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**Keeping Tanzania Original for You**

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## Mount Kilimanjaro

### Marangu Route - 7 Day, 6 Night Itinerary

Also known as the 'Coca Cola' route due to the tea huts where Coke could be bought along the way but not anymore. The Marangu route is the oldest of the routes and has one of the most established trails. Considered one of the easier routes, it is still challenging due to its short, beautiful but steep and demanding trek to Uhuru Peak (5895m). It is one of the most heavily used routes and in the rainy season can be very well trodden and muddy in some places. This is not the most technical route to climb and there are no tough scrambles or rocky steps to negotiate until the final summit night. The trail heading to Gillman's Point must be followed 'pole pole' (slowly in Kiswahili) and in a zigzag trail due to the steep ascent to the summit.

The ascent and descent are done on the same path and this route is the only one with sleeping huts offering dormitory accommodation. The Marangu route can get fully booked in the high season; it is therefore advisable to book this route in advance.

#### **Day 1: Arrival Transfer from airport to Moshi.**

Our Original Tanzania Guide will meet you at the airport and transfer you to your hotel in Moshi.

**Overnight stay at Honey Badger Lodge on a Bed and Breakfast basis.**

#### **Day 2: Marangu Gate (1,843m) to Mandara Hut(2,700m)**

*Time: 4-5hrs / Distance: 8km / Altitude Gain: 857m*

On reaching the Marangu Gate (1,843m), you will complete park registration and begin your 5 day ascent of Mount Kilimanjaro. You will start the trek through a dense, mist covered forest area where the blue monkey, black and white colobus and bushbaby can be spotted. We will stop at Kisambioni for a picnic lunch before reaching Mandara Hut (2,700m), comprising of a complex of wooden 'A' shaped huts containing two rooms with four bunk beds each. Please be aware that although bunk beds are provided you will still require your own sleeping bag.

#### **Day 3: Mandara Hut (2,700m) to Horombo Hut (3,720m)**

*Time: 6-8hrs / Distance: 12km / Altitude Gain: 1020m*

We will start our trek around the base of Maundi Crater; a beautiful spot, the remnant of a volcanic vent, where lush grasses, known as Tussock can be seen along with glorious views.





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Heading northwest, we follow the trail through alpine meadows, crossing a stream to get to grassland and eventually entering moorland. We will stay overnight at Horombo Hut (3720m), based in a rocky valley which on a clear day can have views of Moshi below you and where the end of your long day will be rewarded with what is usually described as a 'magnificent sunset'.

**Day 4: Horombo Hut (3,720) to Mawenzi Hut (4,538m) to Horombo Hut (3,720m)**

**Overall Time: 3-5hrs / Distance: 10km / Altitude Gain: 818m, Altitude Loss: 818m**

Today is used as an acclimatization day to help you to maximize your chances of reaching the summit. You will be able to enjoy the surrounding environment at Horombo and will have a variety of guided short hikes to choose from. Zebra Rock (4000m) is just a couple of hours walk or, a popular choice, the Mawenzi Peak, the eastern summit of the mountain takes four to five hours there and back and will greatly assist in acclimatizing to the altitude gain you will have the next day.

**Day 5: Horombo Hut (3,720) to Kibo Hut (4,703m)**

**Time: 6-8hrs / Distance: 10km / Altitude Gain: 983m**

The route becomes gradually steeper and rockier as we leave Horombo Hut. You will pass 'Last Water' and head up stark landscape up to 'The Saddle' – the broad lava-stone ridge – between Mawenzi and Kibo. Stunning views of the upper reaches of Kilimanjaro can be seen before you arrive at Kibo Hut (4703m) where you will have a hot meal in the afternoon, a relaxing evening and an early bedtime so you are well rested to start hiking at midnight for your final ascent to the summit.

**Day 6: Kibo Hut (4,703m) to Uhuru Peak (5,895m) to Horombo Hut (3,720m)**

**Time: 6-8hrs (to summit), 4-5hrs (to Horombo) / Distance: 6km (to summit), 16km (to Horombo) / Altitude Gain: 1,192m, Altitude Loss: 2,175m**

Setting off at midnight for the summit, this is the longest and most demanding day of the entire trek. The trail follows a long scree slope past the Hans Meyer Cave and then turns into a single file zigzag. A short rocky path requiring some scrambling leads to Gillmans Point situated on the crater rim, 5685m. This part of the hike is very steep and is the most challenging section of the route. Once you reach Gillmans Point it is just another two hours to Uhuru Peak (5895m), the highest point in Africa. Once there all your hard work will feel more than worth it as you will be rewarded with a spectacular sunrise over ice fields and the Mawenzi peaks.





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We will spend a short time at Uhuru Peak before starting our descent to Kibo Hut for a break and short time for you to rest. We will then head to Horombo Hut for our last night on Kilimanjaro and a very well-earned sleep.

### **Day 7: Horombo Hut (3,720) to Marangu Gate (1,843m)**

*Time: 5-7hrs / Distance: 20km / Altitude Loss: 1877m*

After breakfast we will descend to Marangu gate retracing our steps past Mandara Hut, back through the magnificent rainforest and finally reaching Marangu gate. Once at the gate you will receive your summit certificates, short celebrations with your porters and be driven back to your hotel where you can have a hot shower, rest and maybe even enjoy a Kilimanjaro beer or two! Night will be spent at **Honey Badger Lodge Moshi, B&B.**

#### **All prices include:**

- Park Fees for Mount Kilimanjaro
- Hut Fees
- Park Rescue Fees
- Airport transfer
- Lead Guide, assistant guide, cook and porters
- Full briefing to set you up for your challenge, including full kit / equipment / clothing check
- Food & Water during entire Kilimanjaro trek
- Hotel before and after trek on a B&B Basis
- Transport to and from the starting gate
- First Aid Supplies
- Pulse Oximeter
- Oxygen Tank
- A welcoming and supportive Original Tanzania Team!

#### **Not included:**

- Tip for the crew - made at your discretion
- Travel or Health Insurance
- Visa for entry to Tanzania

