

Itinerary for Mount Kenya Burguret Wilderness Climb 6dys/5nts

The route approaches by the little used Burguret trail and descends down Chogoria route.

*The route was pioneered during colonial days and then abandoned for many years until it was re-opened in the early 90s. Gane and Marshall are one of the very few companies to have the right to use this route. Going up is quite challenging: rough underfoot going through bushy track more used by wild animals than humans, muddy when wet, and with dense stands of giant bamboo and montane forest. **So why are we so passionate about it?** Well, it's for those who want a*



different experience away from the crowd. It provides a unique and completely natural mountain trekking experience up to the trekking summit; then descent on the Chogoria route having some of the most spectacular views and completing a traverse of the mountain. Accommodation on the trek is one night in a budget lodge set on the slopes of Mt Kenya, followed by 5 nights camping. When camping on our trips you will not have to participate in camp chores. All equipment will be carried by local porters on the mountain, you only carry a day-pack with personal gear. For catering we buy fresh produce locally and to ensure good standards of hygiene all food is prepared by the own staff and they can cater for special dietary requirements and there are no extra food-kitty payments.

Day 0 Fly to Nairobi overnight

Gane and Marshall are ATOL licensed and we can book your flights for you. Please enquire at our office for fares and schedules to suit your requirements.

Day 1 1 night, Mountain Rock Lodge, Standard Room

L,D

Drive: Nairobi - Mountain Rock lodge (1950m). (180kms/3hrs)

Acclimatisation trek span: 10Kms. / 2-3hrs.

Habitat: Montane Forest

Transfer from Nairobi to our Base Lodge on the western slopes of Mt Kenya. At an altitude 2,000m your acclimatization starts here. Short acclimatisation trek then relax and preparation for tomorrows trek. Horse riding or a visit of the equator by car are options for this afternoon as well. (meals:L,D).

Day 2 Start of the Burguret Route to Giant Bamboo Camp

FB

Drive: Mountain Rock lodge – Gathuiru Forest (2200m).

Trek: Gathuiru Forest - Giant Bamboo Camp (2600m).

Gain: +400m.

Trek span: 10 Kms. / 4 hrs.

Habitat: Montane Forest - Bamboo zone

Short drive to Gathuiru forest station and a 4hour ascent through dense stands of towering bamboo to our own Giant Bamboo camp at 2600m. Elephant and buffalo are common here. (meals:B,L,D).



Day 3 To Highland Castle FB



Trek: Giant Bamboo Camp - Highland Castle (3700m).
Gain: +1100m.
Trek span: 10 Kms. / 5-6 hrs.
Habitat: Bamboo – Moorland Zone

The luxuriant bamboo yields to enormous podocarpus and pencil cedar forest before we climb to the hagenia rosewood zone at the edge of the moorlands. This marks our lunch spot before heading up through the extraordinary giant lobelia and groundsels. We spend the night close to the sheer lava cliffs of the “Highland

Castle” at 3,700m. Today’s hike takes 5-6 hours with an ascent of 1,100m. (meals:B,L,D). *Highland Castle (see image above) is a land mark resembling a castle along the Burguret route on Mount Kenya.*

Day 4 To Shiptons Camp FB

Trek: Highland Castle via Hausberg col – Shiptons Camp (3700-4600-4236m).
Gain: +900m.
Trek span: 10kms / 5-6 hrs.
Habitat: Moorland – Alpine Desert zones

Spectacular scenery as the jagged volcanic peaks and shimmering glaciers tower above our trek around the summit circuit. Turquoise tarns nestle in the valleys, eagles and buzzards soar overhead - it’s difficult to believe we’re on the equator! We might, for the first time, meet other trekkers here as we hike for 5-6 hours to overnight at Shiptons at an altitude of 4236m.

Day 5 SUMMIT (4985m) – Nithi Camp FB

Trek: Shiptons to Point Lenana to Nithi Camp (4236-4985-3300m).
Gain: +749m.
Trek span: To Point Lenana (3kms / 4h). To Nithi Camp (14kms /6h)
Habitat: Scree, rocky and Icy Summit, then Moorland



After the wilderness experience comes the highlight of the Mount Kenya trek: the stiff but exhilarating scramble by starlight to Point Lenana “the trekkers’ summit”. Leaving camp at 4am, head torches and warm clothing are essential.

We aim to reach the summit shortly after dawn. Hopefully we shall be rewarded by views of the distant plains below and even farther afield the snow-capped summit of Kilimanjaro.



Descend for approx. 3 hrs. into the spectacular Gorges Valley and on top Hall Tans for a substantial meal and short rest. Then down a further 3 hours, passing deep ravines, waterfalls and into the giant heather zone and Nithi Camp.

Day 6 To the Chogoria Gate & Transfer Out B,L

Trek: Nithi Camp (3300m) to Chogoria Forest Pick up Point (2600m).

Descent: -700m

Trek span: 17Kms. / 4-5 hrs.

Habitat: Bamboo - Montane Forest zone

Drive: Chogoria Forest – Nairobi (230kms/4hrs).

Descent on a broad track through bamboo and virgin rain forest to meet vehicles for the return to Nairobi - usually arriving mid to late afternoon. (meals:B,L).

