight, climbing slowly through the cold darkness toward Gillman's Point (5,685m) on the crater rim. Continue to Uhuru Peak, the highest point in Africa! Celebrate your achievement and enjoy breathtaking sunrise views before descending to Horombo Hut for a well-deserved rest.

Hiking Time: 12–14 hours total
Distance: 19 km
Vegetation: Arctic to Moorland
Accommodation: Horombo Hut

DAY 08

Horombo Hut (3,720m) – Marangu Gate (1,860m) – Arusha / Moshi

Descend through lush rainforest to Marangu Gate, where successful climbers receive their summit certificates. Transfer back to your hotel in Arusha or Moshi for a hot shower and celebration dinner.

Hiking Time: 5–6 hours
Distance: 18 km

Ready to book this trip?

From £2,354.40 per person. Dates and private departures available on request.

Book online: amltravelandtours.com/trip/7-days-hike-rongai-route
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Prices are per person in GBP and subject to availability at the time of booking. Itineraries may be adjusted for weather, park conditions or safety. Updated 26 October 2026.