

# kilimanjaro summit climb - rongai route, tanzania



At 5,895m, Mt. Kilimanjaro is one of the largest volcanoes ever to break through the Earth's crust. Your challenge is to reach its summit!

The Rongai Route starts just south of the Kenya-Tanzania border and has been mostly unused for many years. Now open for climbing once again, experienced guides consider this ascent route to be both more manageable and more beautiful than the main Marangu Trail. The Rongai Route begins in attractive farmland and delightful forest, with the possibility of wildlife viewing and passing through several different climate zones, adding considerably to the interest of the trek.

Temperatures drop at night, allowing you to enjoy the crisp cool air under the star-studded African skies. During the days you will rise higher, often looking down on a sea of clouds. The expedition has been carefully planned to ensure that you acclimatise as much as possible to the altitude and your chances of making it to the summit are maximised.

The deviation to Mawenzi Tarn is very beautiful and on a little-used trail through moorland. This route retains a sense of unspoilt wilderness and offers a different perspective on Kilimanjaro by approaching it from the north.

The seven day itinerary gives excellent acclimatisation and also gives you an unusual

view of the montane forest on Kilimanjaro. On the final night before the summit climb you

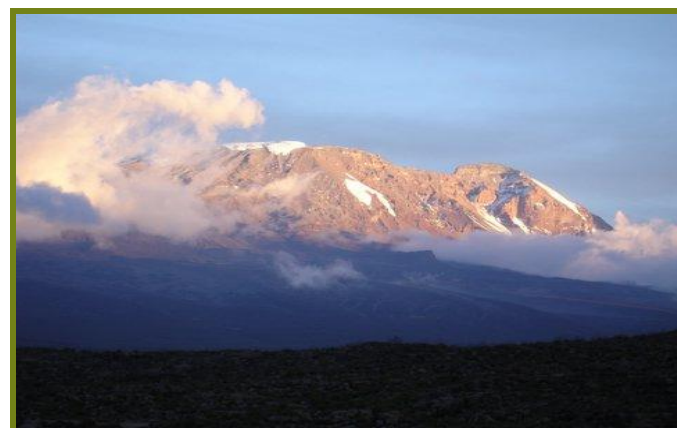
shall need to rise at around midnight to commence the final trek in the moonlight up the scree slopes to Gillman's point. Your aim is to reach this point by dawn and continue around the rim to the highest point, Uhuru Peak. This is likely to be the toughest day that most trekkers have ever experienced, involving 1,295m of ascent, 2,145m of descent.

## Day 1: Depart from UK to Kenya

Our Charity Challenge representative will be there to assist you with the check-in and any last minute questions.

## Day 2: Transfer to Marangu

Subject to availability you will connect with an internal flight to Kilimanjaro airport or transfer overland across Kenya, If you transfer overland you will transfer by bus (approx 4hrs) across Kenya to Namanga Border. Once through the border into Tanzania you will continue your journey for approx another 3hrs until you arrive at your hotel in Marangu. This evening you will have your briefing and kit check. Overnight and dinner in a hotel in Marangu.



## Day 3: Forest trek (2,600m)

After breakfast you will you transfer by 4x4 to Rongai where after completing the necessary registration formalities at the Marangu National Park gate you will

begin your climb. The climb starts from the attractive traditional village of Nale Moru at 1,950m on a small path that winds through fields of maize and potatoes before entering a pine forest. The track then starts to climb consistently but gently, through attractive forest that shelters a variety of wildlife, including the beautiful Kilimanjaro Colobus monkey. These monkeys are black with a long 'cape' of white hair and a flowing white tail. The forest begins to thin out and the first camp is at the edge of the moorland zone (2,600m) with extensive views over the Kenyan plains. Dinner and overnight camping.

Approx trekking 4-5hrs



#### Day 4: Towards Mawenzi (3,600m)

After breakfast you will head off and leave the main trail striking out across the moorland on a smaller path, towards the jagged peaks of Mawenzi. After a hot lunch there is time to wander in the valleys and see the special vegetation. Your campsite is in a sheltered valley with giant senecios near Kikelewa Caves at 3,600m.

Approx trekking 6-7hrs

#### Day 5: Mawenzi Tarn (4,330m)

Early morning after breakfast there is short but steep climb up some grassy slopes which is rewarded by superb all round views and a tangible sense of wilderness. You will leave the vegetation behind shortly before reaching the next camp at Mawenzi Tarn (4,330m), spectacularly situated directly beneath the towering spires of Mawenzi. The afternoon will be free to rest or explore the surrounding area as an aid to acclimatisation. Dinner and overnight at campsite. Approx trekking 4-5hrs

#### Day 6: Acclimatisation Day (4440m)

After breakfast you will walk out to the ridge line at 4440m which has majestic views of Kibo. The walk is a short uphill climb and then back to the camp where you will spend the afternoon relaxing and enjoying the views over the Kenyan plains below. Dinner and Overnight camping.

Approx trekking time 2-3hrs

#### Day 7: Kibo Crater (4,750m)

After breakfast you will trek across the lunar desert of the 'Saddle' between Mawenzi and Kibo to reach School Campsite (4,750m) at the bottom of the Kibo crater-wall.

The remainder of the day is spent resting in preparation for the final ascent before a very early night! Dinner and overnight at campsite.

Approx trekking 5-6hrs



#### Day 8: Summit Day (5,895m)

You will need to rise at around midnight (if you've managed to get some sleep!) to commence the trek up the scree slopes to Gilman's Point, continuing around the rim to the highest point Uhuru Point. It can seem mild at first but as you reach the exposed ridges, wind chill causes the temperature to plummet. First light is apparent around 0530hrs and this really gives you hope to push on upwards. You should reach Gillman's Point (at 5,685m on the crater rim) just after dawn; then after a short rest continue for another 1 ½hrs or so round to Uhuru Point. After reaching Kilimanjaro's summit at 5,895m and having enjoyed the amazing views, you will then return to your camp via Kibo (4,700m) and then onto Horombo (3780m). This is to be the toughest day that most trekkers have ever experienced, involving 1,145m of ascent, 2,175m of descent, and 13-15 hrs walking. It is however Victory Day! You will have a final camp meal and overnight at Horombo.

Approx trekking 11-15hrs.

#### Day 9: Descend to Marangu Gate

Today you will set off early and walk down through the moorland to Mandara Hut (2,700m). This is a long walk-off on a pretty gently sloping track that takes you from the lower heath into the rainforest and finally down to the National Park gate at Marangu (1,830m). After lunch you will be driven to your hotel in Marangu for a well-appreciated shower and a celebratory dinner. Approx trekking 4-6hrs

#### Day 10: Depart Tanzania to UK

This afternoon you will transfer back to Nairobi airport (approx 4-6hrs overland or via an internal flight from Kilimanjaro to Nairobi) for your flight to the UK.

#### Day 11: Arrive Home

Arrive in the UK.

*"A rewarding and incredible experience never to be forgotten, with an amazing group of people who will always be in my heart"*

## Optional Tarangire, Ngorongoro and Lake Manyara Safari Extension

### Day 10: Safari in Tarangire

After breakfast you will head west out of Arusha on a drive (approx 1.5hr) to Tarangire National Park. Tarangire boasts a vast number of baobabs that first capture the eye as you enter Tarangire National Park. The gently rolling countryside is dotted with these majestic trees, which seem to dwarf the animals that feed beneath them. Tarangire National Park covers approximately 2,600sq kms and, in the dry season, is second only to Ngorongoro Crater Conservation Area in concentrations of wildlife. The park is spectacular in the dry season when many of the migratory wildlife species come back to the permanent waters of Tarangire River. Huge herds of elephants gather to stay in Tarangire until the onset of the rains when they migrate again to new grazing areas. Overnight at a lodge or luxury tented camp on a full board basis.



### Day 11: Ngorongoro Crater

This morning you will take a drive to Ngorongoro Crater with a picnic lunch in the Crater, followed by an afternoon of top class game viewing. Ngorongoro Crater is the Eighth Wonder of the World. The Ngorongoro Conservation Area is remarkable for the Ngorongoro Crater itself. Twelve miles wide, it is the world's largest intact caldera. Before its collapse two million years ago, the volcano is believed to have been higher than Mount Kilimanjaro. Its grassland covered plains and forested rim is the habitat of herds of elephant. The grassy crater floor is home to buffalo, wildebeest, zebra, gazelle, and hartebeest as well as the endangered black rhino. Hippos wallow in the marshes and ponds. Lion, hyena, and jackal are common. Birdlife is prolific. Dinner and overnight at lodge or tented camp on a full board basis

### Day 12: Lake Manyara

In the morning you will visit Lake Manyara Park, it offers a blend of woodland, open bush, and lake. The Mahogany and Sausage Trees are alive with blue monkeys and vervets. Elephants feed off fallen fruit while bushbuck, waterbuck, baboons, aardvark, civet, the shy pangolin and leopard, all make their home in the forest. Lake Manyara is a magnet for birdlife and a kaleidoscope of different species can be found around its shores, including huge flocks of flamingos. The large variety of mammals, reptiles, birds and the different

types of vegetation, all within a small area make Lake Manyara a diverse and particularly memorable place to visit. In the afternoon you will be transferred to Arusha for your last night in Tanzania. Overnight and dinner at a hotel in Arusha.



### Day 13: Depart Tanzania to UK

After a leisurely breakfast you will get the shuttle bus transfer to Nairobi airport where you board your flight to London.

### Day 14: Arrive Home

Arrive in the UK.

**Cost:** £695 per person sharing (based on 2 or more people in twin accommodation. NB: there must be a minimum of 2 persons for this extension to run.)

#### Included:

- Park fees
- Services of qualified English-speaking driver/guide
- 4WD vehicle
- All meals on safari
- All accommodation based on lodges or luxury tented camps. Rooms are very spacious and comfortable.

#### Excluded:

- Personal expenses (ie: gifts, extra soft drinks or alcohol, laundry etc)
- Tips for local team (We recommend you allow \$15 per person for tipping your safari driver/ guide)

If you would like to book the above extension or have any extension enquiries please call the Charity Challenge office on 020 8557 0000 or email [flights@charitychallenge.com](mailto:flights@charitychallenge.com). All bookings are subject to availability and group booking limitations. We therefore ask you to consider your travel plans **as soon as possible** and if you want to extend your challenge, please put in your request asap