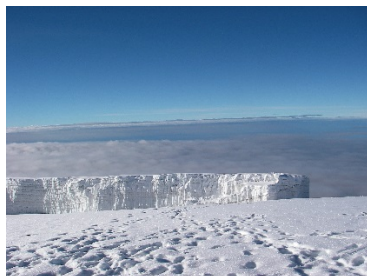


## MARANGU ROUTE 6 Days hiking



**Accommodations:** Hotel 2, Hut 5

**Kilimanjaro Bliss:** 6 days

**Recommended days on trek:** 6

**Minimum days on trek:** 5

**Difficulty:** Medium, Strenuous on summit day.

**Scenery:** Good

**Traffic:** High

**Starting point:** Marangu gate

**Distance:** 67km

**Acclimatization:** Good on 6 day trips.

**DAY 0:** You will be **met at Kilimanjaro International Airport**, if flying direct, and **transported to your hotel**. We recommended that you try to arrange your flight, so you arrive 1.5 - 2 days before your hike. This is to allow your body time to rest and begin to acclimatise to the new time zone and altitude. It also allows for any flight delays and baggage issues (always wear or carry your hiking boots in flight with you, and let us know as soon as possible if your luggage does not arrive with you). We recognise that some people have limited vacation time and may arrive as late as the afternoon prior to starting their hike.

Your guide will arrange to meet with you during the afternoon / evening for a **pre trip briefing**. Please make sure you bring your **passport and insurance details**, as well as your return flight details.

**DAY 1:** ARUSHA - MANDARA. Elevation: 1800 m - 2700 m, Distance: 7km, Time: 3 - 4 hours

**Habitat:** Rainforest

We pick you up from your hotel at **08:30 am** and depart Arusha for the drive to the Mount Kilimanjaro National Park Gate, Marangu gate, a two, and a half hour drive. Here hikers register at the Park office (you will need your **passport number** for this), and eat **lunch** while the porters' loads are weighed. Once this is complete we **begin our hike** "pole, pole" as we ascend to our first hut, we start ascending on a cleared ridge trail through the rainforest. The low elevation forest of towering Eucalyptus trees is where most of Kilimanjaro's animals are found. Keep an eye out for bird life, and Colubus monkeys. At these lower elevations, the trail may

be wet and muddy, so gaiters and trekking poles are recommended. Our first night is at the Mandara Huts camp, set in a forest clearing is reached by about 3 – 4pm, and be served afternoon tea. This camp consists of a group of wooden A-framed huts and flush toilets behind the main hut.

**DAY 2: MANDARA - HOROMBO.** Elevation: 2700 m - 3700m, Distance: 11km, Time: 6 - 7 hours

**Habitat:** Alpine Moorland

In the morning we leave camp and hike through rainforest glades, for an hour before reaching the moorland, where small shrubs are now the main vegetation. We circumventing the base of the Maundi Crater, and stop for lunch on route. In the afternoon we will reach the Horombo Huts camp, where will we stay overnight. From here you can see Kibo's summit, and may now be feeling the affects of the altitude.

**DAY 3: ACCLIMATIZATION DAY ALONG THE ZEBRA ROCKS,** Elevation: 3700m - 4200m, Distance: 3km, Time: 3 hours

**Habitat:** Alpine Moorland

Due to the steady and continuous ascent on this route, without the "hike high, sleep low" options of other routes, **we follow the standards for acclimatisation** recommended by the Wilderness Medical Society (WMS) by **spending an extra night at the Horombo Huts, at 3700m.** During this day we will hike towards Mawenzi peak, passing the Zebra Rocks on the way, attaining 4200m (about 3 hours up and 1.5 hours down), and then return to the Horombo Huts.

This extra day provides a better acclimatization, and increasing the success rate for reaching the summit.

**DAY 4: HOROMBO HUT - KIBO HU.** Elevation: 3700m - 4700m, Distance: 9km, Time: 7 hours

**Habitat:** Alpine desert

Today we continue our ascent into the Alpine desert zone to the Kibo Huts. From the Kibo Huts, the summit is now only another 1195m ascent. This afternoon we will have an early dinner, prepare your personal gear for the summit and then get some sleep. Our summit trek starts tonight.

**DAY 5: KIBO HUT - UHURU PEAK - HOROMBO HUT.** Elevation: 4700m - 5895m and down to 3700m

Distance: 21 km, Time: 14 hours

**Habitat:** Arctic

You will be woken around 23:30pm, and after a hot breakfast we will start our final summit. The first section of the trail consists of a rocky path to Hans Meyer point (5250m). The path then zigzags up to Gillman's point (5681m) on the crater rim. This section is very steep with a lot of scree. From Gillman's Point we could encounter snow all the way up to Uhuru peak (5895m). Finally, you reach **Uhuru summit** and you are at the highest point in Africa (**5894m**), with **magnificent views of Kilimanjaro' famous glacier and ice cliffs.** We spend a maximum of **15 minutes at the Summit**, due to the effects of high altitude. This gives us time to congratulate each other, enjoy the **euphoria of our achievement**, photograph and breath-in the

**magnificence of our surroundings.** We must then **begin our descent** for which you will now want your **hiking poles**. It takes 3 hours to descend back to Kibo Hut. After a short rest we pack up all your personal gear and hike down to Horombo Hut, another 3 hours. We spend our last night on the mountain here.

**DAY 6: HOROMBO HUT - MARANGU GATE.** Elevation: 3700m - 1800m, Distance:19 km, Time: 6 - 7 hours

**Habitat:** Rainforest

We make our final descent down to Marangu Gate to where we started.

You **sign out** of the Park, and receive certificate of Summiting, board our vehicle, which will be waiting at the Marangu gate and are **transported** past the local villages with their coffee and banana farms, first **to Moshi**, for **lunch**, and a well deserved **beer** for those who wish. Later we return you to your **hotel in Arusha**, where you can enjoy a **shower and soft mattress**.

**Next Day:** Arusha: Depart for the **airport or other destinations** in Tanzania or Kenya. A trip to the beaches at **Zanzibar** is a good way to recuperate. **We can arrange** many reasonably priced **trips and safaris** around Arusha and the Kilimanjaro region.

If you are taking a day or two to rest up and see Arusha, we can arrange a visit to the **Paradiso Children's Home** we support, and /or to other **local attractions** that interest you.