



Safari on horseback with Ride Kenya: up-close game watching and stunning rides through majestic savannahs, forests and swamps with views of Africa's iconic Mt. Kilimanjaro



Ride Kenya, part of the Great Plains Conservation camps and safaris, guides guests on horseback safari trips across the exclusive landscape of the Amboseli-Tsavo ecosystem. Ride Kenya's stables are located 2km from Ol Donyo Lodge (named one of [Travel + Leisure's](#) "World's Best Hotels" in 2011 and 2012) and these horseback safaris – designed for experienced and adventurous riders – cover a pristine wilderness of over one million acres, rarely visited by other tourists.



Ride Kenya's horseback safaris typically span **six nights and seven days of riding, camping and sightseeing** for groups of up to ten (families welcome). A typical day on safari offers 4-7 hours per day in the saddle, with a chance of night or day game driving, as well as walking tours.



Ride Kenya founding partner and head guide/manager **Patrick Stanton** has developed his own system of horse training over the past fifteen years that incorporates tricks from every discipline, and has proven phenomenally successful on equines from backyard ponies to top competition horses. Today, Patrick leads Ride Kenya's guests on these safaris through some of East Africa's most beautiful and remote areas. **His thirst for knowledge, sensitivity toward the nature of animals and abilities to communicate with them** has made him one of the most renowned horseback guides on the continent.



Based out of a mobile camp, Ride Kenya's guests stay in **luxurious Selous tents**, with hot showers, a separate tent for three-course dining, on-site laundry and a full crew of staff for household services. Every other night, the camp location will move to follow the trails. Ride Kenya is flexible in offering long and short horse safaris, for small groups as well as larger groups.



A close vicinity to ol Donyo Lodge allows guests the **flexibility to stay at the lodge before or after their horseback safari**. A combination trip of a few nights camping on horseback and a lodge stay can also be arranged.



Two itineraries for mobile horse safaris are offered: the **Amboseli ride takes advanced riders through thrilling terrain**, including swamps known for elephant, buffalo, hippo, lion and hyena spotting; while the **signature Chyulu Hills ride features less intense wildlife sightseeing from horseback in some of the most stunning and varied scenery in Kenya**.



In June 2012, the Amboseli route will travel to new terrain around and through the Park. The Amboseli safari ride is longer and has more intense wildlife than the Chyulu trail; it is a **fast ride through big game country**. Children must be 15 years old or older for the advanced trip.



Riders over age 12 can participate in the Chyulu ride, which is more suited to families and those wanting to explore a **truly exclusive landscape on horseback**. Children under 12 can ride at ol Donyo Lodge under the supervision of Ride Kenya staff. ol Donyo Lodge also offers riding for any level of rider, from novice to advanced. Novice trails follow the edge of the savannah and forest, where there are no elephants.



June and December are the most picturesque months for a horseback safari in Kenya. After the spring rains, the Chyulu Hills are full of water oases, green grass and wildflowers. The presence of water on the plains brings wildlife like buffalo and breeding herds of elephant to this area, as well as the big cats and their young cubs. Other great months to visit are September and October, and January when the views of Mt. Kilimanjaro are glorious.



The horses from the Ride Kenya stables are a unique team from southern Africa suited for both children and adults. **Hand-picked for their temperament, conformation and suitability for safaris, they are a pleasure to ride.** For children, there are Somali ponies and Boerperds ranging from 13 hands to 15 hands. Larger horses for adults are as tall as 17 hands.



These horses are English trained and most are ridden in English saddles, with a small selection of Western saddles. **There is quite a lot of jumping offered on the safaris, but never compulsory.** All riders must wear helmets. Due to the long days on horseback, riders should be fit (no more than 100kg for novice riders and 95kg for advanced riders).



Ride Kenya is a unique experience due to the winning combination of the exquisite game viewing, landscape variety from wonderful vistas at the top of the Chyulu Hills to views of Mt. Kilimanjaro, exclusive access/traversing rights, the personal attention of the equestrian guides, and the calm and happy safari horses.



ol Donyo Lodge is a partnership between Great Plains Conservation and the original land owners, forging a connection between past and present. Guests are staying in a **new luxury version of the historic ol Donyo safari lodge**, keeping the character of old.



The Great Plains Conservation **hospitality and service has been fine-tuned to a natural art**. Designed and decorated for unique comfort, the lodge features a blend of **African colors combined with contemporary and cultural pieces**.



Ten large bedroom suites **embrace East African culture**, with their natural stone floors and tall, traditionally thatched roofs. Rooftop suites have a romantic bed for guests who want to **slumber under the starry African sky**.



One of the biggest attractions at ol Donyo Lodge is the variety of activities for guests and families: **Colonial-style breakfast after morning horseback rides**; game drives and night excursions that provide extraordinary wildlife photography; bicycle riding and hiking trips through the savannah and forest; and the cool relief of private plunge pools.



Ride Kenya and ol Donyo Lodge invite you to [join us](#) and share the magic of the Chyulu Hills in East Africa.

For more information, contact:
Caroline Graham, C4 Global Communications
caroline@c4global.com / 310-899-2727
www.c4global.com

[Ride Kenya website](#)
[ol Donyo Lodge website](#)
[Great Plains Conservation Camps](#)