

OL DONYO LODGE

MBIRIKANI GROUP RANCH | CHYULU HILLS NATIONAL PARK



ol Donyo Lodge is located on the Maasai-owned Mbirikani Group Ranch, a vast expanse of wilderness between Amboseli and Tsavo National Parks, bordering Chyulu Hills National Park.

This stunningly beautiful area is incredibly diverse and often has spectacular views of Mount Kilimanjaro. No other lodge in Africa offers such a wide range of experiences, in such a private setting. As one of Kenya's only three Relais & Châteaux properties (other being sister properties Mara Plains Camp and Mara Nyika Camp), the lodge is perched on a hillside with views of East Africa's classic savannahs below.

Eight deluxe pool suites plus one two-bedroom family suite offer a harmonious blend of contemporary and rustic accommodation, merging the landscape into each suite. Designed for broad appeal, the lodge is a perfect getaway for families, honeymooners or multi-generational groups. What makes it a standout is its considerable variety of activities – from cultural visits, quality wildlife viewing, hiking, helicopter excursions, horseback riding and mountain biking – ol Donyo Lodge is a perfect place to feel Africa.

Add to this the lodge's creature comforts of fine dining, spa treatments, gym, infinity pool, star beds and multiple lounges, and it is a place to relax and unwind for days. Wildlife is here. This semi-arid region offers a diverse safari and wildlife viewing experience to that found in the Maasai Mara area.

ol Donyo Lodge pairs perfectly with its sister properties in the Maasai Mara such as our Mara Plains Camp, The Jahazi Suite at Mara Plains, Mara Expedition Camp, Mara Toto Tree Camp, Mara Nyika Camp or the Sambuk Suite at Mara Nyika. Together this combination gives guests the most well-rounded and complementary Kenyan safari itinerary.

No two of the lodge's suites is precisely the same, but what is consistent is the view to Mount Kilimanjaro and the lodge's famous waterhole as well as star beds atop each of the suites for sleeping under the night sky. All the suites have private plunge pools, and two are connected, creating a 'villa' concept, perfect for families or couples travelling together.

The thatch-roofed suites blend with the environment despite their commanding design. Flashes of bright colour interspersed with earthy tones, wildlife photography and local crafts punctuate the open-air layout.



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Most of the lodge staff are from the local Maasai community and keen to share their fascinating culture with guests – it is a treasured chance to learn. Furthermore, the Mbirikani Group Ranch and ol Donyo Lodge are among the first examples of a community tourism partnership. The land is leased from the Maasai by the lodge, providing them with benefits from tourism and an incentive for conservation. Along with its local conservation partner Big Life Foundation, the lodge continues to push the boundaries in innovative community conservation schemes. Every guest of ol Donyo Lodge contributes to these vital initiatives.

CAMP FEATURES

ol Donyo can accommodate up to 20 adult guests.

Total Number of Bedrooms:

- 8 twin or double Deluxe pool suites
- 1 two-bedroomed Sambu suite
- 2 Tented guide rooms

Type of Lodge:

Réserve-Collection Safari Lodge

Lodge Season & Opening:

Year Round

Ideal length of stay:

3 / 4 Nights



CHECK OUT TIME

We maintain a high level of flexibility when it comes to check-out times at our camps. However, due to some air transfer schedules, there are instances where we may kindly request guests to check out of their suites by 9:00am. In such situations, our lodges and camps are set up to ensure that guests can utilise the facilities located in the central area. This includes access to Wi-Fi, the provision of complimentary drinks and lunch in the event of any unexpected delays, and access to hides or other activities if available.

CAMP COORDINATES

S2°30'7.34", E37°45'12.95"

ACCESS DIRECTIONS

- Scheduled light aircraft transfer to the nearest airstrip, ol Donyo, from Nairobi's Wilson domestic airport (50 minutes) and other locations in Kenya;
- Private air-charter access available;
- ol Donyo Lodge is a 20-minute transfer from its airstrip;
- Airstrip length: 1,300 m
- Airstrip coordinates: 2°31'45.4"S 37°43'56.9"E.

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ACTIVITIES

Days at ol Donyo Lodge are full of options. To have such a vast area to explore, from high-altitude mist forest through lava fields, then woodland to savannah, and ending at the famous kopjes, it's a paradise of discovery. Each day, it is possible to pick your mode of transport, be it on foot, by vehicle, on horseback or even by mountain bike. There is no routine here at all, and experiences are tailor-made for each guest. And if lazing around the pool, indulging in a massage or shopping sounds like a good plan, then please do. Meet local Maasai and visit a nearby school to discover what makes Kenya so colourful and dynamic.

Safari Drives

Early morning and late afternoon / evening safari drives take place in some of the most luxurious wildlife-viewing vehicles. Each Toyota Land Cruiser safari vehicle is open-sided, canopied and customised for photographers (fold-down screens, raised roofs, photographic bars, multi-plug inverters). Each vehicle is also stocked with a fridge with drinks and snacks, ready for longer days out if the wildlife viewing is exciting and just too hard to leave. We choose to accommodate four guests (or two couples) on a safari vehicle; however, if a family or group travels together, we would easily accommodate up to six guests.

Every day on safari brings a unique and distinct experience. Safari drives typically start at sunrise, returning for lunch and depart again in the mid-afternoon before returning just after sunset.

Day trips to Amboseli National Park are possible (extra cost, subject to pre-booking).

Guests can enjoy up-close encounters with wildlife without departing from the lodge. The open-air log-pile hide and the sunken hide at the waterhole, both situated directly in front of the camp, provide a perfect vantage point for such experiences.

Our schedule is flexible, and guests are encouraged to create their own itinerary according to their interests with guidance and recommendations from our professional guides.

Enjoy wildlife viewing from this property on our online HD hide-cam 24 hours a day. Visit greatplainsconservation.com/live-african-wildlife-webcam/#ol-donyo for more information.

Walks

Guided walks can be pre-booked and are led by qualified, licensed walking guides.

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Horse Riding

- All riders must 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 the ability to do a short trot;
- Horse riding is available to guests aged 12 and older with prior experience; no beginners;
- All guests are encouraged to complete a short questionnaire determining their riding experience and preferences prior to arrival.

Mountain biking

- Ol Donyo Lodge offers guided mountain biking for guests to explore the plains and open savannah in the area;
- Wildlife seen is a range of Africa's most iconic species;
- Distances are based on guests' fitness levels and riding desire;
- Cycling terrain can range from sand to compact gravel and grass in places.

Helicopter Excursions and Transfers

A Bell 505 helicopter is available, and guests can enjoy 180-degree views with a choice of aerial scenic tours. These include viewing the Chyulu Hills, Amboseli, and Mount Kilimanjaro from the air. In addition to the scenic tours, guests can also visit Amboseli to explore this area with a Great Plains guide and safari drive as well as reserve helicopter transfers from Nairobi to our Mara-based safari camps or Nairobi and Ol Donyo Lodge. Helicopter excursions and transfers are not included in the nightly accommodation rate.

Photography

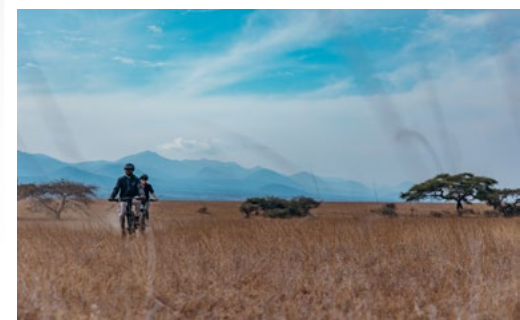
- Each vehicle has high-quality 8 x 42 binoculars for guest use;
- Professional camera bodies with a wide selection of lenses available for guests to use on a complimentary basis during their stay.

Private vehicle option

Available for more flexibility upon request at extra cost, not compulsory for families travelling with children.

Private Guides

Private guides are encouraged and welcomed.



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COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Guests have the opportunity to experience the following local activities that take place around ol Donyo Lodge. Please note that these may only be available on certain days of the week. Your safari designer can confirm details at the time of enquiry.

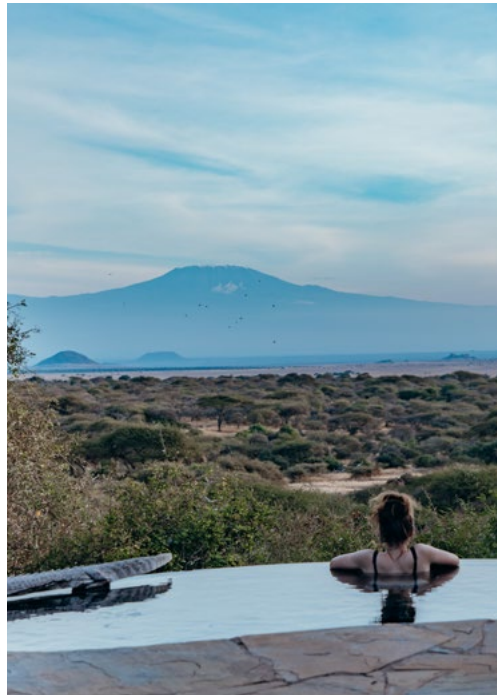
Local Market Visit in Kimana

Experience the vibrant atmosphere of the Kimana local market, located a 1.5 to 2-hour drive from ol Donyo Lodge. This bustling market offers a glimpse into the local culture, with fresh produce, local textiles, beadwork, livestock, household items, and a large second-hand clothes market. Guests can leave the lodge after breakfast around 9 am with a packed lunch to enjoy on the way back in a scenic spot.

Cultural and Community Activities:

Join an organised Maasai warrior dance at sunset featuring traditionally dressed warriors for a unique cultural experience. This can be arranged with 24-hour notice at a nominal additional cost for six warriors.

For a more immersive experience, visit a local Maasai homestead, a 1.5 to 2-hour drive towards Imbirikani, where women welcome you into their homes, share their culture, and offer handmade beaded works for purchase. A cash donation per person is paid at ol Donyo Lodge which is then passed on directly to the community.



Additionally, school visits with the Great Plains Foundation provide an opportunity to interact with students and learn about local education initiatives. Two schools are available for visits. 24-hour notice is required, and visits are only available during school hours.

CENTRAL FACILITIES

- Double lounge with bar and verandah;
- Grand stone fireplace;
- Separate main dining room;
- Main infinity swimming pool with separate lounge and dining;
- Wine room;
- Viewing deck with fire pit;
- Above ground and underground hide;
- Pizzeria;
- Coffee and tea station;
- Great Plains Safari Boutique: Selling locally and regionally produced crafts, many of which support local community projects in the nearby Maasai communities. The Boutique also stocks the d&b clothing line: Dereck and Beverly Joubert have inspired this bespoke range of clothing they typically wear, and which is perfect and cool while on safari yet elegant when in the city. All materials are responsibly sourced. Visit dbexplorercollection.com.

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FOOD AND BEVERAGE

- Our world-class meals are Relais & Chateaux recognised;
- All meals included and prepared by our Executive Chefs and their teams;
- All drinks and beverages are included, including imported spirits and Champagne;
- Group meals and/or individual tables, à la carte (menu options);
- Indoor and outdoor dining;
- Wine room has a large variety of South African and International wines;
- All dietary requirements are catered for - from regular to vegan to children's meals - with prior notice required;
- We are extremely flexible on timings. Picnic breakfasts or lunch (or both) are the norm due to very active safari drives, often delivered to the bush!

ACCOMMODATION DETAILS

BEDROOM FEATURES

- 8 Deluxe pool suites, each with rooftop star bed;
- The Sambu Suite is a two-bedroom pool suite of two identical suites (each with private en-suite and star-bed), with a common pool and lounge;
- Tea/Coffee station;
- Mini bar with drinks of choice;
- All suites have views of the waterhole, savannah and Mount Kilimanjaro;

- Suites are constructed of gunnite/cement & thatch;
- Netting over beds (both inside & roof-top beds);
- Standing fans
- Some suites including the Sambu Suite have fireplaces;
- Asali and Impia are the two suites most suitable for honeymooners;
- All suites can be double or twin configuration.

Bathroom features

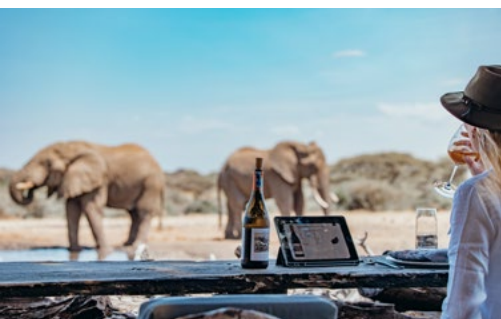
- En-suite with flush loo, shower (indoor and outdoor), free-standing tub and double basins;
- Hot and cold running water;
- Soap, bath salts, shampoo, conditioner, lotion and eco-hairdryers provided.

ACCOMMODATING CHILDREN AND SHARING ACCOMMODATION

- We look forward to welcoming children aged six years and older;
- The Sambu Family Suite can cater for a maximum of four adults sharing or two adults and up to three children (aged 6-15), sharing in two separate bedrooms;
- The Nyati 7 and El Mau 10 Suites can accommodate triples for children sharing with adults, upon request;
- Families with children (6-15) will never be accommodated in the same vehicle as other guests;
- Children of 6 years and older are welcome to participate in all scheduled camp activities, at camp manager and guide's discretion;

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- Young children must be supervised as the lodge is open;
- Great Plains Young Explorers Kids' programme is available
 - thoughtfully designed to explore various experiences and topics from birding to cooking to art to tracking wildlife.

SPA TREATMENTS

The Spa at ol Donyo offers guests a range of available treatments. Built on a large deck, the spa overlooks a water hole and has views of Mount Kilimanjaro. Spa treatments are at an additional cost.

FITNESS

- Yoga mat, light weights available in each suite;
- The lodge features a gym where guests can make use of the following equipment:
 - Squat rack;
 - Spinning bikes;
 - Rowing machine;
 - Treadmill;
 - Yoga mats;
 - Workout benches;
 - A selection of various weights and dumbbells.
- Guests can enjoy a run/walk on the airstrip.

LAUNDRY

Included in nightly tariff - next-day service, weather permitting.

POWER AND COMMUNICATION

Power

- The lodge is run by a combination of solar and generator power;
- The system produces 240V, 24-hour electricity to the suites and main area;
- Plug points in each suite;
- Type of plug: large British three-pin; converters available for most international plugs.

Internet & Mobile

- Mobile reception is limited;
- Complimentary Wi-Fi is available in each guest suite.
- To maintain the peaceful safari atmosphere, we ask that cell phones and computers not be used in public areas or on safari vehicles. Phones may be used for photography only.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Health

- Malaria: Minimal exposure risk – Malaria prophylaxis is recommended if guests are concerned; however, this is a remote area with little occurrence;
- Kenya is considered a Yellow Fever Zone. Consult your medical practitioner prior to travel;
- Guests must hold comprehensive medical insurance and emergency evacuation insurance;
- All senior staff have first aid training;
- PARK doctors are available as advisors for any medical issues;
- Nearest decent medical facility is in Nairobi.

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Possibility of Disabled Access

- The lodge layout is not conducive to wheelchair-bound guests;
- The two, separate Sirra Suites are best suited for guests with walking challenges.

Safety

- Security guards on duty 24 hours a day;
- Fire extinguishers outside each suite.

MONEY MATTERS

Safes

Safes are provided in every suite.

Accepted Payment on Location

- Staff gratuities can be paid in Kenyan Shillings, US Dollars, and British Pounds - preferably in cash - to the staff member concerned who has truly exceeded expectations in terms of hospitality, service, and experience;
- Credit card facilities are available in camp (except American Express), subject to 3.5% charge, for payments of additional items such as boutique store purchases, spa treatments, helicopter excursions etc.

The Team

Lodge Owners

Great Plains Conservation

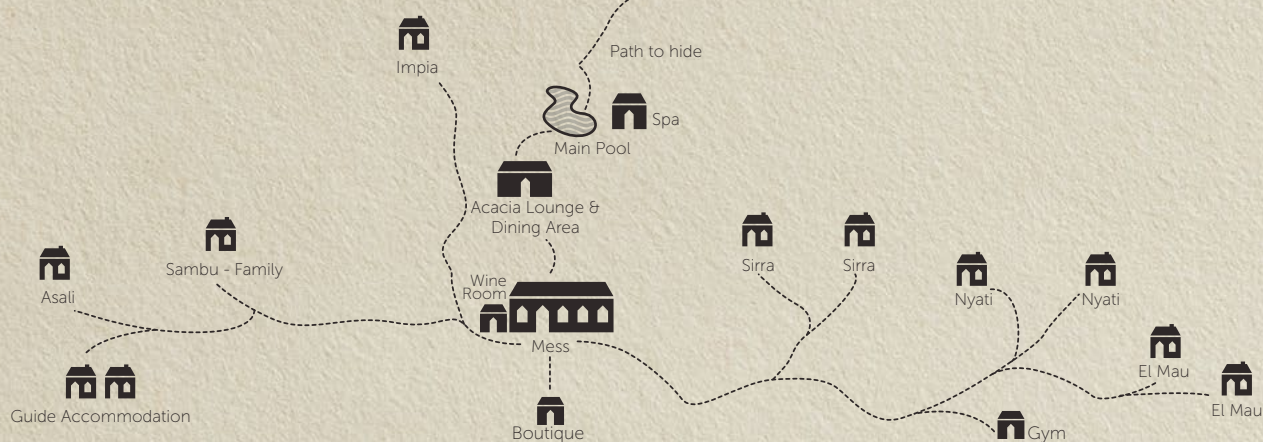
FOUNDATION INITIATIVE

Teacher's Salaries

Great Plains supports the salaries of 24 teachers in 15 schools around Ol Donyo Lodge. Without additional teachers, student-teacher ratios in government schools in this area would be more than 100 to 1! Our support helps those schools to reduce that ratio, allowing them to dedicate more time and attention to each student. One of those schools is Enkijape, the only school in the area that specialises in serving over 60 primary school children with physical, developmental, and intellectual disabilities. Learn more at www.greatplainsfoundation.com

In addition to our own programmes Great Plains Foundation keeps a list of school needs in the countries where we work. Needed items can be hand-carried by travellers or we can help purchase them locally. To learn more or to help support students and educators as part of your trip please reach out info@greatplainsfoundation.com





KENYA

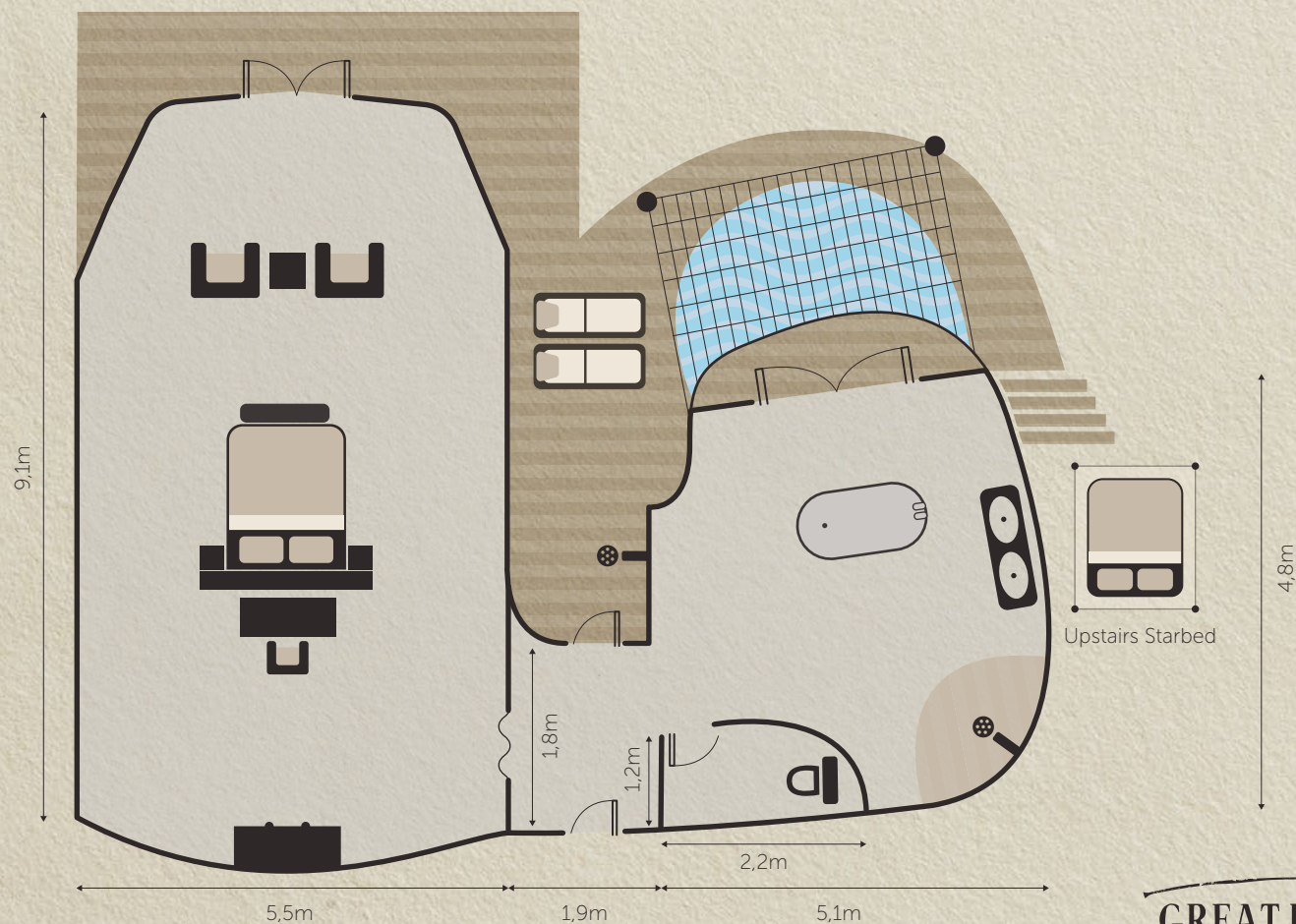
GREAT PLAINS

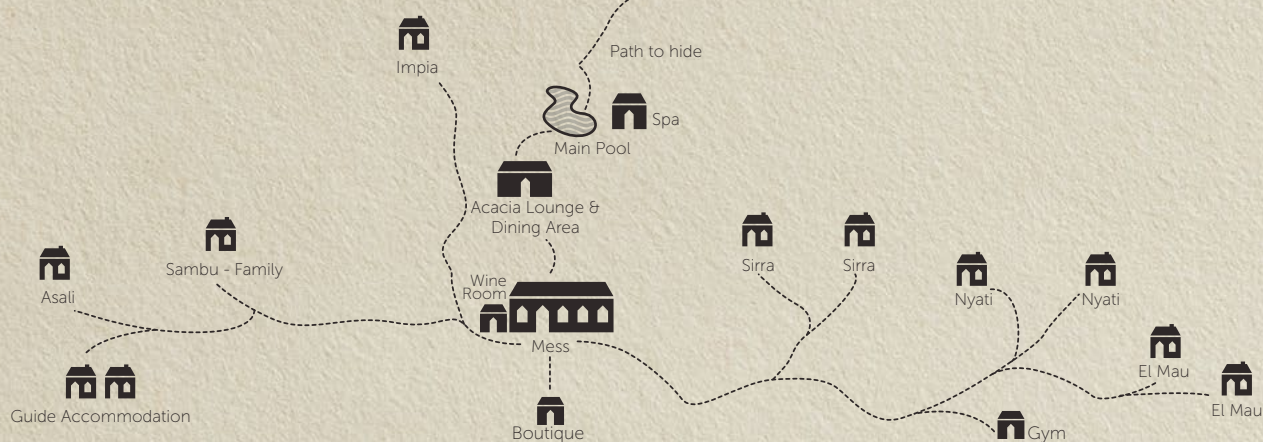
OL DONYO LODGE

TYPICAL

DELUXE POOL SUITE

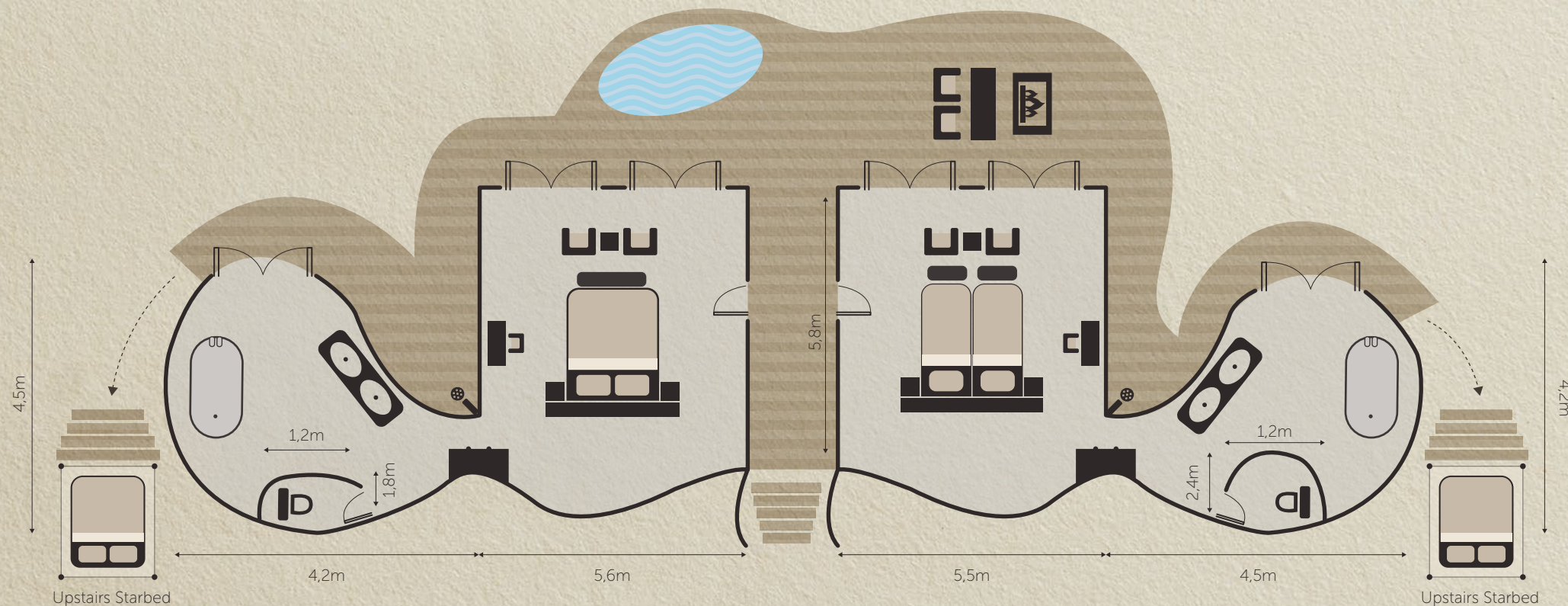
*ALL SUITES ARE UNIQUE





KENYA
GREAT PLAINS
 OL DONYO LODGE

SAMBU SUITE



GREAT PLAINS

CONSERVING AND EXPANDING NATURAL HABITATS



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

Mara Toto Tree Camp
Zamara Private
Mara Expedition Camp
Mara Triangle
Mara Plains Camp & The Jahazi Suite at Mara Plains
Mara Nyika Camp & The Sambuk Suite at Mara Nyika

Maasai Mara
Reserve

Serengeti
National Park

Shompole

ol Donyo Lodge

Tanzania

Mount Kilimanjaro

Kenya

Nairobi

GREAT PLAINS CONSERVATION

QUICK CAMP FACTS



KENYA CAMPS

ACTIVITY	OL DONYO LODGE	MARA PLAINS CAMP & THE JAHAZI SUITE AT MARA PLAINS	MARA NYIKA CAMP & THE SAMBUK SUITE AT MARA NYIKA
Camp Classification	Réserve-Collection	Réserve-Collection	Réserve-Collection
Location and size	Mbirikani Group Ranch	Olare Motorogi Conservancy	Naboisho Conservancy
Additional traversing area	n/a	Maasai Mara National Reserve	Maasai Mara National Reserve
Number of Suites / Tents	8 Suites	5 Suites	4 Suites
Family Accommodation	One 2-bedroom suite	The 2-bedroom Jahazi Suite at Mara Plains	The 2-bedroom Sambuk Suite at Mara Nyika. One two-bedroom family suite
Children can be accommodated from:	6 Years	6 Years	6 Years
Day Drives	Yes	Yes	Yes
Night Drives	Yes	Yes	Yes
Cultural Experience	Yes	Yes	Yes
Private Vehicle (at an additional charge)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Guided Walks (to be pre-booked)	Yes	n/a	n/a
Horseback Riding	Yes	n/a	n/a
Hot Air Ballooning (at an additional charge)	n/a	Yes	Yes
Mountain Biking	Yes	n/a	n/a
Hide	Yes	n/a	n/a
Main Swimming Pool / Private Plunge Pools	Yes (Main Pool & Private Plunge Pools)	Yes (Jahazi Suite only)	Yes (Sambuk Suite only)
Shower	Indoor & Outdoor	Indoor	Indoor
Bath	Yes	Yes	Yes
Hairdryers (low voltage)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Mosquito Nets	Yes	Yes	Yes
Fans	Standing fan	Overhead & standing fan	Overhead & standing fan
Wi-Fi – in-room (complimentary)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Safe - In-room	Yes	Yes	Yes
Spa treatments (at an additional charge)	Yes	Yes	Yes (In-room only)
Fitness	Gym & In-Room Equipment	In-room Equipment	In-room Equipment
Boutique on site	Yes	Yes	Yes

GREAT PLAINS CONSERVATION

QUICK CAMP FACTS



KENYA CAMPS

ACTIVITY	MARA TOTO TREE CAMP	ZAMARA PRIVATE	MARA EXPEDITION CAMP
Camp Classification	Réserve-Collection	Réserve-Collection	Explorers Collection
Location and size	Maasai Mara National Reserve	Maasai Mara National Reserve	Maasai Mara National Reserve
Additional traversing area	Mara North Conservancy	n/a	Mara North Conservancy
Number of Suites / Tents	4 Suites	6 Suites	5 Tents
Family Accommodation	n/a	Triple suites	One 2-bedroom family tent
Children can be accommodated from:	6 Years	6 Years	6 Years
Day Drives	Yes	Yes	Yes
Night Drives	Yes (water level dependent)	n/a	Yes (water level dependent)
Cultural Experience	Yes	Yes	Yes
Private Vehicle (at an additional charge)	Yes	n/a	Yes
Guided Walks (to be pre-booked)	n/a	n/a	n/a
Horseback Riding	n/a	n/a	n/a
Hot Air Ballooning (at an additional charge)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Bicycling	n/a	n/a	Yes
Hide	n/a	n/a	n/a
Main Swimming Pool / Private Plunge Pools	n/a	Main swimming pool and Private Plunge Pools at master suites	Main swimming pool
Shower	Indoor	Indoor & Outdoor	Indoor
Bath	Yes	Yes	n/a
Hairdryers (low voltage)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Mosquito Nets	Yes	Yes	Yes
Fans	Overhead & standing fan	Overhead	Standing fan
Wi-Fi – in-room (complimentary)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Safe - In-room	Yes	Yes	Yes
Spa treatments (at an additional charge)	Yes (In-room only)	Yes	Yes (In-room only)
Fitness	In-room equipment	Gym and in-room yoga mats	In-room equipment
Boutique on site	Yes	Yes	Yes