



WELCOME TO THE REAL EAST AFRICA

## PUMBA ADVENTURES AND SAFARI

IN PROUD PARTNERSHIP WITH THE MAARIFA PROJECT SCOTLAND

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### **Marangu Route: 6 days / 5 nights**

The Marangu Route is commonly known as the Tourist Route or Coca-Cola trail and is by far the most commonly used route on Kilimanjaro. This route is often chosen because it is the only one that provides luxuries such as sleeping huts with bunk beds (rather than tents); flushing toilets and bottled drinks.

The Marangu ascent route is up the gentle eastern slopes, said to be far less demanding than the trails followed on other routes such as Machame, Mweka, Shira or Lemosho.

Your guides are with you every step of the way and will share their expert advice regarding walking pace, amount of fluid to drink and all other aspects of acclimatization and trekking at altitude that you will need or wish to know.

#### **Day One: Marangu Gate (1980m) - Mandara hut (2700m)**

*Hiking time: 3 - 4 hours*

*Distance: About 12 km's*

*Habitat: Montane forest, Moorla*

The journey to the National Park Gate passes through the lively and scenic village of Marangu, situated on the lower slopes of the mountain. Because of its proximity to the mountain, Maranga village has a cool, moisture laden environment so the landscape is beautifully green and hosts many banana plantations.

Once you reach the Park gate, you will be requested to sign in at the Park Office while your guides and porters make their final preparations for the climb, arranging and loading their packs containing the all the food, water and cooking gas required for the trek. The porters will also carry most of your equipment. This is a last opportunity to make sure that you have all your

daypack items (containing at least 2litres of drinking water, your lunch pack, sunscreen, waterproofs and extra clothing) with you as the porters ascend a lot quicker than the hikers! Our guides will be available to assist with any additional information or needs you might have. You now leave the Park gate and start your ascent on a cleared ridge trail climbing through the beautiful misty rain forest to reach the first hut, Mandara (2700m).

## **Day Two: Mandara hut (2700m) - Horombo hut (3720m)**

*Hiking time: 6 hours*

*Distance: About 15 km's*

*Habitat: Moorland*

After a good breakfast, you will follow the well-constructed path upwards through the alpine meadow. As you gain altitude your pace slows to 'pole pole': slowly slowly, (the mantra for all Kilimanjaro trekking!). Apart from helping your body to acclimatise to the altitude, the slow pace allows you time to savour and enjoy the flora, fauna and the spectacular view of Mawenzi and Kibo peaks. After about 12 km of hiking you will arrive at the Horombo Hut (3720m) for your next overnight stay.

## **DAY 3: Horombo hut (3720m)**

Horombo hut is actually a little village of huts perched on a small plateau, with buildings similar to Mandara and you will meet both ascending and descending hikers here. Horombo absolutely bustles with hikers, guides and porters in a vibrant atmosphere of adventure and excitement.

If choosing to take 7 days on the mountain this is where you will stop for additional acclimatization and on your acclimitisation day you will take a short hike towards the Mawenzi hut, passing the Zebra Rocks on the way (about 3 hours up and 1.5 hours down). Your guides are with you every step of the way and will share their expert advice regarding walking pace, amount of fluid to drink and all other aspects of acclimatization and trekking at altitude that you will need to know

#### **DAY 4: Horombo hut (3720m) - Kibo hut (4700m)**

*Hiking time: 6 hours*

*Distance: About 15 km's*

*Habitat: Alpine desert*

After breakfast, the climb resumes and the landscape again changes to become rugged and rocky with the appearance of beautiful giant Lobelias. Your trek on day 3 takes you to Kibo hut (4700m) where you will be encouraged to 'refuel' by eating, drinking and resting well, in preparation for summit night.

#### **DAY 5: SUMMIT ATTEMPT Kibo hut (4700m) - Uhuru Peak (5895m) - Horombo hut (3720m)**

*Hiking time: 8 hours to Uhuru - 6 km's ascent - 21 km's descent*

*Distance: 6 hours to descend to Horombo*

*Habitat: Stone scree and ice-capped summit*

The beginning of the last leg of the ascent is made in the small hours of the morning while the scree is still frozen, making your ascent slightly easier. This is leg up the scree slopes to Gilman's Point is the steepest and most difficult part of the route. Of all days and sections of this route this is where you will need to dig deep to ensure you maintain a consistent pace to push yourself up to the crater rim. Again, Pole Pole (slowly slowly) is the mantra! At Gilman's Point you will have a short rest with some drinks and snacks as you watch the dawn light the sky and the sun rise over the spectacular mountain landscape. We recommend you have your camera ready at this point to record the sun rising on your achievement so far. Your trek resumes as the sun rises and day dawns as you walk around the crater rim for about one hour to reach the summit of Kilimanjaro, Uhuru Peak (5895m).

After a short stay on the summit to savour the moment and record your achievement you will start the descent back to Horombo hut to share your stories and have a well-deserved sleep.

**DAY 6: Horombo hut (3720 m) - Marangu Gate (1980 m)**

*Hiking time: 6 hours*

*Distance: About 27 km*

On your arrival at the National Park Gate you will be required to sign-out with the authorities and here you will receive your certificate of achievement. Be sure to have your camera ready for the final photos!

**NOTE:** It is customary to pay your tips to the trekking team before you start your journey back to Moshi or Arusha.

Should you wish advice on the tipping system please ask us.