

OL DONYO LODGE | HORSE SAFARI

CHYULU HILLS, KEYA



With 111,000 hectares of open plains and the dramatic, ancient volcanic soil Chyulu Hills to explore at Ol Donyo Lodge this vast region provides a truly unique riding experience. Riding is available all year round at no additional cost.

RIDE OPTIONS

Intermediate and Above

For Intermediate riders and above we offer 2 to 4 hour rides exploring the concession. Enjoy exhilarating medium to fast paced canters and encounters with our famous big Tuskers.

For this riding option, you need to be riding fit, confident and competent, ride with an independent seat and be able to control an easy horse at all paces over uneven terrain.

Plains Ride

Novice riders can enjoy a gentle 60/90 minute ride exploring the open plains.

All riders will need to have a short assessment in our arena prior to setting out to ensure all guests riding out can control their horse and are comfortable at a short trot. If riders do not have the required experience they will be offered a lesson in the arena instead. Plains riders will be given some instruction, a minimum requirement is a short trot.

RIDING TIMES

Rides take place at 7:15am and 4:00pm subject to availability of guides and horses.

THE HORSES

We have a herd of 20 horses from 15.1hh to 17.1hh

Our horses are well schooled and used to the environment we share with the wildlife.



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The Ol Donyo stables boast an impressive range of breeds, including Friesian and Shire crosses, Arabian breeds and the South African Boerperd. Our horses are chosen for their laid-back temperament, endurance and versatility, hand picking the perfect safari horses for your adventures in the Chyulu Hills.

THE TACK

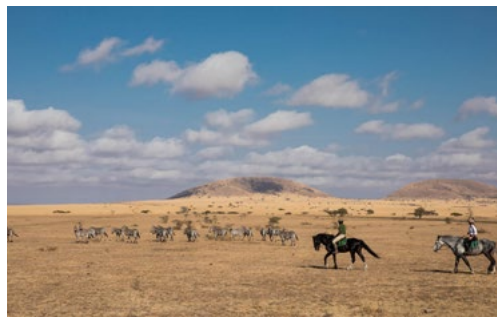
- Our horses are ridden with English bridles and bits;
- We offer a choice of English or Trail saddles.

GROUP SIZE

- All our rides will be a Maximum of 6 guests accompanied by 2 experienced guides;
- However, the number of riders will be dependent on the groups ability and riders weight;
- We will therefore only confirm a booking on receipt of our riding questionnaire which is available on request from your guide or lodge manager.

RIDING EQUIPMENT

A selection of riding hats, riding boots, breeches and half chaps are available for guests with no additional charge.



WEIGHT LIMIT

- We respectfully request no riders over 95Kg;
- We do have several big advanced level horses and are happy to advise if we can accommodate experienced riders over our weight limit on receipt of the riding questionnaire.

AGE LIMIT

- For safety reasons the minimum age for riding is 12 years;
- All children between 12 and 15 must be accompanied by a riding parent or guardian;
- While we do not offer riding to children under 12, kids are welcome to come and see the horses and feed them treats.

OTHER ACTIVITIES AT OL DONYO LODGE

- Guided bush walks;
- Mountain biking;
- Wildlife viewing drives;
- Night wildlife viewing drives;
- Cultural villages visits (additional charge);
- Amboseli day trip (additional charge).

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CHYULU HILLS, KEYA

DUMA



BORN	15 November 2004
SEX	Gelding
HEIGHT	15.2 hands high
COLOUR	Dark Bay
BREED	Boerperd
SIRE	Lang Carel Rommel
DAM	Keeversfontein 43

Duma is a registered Boerperd from South Africa. He flaunts the classical Boerperd colouring, movements and temperament, making him a popular choice at Ol Donyo.

His registered name is Keeversfontein Cheetah, so we called him Duma which means Cheetah in Swahili.

He is a solid, very gentle horse, making him suitable for any riding ability, but he is prized for taking such good care of novice riders.

EMPAKAI



BORN	3 December 2003
SEX	Stallion
HEIGHT	15.3 hands high
COLOUR	Black
BREED	Boerperd
SIRE	Cloeteggo Klinker 2nd
DAM	Lang Karel Ouma

Empakai is a registered Boerperd from South Africa.

His looks and conformation meant he was used for Stud Work in South Africa, but he has taken Safari Life comfortably in his stride. He is named after the astonishing Empakai crater, near the active volcano Ol Donyo Lengai.

He has a willing attitude to his work, and is a comfortable intermediate ride.

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CHYULU HILLS, KEYA

KIMBIA



BORN	2004
SEX	Gelding
HEIGHT	15.3 hands high
COLOUR	Dark Bay
BREED	Boerperd / Friesian Cross
SIRE	Unknown
DAM	Unknown

Kimbia is a Boerperd/Friesian cross. His breeding gives him the size and elegance of a Friesian and the durability of a Boerperd; the perfect Safari Horse.

He was previously used as a trail and cattle horse in South Africa, so knows all about other animals.

Kimbia is a true gentleman. He knows and loves his job and a very reliable novice ride.

KERIMASI



BORN	8 November 2002
SEX	Gelding
HEIGHT	16 hands high
COLOUR	Bay
BREED	Boerperd / Arab cross
SIRE	Unknown
DAM	Unknown

Kerimasi is a Boerperd/Arabian horse from South Africa.

He is a steady horse who enjoys longer rides through the bush. Even though he has recently lost his sight in one eye, Kerimasi remains a brave lead horse, and popular intermediate ride.

At night, from the stables you can hear all sorts of wildlife; lions roaring, elephants moving through the bush... but loudest of all is Kerimasi sound asleep and snoring!

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CHYULU HILLS, KEYA

KOROYA



BORN	2004
SEX	Stallion
HEIGHT	15.3 hands high
COLOUR	Black with white markings
BREED	Shire / Boerperd cross
SIRE	Unknown
DAM	Unknown

Koroya is our beautiful Shire/Boerperd stallion, who also came from South Africa.

He is bold and is always keen to be at the front of the ride! He carries himself very well, and his beauty makes him real favourite with our riders who enjoy their photography! Koroya is as brave as they come, so makes to be a very valued lead horse at ol Donyo.

MAHALE



BORN	20 January 2010
SEX	Gelding
HEIGHT	15.2 hands high
COLOUR	Bay
BREED	Boerperd
SIRE	Mahashi Bastiaan
DAM	Uitblinker Adel

Mahale is a Boerperd from South Africa.

He has a stunning canter, making him popular with adrenaline seeking riders, but he can sometimes be a little skittish of sudden movements in the bush!

He has a big goofy character and the kindest heart; he is a real favourite at ol Donyo!

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CHYULU HILLS, KEYA

MANCHIRA



BORN	23 September 2005
SEX	Gelding
HEIGHT	16.3 hands high
COLOUR	Chestnut
BREED	Thoroughbred
SIRE	Portrush (USA)
DAM	Joyous Dancer

Manchira is a big, sensible thoroughbred.

He came up from South Africa, where he was somewhat of a celebrity! He has a Hunting and Eventing background, and has been used in several movies, where he was used as a stunt horse because of his calm nature.

This, combined with his endurance, makes him a valuable safari horse.

His experience in the bush has earned him an impressive scar, from where he was gored by a buffalo in 2018!

NAROK



BORN	16 November 2003
SEX	Gelding
HEIGHT	15.2 hands high
COLOUR	Chestnut
BREED	Boerperd
SIRE	Paardekop Lekker
DAM	Frederick Gina

Narok is a Boerperd from South Africa

Before he came to Kenya, Narok was used in many movies and advertisements! See if you can spot him in the movie 'The Salvation'!

When he wasn't on film shoots, he was a trail horse, which set him up perfectly for life in the bush.

He is kind and reliable, making him a wonderful choice for all abilities.

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ROKARE



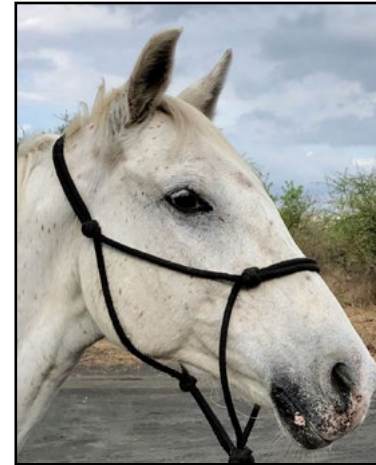
BORN	1 October 2010
SEX	Stallion
HEIGHT	16 hands high
COLOUR	Black
BREED	Thoroughbred cross Shire
SIRE	Greystoke
DAM	Grace the Turf

Rokare is a striking Shire/Thoroughbred cross from South Africa.

For a stallion he is remarkably laid back, taking everything in his stride and really suits Safari life. He is fairly bomb-proof and takes excellent care of his riders in the bush.

He is a powerful horse and a popular experienced ride.

SAMANCHE



BORN	12 June 2001
SEX	Gelding
HEIGHT	15.1 hands high
COLOUR	Grey
BREED	Crabbet Arabian
SIRE	Unknown
DAM	Unknown

Samanche is a Crabbet Arabian from South Africa.

His breed is the perfect endurance horse, and indeed this was the life he led before he arrived in the Chyulus. He competed in endurance races across South Africa and Namibia, in distances up to 160km!

As a result he is quite a fast horse that is always gunning to be at the front – despite his age! Because of this he is more suited to lightweight intermediate riders.

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ZULU



BORN	2002
SEX	Gelding
HEIGHT	15.1 hands high
COLOUR	White
BREED	Boerperd
SIRE	Unknown
DAM	Unknown

Zulu is a Boerperd from South Africa.

Zulu arrived in the Chyulu Hills in 2006, where he quickly became a yard favourite. He loves people, has exquisite manners and the right brain for Safari. He has a very soft mouth, so goes the best when ridden in a loose contact. His energetic trot means he is a good fit for young and fit riders with suitable experience.

KALAHARI



BORN	2006
SEX	Gelding
HEIGHT	17 hands high
COLOUR	Bay
BREED	Thoroughbred cross Shire
SIRE	Unknown
DAM	Unknown

Kalahari is a Thoroughbred/Shire horse from South Africa.

His size and stature mean he is ideal for our taller and heavier guests! He has a big, powerful stride so covers the plains effortlessly, not batting an eyelid at the Chyulu Hills Wildlife.

He is such a sweet boy and a real favourite with Intermediate riders.

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CHYULU HILLS, KEYA

SABRE



BORN	2006
SEX	Gelding
HEIGHT	17.1 hands high
COLOUR	Grey
BREED	Thoroughbred cross Percheron cross Shire
SIRE	Unknown
DAM	Unknown

Sabre has Thoroughbred, Shire and Percheron in his breeding.

Sabre is our weight carrier, and is mostly used for novice rides because of his gentle personality.

Whilst he isn't particularly athletic, he is happiest when he gets to go out with an experienced rider and have a canter on the plains.

KALACHA



BORN	2011
SEX	Gelding
HEIGHT	15.3 hands high
COLOUR	Bay
BREED	Thoroughbred
SIRE	Sound whisper
DAM	Sarafina by Rana Pratap

Kalacha is one of our only Kenyan bred horses! He is an ex-racehorse, so needs a light and experienced rider. He is very forward going and not a lot phases him, so he is often leading the herd out on rides!

He has beautiful paces and a lovely big canter to take riders across the plains.

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XANGO



BORN	2010
SEX	Gelding
HEIGHT	15.2 hands high
COLOUR	Bay
BREED	Anglo Arab
SIRE	Congo
DAM	Zelda by a Zim polo mare

Xango is an Anglo Arab from Zimbabwe.

He has a big personality and loves cantering, but can be a bit of a wimp! Whilst he is happy to stare down an elephant, he is easily frightened by stones and butterflies.

He makes for a very enjoyable intermediate ride for a jockey with lots of confidence.

CHUI



BORN	2012
SEX	Gelding
HEIGHT	15.1 hands high
COLOUR	Skewbald
BREED	Thoroughbred cross
SIRE	Crazy Horse
DAM	Kesho Kutwa

Chui is one of our Kenyan-bred superstars.

His good looks make him a very popular horse at Ol Donyo, and his personality is the cherry on top! He is small but compact, and great fun to ride on the plains.

Chui only arrived with us in 2022, but has already won the hearts of a number of intermediate riders

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CHYULU HILLS, KEYA

COHIBA



BORN	2019
SEX	Gelding
HEIGHT	16.1 hands high
COLOUR	Chestnut
BREED	Belgian Warmblood x Boerperd x Friesian
SIRE	Ramiro B
DAM	Lalibela

Cohiba is a rising star in the Ol Donyo stables.

He is very young so we are taking it slowly with him but has all the promise to be a fantastic safari horse. He is brave and has incredible paces – likely down to his sire being one of the UK's top eventing stallions!

He is just learning about life on safari at the moment, but will be an exhilarating intermediate ride in the future.

KIBO



BORN	2018
SEX	Gelding
HEIGHT	15 hands high
COLOUR	Dark Bay
BREED	Boerperd x Thoroughbred
SIRE	Mount Magic's Charlie
DAM	Mount Magic's Midnight

Kibo is a Boerperd cross and is one of our 2023 arrivals! He came from Mount Magic Stud in Cape Town.

He is a lovely quiet boy with fantastic uphill paces and a very genuine character.

He took to the safari life straight away; not only is he the perfect choice for young riders or small adults, he also is a fantastic and very sensible lead horse!

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LEBOMBO

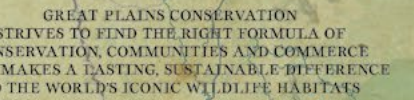


BORN	2018
SEX	Gelding
HEIGHT	16 hands high
COLOUR	Dapple Grey
BREED	Percheron x Boerperd
SIRE	Percheron Stallion
DAM	Boerperd Mare

Lebombo is a very striking Percheron all the way from Mount Magic Stud in Cape Town. His appetite is almost as big as his bottom and he loves hanging out around the yard, making sure we are all doing our jobs!

Shortly after he arrived at ol Donyo, it was obvious this horse was born to be on safari – he is brave and relaxed about life, and whilst his true passion is sunbathing, his build and breeding mean he is the ultimate Safari Horse, able to carry weight over longer distances.

CONSERVING AND EXPANDING NATURAL HABITATS



GREAT PLAINS CONSERVATION
STRIVES TO FIND THE RIGHT FORMULA OF
CONSERVATION, COMMUNITIES AND COMMERCE
THAT MAKES A TASTING, SUSTAINABLE DIFFERENCE
TO THE WORLD'S ICONIC WILDLIFE HABITATS

Kenya

Tanzania

Mount Kilimanjaro

ol Donyo Lodge •

Shompole

Maasai Mara
Reserve

Serengeti
National Park

- Camp Kunji

Mara Toto Tree Camp • Mara Plains Camp & The Jahazi Suite at Mara Plains
Mara Expedition Camp • Mara Nyika Camp & The Sambuk Suite at Mara Nyika

Mara Triangle