

# MOUNT KENYA EXPEDITION

## BLIND SUMMITS

9-18 MARCH 2022



Xisco López



Dear Friends,

We would like to propose you an exciting trip to Mount Kenya in Africa!

Our friend Gerard Descarrega, Paralympic Champion in Rio and Tokyo, who has recently summited Peak Aneto and Montblanc, is now planning another challenging ascent in one of the most spectacular places in the world and needs your support !



OSCAR CADIACH Y GERARD DESCARREGA

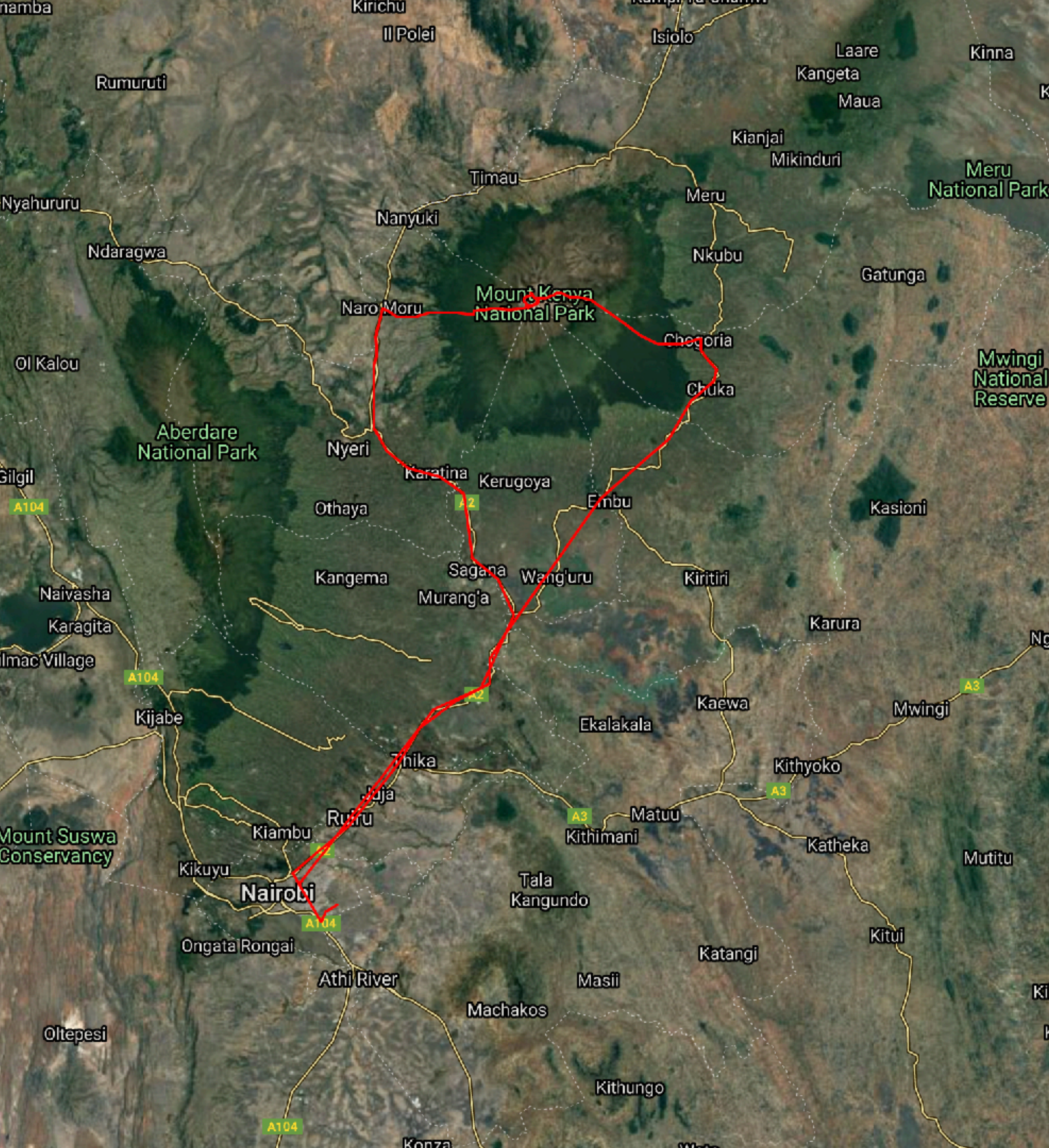


An aerial photograph of Mount Kenya, showing its rugged, snow-capped peak and surrounding forested slopes. A large, dark shadow of the mountain is cast onto the forested area to its right. The foreground shows a mix of green forest and brown, rocky terrain.

# CLIMBING Mt. KENYA BLIND

Live the experience with us.





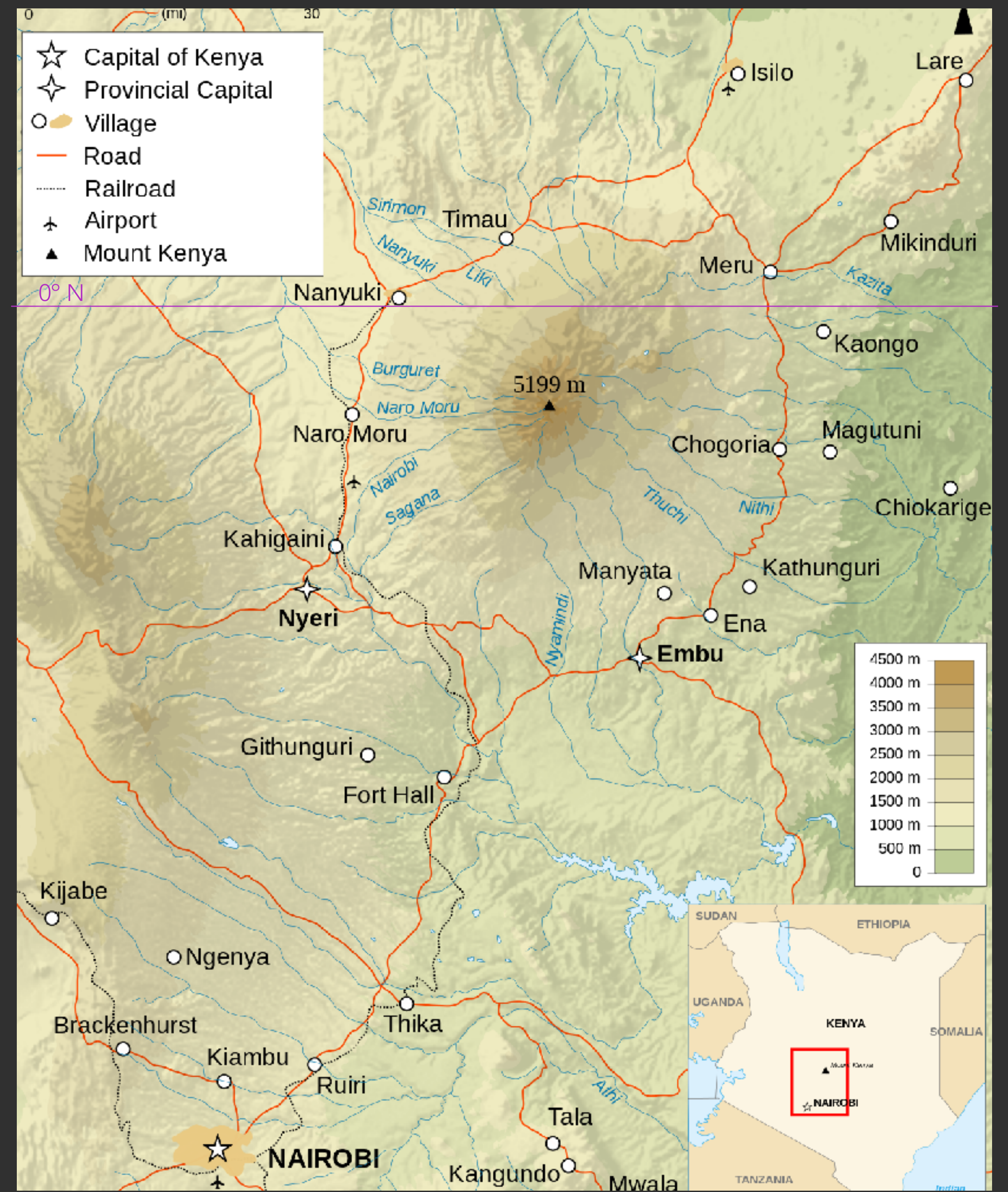
Mount Kenya **trekking** is spectacular, considered one of the most beautiful treks in the world! We will walk through green jungles, forests and tundras full of life. We will enjoy unique terrains with wonderful colors. We will advance through contrasts of black lava stones crowned with immaculate snow. A magical mountain that rises from the heart of Africa and touches the sky awaits us.

The plan is to cross the national park in 7 days. From Chogoria, we reach Point Lenana (4985m) and descend through the valley to Naro Moru. This trekking offers a very progressive acclimatization for all the participants who wish to accompany Gerard Descarrega and the team while they try to climb Nelion

peak (5189m) as part of the project **Blind Summits.**

It is an expedition trip organized by SummitClimb, an expert agency in the mountains of Africa with two of the best guides in the world experienced in the field. This will help us, even more, enjoy the mountain. It will be a great honor to form a team, share this life experience together, help each other to achieve the objectives and enjoy the scenery that hides Mount Kenya.









**Gerard** Descarrega is a Paralympic athlete with exceptional abilities. He has won two gold medals at the Paralympic Games in Rio 2016 and Tokyo 2020, two consecutive gold medals in the 400m! The fastest blind man in the world to run around the track, one of the toughest events in athletics where his qualities of endurance, power and unstoppable mental strengths come to the fore.

At the age of 18 Gerard lost his eyesight completely but that hasn't stopped him from pursuing his dreams, searching for adventure, looking for ways, adapting and enjoying himself no matter what. Recently he has climbed Mont Blanc and now he is pursuing his next dream...

***"Being in the mountains makes me very happy, living this experience with people who share this passion, being able to listen to how they enjoy it and describe what I can't see. It's incredible and motivates me in every step I take."***





## WORLD BLIND COMMUNITY

**Africa** is one of the regions strongly affected by blindness and visual diseases. With our project we aim to raise awareness and bring support to the blind community.



# LEADERS

A portrait of Oscar Cadiach, a man with curly dark hair, smiling. He is wearing a grey and blue long-sleeved shirt with a 'Patagonia' logo and a red necklace. The background is a wooden wall.

OSCAR  
CADIACH

A portrait of Felix Berg, a man with a beard and long hair, wearing a grey beanie and sunglasses. He is giving a thumbs up. The background is a mountain landscape.

FELIX  
BERG

[Wikipedia Oscar Cadiach](#)

[Wikipedia Felix Berg](#)

Oscar and Felix have dedicated their lives to the mountains. Alpinists and professional climbers with elite experience in the most complex ascents in the world, high-mountain guides specialized in carrying out activities and expeditions with perfect logistics and teams where participants get the best out of each other. Both have already been to Mount Kenya countless times, they know the mountain extremely well. Felix has even opened several new climbing routes on this incredible mountain.

I believe there are no two people in the world better than them to lead this experience.



# MOUNT KENYA, A UNIQUE PLACE

The highest mountain in Kenya and the second highest in Africa (after Kilimanjaro). It has several eroded peaks, the highest being Batian (5199m), Nelion (5189m) and Point Lenana (4985 m). Mount Kenya lies in the center of the country, just below the equator, and about 150 km northeast of the capital, Nairobi. Mount Kenya gave its name to the Republic of Kenya.

It is a stratovolcano created after the opening of the East African Rift. Dormant and isolated, it is not part of any mountain range or mountain chain. Its last eruption took place between 2.6 and 3.1 million years ago. It was covered by a layer of ice above 6000m for thousands of years. This has resulted in highly eroded slopes and numerous valleys radiating from the center. There are currently 11 small glaciers. The slopes covered by different types of forests are an important source of water for Kenya. They span eight biomes, from base to summit, with different types of vegetation at different altitudes. In addition to numerous species endemic to Mount Kenya, such as the rock hyrax, we can highlight emblematic animals, such as the African elephant, the leopard, black rhinoceros, Grévy's zebra, buffalo, among many other incredible species living in Mount Kenya national park.



# PROJECT CUMBRES A CIEGAS

DOCUMENTARY



A FILM ABOUT TRUST

## OUT OF SIGHT



FIVEKIT STUDIOS AND 4CATS PRESENT A FIVEKIT PRODUCTION

A FILM BY RICARDO MÄHLMANN CHRISTOPH GRÄFENSTEIN XISCO LÓPEZ

A DOCUMENTARY STARRING OSCAR CADIACH GERARD DESCARREGA XISCO LÓPEZ

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY CHRISTOPH GRÄFENSTEIN DIRECTED BY RICARDO MÄHLMANN

[cumbresaciegas.com](http://cumbresaciegas.com)





GERARD  
DESCARREGA



XISCO  
LOPEZ

Expedition photographer

At 17 years old we started to develop passion for mountains... If at that time you told Gerard and me (Xisco) that we would develop a project like this, that we would climb Mont Blanc or face Mount Kenya with Oscar Cadiach and Felix Berg in an expedition... I would tell you that this is a dream!

It's been two years since we (Oscar, Gerard and Xisco) launched the first challenge in the frame of the project Blind Summits. We started with long trekkings, testing ourselves in the most complicated terrains and summiting Aneto, the highest mountain in the Pyrenees. Next came the majestic Mont Blanc and now we are going for Mount Kenia!!! Driven by our recent success, our motivation is huge.

Let's keep dreaming because life is a challenge and we are here to do what we are passionate about. These experiences will mark us for life and we cannot be happier to share them with our great team that we are going to form!!





Chamonix, Athletic track.

Xisco and Gerard. They met at the high performance sports center in Madrid. They were always like goats that went to the mountain.

"Since we were young, during vacations or athletics breaks, we would escape to the mountains to free ourselves, explore nature and our abilities. Despite Gerard's blindness, we were always looking for ways to get around obstacles, learning from the environment around us, and proving that there are always ways to adapt."

Xisco is also an elite athlete, he has represented Spain in international championships finishing 7th in the world in 2014 in the 110m hurdles. He is an adventure activities instructor, audiovisual producer, high-altitude cameraman and - as Gerard says - "a crazy goat." His great inspiration is his uncle Robin Smith who was one of the great British climbers in the 1960s.

***"Athletics and high performance are very hard... Training, we suffer to the point of exhaustion every day. This has made us develop very powerful physical and mental capacities that have served us well in our other passion - the mountains."***



Paso de Mahoma



# ITINERARY

- 9/03 (Day 1) • Barcelona - Arrival in Kenya
- 10/03 (Day 2) • Transfer to Mount Kenya trek to Chogoria bandas
- 11/03 (Day 3) • Trek to Lake Elais
- 12/03 (Day 4) • Trek to Lake Michaelson
- 13/03 (Day 5) • Climb Lenana Peak – Descent Camp Americano
- 14/03 (Day 6) • American Camp – Climb Nelion / Batian
- 15/03 (Day 7) • American Camp – Climb Nelion / Batian
- 16/03 (Day 8) • American Camp – Descent Naro Moru
- 17/03 (Day 9) • Naro Moru to Nairobi (good bye day, reserve day)
- 18/03 (Day 10) • Departure Kenya – Arrival Barcelona.







## More information:

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T-shirt for the team  
(non-definitive design)







GRACIAS

"ALWAYS UP"

XISCO, GERARD Y OSCAR