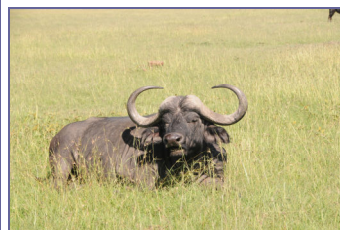


WILD FRONTIERS



Kenyan Highlands Horse Safari (Recce Tour) With Jonny Bealby Kenya

This exciting new trip takes place predominantly around the Laikipia Plateau, one of East Africa's undiscovered natural treasures. Second only to the Maasai Mara in its concentrations of game, its remote landscapes are home to rare black rhino, ancient rock art and some of the largest herds of elephants outside Kenya's national parks. Exploring this remarkable haven on horseback, we cross valleys and savannahs rich in wildlife, staying at comfortably opulent cattle ranches and camping out beneath the stars, as we make our way into the Lolldaiga Hills and down onto the *kopje* scattered plains along the Ewaso Narok River. Learning firsthand about life amongst these arid plains, we will enjoy a safari experience like no other, as we ride in the shadow of Mount Kenya through a land far removed from the tourist trail.

"Wild Frontiers offers some exceptional riding holidays - their private groups give you the feeling that you're riding with good friends, under the watchful eye of great tour leaders whilst exploring incredible places on trusty steeds." *Charlotte Banks*

HIGHLIGHTS

- A chance to enjoy the hospitality and open landscapes of an authentic cattle ranch
- The Laikipia Plateau: One of the richest and most diverse wildlife settings in East Africa
- Enjoy the true, unhurried majesty of the African bush from horseback
- Suyian Eco-Lodge: Meet the remarkable Anne Powys, one of Kenya's most experienced and knowledgeable guides

Duration: 8 Days

Average group size: 5 - 10

Start: Sat 13 Oct 12

Finish: Sat 20 Oct 12



WILD FRONTIERS Adventure Travel Ltd Tel: 00 44 (0) 20 7736 3968 Fax: 00 44 (0) 20 7751 0710

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Why Wild Frontiers?

As a young, innovative company, Wild Frontiers is delighted to have been voted one of the 'Top 10 Tour Operators' by the readers of both Wanderlust and National Geographic Adventure. We are frequently asked what makes us different from other tour operators, and feel that the factors below answer this important question.

The Traveller's Ethos: WF is a company that has been set up by travellers for travellers, and our ethos is to help adventurous souls get to incredible and inaccessible places in safety and as much comfort as local conditions allow. We are firm believers that travelling is all about the experience and it's the details that make the trip - we specialise in drawing on our own extensive local knowledge and array of contacts to give our clients the very best experience possible.

Personal Service: Our London office is manned by experienced expedition leaders and every trip we run stems from their extensive knowledge - in short, we run the kind of trips that as passionate travellers, we like to do ourselves! When you ring our office, you can be guaranteed to chat to someone that knows the trips and the terrain, and is able to offer sound and practical advice.

Authentic Experiences: Our unique, original itineraries allow our clients to take journeys that venture beneath the surface of the region. Unlike the plethora of 'world specialists' out there who purport to know a hundred destinations, we concentrate on the locations we know and love. We don't run the same tour over and over, thus running the risk of creating a 'tourist circuit' and spoiling untouched regions. Instead, we rarely run any tour more than a couple of times a year and they are on routes we have discovered for ourselves, meaning we are able to give a truly authentic, off-the-beaten-track experience.

Be the First: Our style of travel is all about exploration, and nothing excites us more than opening up new routes to genuine travellers. We keep abreast of new destinations and are often the first to return to places that have vanished from the tourist map. We were the first back into Pakistan after 9/11, the first to return to Kashmir after a decade of tourist isolation, and the first to run a commercial travel trip to Afghanistan for almost 30 years. Since then we have helped bring Colombia, Yemen and Georgia back into the tourist fold, specialising in groundbreaking reconnaissance trips and imaginative expeditions.

Small Group Size: We believe it is imperative to keep the group sizes small. Most trips are limited to a maximum of approximately 12 travellers, thus giving you more access to fragile cultures, better opportunities to interact with local people, and the knowledge you are making less of an impact while there.

Cost of Tours: We believe in an honest, upfront pricing system so you know exactly what the tour will cost before you book. We avoid local payments, 'optional extras' or forcing our clients to split every meal bill. Our tours are provided on a predominantly full board basis, with mineral water, government permits, entrance fees and transport all included.

Added Value: We aim to give our clients the very best (not the least expensive) experience through whatever facilities are available to us. We always try to provide accommodation that is interesting, characterful and convenient, and transport - another important part of any tour - that is as varied and comfortable as possible.

Our clients: Your companions can make or break a trip, and it's lucky therefore that our clients are our greatest asset. Travelling to remote regions is not for everyone, and as such we tend to attract open-minded travellers looking for genuine experiences, and a desire to reach those hard to get to places.

Responsible Travel: Awarded 5 star status by AITO (Association of Independent Tour operators), responsible tourism has always been an integral part of our company ethos and our adventures are designed with the local people, culture and eco-system in mind. For further details please refer to the RT section on this dossier.

Itinerary map coming soon...



Day 1: Tour starts in Nairobi; fly on to Borana: Starting this morning at Nairobi's Jomo Kenyatta international Airport we transfer by scheduled flight to Lewa Downs. On arrival, we will be met by our guide and driven the short distance to Borana Ranch. Home to the Dyer family for three generations and named after the native Boran cattle that thrive in these arid grasslands, the ranch sits in the heart of a beautiful conservation area, sandwiched between the iconic slopes of Mount Kenya and the mountains and deserts of the north. After a chance to relax and soak up this idyllic setting, late this afternoon we venture out on the horses for the first time, to enjoy the African bush at its most majestic and serene.

Borana Ranch (L,D)

Day 2: Explore Borana on horseback: Our first full day at Borana offers a chance to take an early morning riding safari with a local guide, stopping to enjoy a picnic breakfast in a secluded valley along the way. This is truly one of the most unique and exhilarating ways to experience this magical setting. Returning to the ranch, the rest of the day is free to relax and enjoy at our own pace. Borana has some 2,000 head of cattle and the ranch manager, Michael Dyer, is more than happy to show guests around. We can learn about the trials of life on a cattle ranch in the African bush - elephants in the vegetable patch, lions in the cattle boma and the ever-present dangers of drought, famine and flood. This afternoon also offers the opportunity to take a guided bush-walk, to experience

a little more of the true tranquillity of this timeless landscape.

Borana Ranch (B,L,D)

Day 3: Ride into the Lolldaiga Hills: Just to the north-west of Mount Kenya, along the eastern edge of the Rift Valley, lie the hills and high country of the Laikipia Plateau. Home to rare black rhino and some of the largest herds of wild elephants outside Kenya's national parks, this region is a haven for more endangered species than anywhere else in East Africa. Mounting up and leaving Borana behind this morning, we follow a trail that takes us through Ole Naishu and up into the Lolldaiga Hills, towards the highest peaks in Laikipia. The ridges and valleys that surround us offer a stunning backdrop to our ride today. These landscapes are blessed with a rich diversity of game, including wild dog, cheetah, lion and some 300 species of birds, so there is every chance of some fantastic game viewing during the journey to our overnight camp.

Camp (B,L,D)

Day 4: Exploring the Lolldaiga Hills: As well as its abundant animal life, the Lolldaiga Hills are also home to a number of archaeological sites and ancient rock art. This morning we will ride out to take in some of the region's cultural, as well as natural, highlights, visiting some of its rock art before moving on to a hyena den. Returning to the camp for an afternoon's siesta, this evening we then have a chance to take a walk out into the surrounding bush with one of our experienced guides.

Camp (B,L,D)

Day 5: Ride across Enasoit to Mpala Ranch: The edge of the Lolldaiga Hills form a rich wildlife corridor between the eastern and western landscapes of the Laikipia Plateau. Riding down through the Monkey Valley this morning we will cross Enasoit Ranch. Enasoit's watering hole attracts a wide variety of life, with elephants, giraffes and buffalo all regular visitors. Predators too are well represented including lions, wild dogs and leopard. We ride on through the expansive landscapes of Ol Jogi and cross the Nanyuki River en route to Mpala Ranch, our final destination for today.

Camp (B,L,D)

Day 6: Ride through Mpala and across the Ewaso Narok River to Suyian:

Crossing the *kopje* filled landscapes of Mpala this morning, we ride on to the Ewaso Narok River, whose life-giving waters attract wildlife from all across Kenya's arid northern plains. Crossing the river we then continue towards the captivating Suyian eco-lodge, run by the remarkable, and extremely knowledgeable, Anne Powys. Anne, an expert botanist and geologist, has spent her life amongst these timeless landscapes and an evening botanical walk in her company introduces us to a side of the African bush that few will ever see.
Suyian Eco-lodge (B,L,D)

Day 7: Exploring Suyian: We have a full day to enjoy the extraordinary landscapes and bountiful wildlife of Suyian today both on foot and horse-back. Anne will accompany us on our explorations again, doubtless regaling us with her rich wealth of stories and anecdotes. 'Suyian' means wild dog in the language of the Maasai, and it is not unusual to come across these rare animals hunting in packs. This beautiful natural setting also attracts Burchell's zebra and elephant, as well as leopards and hyenas, so there is every possibility of some priceless encounters before we make our way back to the lodge for a final night under a wild African sky.

Suyian Eco-lodge (B,L,D)

Day 8: Tour ends in Nairobi: Today we drive back to Nairobi to connect with the ongoing flight back to London.
(B,L,D)

Wild Extensions:

Arrive early to adjust to a new time zone or just to get a feel for the country before your tour starts. Explore the country after your tour on a bespoke Wild Extension or just allow a few days to relax afterwards. Maybe choose all of the above and get cheaper flights mid-week?

Here are some ideas...

- Masai Mara: head up to the Masai Mara and take an early morning hot air balloon ride to gain different perspective on the game and the vast landscape.

- Mount Kenya: When thinking of Africa's greats climbs, most think Kilimanjaro first, however at Wild Frontiers we prefer Mount Kenya. It may be a fraction less high than its illustrious 'neighbour', however it is a beautiful climb through varied ecosystems and awe-inspiring scenery and it's easier to get away from the crowds.
- Lamu: Head down to the coast for a few days to relax and take in the sights of Lamu town, a UNESCO world heritage site.

Contact the office for extension specifics.

TOUR DETAILS

Tour Code: KHT/C

Tour price: All our tours are priced on a LAND ONLY basis, giving you maximum flexibility when deciding how to get to and from your tour.

Single Supplements: Due to the limited infrastructure in this part of Kenya we are unable to offer guaranteed single rooms and tents on this trip. However depending on final group numbers and the male/female ratio split, these may be available nearer to the time of departure.

Flights: If you would like us to send you a quote for the suggested tour flight (see GETTING THERE) or on any alternative flight that may suit you better, please let us know.

In all cases, for the latest prices, please refer to our website or contact the office.

Please remember that all Wild Frontiers tour prices mean NO hidden extras, NO local payments or kitty and NO compulsory single supplements.

WHAT IS INCLUDED?

- Full services of a Wild Frontiers Tour Leader with local guides and drivers.
- Meal plan as detailed in the itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner) with mineral water as required.
- All transport as outlined in the itinerary.
- All accommodation

- All locally manufactured alcoholic drinks while on the ride
- All entrance fees, as per itinerary.

WHAT IS NOT INCLUDED?

- Visas
- Local airport taxes
- Tips
- Any costs of a personal nature.
- International Flights
- Airport transfers (unless booking suggested flight through Wild Frontiers)

GETTING THERE

For this trip our suggested flights (subject to change) are:

12OCT KQ101 LHR-NBO 20:00/06:30+1
20OCT KQ102 NBO-LHR 23.59/06.25+1

Key :

LHR - London Heathrow

NBO - Nairobi

KQ - Kenya Airways

NB If you wish to arrange your own flights you are completely free to do so and in this case we can arrange any transfers or supplementary accommodation that you may require.

Please note that if you are making your own flight arrangements, we recommend that you only purchase flights that are totally flexible and refundable as due to the nature of adventure travel, itineraries can change at any time. For more information, please refer to our booking conditions.

PRACTICALITIES

Accommodation The accommodation on this trip will be first-class throughout, however we are unable to offer a single supplement for the duration of the tour however we will do our best to accommodate your needs.

Transport: On this trip we use planes, 4WD, minibuses and of course horses.

Trip Grading:

Adventure Rating ❖❖❖❖❖

Comfort Grade ❖❖❖❖❖

Activity Level ❖❖❖❖❖

Cultural Interest ❖❖❖❖❖

Please note that this grading is an indication only and should you have any concerns please contact the office.

Fitness...

You should be able to ride at a high standard: be comfortable walking, trotting and cantering, be reasonably fit and in a decent state of health. If you are unsure about your riding ability please do not hesitate to contact the office. Riding times will vary but you can expect 4-6hrs/day.

Safety when Riding: Although we understand that a large part of the fun of horse riding holidays is the freedom you derive from riding wild and free over magical terrain, we would like to point out that this form of holiday can be hazardous and it is important you follow a few basic rules.

- Firstly you must be a competent rider, you must be able to turn and go, taking into account you will be riding in an area full of wild and dangerous game. If you are not sure if your level of riding skill is sufficient for the particular trip you are signing up for, please contact the office for advice.
- We strongly recommend that you wear a hard hat - at least while you get used to the horses. Accidents can happen to anyone at anytime particularly while both horse and rider are sussing each other out. A hard hat can be the difference between a minor accident and a very serious problem.
- Concentrate - particularly over tricky terrain. It is all too easy to get carried away with the scenery, the adventure and the ongoing conversations. Remember you are riding and take care.
- Until you are sure of your horse's demeanour, try to keep at least a metre apart.
- Pass messages back.

And if you do all that and use your common sense, all should be fine and you

will have a fabulous horse-bound adventure holiday.

Types of Horses: Most of the horses are thoroughbred or a throughbred-cross, standing between 14.2hh and 16.3hh. Most of the horses at Borana are polo-schooled ponies and respond to being ridden one handed, neck reining and preferably ridden with a long rein to ensure a more enjoyable ride for both rider and horse.

Guiding: Our guides have a keen interest in the birds as well as the flora and fauna of the area.

Tack: There are a few Australian stock saddles and one western saddle otherwise you will be riding in an English saddle. If you prefer Australian or Western saddles please let us know. The majority of the horses are ridden in snaffle bridles.

Weight Limit for Riding: Maximum weight limit is 200lbs (14 1/2 stone or 90kg).

Terrain: The terrain in this ride will be very varied and although it will be possible for riders to ride abreast, care must be taken at all times as there may be holes and uneven ground. When riding through narrow wooded valleys it is best to follow one another, there will one guide at the front the other at the rear.

Even though the terrain can be very uneven please trust the horses, as they are fit athletic and sure-footed even at a canter.



It may sound obvious but...

Wild Frontiers tours are not always for everyone and it is important to us that the tour you choose is the most suitable. Please therefore take time to read the dossier carefully. All our tours are

graded to give an overall picture of the trip but these are only guidelines and you should check the daily itinerary. Should you have any concerns about your ability to partake in any aspect of the tour then please contact the office.

Insurance: Insurance that provides cover for emergency repatriation in case of a medical emergency is compulsory for all tours. You should be aware that many standard insurance policies may not cover you adequately for all aspects of a Wild Frontiers trip and so we strongly recommend that you purchase a suitably designed insurance policy. One such policy is the "Wild Frontiers" policy underwritten by Travel & General Insurance Company plc, which is available to UK and Republic of Ireland residents through our website or via the insurance company direct on 0845 408 0583. Under this policy there are two different levels of cover available and for this trip the minimum requirement would be the Standard policy.

Cover explained:

Standard policy: a comprehensive travel insurance policy that provides cover for all Wild Frontiers activities, including trekking up to 6,000m. This policy does not provide cover for travel to areas where the FCO is advising against all or all but essential travel.

Elite policy: provides the same comprehensive level of cover as the standard policy. In addition the Elite policy also provides cover for travel to areas where the FCO is advising against all or all but essential travel. The policy will not provide cover for any claims arising from or relating to the reasons why the FCO is advising against travel.

If purchasing the Elite policy you also have the option to **extend the cover** provided by the policy to include cover for claims arising from a terrorist act in an area where the FCO is advising against travel. You can add this cover to your policy when purchasing online or over the telephone.

These policies are only available to those travelling on a Wild Frontiers holiday.

For more information and to purchase your policy online please visit the Insurance section of our website.

The cover is underwritten by the International Insurance Company of Hannover Limited (IICH), who are authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority (FSA). Wild Frontiers Limited is an Introducer Appointed Representative of Travel & General Insurance Company plc, details of which can be found at the FSA's website www.fsa.gov.uk.

If you do decide to purchase alternative insurance, then you must ensure that it covers you for every aspect of this trip. Please pay particular attention to ensuring that you are covered for horse riding.

Visas: Visas are necessary for many of the destinations we travel to and while we aim to provide you with the most up-to-date information, requirements frequently change and as such we advise that you check with the relevant embassies or contact our recommended visa agency, Travcour (020 7223 5295) www.travcour.com for the latest advice.

For this tour, UK passport holders are able to get visas on entry. Please bring 2 passport-sized photos to facilitate this process. At the time of print the cost of the visa is \$50 however this may be subject to change.

Non-UK passport holders should contact the relevant embassies for individual requirements.

Further details will be sent out to you on booking, however ensuring that correct and valid visas are obtained remains the sole responsibility of the client.



Responsible Travel: Responsible travel and sustainable tourism are fundamental ideas that Wild Frontiers has been committed to since our birth. It is our strong belief that these words should not be simply 'tagged on' to dossiers and websites but should be at the very core of each trip, and our adventures are therefore designed with the local people, culture and eco-system in mind. We believe that a successful trip not only delivers a unique and unsurpassable journey for our clients, but that it also benefits the peoples whose lands we are privileged to visit.

The Wild Frontiers Foundation: In order to facilitate an enduring support structure for the communities we visit, and to show a commitment to these values, Wild Frontiers has set up a charitable foundation through which we can channel funds to both existing NGOs and our own development projects. In addition to organising ethically sensitive tours, having our own charitable foundation allows us to raise money - through the cost of our tours, charity trips and fund raising events - which can then be used to fund various projects in education, sanitation, reforestation and a number of other important issues facing developing communities. Wherever possible we are happy for our clients to visit these projects to see for themselves where and how this money is being spent. For a full list of partner NGOs please visit our website.

Should you wish to donate to the foundation please contact the office for details.



KENYA -THE FACTS



The Environment: Trying to do our bit for the environment, in 2005 we were among the first UK-based travel companies to automatically offset every client's international flight (if booked with us) with a payment to Carbon Clear to help promote sustainable energy.

Climate: The weather in Kenya is fine all year round with little seasonal variation. During the day it will get hot while at night temperatures can drop quite sharply and it can feel cold. The long rains fall in April and May and the short rains in November.

Foreign Commonwealth Office (FCO): The FCO Travel advice highlights potential hazards people might experience when travelling abroad. Given the nature of destinations offered by Wild Frontiers it is inevitable that from time to time some itineraries contravene this advice. Whilst WF takes the safety and security of its clients extremely seriously, we will not necessarily cancel a trip because of the FCO advice. It is recommended therefore that clients check this advice before booking and contact us if they have any queries or concerns. Please see our website for further information.

Further information: When you make a confirmed booking with Wild Frontiers we will send you our confirmation pack with complete pre-departure information giving you details on visas, health and vaccinations, packing lists, suggested reading on the region, insurance, photography and other useful tips to make your trip more enjoyable

The Republic of Kenya with its fabulous game, interesting tribes and surreal landscapes - is the quintessential Africa of wildlife documentaries and the home of the safari.

It is everything you imagine Africa to be, with vast plains covered in thousands of wildebeest and gazelle, cheetah sitting on termite mounds, lions flat on their backs in the sun and giraffe in the shade of flat-topped acacias. This is the country of Out of Africa, Born Free and Big Cat Diary, where the colourful jewellery of the Maasai and Turkana people represents their bubbling culture.

In terms of the facts, Kenya is a country in Eastern Africa, bordered by Ethiopia to the north, Somalia to the east, Tanzania to the south, Uganda to the west, and Sudan to the northwest, with the Indian Ocean, and many stunning beaches, running along the southeast border. It has a population of 38 million with many different ethnic groups, the most populous being the Kikuyu, the Luhya and the Kalenjin.

From the coast the low plains rise to central highlands, which in turn are bisected by the Great Rift Valley; a fertile plateau in the west. The Kenyan Highlands comprise one of the most successful agricultural production regions in Africa. The highlands are the site of the highest point in Kenya (and the second highest in Africa): Mount Kenya, which reaches 5,199 metres (17,057 ft).

Masai Mara: The Masai Mara is Kenya's largest game reserve and is situated in

the South West of the country. It is a continuation of the Serengeti National Park game reserve in Tanzania and named after the traditional inhabitants of the area, the Maasai. The park is home to a wide variety of wildlife including all the big five. It is especially well known for its population of big cats and the "Great Migration" - an annual journey of zebra, wildebeest and gazelle which is one of the most spectacular migrations of its kind in the world.

Samburu: The Samburu Reserve stretches stark and rugged towards the Chalbi desert. The country here is empty and wild, a place of baked brown earth and parched vegetation and it is one of Kenya's most rewarding reserves. Running through Samburu, the Ewaso N'giro River is surrounded by a permanent ribbon of green with doum palms and acacia to provide respite from the sun. Elephant, buffalo and waterbuck frequent the woodland, impala herds graze under the trees and Grevy's zebra, Beisa oryx, giraffe and gerenuk, lion, leopard and cheetah can all be found while up above martial eagles, bateleurs and pygmy falcons patrol the skies.

Northern Frontier: Kenya's Northern Frontier covers huge tracts of the North and is the nation's last great wilderness - full of extraordinary and contrasting landscape. Huge expanses of arid desert and semi-desert are inhabited only by nomadic pastoralists such as the Pokot, Turkana, Samburu and Soyei, living a life little changed for centuries. Camels walk along rutted dusty tracks alongside hardy cattle and their herders through miles of harsh unforgiving wilderness and desert-adapted animals abound with Grant's Gazelles, Gerenuk, Oryx and rare Golden Jackal particularly striking. In the midst, the Mathews mountain range rises out of the desert, covering approximately 1,000km² and rising to an altitude of 7500 ft.

Stunningly picturesque and thickly forested, these mountains hide a range of wildlife including elephant and buffalo and are ideal for hiking. To the far North is the vast expanse of Lake Turkana, known as the "Jade Sea", surrounded by volcanic boulders and purple hills under a brilliant sky by day and star-bright nights. Lake Turkana is a 270 kilometre stretch of

sparkling water where bio-diversity is at its best: ornithology, anthropology, archaeology, culture, fishing, game viewing, astronomy - a photographer's dream.

Laikipia: Laikipia is a plateau district North West of Mount Kenya in the Eastern part of the Rift Valley. The landscape includes open grasslands; acacia bush land, basalt hills, cedar forests and kopjes. This diverse habitat creates a good home for a variety of wildlife including over fifty percent of Kenyas Black and White Rhino population. The area is populated by several tribal communities including the Maasai, Kikuyu and Pokot. The area is also at the forefront of Kenya's eco-tourism movement with many of the properties in the area being community owned.

Coastal Kenya: Lapped by the warm waters of the Indian Ocean, the coastal area in Kenya offers sun, sand, bustling cities and an UNESCO world heritage sites. Mombasa, Kenya's second largest city, is the centre of the coastal tourism industry and a good base for those wanting to explore the area. The town of Lamu is one of Kenya's oldest settlements and a traditional Swahili town. The town has an interesting history having undergone a Portuguese invasion and an Omani domination. It is protected as a UNESCO world heritage site and is a great place to take a step back in time. Lastly small coastal towns such as Malindi and Watamu offer serene beaches, quiet resorts and a Marine national park to explore.

How to book:

In order to confirm your booking we need to have a completed signed booking form for each client, together with a £400 deposit per person. You can either return your booking form to us by post or by booking online at www.wildfrontiers.co.uk

You can contact the office by email to info@wildfrontiers.co.uk or we are very happy to take your call on **020 7736 3968**.

Wild Frontiers is a fully licensed and bonded tour operator and our ATOL number is 5975. You can book your holiday with Wild Frontiers in complete confidence that all monies you pay to us for your tour are fully protected.

We are also bonded with the Association of Independent Tour Operators (AITO). AITO members comply with the highest standards of consumer protection. Every AITO holiday is backed not only by AITO's Quality Charter but also by full financial protection.

We do recommend that you take out adequate travel insurance at the time of booking in the event that you are no longer able to travel, as all deposits are non-refundable - full booking conditions can be found on the booking form and online at our website.