

Mount Kenya Burguret Wilderness Climb

Climb Mt Kenya via the remote Burguret trail



Introduction:

The Burguret route to the summit of Mt Kenya was pioneered during the colonial era, but then abandoned for many years before being re-opened in the early 90s. Gane and Marshall are one of a very small number of operators who use this route. The ascent is challenging (but non-technical): rough underfoot as you trek along bushy track more often used by wild animals than people; muddy when wet, and with dense stands of giant bamboo and montane forest.

So why are we so passionate about it? Because it offers a chance to get away from the crowds. It provides a unique and remote trekking experience up to Point Lenana (from which point you descend on the Chogoria route having completed a complete traversal of the mountain). Accommodation during the trek consists of one night in a budget lodge set on the slopes of Mt Kenya, followed by 5 nights camping.

Day 1 Start of the Burguret Route to Giant Bamboo Camp

Drive: Nairobi – Gathuru Forest (2,300m).

Trek: Gathuru Forest - Giant Bamboo Camp (2,600m).

Gain: +400m.

Trek span: 10km. / 4 hours.

Habitat: Montane Forest - Bamboo zone

NB. Your itinerary begins and ends in Nairobi. Please note that accommodation in Nairobi before/after the climb is not included but can be arranged on request. Unless arriving very early into Nairobi, a hotel night is usually a necessity. Transfers from your Nairobi hotel/airport to the trailhead are included in our climb rates.

Depart Nairobi early this morning and journey approx. 4 hours to the trailhead at Gathuru Forest Station. Here you'll meet with your crew, have a short briefing, and then begin your climb!

Today's walk offers an easy start to the trek, with a 10km (approx. 4 hour) trek through dense bamboo forest to Giant Bamboo Camp at 2,600m. Elephant and buffalo are common in this region of the forest, which sees few walkers, so stick close to your guide and follow their advice in the event that you do encounter a wild animal.



Day 2 To Highland Castle

Trek: Giant Bamboo Camp - Highland Castle (3,700m).

Gain: +1100m.

Trek span: 10km. / 5-6 hours.

Habitat: Bamboo – Moorland Zone

The luxuriant bamboo yields to enormous conifer trees and pencil cedar forest as we ascend to the hagenia rosewood zone at the edge of the moorlands, where we stop for lunch.



After lunch, we continue up through the extraordinary giant lobelia and groundsel zones. We spend the night close to the sheer lava cliffs of the “Highland Castle” at 3,700m. Today’s hike will take approx. 5-6 hours with an ascent of 1,100m.

Day 3 To Shipton’s Camp

Trek: Highland Castle via Hausberg col – Shipton’s Camp (3,700-4,600-4,236m).

Gain: +900m.

Trek span: 10km / 5-6 hours.

Habitat: Moorland – Alpine Desert zones

Expect spectacular views of the jagged volcanic peaks and shimmering glaciers that tower above us as we trek around the summit circuit. Turquoise tarns nestle in the valleys, while eagles and buzzards soar overhead – it’s difficult to believe we’re on the equator!

We might meet other trekkers (most likely for the first time during the climb) as we approach Shipton’s Camp, where we rest at an altitude of 4,236m.

Overnight at Shipton’s Camp.



Day 4 Summit Climb (4985m) – Nithi Camp

Trek: Shipton’s to Point Lenana to Nithi Camp (4,236-4,985-3,300m).

Gain: +749m.

Trek span: To Point Lenana (3kms / 4 hours). To Nithi Camp (14km / 6 hours)

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”. We set off from camp at 4am, while it is still dark: head torches and warm clothing are essential!

We aim to reach the summit shortly after dawn. With luck, we shall be rewarded with a clear morning sky and views of the distant plains below and, further in the distance, the snow-capped summit of Kilimanjaro.

Descend for approx. 3 hours. into the spectacular Gorges Valley and on to Halls Tarns for a hearty breakfast and short rest. Then down a further 3 hours, passing deep ravines, waterfalls and into the giant heather zone and Nithi Camp, where we rest tonight.



Day 5 To the Chogoria Gate & Transfer Out

Trek: Nithi Camp (3,300m) to Chogoria Forest Pick up Point (2,600m).

Descent: -700m

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

Habitat: Bamboo - Montane Forest zone

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

Descend on a broad track through bamboo and virgin rainforest to meet with our driver and vehicle for the return journey to Nairobi, usually arriving mid to late afternoon.

Your return is scheduled to be in good time to check-in for your international flight home.

Alternatively, spend an extra night in Nairobi and continue with a safari or beach extension which can be booked through our office.

Booking information

For rates, see our [Mount Kenya Price Guide](#). Alternatively, contact us directly at info@ganeandmarshall.com. We offer very competitive rates for individual and group bookings.

Trade and Safety Profile

- ❖ Gane and Marshall, founded in 1991, are licensed under ATOL number 3145
- ❖ Gane and Marshall are members of the Ethical Tour Operators Group under Tourism Concern.
- ❖ Gane and Marshall are members of the Institute of Mountain Medicine.
- ❖ Gane and Marshall are approved partners of IMEC (International Mountain Explorers Connection) – working for fair pay and conditions for Kilimanjaro porters and guides.
- ❖ Gane and Marshall actively support the UK registered charity Community Projects Africa funding and managing educational & health projects in East Africa.
- ❖ Gane and Marshall have Travel and General tour operator liability insurance and Cork Bays Fisher Catastrophe insurance