

## Mount Kenya Technical Summits *Nelion, Batian & the Gate of Mists*



*Summit Mount Kenya's highest peaks, Nelion and Batian, on this 8-day fully supported climb itinerary. Please note that this is a demanding technical climb. We also offer guided treks to Point Lenana, Mount Kenya's trekking summit. Please visit our [Mount Kenya pages](#) for more information.*

### **Day 1      Transfer Nairobi to Mount Kenya**

Pick up from Nairobi airport or Nairobi hotel for transfer to Bantu Lodge for lunch.

In the afternoon, take a nature walk (3-4 hours) through the forest to the MauMau caves, the former hideouts for Kenya's pre-independence guerrillas. You'll be accompanied by a naturalist

#### ***Your Financial Protection***

All monies paid by you for the air holiday package shown [or flights if appropriate] are ATOL protected by the Civil Aviation Authority. Our ATOL number is ATOL 3145.

For more information see our booking terms and conditions.

guide who will explain more about the flora and fauna of the forest. Dinner and overnight at Bantu Lodge.

*NB. A night in Nairobi prior to your climb start is not included in the climb cost, but can be arranged on request.*

### **Day 2 To Old Moses Camp**

Leave the lodge by 10:00am together with your guide and porters and drive for approx. two hours to the Sirimon park gate (2,600m). After completing the park entry formalities and enjoying a picnic lunch, begin a 3-4 hour hike through the forested foothills of the mountain.

Today's walk will see you climb 700m through the bamboo, rosewood and heather zones to Old Moses camp. The forest and bamboo are home to buffalo, elephant, bushbuck and a plethora of bird species.

Dinner and overnight at Old Moses Camp (3,300m).

### **Day 3 To Shipton's Hut**

A long day leading you to the base of the high peaks, as you trek through the moorlands of the Mackinder Valley, with good views of the main peaks and a brief stop for picnic lunch. Total walking time is approx. 7 hours, gaining 900m in altitude. Dinner and overnight at Shipton's Hut (4,200m).

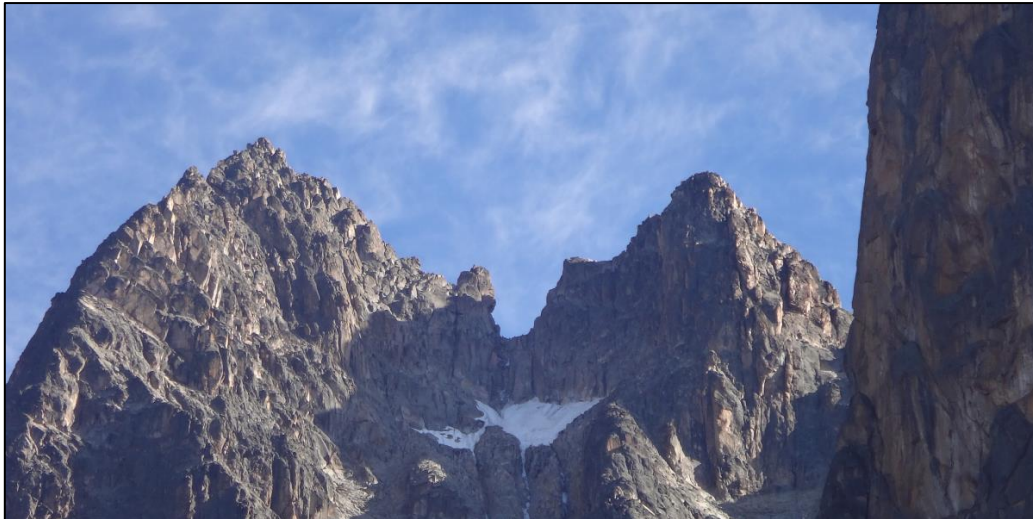
### **Day 4 Acclimatisation Day**

Today is an acclimatisation day. There will be the option to trek to Hausberg Col for fabulous views and acclimatisation, or to Point John, one of Mount Kenya's lesser peaks, where you can practice rope work and abseiling in preparation for the start of your technical climb to Nelion and/or Batian on the morrow.



### **Day 5 To Austrian Hut**

A beautiful trek today, up from Mackinder's Camp to Austrian Hut. The terrain becomes more barren as you approach Austrian hut (4,790m), as the verdant valley gives way to a stark and rocky landscape, with dramatic views up to the south-east face of the high peaks of Mt Kenya.



There is a good hut at Austrian for dining, but to get a better night's rest you will be camping in tents. Adjacent to the camping pitch, there is a high point, where the views of Nelion and Batian on a clear day are even better, and where you can (ocassionally!) get a mobile signal.

## Day 6 Mt Kenya S.E. Face climb to Howell Hut

The climb begins with an early AM short crossing of the glacier and then a trek over very rocky, glacial moraine to the start of the first pitch. Trek poles are advised for this section – you can leave them at the base of the climb.

Nelion and Batian are technical peaks with sport grades ranging from grade 3, 3+, through 4a and 4b. Overall climb grading is hard to fix but assume V.Diff to Severe (UK) or IV+ (UIAA) for Nelion.

There are plenty of running belays and scrambling while roped up. This is a long climb of 20+ pitches, some of them 50 Meters and others 60 Meters long. There are fixed bolts for abseiling from Nelion.



Any climber wishing to cross the Gate of Mists to Batian summit from Nelion summit must be prepared to bivouac at Howell Hut. It is very cramped and sleeps only 4 or 5 people. Bivvy bag and very good sleeping bag required for those sleeping outside the hut.

## Day 7 Climb to Batian Summit and then return to Austrian via Nelion Route

This morning, begin your technical attempt to cross the Gate of Mists with a short traverse before abseiling down to the Gate and climbing on and up to Batian Summit. The return to Howell Hut involves a steep snow climb, with substantial exposure. So good ice axe and crampon work required. After a short break at Howell Hut, begin the long descent with climbing down and abseils, returning to Austrian Hut for overnight.



## Day 8 Descend to gate

Descend to Met Station and gate to connect with your transfer vehicle and other services.

### **CLIMB RATES with Bantu Mountain Lodge as the Base:**

- 1 pax - £2,230
- 2 pax - £1,625
- 3 pax - £1,432
- 4 pax - £1,412
- 5 pax - £1,395

Technical Guide to be paid locally in US dollars cash:

- 1 pax US \$600
- 2 pax US \$450 per person
- 3 pax + US \$400 per person

A second guide is required for groups of more than three climbers.

*Please contact us for more detail on our Mt Kenya technical climbs. For information on required equipment, please refer to our [Mt Kenya Technical Climb Guide and Kit List](#).*