

RONGAI ROUTE

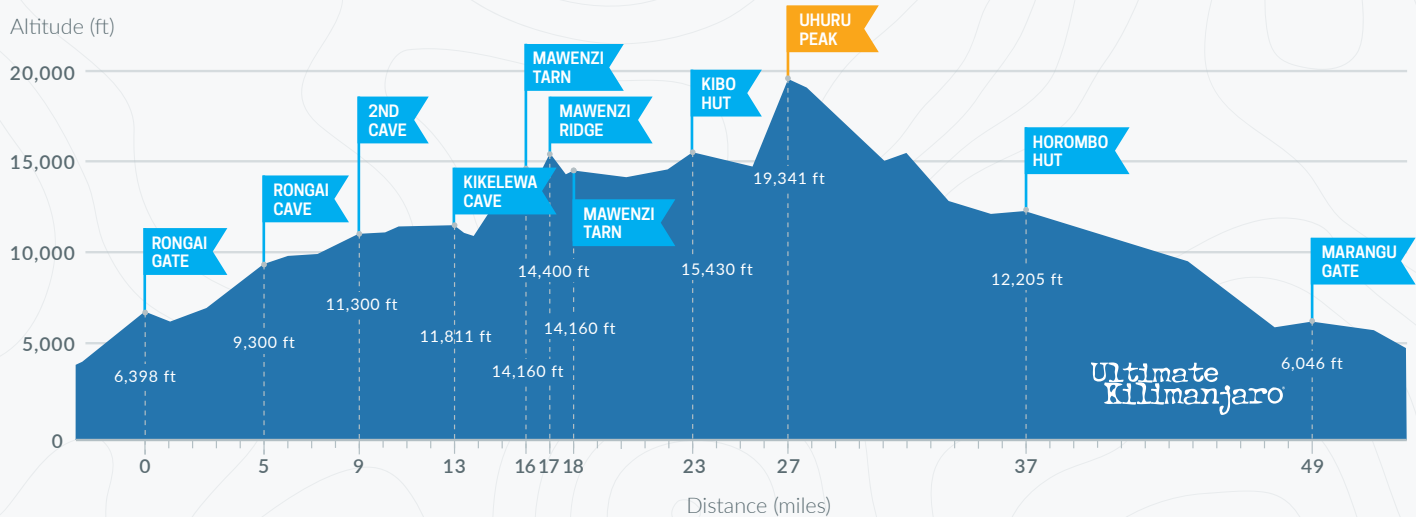
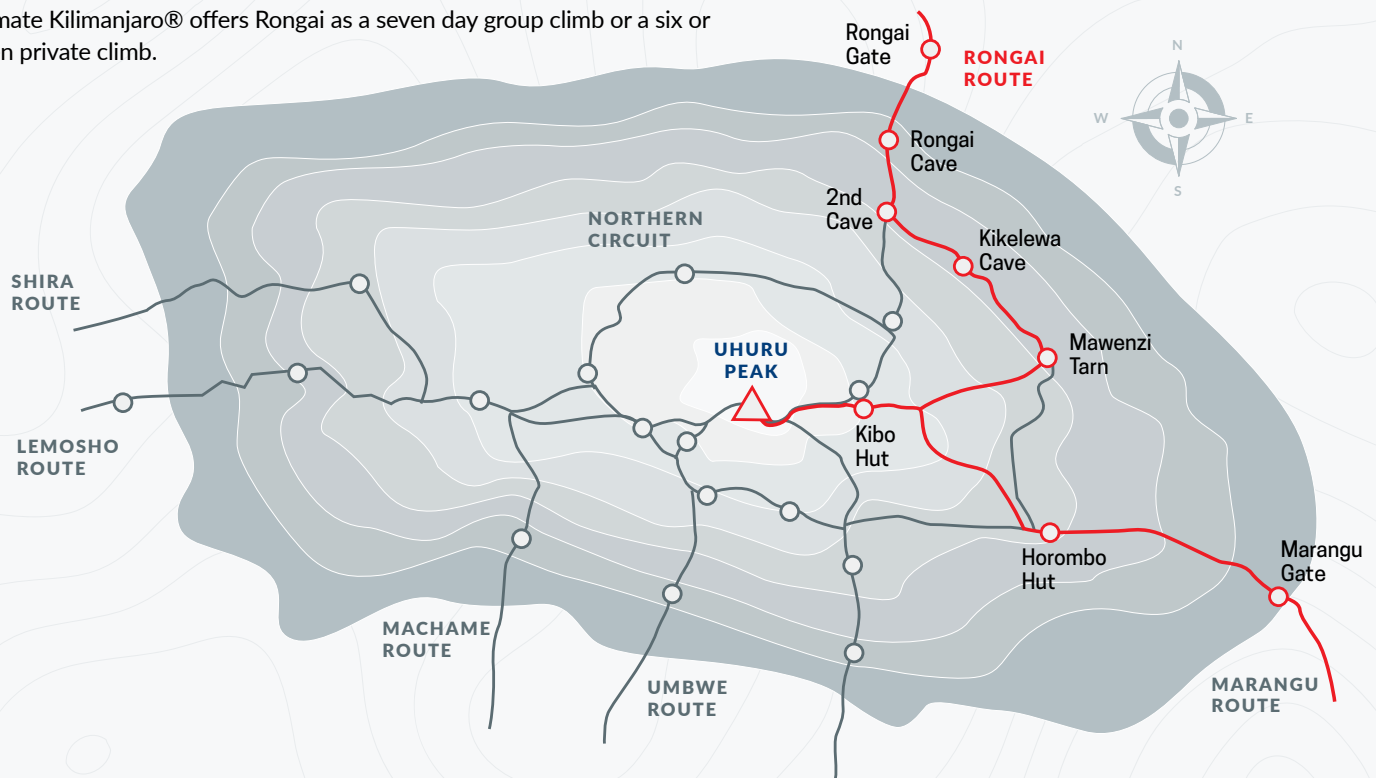
The **Rongai Route** is the only route that approaches Kilimanjaro from the north, close to the Kenyan border. Though gaining popularity amongst climbers, this route still experiences low crowds. Rongai has a more gradual slope than the mountain's other routes and therefore is recommended for those with less backpacking experience. It is the preferred route for those looking for an alternative to the popular Marangu route, for those who would like a more remote hike, and for those who are climbing during the rainy season (the north side receives less precipitation).

Although the scenery is not as varied as the western routes, Rongai makes up for this by passing through true wilderness areas for nearly the entire way. Descent is made via the Marangu route.

Ultimate Kilimanjaro® offers Rongai as a seven day group climb or a six or seven private climb.

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7 DAY RONGAI ITINERARY

DAY 1

Rongai Gate to Rongai Cave

Elevation: 6,398 ft to 9,300 ft **Distance:** 8 km | 5 miles
Hiking Time: 3-4 hours **Habitat:** Rain Forest

We drive from Moshi to Marangu Gate for permits before taking a short transfer to the Rongai Gate trailhead. The path winds through corn and potato fields and then climbs gently through the forest which is home to a variety of wildlife, including the black and white colobus monkey.

DAY 2

Rongai Cave to Second Cave

Elevation: 9,300 ft to 11,300 ft **Distance:** 6 km | 4 miles
Hiking Time: 3-4 hours **Habitat:** Heath

Second Cave to Kikelewa Cave

Elevation: 11,300 ft to 11,811 ft **Distance:** 6 km | 4 miles
Hiking Time: 3-4 hours **Habitat:** Heath

We begin this morning with a steady incline up to Second Cave. We continue trekking through moorland, leaving the main trail for a smaller path towards the jagged peaks of Mawenzi, before finally arriving at Kikelewa Cave for the night.

DAY 3

Kikelewa Cave to Mawenzi Tarn

Elevation: 11,811 ft to 14,160 ft **Distance:** 5 km | 3 miles
Hiking Time: 3-4 hours **Habitat:** Alpine Desert

The hike today is short and steep up a grassy slope. Views of the wilderness area are stunning. As we exit the heath zone and emerge into the Alpine Desert zone, the landscape changes dramatically. Our camp is situated beneath the jagged spires of Mawenzi, at Mawenzi Tarn. The remainder of the day can be spent relaxing or exploring the area.

DAY 4

Mawenzi Tarn to Mawenzi Ridge

Elevation (ft): 14,160 ft -14,400 ft **Distance:** 2 km | 1 mile
Hiking Time: 1-2 hours **Habitat:** Alpine Desert

Mawenzi Ridge to Mawenzi Tarn

Elevation (ft): 14,400 ft -14,160 ft **Distance:** 2 km | 1 mile
Hiking Time: 1-2 hours **Habitat:** Alpine Desert

This is an extra day meant for acclimatization and can be spent day hiking on Mawenzi Ridge. The unique landscape offers motivating views of Kibo and Mawenzi. After spending a few moments exploring the area we head back to Mawenzi Tarn for camp.

DAY 5

Marwenzi Tarn to Kibo Hut

Elevation (ft): 14,160 ft to 15,430 ft **Distance:** 8 km | 5 miles
Hiking Time: 5-6 hours **Habitat:** Alpine Desert

We climb gradually, then cross the lunar desert of the "Saddle" between Mawenzi and Kibo. Our camp, Kibo Hut, sits at the bottom of the Kibo crater wall. Once here we rest, enjoy an early dinner to prepare for the summit day.

DAY 6

Kibo Hut to Uhuru Peak

Elevation (ft): 15,430 ft to 19,341 ft **Distance:** 6 km | 4 miles
Hiking Time: 6-8 hours **Habitat:** Arctic

Uhuru Peak to Horombo Hut

Elevation (ft): 19,341 ft to 12,250 ft **Distance:** 16 km | 10 miles
Hiking Time: 4-5 hours **Habitat:** Heath

Very early in the morning (around midnight), we begin our push to the summit. This is the most mentally and physically challenging portion of the trek. The wind and cold at this elevation and time of day can be extreme. We ascend in the darkness for several hours while taking frequent, but short, breaks. At Gilman's point (18,600 ft), you will be rewarded with the most magnificent sunrise you are ever likely to see coming over Mawenzi Peak. Finally, we arrive Uhuru Peak- the highest point on Mount Kilimanjaro and the continent of Africa.

After spending a few moments taking in the plains of Africa and your accomplishment, we descend to Horombo Hut. Later in the evening, we enjoy our last dinner on the mountain and a well-earned sleep.

DAY 7

Horombo Hut to Marangu Gate

Elevation (ft): 12,205 ft to 6,046 ft **Distance:** 20 km | 12 miles
Hiking Time: 5-7 hours **Habitat:** Rain Forest

On our last day, we have a long trek mostly downhill through the tropical rainforest. Once at the park headquarters at Marangu gate, we collect our summit certificates. A vehicle will meet us here and drive us back to the hotel in Moshi.

7 DAY RONGAI ITINERARY

Day	Start	Altitude (m)	Altitude (ft)	Finish	Altitude (m)	Altitude (ft)	Time (hrs)	Distance (km)	Distance (miles)
1	Rongai Gate	1,950	6,398	Rongai Cave	2,830	9,300	4	8	5
2	Rongai Cave	2,830	9,300	2nd Cave	3,450	11,300	3-4	6	4
	2nd Cave	3,450	11,300	Kikelewa Cave	3,600	11,811	3-4	6	4
3	Kikelewa Cave	3,600	11,811	Mawenzi Tarn	4,315	14,160	4	5	3
4	Mawenzi Tarn	4,315	14,160	Mawenzi Ridge	4,390	14,400	2-3	2	1
	Mawenzi Ridge	4,390	14,400	Mawenzi Tarn	4,315	14,160	1-2	2	1
5	Mawenzi Tarn	4,315	14,160	Kibo Hut	4,703	15,430	5-6	8	5
6	Kibo Hut	4,703	15,430	Uhuru Peak	5,895	19,341	6-8	6	4
	Uhuru Peak	5,895	19,341	Horombo Hut	3,720	12,205	4-5	16	10
7	Horombo Hut	3,720	12,205	Marangu Gate	1,843	6,046	5-7	20	12
Total								79	49