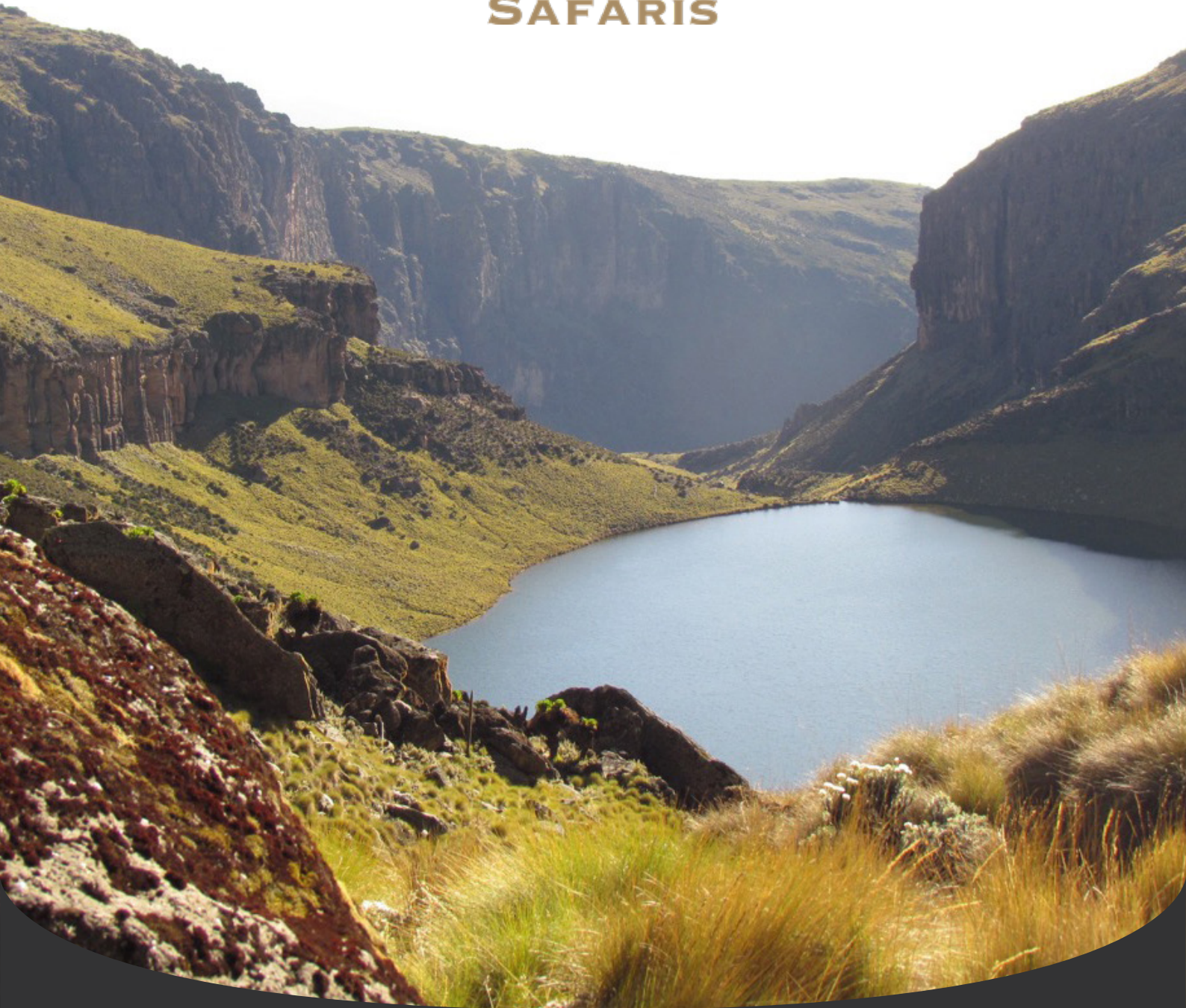




*Alex Hunter*  
**SAFARIS**



**CHOGORIA ROUTE ITINERARY**  
**6 DAYS | 5 NIGHTS**

# CHOGORIA ROUTE TO POINT LENANA

## DETAILED MT. KENYA ITINERARY

Ascent Route: Chogoria

Descent Route: Sirimon Ascent Distance: 56 km

Finish Point: Sirimon Gate

Highest Point: Point Lenana (4,985m)

Overall Altitude Gain (from Chogoria gate): 2,285m

MOUNT KENYA (17,058m)

Main Summits: Batian (5,200m)

Nelion (5,188m)

Trekking Summit: Pt. Lenana (4,985m)

Location: Mt. Kenya National Park

## INTRODUCTION

Mount Kenya is a 'twin-peaked' volcanic spike. Reaching the highest of the three peaks on Mount Kenya requires technical expertise, but the third highest peak, Point Lenana, offers the finest six day trek on the continent. Our hike will take our trekkers through dense rain forest, which encircle the lower slope of the mountain, home to elephant, Cape buffalo, leopard and primates. We then traverse the vast moorlands, past undulating grassy valleys and deep rocky gorges, through some of the most fabulous vegetation on our planet. We arrive at the summit of Lenana early enough to be rewarded by views of the new day across East Africa. The experience is heightened by the fact that there are few other trekkers to share the mountain with.

The summits of Batian and Nelion are surrounded by glaciers and often covered in snow where the night time temperature can drop to below -10 degrees Celsius. At any time of the year harsh, cold, wet and windy weather can come from anywhere so we have to be prepared.





## DAY 1

**Mt. Kenya Camp to Chogoria Bandas**

**Length: 4 km**

**Time: 2-3 hours**

**Ascent: 300m**

**Accommodation: Chogoria Bandas (3,000m)**

Meet guides and porters at a little local hotel - hotel transit at around midday. While we have lunch, the crew load up the landrover. We have a 22 km drive up a rough and muddy track through the bamboo zone to our overnight destination on the boundary of the park. It is a good idea to walk the last 5-8 kms to acclimatize. We overnight at the Chogoria bandas (a small bunkhouse) set near the edge of the forest line.

## DAY 2

**Mt. Kenya: Chogoria bandas to Lake Ellis**

**Length: 7 km**

**Time: 5 hours**

**Ascent: 600m**

**Accommodation: Lake Ellis camp (3,400m)**

After breakfast, we will follow the track as it leads up through glades of montaine forest, with plenty of wildlife around, to our camp on the shores of Lake Ellis. We will arrive at our camp after about three hours walk in time for lunch. After a short rest period in the late afternoon we will hike to the top of nearby Mugi hill (250m) before returning to camp at dusk.

*"The best views come after the hardest climbs."*

## DAY 3

Mt. Kenya: Lake Ellis to Lake Michaelson

Length: 12 km

Time: 7 hours

Ascent: 800m

Accommodation: Lake Michaelson Camp (4000m)

Early morning we set off, climbing away from Lake Ellis on its west side, across moorland to a ridge which eventually joins the main Chogoria trail. We have views of Vivienne Falls and the Gorges Valley as we descend to the most picturesque campsite in the range, at Lake Michaelson. Above the camp are the impressive cliffs of the "Temple". Exotic bird species, including the Tacazze sunbird, can be seen close to the camp amongst the bizarre giant plants - principally groundsel and lobelia. This is the most impressive campsite on the mountain, with the Nithi gorge plunging nearly 400m into Lake Michaelson.

## DAY 4

Mt. Kenya: Lake Michaelson to Simba TaRN

Length: 7km

Time: 4-5 hours

Ascent: 600m

Accommodation: Simba Tarn Camp (4600m)

Climbing away from the beautiful Lake Michaelson we ascend into the alpine zone - a world of rock and ice. As we ascend towards the main peaks, we leave behind the bizarre giant lobelias and groundsels and head onto glacial moraine. A last short sharp scree slope takes us to Simba Tarn. (4,620m) where we overnight.





## DAY 5

Mt. Kenya: Simba Tarn via Point Lenana to Liki North (4,000m)

Length: 16 km

Time: 9 hours

Ascent: 385m

Descent: 985m

Accommodation: Liki North Camp (4000m)

An early start (at around 5 a.m.) for a cup of tea and a relatively easy two hour climb up to Point Lenana; the trekking summit (4,985m). As dawn breaks over Africa, we are treated to a remarkable spectacle - the nearby peaks of Nelion and Batian glinting in the morning sun. In the far distance, if clear, it is possible to see the summit of Kilimanjaro 400 kms away. After spending some time basking in the morning sunlight absorbing the panorama, we return to Simba tarn for a celebratory cooked breakfast.

We descend down the pleasant Mackinder Valley in the shadow of the true summit of Batian, and near the end of the day's trek we fork right from the main trail and drop into the Liki North valley (4,000m) and our camp near the little hut there. The descent takes about 4- 5 hours.

## DAY 6

Mt. Kenya: Liki North to Park Gate.

Length: 9km

Time: 4-6 hours

Descent: 2,000m

Descending off the mountain is around 2-3 hours walking, which can be boggy underfoot, to Old Moses Camp at the treeline and the roadhead. It is a further 2-3 hours walk down the road in good podocarp and cedar forest. We arrive at the park gate arriving around lunchtime, where we meet by our awaiting vehicles and bid goodbye to our guides and porters.

## **INCLUDED**

Services of guides and porters, all meals on the mountain, park and camping fees, camp equipment, Karimat, sleeping bags and tents.

## **EXCLUDED**

Personal items and tips for the crew.

## **CLOTHING REQUIREMENTS**

The temperature range on the Mountain is +20C to -10C. So warm to very cold. The UV at altitude on the Equator is some of the highest on earth.

## **EQUIPMENT CHECKLIST:**

- Down jacket
- Gloves
- Woolly hat
- Thermal inners
- A waterproof /windproof jacket
- A fleece
- 2 shirts
- 2 trousers, shorts
- 3/4 pairs socks (i.e. 1 dry change of clothes and the other for walking)
- Shoes/trainers
- Walking boots (boots should be worn in before coming and be comfortable)
- Sun hat
- High factor sun cream & lip salve
- Good sunglasses/ glacier glasses
  
- Each person should have a 2-3 litre water bottle(s)- if a camel pack need insulation on the mouth tube
- A small towel
- Toiletries
- Mini pillow- if required
  
- A head torch and spare batteries
- A day pack for water, fleece, raincoat and camera etc.
- A soft holdall bag for the rest of your gear and bin liners/ to weatherproof dry gear – your gear bag shouldn't weigh more than 14 KG
  
- A few extra nibbles
- Basic first aid Kit - e.g. - plasters, aspirins, tampons, hand wash etc.



**CHOGORIA ROUTE RATES  
(PER PERSON) 2021/2022**

1 pax - \$6,500  
2 pax - \$4,500  
3 pax - \$4,000  
4-7 pax - \$3,500



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