

**DAY 1: Rongai Trail head (6562 ft) to First Cave (9449 ft)****Elevation gain:** 2887 ft **Distance:** approx. 5 miles **Time:** 4-5 hours

Your first day's walk is a gradual ascent through the rain forest. The main thing to watch out for is elephant scat covering portions of the trail. You'll camp in tents near the First Cave and will be rewarded with great views of the plains, reminding you that you are indeed in Africa.

**DAY 2: First Cave (9449 ft) to Third Cave (12,713 ft)****Elevation gain:** 3264 ft **Distance:** approx. 6 miles **Time:** 7 hours

As you cross the beautiful moorlands today, you will pass by Second Cave on your way to your campsite at Third Cave. Enjoy the view that very few visitors to Kilimanjaro ever get to see.

**DAY 3: Third Cave (12,713 ft) to Mawenzi Tarn Hut (14,206 ft)****Elevation gain:** 1493 ft **Distance:** approx. 7 miles **Time:** 4-5 hours

The trail begins to get steeper as you head in an Easterly direction towards Mawenzi Tarn. Here you have an excellent view of Mawenzi (4958m)

**(Optional Rest Day)****DAY 4: Mawenzi Tarn Hut (14,206 ft) to School Camp (15,584 ft)****Elevation gain:** 1378 ft **Distance:** approx. 5 miles **Time:** 5 hours

Today you will cross through what is known as "The Saddle", between Mawenzi and Kibo peaks. The area is devoid of vegetation, with many small rocks dotting the landscape. You will rest at your campsite before making your summit attempt.

**DAY 5: School Camp (15,584 ft) to Uhuru Peak (19,340 ft)****Elevation gain:** 3756 feet **Distance:** approximately 4 miles **Time:** 5 - 7 hours**Uhuru Peak (19,340 ft) to Horombo Hut (12,205 ft)****Elevation loss:** 7135 ft **Distance:** approx. 14 miles **Time:** 6 - 8 hours

This is the longest day. At around 12:30 am, you will begin your summit attempt. The path up to Gillman's Point, zigzags back and forth along a gravel path. This portion takes about 6 hours. Then you scramble over a few rocks and continue up to Uhuru Peak. After a few victorious photos, it's time to head back down to Kibo Hut for a short rest before making your way down to Horombo Hut.

**DAY 6: Horombo Hut (12,205 ft) to Marangu Gate (6004 ft)****Elevation loss:** 6201 ft **Distance:** approx. 11 miles **Time:** 6 hours

Enjoy your last views of the mountain as you descend through the moorland and rain forest zones on your way to Marangu Gate. The path will be muddy, especially if it rained recently. At the gate, you will receive your completion certificate if you made it to Gillman's Point or Uhuru Peak. Then it's back to the hotel for a hot shower and a dip in the swimming pool.

