

RE: 4 DAY SIRIMON ROUTE UP - CHOGORIA ROUTE



OVERVIEW

This program is designed to suit people with very little time, i.e. only 3 nights on the mountain. This creative climb joins two of the most scenic routes up the mountain i.e. Sirimon and Chogoria, producing a remarkably diverse and spectacular trek. Sirimon, coming off the west of the mountain, passes through the dry side of the mountain with its giant trees and rocky terrain, while the descent onto the Chogoria path, is remarkably different, with its lush bamboo and highland forests. The final night time ascent of Pt. Lenana can be as difficult as any ascent in East Africa, but the rest of the trek is generally considered easier than either Kilimanjaro or Ruwenzori.

DAY 1: NAIROBI - SIRIMON GATE - OLD MOSES CAMP (3,300m), 3-4hrs, 9km, 680m ASCENT

After pick up in Nairobi, drive to Nanyuki town for lunch crossing the equator en route to the Sirimon Park gate (2,660m). From the gate, trek through magnificent montane forest, bamboo and giant heather

zone before reaching the high altitude moorland and our first hut (Old Moses camp 3,300m) for dinner and overnight. This is a gentle trek that takes 3 - 4hrs gaining an elevation of 680m.

DAY 2: OLD MOSES - SHIPTON'S CAMP (4,200m), 7hrs, 14km, 900m ASCENT

After breakfast, follow the track uphill, forking right at the junction. After a water break, continue on the track crossing Ontulili River before turning right contouring through the moorland and crossing Liki North River. Continue uphill to Mackinder Valley from where there are panoramic views up the valley towards the Shipton's Camp. This camp is a surreal setting below the towering peaks and glacier. Residents are rock hyrax and sun birds.

DAY 3: SHIPTON'S- PT. LENANA (4,985m) - MT KENYA BANDAS (2,800m), 11-12hrs, 29km, 785m ASCENT, 2,085m DESCENT

Kick off early (2.30am) and get served with tea and biscuits. Leave at 3.00am to reach Pt. Lenana in time for the African sunrise. The climb starts on frozen scree and continues on a rocky track with some very minor scrambling. With a good moon, you barely need a torch. Without a moon, then the pollution-free sky bangs on the ground, giving you as good a view of the stars as almost anywhere else on earth. The climb takes 3-4hrs and to add to the exhilaration, Mt. Kilimanjaro is also visible on the horizon. Descend to Minto's hut for a full breakfast. After a short rest, descend to Mt. Kenya Bandas along the Gorges Valley where you can enjoy good views of The Temple, Lake Michaelson, Mushroom Rocks and Giant Billiards Table. Dinner and overnight at the bandas. You can enjoy log fires, hot showers and bed at the bandas.

DAY 4: MERU BANDAS - CHOGORIA TOWN - NAIROBI, 3hrs, 10km (2,660m).

After breakfast, descend through a broad track through bamboo and virgin rain forest to meet a vehicle for transfer to Chogoria town and further to Nairobi arriving by 5.00pm.