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FUN-DRAISING FOR CLTH

Three percent of every Dartmoor Derby booking goes to the BHS Changing Lives through Horses campaign)

DARTMOOR DERBY

40 happy horses, 50 miles of majestic scenery and the chance to raise money for your favourite equine charity. Who's in?

Ride the Dartmoor Derby and support the BHS

What involves 40 happy horses and riders, 50 miles of majestic scenery, Mongolian-style yurts, gourmet West Country feasts, fabulously named 'Dartmoor Mojitos' and an awful lot of fun besides?

The answer is the Dartmoor Derby, a memorable riding challenge that launched fully in 2016, donating three percent of all entry fees to the BHS, its nominated charity partner.

Despite its name, the Derby is not a race, but a two-and-a-half day ride, in guided teams, among the buzzards, heather outcrops, stone circles, endless vistas and wild ponies of Dartmoor. It is untouched country with vast tracts that you can reach only after a few hours on foot – or hoof. Riders have farrier and veterinary support plus dedicated ground crews who deliver gourmet lunches en route.

"Completely awesome" was the verdict of BBC's Sara Cox last year, and BHS member Millie Foote described it as "the experience of a lifetime". Participants should be comfortable riding in company at all paces, and over varied terrain – but there is no jumping.

The 2017 Derby runs from 22-25 September and entries are now being accepted, with the format subtly improved based on the experience of last year. Entries are limited to

around 40 riders, who have the option of staying either at the five-star Bovey Castle hotel each night, or in a fabulous, purpose-built camp in the heart of the National Park, in Mongolian-style heated yurts with a lavish dining yurt nearby alongside the East Dart River.

Riders may either bring their own horses, which will stay in a specially constructed horse station next to camp, or rent experienced local hunters through the organisers.

FANCY A TASTER?

New this year is a taster ride to be run from the 3-6 July for those who'd like to see what riding Dartmoor entails over shorter distances.

This three-night, two-day riding trip – hosted by established adventure riding firm Liberty Trails, parent company of the Dartmoor Derby – has space for up to eight guests staying in a stunning farm on the west side of Dartmoor with stabling and turnout 50 yards from the Georgian farmhouse. 🍷

📍 MORE INFO

Visit www.dartmoorderby.com or email enquiries@liberty-trails.co.uk. Dartmoor Derby Ambassadors are BHS President Martin Clunes OBE and eventer Mary King MBE



PRICES

Dartmoor Derby prices Prices start at £1,350 per head. (Three percent of every booking goes to Changing Lives through Horses)

Taster ride prices Inclusive prices start at £1,250 for single occupancy or £950 based on two sharing bringing their own horses.

