



“Kilimanjaro is a snow-covered mountain 19,710 feet high, and is said to be the highest mountain in Africa. Its western summit is called by the Masai “the House of God”. Close to the western summit there is the dried and frozen carcass of a leopard. No one has explained what the leopard was seeking at that altitude” from The Snows of Kilimanjaro by Ernest Hemingway.

Fueled by the mystique of the Hemingway story, the diversity of climate zones, active glaciers, and ease of accessibility, Kilimanjaro is one of the world’s signature mountains and draws thousands of hikers each year. At 19,341 feet above sea level it is a test, but one that can be accomplished with good planning and preparation. Moshi Expeditions and Mountaineering has been successfully leading trekkers from all over the world up Kilimanjaro since 1994.

Trekking brief - Rongai Route

The Rongai route begins its ascent of Kilimanjaro from the northeastern side of the mountain, along the border between Tanzania and Kenya. Experienced guides consider the Rongai route to be easier and more scenic than the Marangu Trail. Summit attempts begin in the pre-dawn hours, with climbers usually reaching Gillman's Point at sunrise. From there, the hike will take you to Uhuru Peak - the roof of Africa.

Trip Detail - Rongai Route

Day 1: Arrival in Tanzania

Kilimanjaro to Moshi 45Km (27 miles) 50 Min drive; Elevation 800M (2,624 Ft)

Upon arrival at Kilimanjaro International Airport, you will be picked up by our friendly staff and transported to the hotel booked based on the category chosen. You will spend a night to rest up and rearrange your gear before the trek begins the next day. You will have the opportunity to go over any last minute questions and leave a bag behind with anything you don't need on this trek. Your left-behind gear will be secured at the storage room and will meet you as soon as you back from the mountain.

Day 2 ~ RONGAI CAMP

Altitude: 6,396' to 8,530'; Hiking time: 3 hours.

Register at the Marangu park gate and travel 2 ½ hours to the Rongai trailhead. Meet your climbing staff and begin hiking from the village of Nale Moru. The small winding path crosses maize fields before entering pine forest, and then climbs gently through a forest sheltering a variety of wildlife, including the Colobus monkey. Our campsite is on the edge of the moorland zone with expansive views of the Kenyan plains.

Day 3 ~ KIKELEWA CAVES

Kikelewa Caves Altitude: 8,530' to 11,320'; Hiking time: 6-7 hours.

This morning we will take a challenging ascent to the "Second Cave" where you will relax and have lunch with superb views of Kibo and the ice fields on the crater rim. After lunch proceed towards the jagged peaks of Mawenzi, where we camp in a sheltered valley near Kikelewa Caves.

Day 4 ~ MAWENZI TARN

Altitude: 11,320' to 14,210'; Hiking time: 3-4 hours.

A short but steep climb up grassy slopes offers superb views of this wilderness area. The vegetation zone ends shortly before we reach our next camp at Mawenzi Tarn spectacularly situated beneath the towering spires of Mawenzi. Spend the afternoon acclimatizing and exploring the area.

Day 5 ~ KIBO CAMPSITE

Altitude: 14,210' to 15,580'; Hiking time: 4-5 hours.

We cross the saddle between Mawenzi and Kibo to reach Kibo Campsite. The remainder of the day is spent resting in preparation for the final ascent.

Day 6 ~ UHURU PEAK - HOROMBO CAMP - SUMMIT DAY

Altitude: 15,580' to 19,341' at the summit; down to 12,200'; Hiking time: 12-16 hours.

Begin the final, steepest and most difficult part of the ascent at 1:00am. Hike slowly on a switchback trail through loose volcanic scree to reach the crater rim at Gillman's Point. We take a short rest to enjoy the spectacular sunrise over Mawenzi. For those who feel strong enough, continue (3 hrs roundtrip) to Uhuru Peak passing close to spectacular glaciers and ice cliffs in the summit area. Descend to Kibo for lunch and a rest then continue down the Marangu route to our Horombo Camp.

Day 7 ~ DESCENT TO MARANGU GATE

Altitude: 12,200' to 6,250'; Hiking time: 5-6 hours.

Descend steadily through the moorland, past Mandara Hut and through a lush rain forest to the Marangu park gate. Dinner and overnight at the Hotel [B&B] where you will meet with our gate representative and drive you back to Moshi for a well deserved rest.

Optional Add-ons for your trip:

Before or after your trek up Kilimanjaro, you may want to extend your trip. Tanzania is a country with incredible scenery, a rich blend of African and European culture, world-renowned safari's, and idyllic beaches. We can arrange a complete itinerary for you to experience:

Safari - Tanzania is a country of history, Great White Hunters and the intrepid explorers of the past. Tanzania, the largest country in East Africa, offers the ultimate exotic adventure in a spectacular world. Legendary names like Serengeti and Ngorongoro present the finest experience of safari.

Tanzania's extensive networks of National Parks protect and conserve an area that affords one of the highest concentrations of wildlife in the world where literally millions of animals eternally roam in search of grassland. A safari with MEM offers the full flavor of the sights and experiences. See and feel the real Africa. Enjoy privacy and freedom in an area with abundant wildlife.

Zanzibar - Zanzibar Island is approximately 95 km long and located 35km from the Tanzania mainland. Few countries in the world equal Zanzibar's long white sand beaches. The warm aquamarine waters provide the backdrop for excellent diving and snorkeling. With a history steeped in the slave trade and as an important trading post for cloves and spices, the island is now a popular tourist destination.

Zanzibar's old quarter, Stone Town, is a fascinating maze of narrow streets and alleyways which lead past old houses, mosques, ornate palaces, shops, and bazaars. Many buildings in the Stone Town date from the 15th-century slave boom. A feature of many houses in Stone Town is a brass-studded door and elaborately carved frame. Come experience this unique blend of African, Middle East, and European culture in a spectacular setting!

Mt Meru - Mount Meru is an active volcano located just 70 kilometers (44 miles) west of Mount Kilimanjaro. It reaches 4,566 meters (14,978 feet) in height. Mount Meru is the topographic centerpiece of Arusha National Park. Its fertile slopes rise above the surrounding savanna and support a forest that host's diverse wildlife, including nearly 400 species of birds, and also monkeys and leopards. We can add a 3-day trek up Kilimanjaro to help you acclimatize and experience a unique and exhilarating hike.

Contact us and we can arrange your African adventure!