

KILIMANJARO SUMMIT CLIMB

Rongai7 via Mawenzi Tarn with Second Cave



Day 01 Arrive Arusha (1 night, Kilimanjaro Mountain Lodge) D

You will be met on arrival at the airport and transferred to Kilimanjaro Mountain Lodge for one night (dinner, bed and breakfast basis).

Kilimanjaro Mountain Lodge is tucked deep in the lush green banana and coffee plantations of Kyalla Village in Marangu West, in the Kilimanjaro foothills. This is a mountaineers' hotel with essential facilities for Kili trekkers: warm rooms with showers, good food and a garden with swimming pool.

This evening there will be a climb briefing covering kit, camping arrangements, and what to expect on the mountain (climate, altitude etc), as well as tomorrow's transfer times. This is a good chance to ask any questions you may have about the coming climb, particularly any concerns you have regarding kit.

Day 02 Start of the 7 Day Rongai Route B, L, D

After completing the necessary registration formalities at Marangu National Park gate, we transfer to the Rongai trailhead on Kilimanjaro's northern slopes. The climb begins in the village of Nale Moru (1,950m), as we follow a small path that winds through fields of maize and potatoes before entering pine forest (the dry forest on Kilimanjaro's northern slopes is quite different to the lush rainforest on Kilimanjaro's wetter southern foothills).



The track soon starts to climb, consistently but gently, through attractive forest that shelters a variety of wildlife, including the beautiful Kilimanjaro Colobus monkey (distinguishable by their long 'cape' of white hair and flowing white tail). The forest begins to thin out as we approach our camp, **First Cave**, at the edge of the moorland zone (2,650m) with dramatic views over the Kenyan plains. [3-4 hours walking; 6.5kms distance; 700m height gain]

Day 03 To Second Cave

B, L, D

Today's short walk takes us up to our campsite at **'Second Cave'** (3,450m). The walk is a steady ascent with superb views of Kibo and the Eastern icefields on the crater rim. The afternoon can be spent relaxing at camp and admiring the view over the Kenyan plains, or taking a short acclimatisation walk up towards Third Cave. [3-4 hours walking]

Day 04 To Kikelewa Caves

B, L, D

We leave the main trail and strike out across the moorland on a smaller path towards the jagged peaks of Mawenzi. Our campsite is in a sheltered valley of giant senecios, near the **Kikelewa Caves** (3,675m). After lunch, there will be time to explore the valley around the campsite or to rest. [3-4 hours walking]



Day 05 To Mawenzi Tarn B, L, D

A short but steep climb up grassy slopes is rewarded by superb all-round views and a tangible sense of wilderness. The vegetation becomes increasingly sparse as we approach the next camp at **Mawenzi Tarn** (4,330m), spectacularly situated in a cirque directly beneath the towering spires of Mawenzi. The afternoon will be free to rest or explore the surrounding area as an aid to acclimatisation. [3-4 hours walking]

Day 06 To Kibo Camp B, L, D

We cross the lunar desert of the 'Saddle' between Mawenzi and Kibo to reach **Kibo campsite** (4,700m), situated at the foot of the Kibo crater wall. The remainder of the day is spent resting in preparation for the final ascent, which begins early tomorrow morning! [5-6 hours walking]

Day 07 To Kilimanjaro's Summit B, L, D

We start the final, and by far the steepest and most demanding part of the climb, by torchlight at around 1am. We plod very slowly in the darkness on a switchback trail through loose volcanic scree to reach the crater rim at Gillman's Point (5,685m). We aim to reach Gilman's in time to watch the sunrise over Mawenzi. After a short rest and a chance to admire the view, those who are still feeling strong can make the three hour round trip to Uhuru Peak (5,895m), passing close to the spectacular glaciers and ice cliffs that still occupy much of Kilimanjaro's summit area.



The descent to Kibo (4,700m) is surprisingly fast after the long ascent climb. After some refreshment, we continue the descent to reach our final campsite at **Horombo** (3,720m). [11-15 hours walking]

Day 08 Descend mountain (1 night, Kilimanjaro Mountain Resort) B, L, D

A steady descent takes us down through moorland to **Mandara Hut** (2,700m), the first stopping place on the popular Marangu route. We then continue descending through lush rainforest on a good trail to the National Park gate at Marangu (1,830m). [5-6 hours walking]

From the park gate, it is a short driven transfer to Kilimanjaro Mountain Lodge, where a hot shower, dinner and rest awaits!

Day 09 Int'l departure/ extend with safari or beach add-on B

Today is spent at leisure at Kilimanjaro Mountain Lodge, unless you are continuing onto a safari or beach extension. After lunch (this can be included with shared day room on request), you will be met by our driver for the transfer to Kilimanjaro Airport for your homeward flight.

Climb rates and booking information

For climb rates, see our [Kilimanjaro price guide](#). Alternatively, [contact us](#) directly for a quote. We arrange both private and open group climbs on Kilimanjaro and Meru.

Safari Add-On

Numerous options for safaris can be arranged to follow your climb. All at affordable prices, from one-day to one-week safaris, camping or lodge, or both.



Zanzibar Add-On

A four night visit to the tropical island of Zanzibar will add £600 upwards to your tour cost. This includes all regional flights, transfers, and half board in a simple East Coast hotel.



One of the many references you will find on our website

I was extremely glad that I chose Gane and Marshall for my long awaited Kilimanjaro attempt. Route selection was excellent giving plenty and much needed time to acclimatise. You dealt extremely promptly and knowledgably with all my questions during the booking and preparation process and your information on training and gear was well informed and invaluable.



Our entire team of porters were friendly and helpful and all the facilities (camping, cooking and hygiene) were as good as could possibly be expected in mountain conditions. Our guide was well informed and extremely competent; he was as determined as us that we would get to the top and was an enormous help and support.

The arrangements for the whole of our holiday ran smoothly and without worry and at all times we felt that we were in very good hands which made for a truly memorable and enjoyable holiday. Since returning home I have had no hesitation in recommending you to my friends.

John Foster and Family

Trade and Safety Profile

- ❖ Gane and Marshall, founded in 1991, are licensed under ATOL number 3145.
- ❖ Gane and Marshall are bonded with ABTOT, the Association of Bonded Travel Organisers Trust, under membership number 5453.
- ❖ Gane and Marshall are members of the Institute of Mountain Medicine.
- ❖ Gane and Marshall are approved partners of IMEC (International Mountain Explorers Connection) – working for fair pay and conditions for Kilimanjaro porters and guides.
- ❖ Gane and Marshall fund guide scholarships through the Kilimanjaro Guide Scholarship Foundation.
- ❖ Gane and Marshall actively support the UK registered charity Community Projects Africa, funding and managing educational and health projects in East Africa. Ask to see the projects we support near Kilimanjaro.