



MADA HOTELS

Reflections

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ISSUE 10

East Africa's Best Hospitality Brand



Balloon rides

You can't beat a bird's-eye view

Maasai

Legacy of a proud culture

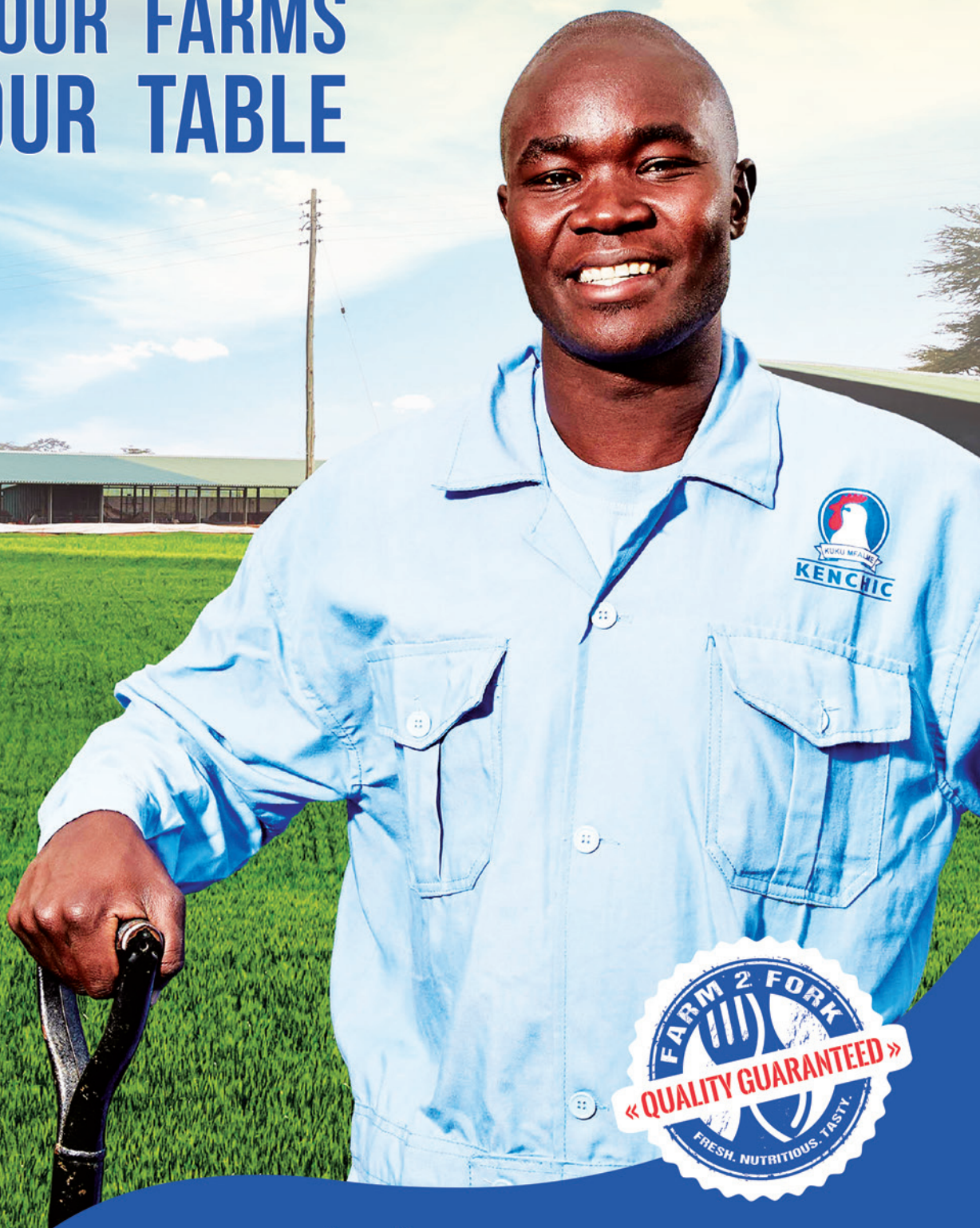
Gorilla trekking

Close encounters of the thrilling kind



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**MADA HOTELS**

Bright outlook after a successful year

Welcome to the latest edition of *Reflections* – the in-room and corporate magazine of the Mada Group.

The Mada Group is active in three East African countries – Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania – and we operate an eclectic range of hotels, lodges and camps. In addition, we fly hot air balloons from three key locations in both Kenya and Tanzania.

Building upon the positives achieved last year, I am delighted to report that 2017 looks like being another successful 12 months for Mada Hotels as we build new hotels and complete the refurbishment of some of our

existing portfolio. In particular, I am pleased to confirm that we are adding two new properties to our portfolio: an 80-room hotel in Zanzibar and the 120-room Kampala Nile Resort in Namanwe, which is due to open in March 2018 and joins our existing Jinja Nile Resort in Uganda.

Kampala

The Kampala Nile Resort has progressed well and the superstructure is now almost complete. With the new bypasses being built around Kampala, clients will be able to access this property directly from the airport without going through the city centre traffic.



Taste of Uganda



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Our site in Michamvi on Zanzibar's east coast enjoys spectacular views with a 500-metre beach frontage; and, for guests looking for a quality holiday, the property will offer a complete range of hospitality services, from spa treatments to fine dining.

Moreover, I'm excited about the refurbishments going on at Fig Tree Camp, where all the riverside tents will be upgraded by June this year. Fig Tree is one of the original camps in the Mara (it dates from the mid 1970s) with perhaps the finest location on the banks of the Talek River. The new refurbishments will allow our clients to enjoy a new level of comfort in this classic property.

Ballooning

In terms of our Adventures Aloft ballooning activities, we now operate a total of 12 balloons from three bases in the Mara, Tarangire and the Serengeti.

I would also like to make special mention of our new executive chef, Sumesh Sharda, who has joined the Mada team. Sumesh brings with him great experience from some of the world's top resorts. Together with the rest of our food and beverage team, we have been able to bring some exciting new menus to the table across the Mada group.

More generally, it's encouraging to see tourism numbers pick up in Kenya and we are

also really upbeat about the renewed interest we are seeing in the whole East African region – interest not only in tourism but also in the business sector. Mada's tremendous product diversity allows us to cater for both types of customers in the region.

Spectacular

We are proud to operate hotels, lodges, camps and balloon flights in some of Africa's finest locations and to serve those who choose to visit our spectacular part of the world. Mada is now an established East African brand; and, with the new properties we are adding to the portfolio, we are now better positioned to cater for customers right across the region.

We hope you enjoy East Africa as much as we do and enjoy your stay with Mada or your balloon flight with Adventures Aloft.

Tinu Mhajan

Chief Executive

Mada Group



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Renovations at Fig Tree Camp

Mada Hotels' Masai Mara property, Fig Tree Camp, has recently been undergoing renovations to give the property a facelift. Each of the camp's river-facing tents has been renovated to give them all a fresh new look. In addition, new tents have been added to the camp, complete with new furniture, furnishings and bathrooms. The overall renovation work is due to be completed by June 2017.



Kampala Nile Resort Updates

The development of Mada Hotels' Kampala Nile Resort is moving ahead, with the resort expected to be completed by March 2018. Located just 10 km from Kampala and 37 km from Entebbe International Airport, the new resort will benefit from easy access to these key destinations.

Once complete, the Kampala Nile Resort will offer 120 guest rooms and two penthouse suites. Elsewhere on site there will be a gym and spa, 14 conference halls and grounds suitable for hosting weddings or team-building activities.



Zanzibar Michamvi Project

Mada Hotels has recently launched a new project in Zanzibar. The Michamvi Project is set on a 25-acre plot with 500 metres of beachfront. Michamvi will be Mada Hotels' flagship property in Zanzibar, with 80 guest rooms planned as well as a range of facilities including a gym and spa, two swimming pools, conference facilities and speciality restaurants.



**MADA HOTELS
NEWS**

Mada Hotels' new Group Executive Chef

Mada Hotels has appointed Sumesh Sharda as its new Group Executive Chef. Mr Sumesh, who joined the company late last year, will oversee the kitchens, chef brigades and menu development in the company's portfolio of hotels in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania.

With 11 years of experience in the culinary industry, Mr Sumesh, or 'Chef Grassy' as he is commonly known, has worked for various national and international hotel groups, including Starwood Hotels.





MADA HOTELS

The Mada touch

FROM A PHOTOGRAPHY STUDIO TO THE BEST HOSPITALITY BRAND IN EAST AFRICA

In an industry that is highly competitive and ever-expanding, it takes something truly special to stand out as a leader in the hospitality sector. Since the company was founded in 1982, Mada Hotels has been one of the most recognised and well-regarded names in East Africa's thriving hospitality sector, with a portfolio of properties and ballooning operations across Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda and two more properties due to open in the near future in Uganda and Zanzibar.

Today, Mada Hotels is an award-winning company that defines the East African hospitality scene; yet, almost unbelievably, it began purely by accident over 30 years ago. Tarlochan Mhajan, a graduate of Britain's prestigious Guildford School of Arts and a photographer by profession, returned to East Africa after his studies to set up his own photographic business. After starting out with a single counter on a



back street in Nairobi, his Elite Studios grew into a regional chain with over 15 outlets across East Africa.

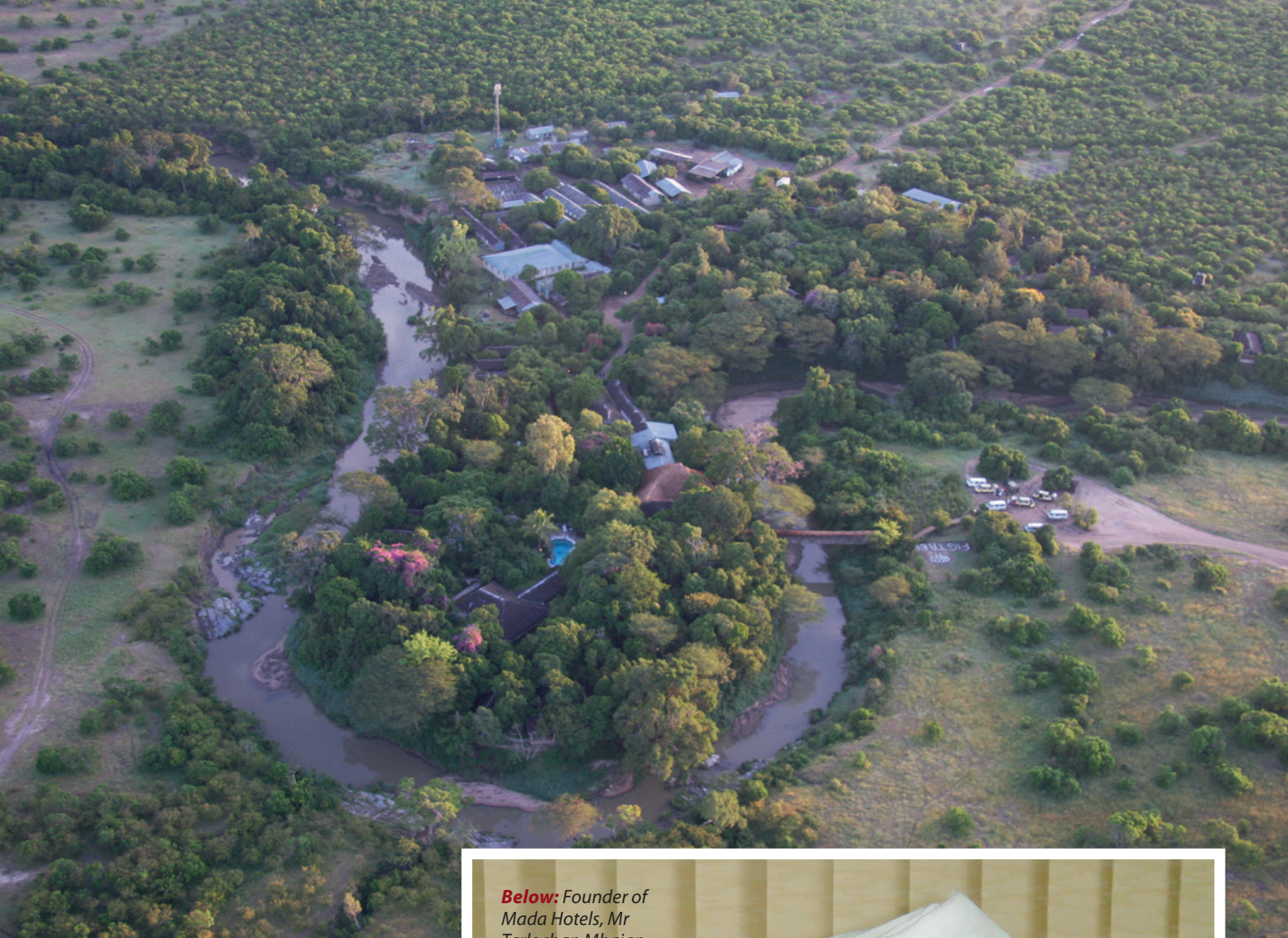
Safari camp

As the photography chain and its client list grew, so did the opportunities for Mr Mhajan and his family. In 1977 a client offered him the chance to become involved in a safari camp in the Masai Mara National Reserve. Although he and his family were experts in photography rather than hospitality, their passion for safaris drew them to the camp, then owned by the renowned hunter Myles Burton.

At the time, the safari camp wasn't quite the Fig Tree Camp that it is today. There were only a few tents and it was a mobile camp, but the views were spectacular, offering excellent game-viewing opportunities on a section of the Talek River. The camp's popularity was growing and it became clear to Mr Mhajan that it had the potential to be one of the leading properties in the Masai Mara – which is still true of the property today.

Mada Hotels' first property proved successful in its early stages, so the next step for Mr Mhajan was to establish Adventures Aloft Balloon Safaris in 1985, also located at the Masai Mara camp, where balloon safaris are still offered today. The first flights at Fig Tree were in a single six-seater balloon and now there is a fleet of 11 16-seater balloons to cater for the ever-growing demand for an unforgettable Adventures Aloft balloon safari.

Back on land, Mada Hotels' second property was a special one for Mr Mhajan and his family. In 1986 the offices of their photography



Below: Founder of Mada Hotels, Mr Tarlochan Mhajan

business, Elite Studios, were converted into a boutique property in the heart of Nairobi in the central business district (CBD). The Oakwood Hotel remains a favourite for visitors to Nairobi looking for a charming hotel with excellent proximity to the thriving CBD.

Kilifi

With a successful camp, a balloon business and a city hotel under his belt, Mr Mhajan looked to Kenya's beautiful coast for the next property to add to the company's portfolio. The first of two Mada Hotels properties in Kilifi, Baobab Sea Lodge, was opened in 1990 and was joined by sister property Kilifi Bay Beach Resort in 1998. Both properties enjoy breath-taking views over the Indian Ocean and are merely steps away from the beach.

By this point, Mada Hotels was already a favourite name in Kenyan hospitality, with four distinct properties in exciting locations, but 1999 saw the first step towards it becoming a leading East African hospitality company with





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the opening of its first property in Uganda. Jinja Nile Resort is one of Uganda's leading hotels, enjoying 1.5 km of River Nile frontage and excellent facilities. Mada Hotels is working on its second Ugandan property, the Kampala Nile Resort in Namanwe, which is due to open in March 2018.

Hotel La Mada

As Jinja Nile Resort was taking off, Mr Mhajan headed back to his hospitality roots in Kenya to run two more properties. Hotel La Mada was opened in 2003, with a prime position next to Karura Forest but also convenient for Nairobi's CBD; and Mada Hotels' second safari camp, Kilima Safari Camp, opened in Amboseli, with 72 luxury tents and lodge rooms and with Mount Kilimanjaro as a backdrop.

Mada Hotels' first Tanzanian property was Balloon Camp in Tarangire, which opened in 2010, firmly establishing Mada Hotels as one of East Africa's leading hospitality brands. Not only does the camp offer spectacular views over the national park, but it is also the base for the only balloon operation in Tarangire

– the second Adventures Aloft location. The third and final (for now) Adventures Aloft base was established in 2012 in the Serengeti, offering bird's-eye views of the magnificent wildebeest and zebra migration.

The newest property opened by Mada Hotels is the iconic Hunters Lodge, on the Nairobi-Mombasa highway, which has long been a popular stop-off destination for people travelling between Nairobi and the coast. With a new lease of life, courtesy of Mada Hotels, Hunters Lodge has been restored to its former glory, with new rooms, new conference facilities and a two-tier pool on the banks of Kiboko Springs.

From humble beginnings to properties all over Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania, Mada Hotels has become one of the best-loved hospitality brands in the region and is continuing to grow. With new developments planned, including the Kampala Nile Resort and the Mada Resort in Michamvi, Zanzibar, there is no doubt that the future of Mada Hotels will be just as successful as the last 30-plus years during which the company has been operating.



Above: Mr Mhajan with his son, Tinu, CEO of Mada Hotels

Mada Hotels timeline

- 1977** Tarlochan Mhajan first visits a safari camp in the Masai Mara, which later becomes Mada Hotels' first property, Fig Tree Camp
- 1985** Mada Hotels opens its first Adventures Aloft ballooning operation at Fig Tree Camp
- 1986** The offices of Elite Studios are turned into The Oakwood Hotel, the company's first property in Nairobi
- 1990** Baobab Sea Lodge becomes Mada Hotels' first coastal property in Kenya
- 1998** Kilifi Bay Beach Resort joins Baobab Sea Lodge on the coast
- 1999** Mada Hotels' first Ugandan property, Jinja Nile Resort, is established
- 2003** Hotel La Mada in Nairobi opens
- 2008** Kilima Safari Camp, the company's second safari camp, opens in Amboseli
- 2010** Balloon Camp Tarangire becomes Mada Hotels' first property in Tanzania
- 2012** Adventures Aloft branches out to the Serengeti
- 2015** Hunters Lodge is restored and reopened by Mada Hotels.

Favourite African conference city

VIP VISITS UNDERLINE MICE STATUS OF NAIROBI

With its world-class facilities, Nairobi has firmly established itself as one of Africa's best conference cities – one that has drawn people to the Kenyan capital for a variety of high-profile international events in recent years.

Nairobi has long been a favourite city in Africa for hosting so-called MICE events – meetings, incentives, conferences and exhibitions – and this business is still growing. Among the city's unique selling points are a wide choice of quality venues for events, a thriving hospitality sector and a range of top visitor attractions, not the least of which is Nairobi National Park,

While the MICE industry in Nairobi has been on a continuous upward trajectory in recent

times, the last couple of years have seen Nairobi's profile and credibility boosted still further by a series of international events that have reinforced the city's status as one of Africa's leading MICE destinations. At the same time, the city's hospitality scene is flourishing, with hotels such as Mada Hotels' Oakwood Hotel in the central business district and Hotel La Mada off Thika Road opening their doors to a growing number of conference delegates and other MICE-related visitors.

International

The city's best known MICE venue is the Kenyatta International Convention Centre (KICC), which in 2016 played host to such international events as the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

(Unctad) and the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD). These events were attended by thousands of delegates, including international heads of state, government ministers and other key players from the fields of business, civil society and academia. Both events went without a hitch, demonstrating once again that, when it comes to hosting events that demand international levels of security, infrastructure and technology, Nairobi can happily compete with other MICE cities around the world such as Cape Town and London.

For smaller and more low-key events that don't require the capacity of KICC, the capital has an excellent choice of in-hotel and stand-alone conference facilities that are fully equipped to host a variety of meetings, conferences and events. Hotel La Mada, for example, has four conferencing halls, accommodating up to 380 delegates, along with all the facilities to make each event run smoothly. Outside the capital, too, Mada Hotels' properties tend to come with conference facilities as standard. They include Kilifi Bay Beach Resort at the coast and Fig Tree Camp in the Masai Mara National Reserve, for a conference in a special setting.



In addition to top-class facilities for events and delegates, Nairobi's MICE status is further enhanced by Jomo Kenyatta International Airport, a key aviation hub for East Africa. Many international carriers serve JKIA, easing journey times for long-distance travellers and connecting East Africa to the rest of the world. This makes Nairobi an ideal choice for delegates and exhibitors arriving from both inside and outside Africa, with direct flights from London, Dubai, Frankfurt, Guangzhou (China) and other overseas hubs, as well as flights arriving from across the continent.

Obama's visit

In addition to the thousands of exhibitors and delegates who have been welcomed by Nairobi over the past few years, the city has played host to some extra-special visitors who have further boosted its profile. In August 2015 President Obama of the United States visited Kenya, the birth-place of his father and his ancestral home. During his visit, Mr Obama met President Kenyatta and attended the Global Entrepreneurship Summit at the United Nations complex in Gigiri, a short drive from Mada Hotels' Hotel La Mada.



Above: Hotel La Mada's conferencing facilities

Cashing in on cashews

WILL KENYA RETURN TO LARGE-SCALE PRODUCTION OF THIS TASTY, SUPER-VERSATILE NUT?

The humble cashew nut is a versatile, vitamin-rich and valuable food staple that offers many health benefits and is enjoyed the world over in a variety of dishes, from Indian curries to Mozambican cakes.

Surviving in both wet and dry climates (provided there is no frost), cashews have been successfully grown in many parts of the world. Cashew trees are native to Brazil, but cashew nut production now occurs in places as far away as Vietnam, India and Africa. This scale of production is required in order to meet the international demand for cashews, which are the most popular nut in both Europe and the United States.

Versatile

The creamy, mild taste of cashew nuts makes them an extremely versatile food, with many ways to enjoy them in both sweet and savoury dishes. Cashews are a staple of Indian cuisine, where they are used whole for garnishing, ground into paste for use in curries and powdered for making sweets and desserts. In Mozambique, powdered cashews are combined with mashed potatoes to make a popular cake called 'bolo polana'. And, of course, cashew nuts are often enjoyed whole, either plain, roasted or flavoured, as a tasty yet nutrient-rich food.

The taste, texture and high mineral content of cashews make them a good choice for incorporating into your diet, although the fat content is quite high – 100 g of raw cashews contain 43.85 g of fat. Aside from this, cashew nuts are packed full of vitamins, minerals and antioxidants that are important for maintaining good health. These include calcium, iron, magnesium and vitamin B6, which are vital for strong bones, a healthy immune system and maintaining energy levels.

Kilifi

Kilifi in eastern Kenya – also home to Mada Hotels' Kilifi Bay Beach Resort and Baobab Sea Lodge – is known for its cashew farming, which began as far back as the 1930s. The growth of Kilifi town was driven by the cashew processing factory, which was in operation between 1976 and the 1990s and provided employment and an income for many people in the region.

Although it shut down over 20 years ago, there has recently been talk of reviving the cashew factory or even opening a new factory, helping to boost the region once again. Until these plans are put into action, there is still a handful of farmers growing cashews and shelling them by hand. The climate of Kenya's coast makes for excellent cashew growing conditions, so there are certainly still opportunities for the industry to be revived and hopefully restored to its former glory.

Below: Kilifi was known for its cashew factory





Alternative uses

Cashews are a popular choice for vegans, who don't consume animal products, and for people with lactose intolerance, as the nuts can be ground and processed into milk, butter and even cheese. The creamy, mild taste of cashews is perfect for such milk replacements, although these products tend to come at a higher price due to the processes involved in making them.

Cashew nut flour, too, is becoming more popular as an alternative to flour for people suffering from coeliac disease or gluten intolerance who cannot consume traditional wheat flour.



Legacy of a proud culture

Maasai

MAASAI CLING TO TRADITIONAL WAY OF LIFE

To the casual visitor to East Africa – and even to many East Africans – all Maasai look pretty much the same. It's an image of tall, lean, good-looking and athletic 'morans' (warriors) who, despite being heavily bejewelled and besandalled, seem ready to outpace a gazelle or kill a lion with their bare hands.

Yet there is much more to the Maasai than external appearance. Here is a proud people clinging to age-old traditions, often in the face of a relentless pressure to assimilate and embrace the modern world. While many Maasai are willing to accept some of life's little conveniences – the use of mobile phones being the most obvious example – the majority remain fiercely wedded to the tribe's traditional customs and pastoralist lifestyle, at least for the time being.



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Pictured: The Maasai comprise 12 clans

Furthermore, the Maasai may be a distinct and distinctive tribe, but they are actually subdivided in 12 territorially defined clans, all with their own customs, separate structures, dialects and minor differences in dress and appearance. This is exemplified by clan-related beads, adornments and trinkets as well as unique body markings, cattle branding and ear notching. Apparently, the colour and length of the Maasai's 'shuka' (sash) is a clear indication of clan affiliation.

Each clan has a clearly defined hierarchy. Disputes among members are settled by a council of elders. Morans defend the clan from external threats while also herding cattle and searching for pasture. Women have a big role in the society – for example, building the 'manyatta' (dwelling), fetching firewood and water and milking the cows. Some are herbalists and others are midwives.

Relationship

Mada Hotels, which has properties in the Masai Mara, Amboseli and Tarangire, has had a long and mutually beneficial relationship with the Maasai, some of whom have risen to senior positions, such as hotel general manager, in the company.

In fact, the general manager of Fig Tree Camp, Evanson Kerore, is himself a proud Maasai. He explained to Reflections which clans live in the areas where Mada Hotels are located. At Fig Tree these

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Natural homeland

The natural homeland of the semi-nomadic Maasai straddles the Kenyan-Tanzania border. As a result, there are about 850,000 Maasai living in Kenya and a slightly smaller number in Tanzania.

Maasai speak Maa, but also Kiswahili and English (at least in Kenya). Maa is a Nilo-Saharan language closely related to Samburu (Kenya), Dinka (South Sudan) and Nuer (South Sudan and Ethiopia). The Samburu, Dinka and Nuer are also semi-nomadic and similarly value cattle as a symbol of wealth. The Maasai are the southernmost of these related peoples.

are Imolelian, Iremaksen (to which Kerore belongs) and Ittarosero; at Kilima it's the Ilmakuperia, Ilmoshonok and Itaitaiyok; while over the border in Tarangire there are Lazier, Mollel, Kivuyo and Lukumayi.

Prospects

Kerore also gave an insight into the tribe's way of life and his thoughts about its future prospects when there is a continued drift towards permanent settlement instead of their semi-nomadic existence.

So, what is motivating some Maasai to abandon their traditional way of life? Kerore says it's a combination of reasons – "technology, business opportunities, tourism, education, the environment, natural calamities such as drought, interaction between the community and the influence of newcomers [to lands once solely occupied by Maasai]".

But, as Kerore concedes, even those who renounce their pastoralist inheritance still

wish to retain a sense of identity and cultural heritage. "Since I have been brought up with it, I still own cattle and I follow the Maasai culture," he says. "As a Maasai, I believe that cattle are part of my livelihood and even today my kids have been brought up with them in the same Maasai culture and they will continue the same way of living in the future."

What's more, Kerore has fond memories of living in a manyatta and maintains links with those who still do live in this way. "It's a simple life whereby you live with both your cattle and the entire family. I still go and stay



Above: Maasai live in manyattas

in a manyatta whenever I visit my parents, my family members and my friends."

But, in retaining his roots and his culture, Kerore remains concerned about external threats to the Maasai and their pastoral existence. He outlined his three main worries – "the arrival of newcomers [in this area] who are not Maasai; intermarriage; and the selling off of ancestral land".

Kerore is right to be concerned about the future of the Maasai people and his voice is shared by Mada Hotels and others equally committed to conservation and environmental protection in the transborder area between Kenya and Tanzania.



You can't beat a bird's-eye view

SEVEN OF THE WORLD'S BEST BALLOON RIDES

What could be more magical than floating high above the ground with spectacular views as far as the eye can see? It's no wonder that hot air ballooning is an increasingly popular way to experience some of the world's most beautiful landscapes, from Africa to America to Europe.



1

Masai Mara/Serengeti National Reserve

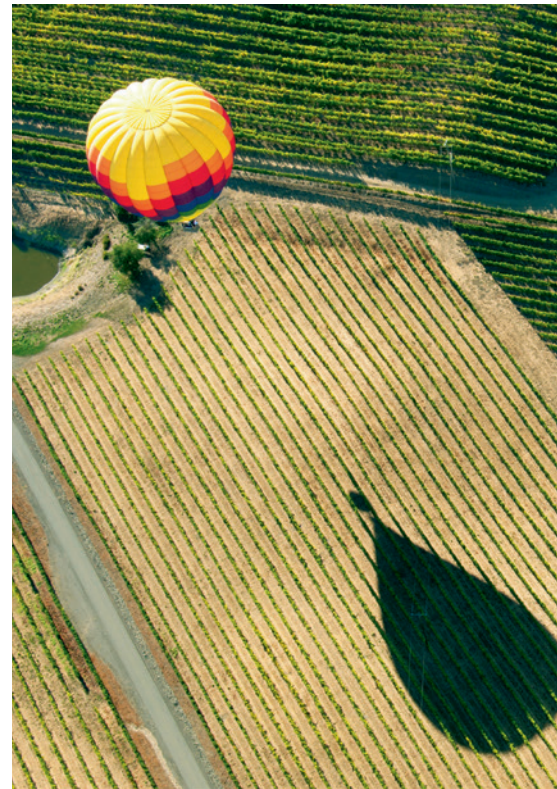
Kenya & Tanzania

The great wildebeest migration is one of the 'seven new wonders of the world' and something you will find on many people's bucket lists. The sheer scale of the migration – more than 2 million wildebeest, zebra, eland and gazelle – is breathtaking as the creatures leave Tanzania's Serengeti for the Masai Mara National Reserve.

While traditional safaris offer a grandstand view of the migration, a hot air balloon safari with Adventures Aloft allows you to experience a bird's-eye perspective. With flights taking off at about 06.30, you can experience the morning magic of the Masai Mara, gazing down on the animal herds as they make their way across the plains.

Adventures Aloft operates daily balloon flights in the Mara, as well as in the Serengeti and Tarangire (see page 22 for more information), with a champagne bush breakfast after the flight has landed. A bonus of a safari with Adventures Aloft is the opportunity to spot more wildlife on a game drive as you travel back overland.

Balloon rides



2

Cappadocia Turkey

The fairytale landscape of Cappadocia in central Turkey makes for one of the most memorable balloon rides in the northern hemisphere. Within Cappadocia is Göreme National Park, famous for its mountains, valleys and fairy chimneys – tall, thin rocks that protrude from the ground.

Often voted one of the world's best destinations for ballooning, the magical sights of Cappadocia are unforgettable and like nowhere else. Aside from the great rock formations and valleys, Cappadocia is home to orchards and vineyards, which add to the striking landscape of the region and makes a balloon ride an must when in the area.

3

Tarangire National Park Tanzania

Tarangire National Park is the sixth largest in Tanzania and home to Mada Hotels' Balloon Camp, another base for Adventures Aloft. One of the most underrated yet spectacular parks in the country, Tarangire is famous for its large population of elephants and the many baobab trees that fill the park.

Flights over Tarangire begin from Balloon Camp and glide over the park below, often following the Tarangire River which meanders through the park, allowing guests to gaze down over the many animals that call the Tarangire home. As with all Adventures Aloft balloon flights, a full breakfast is offered on landing, in addition to a final chance for guests to view wildlife on the game drive back to their camps.

4

Napa Valley USA

Famous for its vineyards and wine production, Napa Valley in California is a popular destination for visitors in quest of countryside views along with fine food and drink. The main draw tends to be the vineyards, which can be experienced from above in a hot air balloon ride.

Stretches of lush greenery, protruding hills and endless vineyards ooze romance and charm; and the weather in Napa Valley is usually favourable for a bright, warm and gentle ride through the sky. A perk of ballooning over Napa Valley is that, once you land, you're surrounded by vineyards and, of course, wine, so you can sample some of the region's finest produce, including excellent food and wines from over 500 wineries in the region.



5

Bristol England

Home to Europe's largest annual meeting of hot air balloons – the Bristol International Balloon Fiesta – and one of the most picturesque places in the west of England, Bristol is a ballooners' dream. The city has become well known for its ballooning culture, thanks to the annual festival and the variety of balloon companies in the area that offer the chance to view south-west England in a new way.

One of the highlights for many people indulging in a hot air balloon ride over Bristol is the view of the famous Clifton Suspension Bridge, spanning the Avon Gorge. The views from the bridge are magnificent, but even more so from hundreds of feet in the air. If you're still not convinced by the joys of a hot air balloon ride, you can sit back and enjoy the sight of dozens of balloons taking to the skies at the four-day fiesta, held each August.

6

Luxor Egypt

Egypt is steeped in history and famous for its temples and beaches and the final stretch of the River Nile. One of the best places to savour the country's history is Luxor, home to such historical sites as the Valley of the Kings, the Ramesseum and the Theban Necropolis. These sites are best viewed from a hot air balloon to fully appreciate the scale of such monuments

Balloon flights in Luxor tend to take place early in the morning, so you can experience the joyful sunrise over Egypt, bringing to life the spectacular mountains, monuments and historical sites. Depending on the wind, you may also get a chance to drift above the Nile, which flows through Luxor.



7

Château-d'Œx Switzerland

The stunning Alps provide the perfect backdrop for a balloon flight in Switzerland and Château-d'Œx in the west is an excellent base for a balloon adventure over the snowy mountains. A popular destination for a range of winter sports, including skiing, Château-d'Œx is also renowned for its ballooning history and offers flights throughout the year.

Every January, Château-d'Œx becomes a ballooning metropolis thanks to the International Balloon Festival, which has been hosted in the village since 1979. The area's microclimate makes for ideal ballooning conditions and the breathtaking landscape of Switzerland, including the jagged mountains and snow-covered plains, is an unforgettable sight.

A photograph of a gorilla resting in a dense, lush green forest. The gorilla is lying down, surrounded by ferns and other tropical vegetation. The background shows a misty, forested hillside.

Gorilla trekking

Close encounters of the thrilling kind

GORILLA TREKKING IN UGANDA

Top of the list for many visitors to Uganda is the opportunity to go on a gorilla trek in the country's Bwindi Impenetrable Forest. The forest is home to a variety of creatures, but the mountain gorilla is its star feature. Something like half of the world's total population of these near-legendary creatures can be found in this national park.

The elusive mountain gorilla is a threatened species, classified as 'critically endangered' according to the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Only an estimated 900 are left in the world, with the population divided between two areas: Bwindi Impenetrable Forest and the Virunga Mountains. The latter area includes parts of Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) as well as Mgahinga Gorilla National Park in Uganda.

Endangered

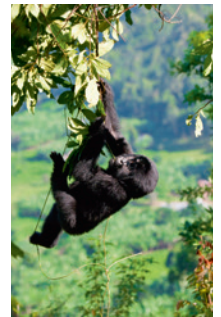
The concentration of mountain gorillas in these two areas of Uganda makes the country a prime trekking location, with opportunities to see these endangered creatures in their natural habitat. As they don't survive well in captivity, all known mountain gorillas still live in the wild, so these destinations in central Africa are the only places where visitors can see them.

Mountain gorillas are the second-largest species of primate, in second place only to the closely related eastern lowland gorilla, which can be found in DRC. Male mountain gorillas usually grow to a height of 150 cm and weigh around 195 kg. Females are smaller, with an average height of 130 cm and a mean weight of 100 kg. Their thick, dark fur keeps them warm in areas of Uganda where temperatures can be low in the mountainous and dense forest areas. Aside from their larger size, adult male mountain gorillas are recognisable by the patch of silver hair that develops on their backs as they grow older, earning them the moniker 'silverback'.

Trekking in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest is the best way to see, and even get close to, these magnificent creatures. The forest,



though not exactly impenetrable as the name may suggest, can be difficult to access on foot owing to the dense plant growth on the forest floor. This means that a trek can be quite challenging – but it's certainly rewarding if you manage to catch a glimpse of the gorillas during your time there. While you don't need to be exceptionally fit, you should be prepared for a humid and muddy walk and should take any precautions you feel necessary so that your enjoyment of the trek is not compromised.



Above: Mountain gorillas can only survive in the wild

Groups of no more than eight people are allowed at once, so as not to disturb these remarkable creatures in their natural habitats. Each group is accompanied by a guide who will not only keep you safe but will also help you to find the gorillas deep in the forest. Once your guide has found a gorilla family – there are several in Bwindi – you can simply take a bit of time to observe their behaviours and characteristics before they, or you, move on. Baby mountain gorillas are especially rewarding if you're lucky enough to come across a family with little ones. Their playful and curious nature is a joy to watch.

Mgahinga Gorilla National Park

The Virunga Mountains are home to the remainder of the world's population of mountain gorillas. The Ugandan section of the mountain range is located in Mgahinga Gorilla National Park, in the south-west of the country. Mgahinga is the smallest of Uganda's national parks – smaller than Bwindi – but the gorillas can freely access the whole mountain range, stretching across DRC and Rwanda, so it may be trickier to find them here, but not impossible. As well as being an alternative choice for gorilla trekking, Mgahinga is home to elephant, buffalo and other creatures well worth viewing.

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Meet the Mada team

Kameshwar Pratap Singh Yadav

Front office manager
Jinja Nile Resort

Kameshwar is the front office manager at Mada Hotels' Jinja Nile Resort in Uganda and has been working for the company since 2012.

In this role, Kameshwar has many responsibilities, ranging from banking to customer care to monitoring the resort's online presence on websites such as TripAdvisor. He wants to make sure his staff are happy and performing well, with an emphasis on team work. Good customer care is important, too, and Kameshwar must ensure that all reservations are done correctly and according to their booking details.

Kameshwar likes a challenge as it gives him a chance to learn something new by solving the problem. He likes the way Mada Hotels encourages each member of staff to perform to their best ability and gives them a chance to learn.

Kameshwar enjoys travelling. He has two brothers and two twin sisters. His family background is in the armed services. His father serves in the Indian Army while his younger brother is in the Indian Air Force.

Margaret Kusa

Purchasing officer

Margaret is the purchasing officer at Mada Hotels and has worked with the company for 15 years.

Her main duties in this role are receiving and processing food orders from the units, performing quality and quantity analysis on supplies and documentation of invoices and stock dispatch.

Maintaining a direct liaison with unit managers about inventory supplies – and making sure they get them – is Margaret's favourite thing about this role. She says it can be challenging in the busy season, especially when attending to orders from all units.

Margaret has been married for 20 years and has two sons, aged 12 and 17. She enjoys spending her weekends with her sons and also likes swimming and making new friends.



Nickson Kiriamia

Tour guide – Fig Tree Camp

Nickson has worked for Mada Hotels for five years and is a tour guide at Fig Tree Camp.

As a tour guide, Nickson is responsible for teaching the guests at Fig Tree Camp about the various flora and fauna they can spot while in the Masai Mara. Part of this role is to accompany guests as a spotter guide on safaris and make sure they have the best possible safari experience. Before guests set out on a safari, Nickson makes sure that everyone is aware of the schedule and they are provided with drinking water while out and about. In addition to his knowledge of the local flora and fauna, Nickson is able to tell guests at Fig Tree Camp about the Maasai lifestyle, including ethics and habits – something he really enjoys doing.

Meeting clients from all walks of life is a positive aspect of his job, says Nickson, as well as looking after the guests in a professional manner and ensuring their needs are met. Positive feedback from the guests is a huge bonus.

While the positives outweigh the negatives, Nickson says the language barrier can sometimes be a problem, especially with guests who don't understand English very well.

Outside of work, Nickson enjoys playing football and looking after his cattle. He is a single parent with two children and enjoys making new friends.



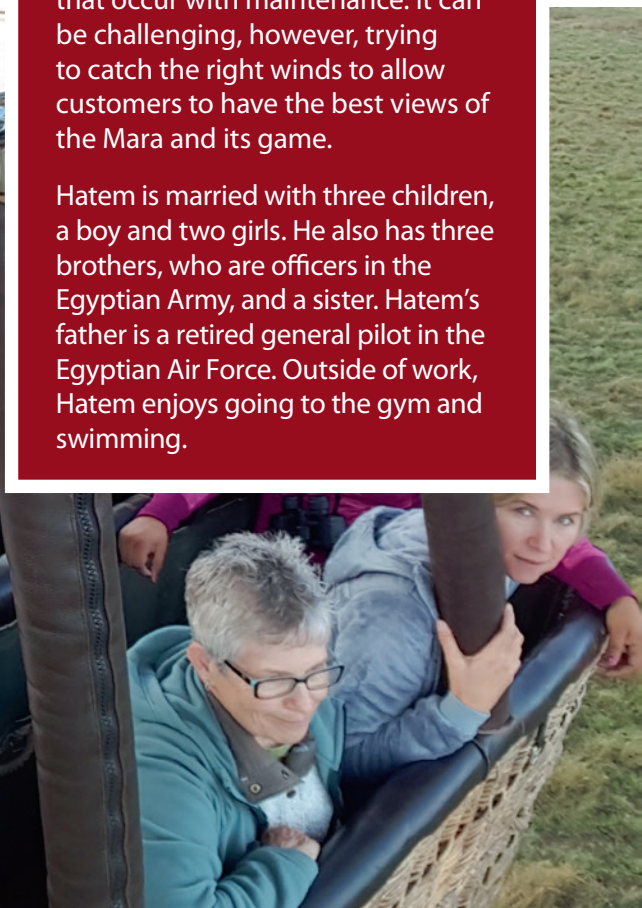
Hatem Shehab El Deen

Balloon pilot, instructor, aircraft engineer and balloon engineer Adventures Aloft

Hatem is one of the newer members of the Mada team, having joined in June 2016 as a balloon pilot and maintenance engineer.

This varied and exciting role is enjoyable for Hatem and he especially likes fixing any problems that occur with maintenance. It can be challenging, however, trying to catch the right winds to allow customers to have the best views of the Mara and its game.

Hatem is married with three children, a boy and two girls. He also has three brothers, who are officers in the Egyptian Army, and a sister. Hatem's father is a retired general pilot in the Egyptian Air Force. Outside of work, Hatem enjoys going to the gym and swimming.





Kolitee Konine

Head gardener
Kilima Safari Camp

Kolitee is the head gardener at Kilima Safari Camp in the Amboseli and has been working for Mada Hotels for the past eight years.

As head gardener, Kolitee has many duties and responsibilities. His main role is to take care of all of the plants, flowers, grass and trees in the camp's grounds and inside the hotel while ensuring the garden is well maintained. He also supervises other gardeners on crop management and fumigates and disinfects plants to ensure there are no pests or diseases. This can be a challenge, however, as Kolitee says he is not always able to control the pests and wild animals destroying the plants.

Kolitee is married with eight children. His hobbies include playing darts, pool table games and watching his favourite football team, Arsenal, playing in the English Premier League.

Justine Ndewario

Head waiter – Balloon Camp, Tarangire

Justine is head waiter at Balloon Camp Tarangire and has worked for Mada Hotels for three years.

In this role, Justine leads the other waiting staff while on their shift as well as monitoring waiting duties through to completion. He also aims to provide a friendly and efficient customer service and to make sure that each customer is satisfied with the services offered. Justine finds this part most enjoyable and likes to put a smile on each customer's face by providing excellent service.

Being based at Balloon Camp, Tarangire, means that his schedule is always busy, especially when there's a balloon ride at the same time as having guests staying at the camp. But, as long as he prepares well, everything goes smoothly, he says.

Outside of work, Justine enjoys making new friends and learning new skills. He is married with two children.





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Maureen Murunga Receptionist Hunters Lodge

Receptionist Maureen has worked for Mada Hotels for one year at Hunters Lodge in Kiboko.

Her main duties include checking guests in and out of the lodge, receiving payments and attending to guests who want to know more about the services and facilities the hotel has to offer. She also coordinates with the housekeeping team to ensure that rooms are clean for guests as well as dealing with guest inquiries by telephone, email or in person.

Maureen's favourite part of her job is when the guests are satisfied with her hospitality and give positive feedback.

She's always happiest in the high season when there is plenty of activity around the lodge.

Maureen is single and her hobbies include reading and travelling.



Carol Murigu Waitress

Carol has worked for Mada Hotels for four years and is a waitress at Hotel La Mada.

Her main responsibilities are to take orders and serve food and drinks to guests at their tables. In addition, she checks that customers are happy and enjoying their meals. In case they are not happy, she must take action to correct any problems.

Carol also shares recommendations and information with guests on request and aims to provide an excellent customer service. A satisfied customer is what Carol enjoys most about her role.

One of the challenges she faces is that she needs to stay fit because looking after a full restaurant can be very demanding.

Outside of work, Carol loves swimming, meeting new people and discovering new places.



The Mada Hotels group comprises nine properties – seven in Kenya and one each in both Uganda and Tanzania. Two further properties are under construction in Uganda and Zanzibar. In addition, the group operates balloons from locations in both Kenya and Tanzania.

The operating properties comprise: tented camps in the Masai Mara, Amboseli and Tarangire, a pair of ocean-front hotels in Kilifi, two city hotels in Nairobi, a resort in Jinja and a lodge located just off the Nairobi-Mombasa highway.

Locations

1. Kilifi Bay Beach Resort, Kilifi
2. Baobab Sea Lodge, Kilifi
3. Kilima Safari Camp, Amboseli
4. The Oakwood Hotel, Nairobi
5. Hotel La Mada, Nairobi
6. Fig Tree Camp, Masai Mara
7. Jinja Nile Resort, Jinja
8. Adventures Aloft, Masai Mara
9. Adventures Aloft, Serengeti
10. Adventures Aloft, Tarangire
11. Balloon Camp, Tarangire
12. Hunters Lodge, Kiboko





KILIFI BAY BEACH RESORT, KILIFI

1



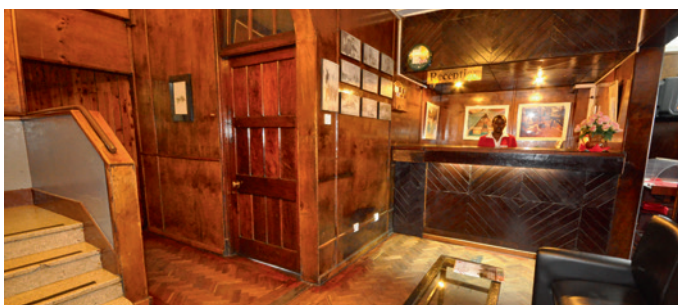
BAOBAB SEA LODGE, KILIFI

2



KILIMA SAFARI CAMP, AMBOSELI

3



THE OAKWOOD HOTEL, NAIROBI

4



HOTEL LA MADA, NAIROBI

5



FIG TREE CAMP, MASAI MARA

6



JINJA NILE RESORT, JINJA

7



ADVENTURES ALOFT, MASAI MARA, SERENGETI AND TARANGIRE

8/9/10



BALLOON CAMP, TARANGIRE

11



HUNTERS LODGE, KIBOKO

12

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FACT FILE

Adventures Aloft Balloon Safaris

LOCATIONS: Masai Mara,
Tarangire, Serengeti

FLEET: Nine 16 capacity
A-415 Cameron balloons, two
12-passenger capacity A-315
Cameron balloons

DEPARTS: 06.30

FLIGHT DURATION: Around an
hour

ADDITIONAL SERVICES:

Breakfast on landing,
transfer service to and from
accommodation in the National
Parks or Reserves.

Adventures Aloft Balloon Safaris



Ballooning in Tarangire

Operations in Tarangire commenced back in 2010 and use a 12-passenger capacity A315 (315,000 cubic feet) Cameron balloon.

As is the drill elsewhere, guests are picked up from their lodges and camps in the park by company staff and driven to the launch site. All flights are weather-dependent, so on occasion the location may be moved to a different site.

As wind dictates the speed and direction of balloons, they don't fly a regular route. Nevertheless, and broadly speaking, they do tend to follow the meandering Tarangire River. This is particularly advantageous as it enables guests to view animals either in, or moving to and from, the river.

After landing, breakfast is then prepared and served on the river bank and in the shade of the Tarangire's mighty baobab trees. Guests are then taken back to their camp, lodge or a drop-off point, with an excellent opportunity to view the wild animals en route.

Tarangire balloon flights are extremely popular and as demand is high, visitors are strongly advised to make advanced bookings to avoid disappointment. Guests can book either through Adventures Aloft directly or via a tour operator or staff at their own camp.



Adventures Aloft has more than 25 years' experience operating hot air balloons, during which time the company has provided clients with unforgettable experiences and an opportunity to view wildlife from an aerial perspective.

Pilots

An experienced team of balloon pilots, supported by a highly skilled local crew, ensure all flights take off and land safely, overseeing the smooth running of all operations.

Each balloon flight is planned, with flights usually departing early each morning at 06.30 and lasting for roughly an hour. This is when wildlife is at its most active and guests can enjoy the sights and sounds of the natural environment as Africa awakes, before returning to land.

Once back on the ground, guests can expect a sumptuous champagne-style gathering with attentive butler service, an open bar and a hearty full English breakfast. All balloon passengers receive a certificate to commemorate their flight and then experience a game drive back to their camp.



Aerial view of the Masai Mara

Adventures Aloft has operated balloons in the Masai Mara National Reserve for around 20 years and today flies seven balloons locally with a total daily capacity of 108 passengers.

Balloon safaris are a great way to view annual wildebeest and zebra migration, for which the Mara is best known. But irrespective of year, there's always plenty to see from aloft.

Flights take place at 06.30 each day from both Fig Tree Camp and Siana Springs Intrepids. For those not staying at either property, a transfer service is available to and from most of the camps and lodges in and around the National Reserve.

Adventures Aloft has a fleet of 11 Cameron balloons operating in the Mara comprising nine 16-passenger A-415 (415,000 cubic feet) balloons and two A-315 balloons which accommodates 12 passengers.

Adventures Aloft operates from bases in the Masai Mara, Tarangire and, since 2013, from two sites in the Serengeti – Togoro and Kogatende.

Eco-friendly

Adventures Aloft maintains eco-friendly practices and all its operations are carried out with a minimal impact on wildlife and the wider local environment. At the same time, the company expects a similar commitment from its passengers, who are asked to adhere to an eco-friendly code of conduct.

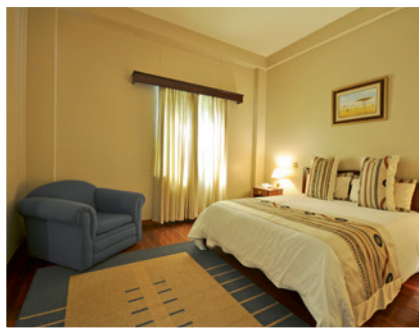
Serengeti flights

Adventures Aloft operates three 16-passenger capacity A415 Cameron-built balloons from two bases in the Serengeti: at Togoro, a wide open plain, and at Kogatende, close to the Mara River and the Tanzania-Kenya border. This operation is the newest of the company's three main bases and has brought ballooning to an area of the Serengeti previously underserved by this magical way to view wildlife.



Boutique property in a woodland setting

Peacefully located on
the edge of Nairobi
and directly adjacent
to Karura Forest





FACT FILE

Hotel La Mada

STAR RATING: ****

LOCATION: Thika Road, Nairobi

NUMBER OF ROOMS: 35

LEISURE: Swimming pool

DINING: Two restaurants

BARS: Pool bar

CONFERENCING: Four halls for 10 to 380 people; meeting room and boardroom; PA systems and LCD projectors

ENTERTAINMENT: Live bands

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS: Karura Forest

OTHER FACILITIES: Airport shuttle service, business centre, Wi-Fi, curio shop.



Hotel La Mada

Hotel La Mada is peacefully located on the edge of Nairobi and directly adjacent to Karura Forest. This is a four-star boutique property with a contemporary ambience and modern style.

The hotel has 35 spacious en-suite guest rooms – 25 double rooms, six twin rooms and four executive suites. All rooms are furnished with large wooden beds, offset by crisp white linen and fluffy towels in the bathroom.

There are quality dining options at its two eateries. The à la carte restaurant serves fine food in an elegant setting while the Lion's Den, hidden in the forest, offers delicious barbecue lunches – especially on Sundays. There is a coffee shop for an afternoon beverage as well as a pool bar serving refreshing drinks in a beautiful woodland setting.

Relax

A shady swimming pool is the perfect place to relax. Guests can also take advantage of a regular airport shuttle service and free Wi-Fi.

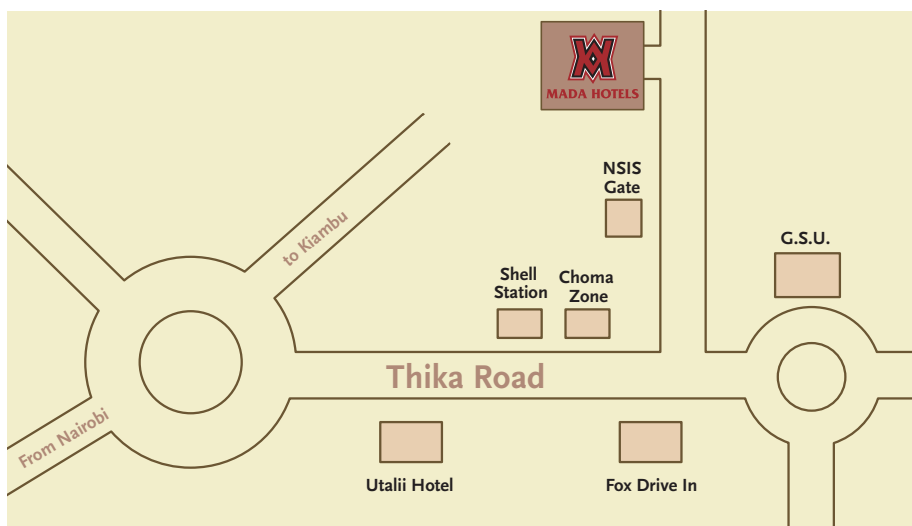
As a result of its location, La Mada is a popular venue for 'out-of-town' meetings, seminars and conferences. The hotel is well equipped in this regard with four conference halls and an executive boardroom equipped with LCD projectors, computers and a secretarial and photocopying service. When the business meetings have concluded, special events and gathering can be organised in the Lion's Den with cocktails and live entertainment.



LOCATION

Hotel La Mada

	DISTANCE	ESTIMATED TIME
CITY CENTRE	10 KM	15-20 MINS
JKIA	25 KM	20-40 MINS
WILSON AIRPORT	18 KM	25-35 MINS



Comfort, charm and a central location

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Nairobi's Central
Business District



FACT FILE

The Oakwood Hotel

STAR RATING: ***

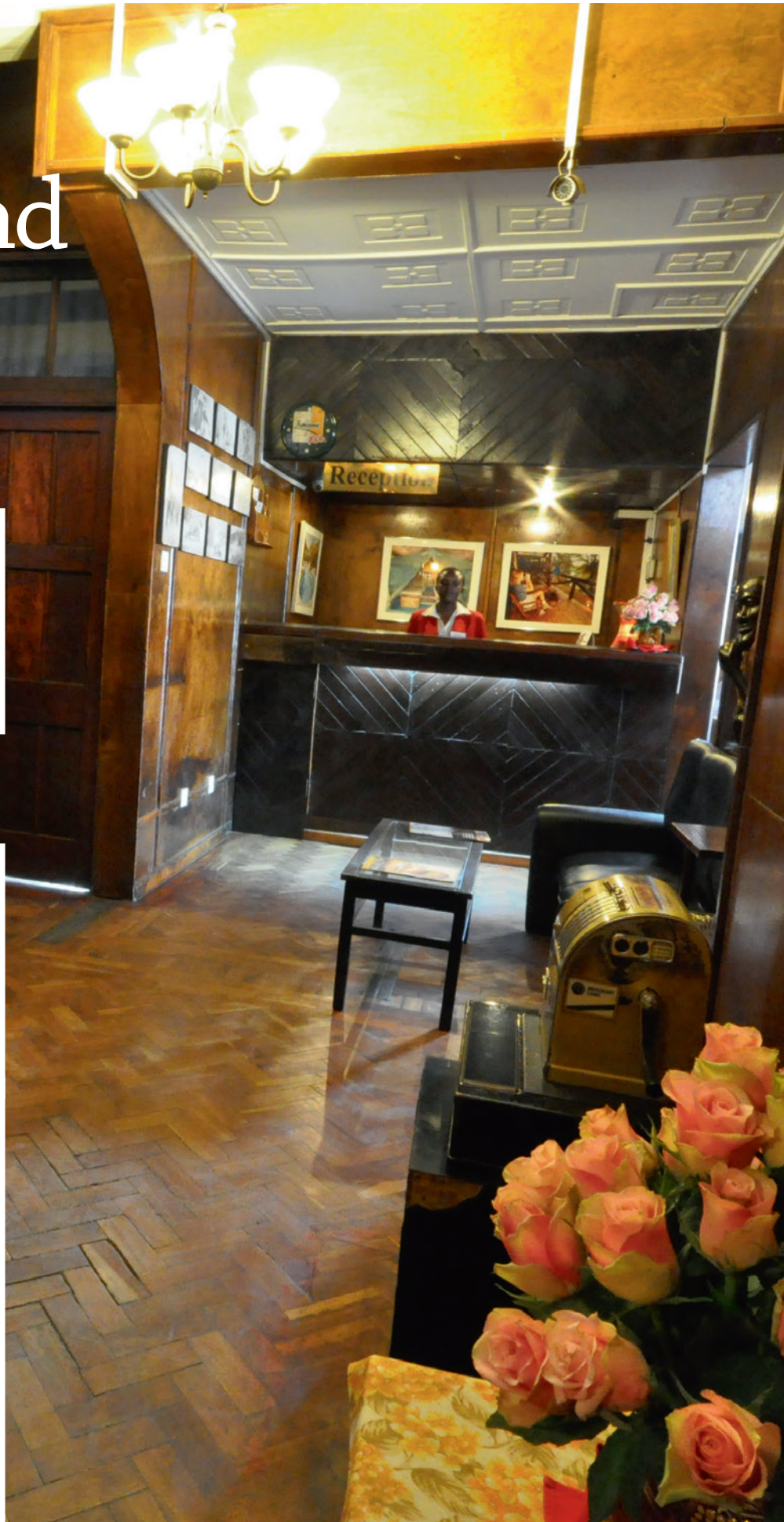
LOCATION: Kimathi Street,
Nairobi

NUMBER OF ROOMS: 20

DINING: One restaurant

BARS: One bar

FACILITIES: Wi-Fi available.



The Oakwood Hotel

Set in the heart of Nairobi's Central Business District, the venerable Oakwood Hotel is the ideal location for visitors who want both convenience and the opportunity to experience one of Kenya's most charming of properties.

The Oakwood is located in the Elite House building, formerly Livingstone House. Dating from the colonial 1950s, the building retains its original architecture and this, combined with a recent and sympathetic refurbishment, makes it an appealing – as well as a comfortable and convenient – place to stay. Among the original features is the manually operated Otis lift with its period-style open-cage design.

Atmosphere

The hotel's name derives from the traditional wood panelling that helps to create a special atmosphere. The property has 20 self-contained rooms, all with a telephone, TV, in-house video, mini fridge and tea/coffee facilities.

Guests can enjoy food and drink in the bar with its popular balcony overlooking busy Kimathi Street below and a restaurant, with its à la carte menu. A traditional and hearty full English breakfast is included in the room rate.

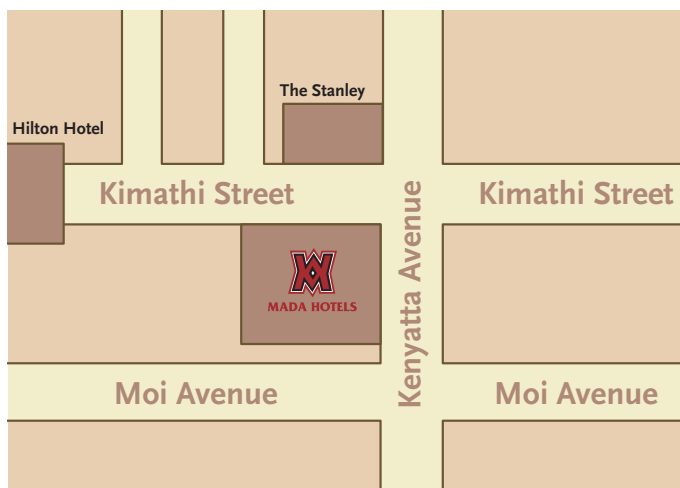
For city centre business meetings, the Oakwood offers a range of facilities including Wi-Fi and free parking (which is not always easily available in the surrounding area).

LOCATION

The Oakwood Hotel

	DISTANCE	ESTIMATED TIME
CITY CENTRE	0 KM	0 MINS
JKIA	12 KM	20-30 MINS
WILSON AIRPORT	8 KM	20 MINS

The property is also close the railway station, giving ready access to some other towns and cities and especially so with the coming of the new high-speed Nairobi-Mombasa line. There is an eclectic choice of bars and restaurants in the surrounding area.



Privileged location with ocean views and fine dining

FACT FILE

Kilifi Bay Beach Resort

STAR RATING: ****

LOCATION: Kilifi

NUMBER OF ROOMS: 50

LEISURE: Two swimming pools, snorkelling, windsurfing, scuba diving, glass-bottomed boat, big game fishing, cruises in the creek

DINING: Two restaurants

BARS: Three bars

CONFERCING: Facilities for 10 to 100 delegates. PA systems and LCD projectors

ENTERTAINMENT: Acrobatic shows, discos, live music and traditional African shows

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS: Kilifi Harbour and Creek

OTHER FACILITIES: Massage service, Wi-Fi available.

Right at the edge of one
of the Indian Ocean's
finest shorelines



Kilifi Bay Beach Resort

There are just two hotels on the entire length of Kilifi's spectacular beach – the Kilifi Bay Beach Resort and Baobab Sea Lodge. Both are owned by Mada Hotels.

Due to the tranquillity of its location, the four-star Kilifi Bay Beach Resort offers guests total peace and relaxation right at the edge of one of the Indian Ocean's finest shorelines.

This exclusive resort offers 180-degree views of the Indian Ocean across the white sandy beaches of Kilifi. Set amid lush gardens, the property is dotted with shady palm trees. In recent times, both the main building and associated guest accommodation (some rooms are ocean fronting) have been totally refurbished.

The property has 50 rooms, each with a private balcony where guests can relax with a book or a sundowner and enjoy the ocean view. A free massage service is available to all guests and there is a choice of two swimming pools.

Cuisine

The main restaurant serves buffet breakfasts, light lunches and tasty evening meals. The dinner menu features international cuisine. There are themed nights throughout the week as well as delicious barbecues. The Teppanyaki Restaurant offers elegant Japanese cuisine and delicious seafood. Poolside, the handy Coconut Bar serves a selection of drinks and snacks throughout the day. The resort has two more bar areas: one in the lounge reception

area, perfect for that pre-dinner cocktails, and a pool bar, where guests can relax in the sun with a cool drink.

The hotel has its own boat, the 'Baobella', which departs throughout the day on scenic excursions throughout delightful Kilifi Creek. Onboard, guests can enjoy soft drinks and snacks. From the beach, there's a choice of water sports including snorkelling, diving and canoeing.

The resort is a well-developed conference venue, with trained staff on hand to cater for large groups of delegates. The tranquil seaside atmosphere is ideal for business meetings and conferences. A range of activities is available for conference attendees including special functions, including beach dinners, day trips to Malindi and beach cocktail parties.





LOCATION

Kilifi Bay Beach Resort

	DISTANCE	ESTIMATED TIME
MOMBASA AIRPORT	64 KM	1 HR 20 MINS
MSA RAILWAY STATION	58 KM	1 HR 15 MINS
MOMBASA TOWN	56 KM	1 HR 15 MINS
MALINDI TOWN	55 KM	1 HR 15 MINS
MALINDI AIRPORT	50 KM	1 HR

Boutique hotel with an emphasis on relaxation

Set in seven idyllic acres
and with a full 60 metres
of fabulous ocean frontage





FACT FILE

BAOBAB SEA LODGE

STAR RATING: ***

LOCATION: Kilifi

NUMBER OF ROOMS: 30

LEISURE: One swimming pool, tennis, snorkelling, windsurfing, scuba diving, glass-bottomed boat, game fishing and creek cruises

DINING: One restaurant, banquets on request

BARS: Two bars and a swim-up pool bar

CONFERENCING: Room for 10 to 60 delegates, PA systems, LCD projector and computers

ENTERTAINMENT: Live music, theme nights and traditional African shows

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS: Kilifi Harbour, Kilifi Creek, fruit markets

OTHER FACILITIES: Wi-Fi available.

Baobab Sea Lodge

This property is one of the Kenyan coast's hidden gems. Set in seven idyllic acres and with a full 60 metres of fabulous ocean frontage, Baobab Sea Lodge is the perfect budget boutique getaway.

Like its sister property, the Kilifi Bay Beach Resort, Baobab Sea Lodge is located close to the largely undiscovered coastal town of Kilifi, halfway between Mombasa and Malindi. Kilifi may be a small town, but has a good selection of fruit markets, small shops, two banks, a post office, a pharmacy and even a hospital. Just out of town, overlooking the ocean and dotted alongside Kilifi Creek, there are many large houses which add to the resort's growing sophistication and desirability.

Contemporary

Baobab Sea Lodge has 30 tastefully refurbished guest rooms in contemporary Swahili style. The lodge is renowned for its fresh and delicious seafood. Conveniently, guests can choose individual meal plans – from all-inclusive in the main restaurant to basic B&B. In this way, guests can eat in the hotel or sample a range of restaurants in and around Kilifi and on either side of the creek.

Each week there are theme nights, including acrobatics, discos, live music and traditional African dancers. For those who prefer a more tranquil atmosphere, there are two bars for a quiet cocktail, plus a TV lounge.

All guests can take advantage of the hotel's free massage service. For the active, there is a wide choice of water sports including snorkelling, deepsea fishing, windsurfing, scuba diving and canoeing as well as trips in a glass-bottomed boat. Mada Hotels' own boat, the 'Baobella', is available for excursions around delightful Kilifi Creek.

Conferencing

In addition, Baobab Sea Lodge is a conference venue with a theatre-style room, which can accommodate up to 200 people. Lavish banquets can also be arranged, either inside or out.



LOCATION

Baobab Sea lodge

	DISTANCE	ESTIMATED TIME
MOMBASA AIRPORT	63 KM	1 HR 20 MINS
MSA RAILWAY STATION	55 KM	1 HR 15 MINS
MOMBASA TOWN	53 KM	1 HR 15 MINS
MALINDI TOWN	52 KM	1 HR 15 MINS
MALINDI AIRPORT	47 KM	1 HR

Live the high life in Tarangire

An intimate 10-tent
property situated in the
spectacular Tarangire
National Park

FACT FILE

BALLOON CAMP TARANGIRE

LOCATION: Tarangire

NUMBER OF ROOMS: 10

LEISURE: Balloon safaris

DINING: Restaurant, champagne
breakfast in the park

FACILITIES: Swimming pool, Wi-Fi
available.







Balloon Camp is an intimate 10-tent property situated in the spectacular Tarangire National Park. The camp, which is on Boundary Hill, provides guests with broad vistas across this unique national park.

The 10 grand safari tents come complete with king-sized, four-poster beds and a spacious bathroom. Each tent has been erected on a platform on stilts and has an impressive veranda from where guests can enjoy the views over the baobab-dotted landscape of the Tarangire.

Balloon

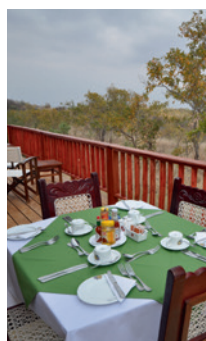
As the property's name suggests, the camp is the base for the balloon operations of sister company Adventures Aloft. These balloon flights depart each morning at 06.30 and last for around one hour. On landing, passengers are treated to a full English breakfast in the bush – complete with Bloody Mary cocktails and champagne on an impromptu site alongside the Tarangire River. To complete



the adventure, each passenger receives a certificate to commemorate the flight. After a sumptuous breakfast, guests are returned to their camp or lodge while enjoying a game drive, with an extra chance to spot some of the Tarangire's wildlife.



Guests can go on game drives throughout the park with an experienced guide and in one of the camp's fleet of 4x4s. After a busy day in the national park with both morning and evening game drives and swimming in the camp's unusual pool, which is set on a rock, guests can look forward to a delicious evening meal before moving on to the lounge bar, where coffee and other drinks are served and where tales of interesting sightings can be shared with others.



LOCATION

Balloon Camp Tarangire

	DISTANCE	ESTIMATED TIME
ARUSHA	115 KM	2 HRS
KURO AIRSTRIP	15 KM	30 MINS

Deluxe camp in the famous Masai Mara

Situated on the
banks of the
Talek River





FACT FILE

Fig Tree Camp

LOCATION: Masai Mara National Reserve

NUMBER OF ROOMS: 80

LEISURE: Balloon safaris, game drives, nature walks, massage service, swimming pool

DINING: Buffet-style restaurant, bush dinners

BARS: Two bars and a tree-house coffee deck

CONFERENCE: Two rooms for 10 to 100 delegates. PA systems and LCD projectors

ENTERTAINMENT: Champagne bush dinners, guest lectures, Wi-Fi available

ACCESS: Guests can fly in from either Nairobi Wilson or Mombasa.



Fig Tree Camp

The iconic Fig Tree Camp in the Masai Mara National Reserve is situated on the banks of the Talek River.

This classic-style camp offers 38 traditional safari tents as well as 10 superior Ngamboli tents, with either single or double beds and a secluded private patio overlooking the river with its pods of hippo. There are also 32 delightful garden chalets, each with a private balcony.

Buffet

Breakfast, lunch and dinner are included in the room rates at Fig Tree Camp, with all meals served in the main dining area. Each meal comprises a generous buffet with an interesting and appetising selection of food. In the evenings and after dinner, colourful Maasai perform for guests. For a more exclusive and truly memorable experience, guests can opt for a moonlit champagne bush dinner.

Guests can benefit from the visit to the Mara by listening to lectures by naturalists and from informative game walks led

by knowledgeable Maasai morans. Equally, there are 4x4 drives in the national reserve, accompanied by professional guides. To make a visit here truly memorable, Fig Tree Camp is a base for the ballooning operations of Adventures Aloft.

Unique

Conference facilities are now available at Fig Tree Camp, offering the chance to organise special get-togethers in a unique bush setting. Equipment includes LCD projectors, computers and a secretarial service.



LOCATION

Fig Tree Camp

	DISTANCE	ESTIMATED TIME
NAIROBI	240 KM	5 HRS
NAROK	110 KM	2 HRS
KEEKOROK AIRSTRIP	24 KM	40 MINS
OL KIOMBO AIRSTRIP	14 KM	30 MINS



Mountain views and luxury touches

Set in Amboseli National
Park with truly spectacular
views of Mount Kilimanjaro



FACT FILE

Kilima Safari Camp

LOCATION: Amboseli National
Park

NUMBER OF ROOMS: 72

LEISURE: Game drives and nature
walks

DINING: Restaurant and bush
dinners

CONFERENCING: Hall for 10 to
300 delegates; meeting room and
boardroom; PA systems and LCD
projectors

ENTERTAINMENT: Guest lectures

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS: Mount
Kilimanjaro

OTHER FACILITIES: Resident
nurse, massage, excursions, Wi-Fi.



Kilima Safari Camp

Set in around 360 acres in Amboseli National Park, and with truly spectacular views of Mount Kilimanjaro, Kilima Safari Camp is one of Kenya's best-located camps.

There are 50 tastefully appointed classic safari tents, 10 spacious superior tents and 12 luxury lodge rooms. Each is perfectly positioned to capture the imposing presence of Africa's highest mountain.

In the opposite direction and directly adjacent to the property is a waterhole where a variety of animals and birds come to drink each day. For a truly close-up view, guests are taken on game drives in comfort and style in one of the camp's 4x4 vehicles to see Amboseli's vast herds of elephant, which total around 1,500 – many waist deep in swamp water fed from the mountain. With their comprehensive knowledge, local Mada guides ensure clients get the most from their safari to this wonderful corner of Kenya.

Game walks

In addition to regular game drives, Maasai morans take guests on game walks, while a local naturalist provides insights about the environment.



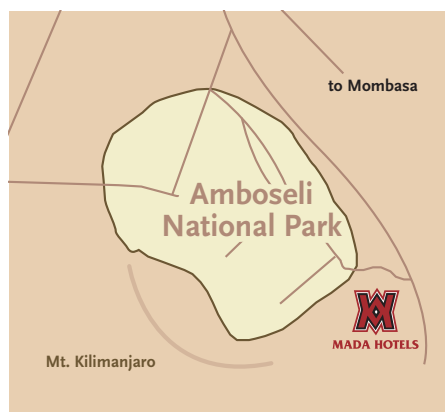
For guests who want to relax and unwind, a massage room is available. There is also an unusual and ornate swimming pool – just perfect for a refreshing dip after an exhilarating but dusty game drive.

One of Kilima's special delights is dinner under the stars. For the less romantically inclined, there is also a fine restaurant serving fulsome Mada breakfasts, healthy buffet lunches and delicious evening meals.

Unique to Kilima is the three-storey Kibo Lounge – a look-out tower offering superb views of Mount Kilimanjaro, the surrounding national park and, of course, the camp's very own waterhole.

The camp also features a conference hall, making it an ideal venue for retreats and seminars.





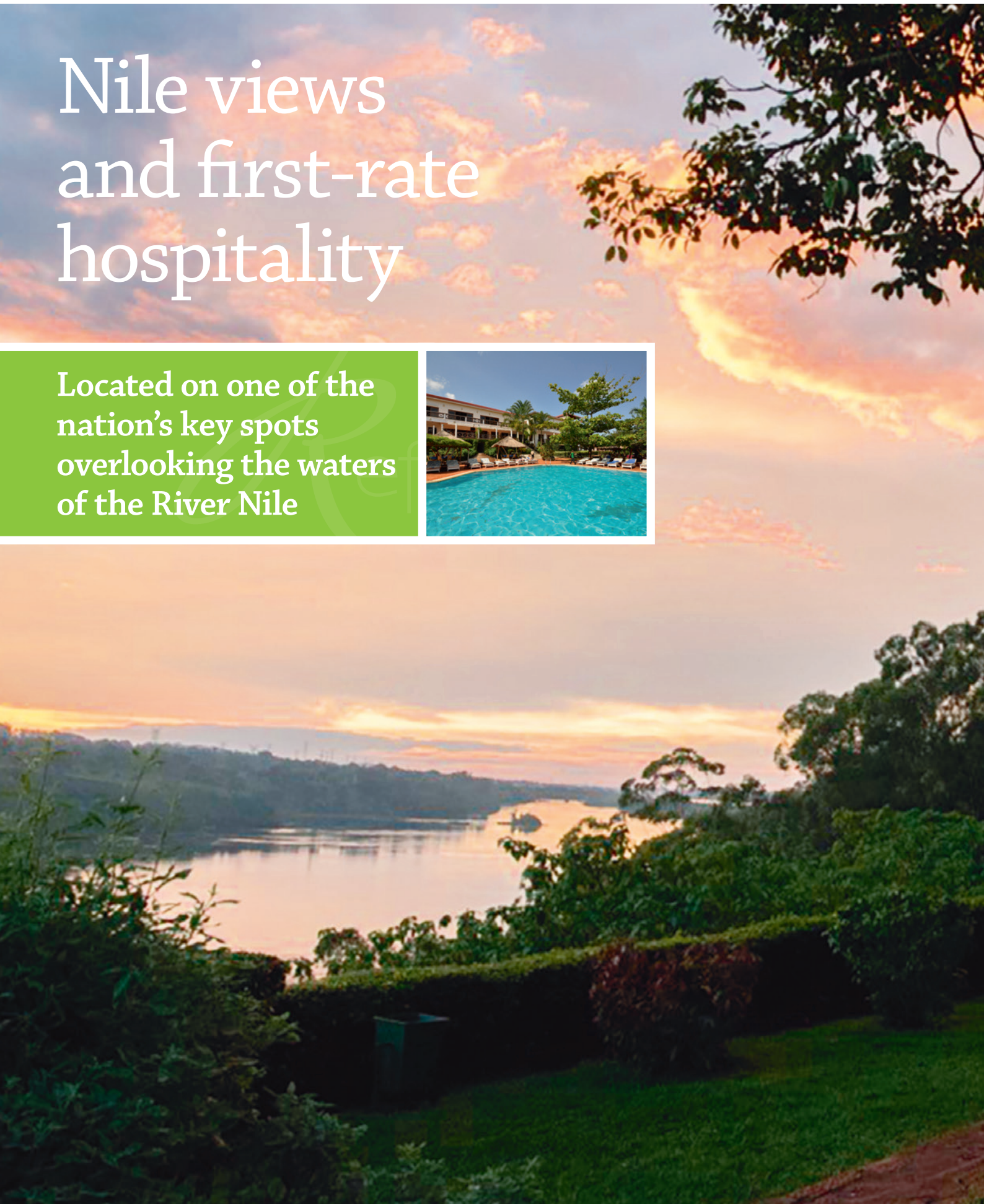
LOCATION

Kilima Safari Camp

	DISTANCE	ESTIMATED TIME
NAIROBI	235 KM	4 HRS
NAMANGA	80 KM	2 HRS
AMBOSELI AIRSTRIP	12 KM	20 MINS

Nile views and first-rate hospitality

Located on one of the
nation's key spots
overlooking the waters
of the River Nile





FACT FILE

Jinja Nile Resort

STAR RATING: *****

LOCATION: 4 km from Jinja

NUMBER OF ROOMS: 140

LEISURE: Gym, health club, swimming pool, badminton, three pool tables, squash court, sauna, steam bath, massage service and tennis court

DINING: Four restaurants plus two private dining rooms

BARS: Five bars

CONFERENCING: Three halls for up to 500 delegates, three meeting rooms and a boardroom. PA systems and LCD projectors

ENTERTAINMENT: Weekend discos

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS: Nine-hole golf course

OTHER FACILITIES: Children's park, nanny service, gift shop, Wi-Fi available.

Jinja Nile Resort

Consistently voted Uganda's top getaway and country hotel, the Jinja Nile Resort is located on one of the nation's key spots overlooking the waters of the River Nile.

This is a property for all occasions and suitable for business travellers and tourists alike. It's the perfect out-of-town retreat for those seeking just the right environment to host a seminar or conference, yet it's also popular with business visitors to Jinja and with tourists seeking the thrills and excitement in Uganda's adventure capital.

The resort covers around 75 acres of tropical gardens with manicured lawns, swaying palm trees and an abundance of tropical plants. The property has been constructed in colonial-style and all guest rooms are designed to provide spectacular river views.

The elegant main Nile Palace restaurant seats up to 150 guests and has a terrace overlooking the Nile. Set on a 20-metre high cliff, its unique location, combined with exquisite food, has made the Nile Palace a favourite venue for special events. A spacious and well-equipped conference dining room is located near the meeting halls allowing food to be served easily to attendees. There is also an independent bar serving refreshments.

Health club

For relaxation, guests can enjoy the health club, which features Italian Technogym equipment as well as a sauna, a steam bath and a massage room.

For business guests, there are three conference halls plus three meeting rooms and a boardroom.



For larger events and outdoor concerts, the resort boasts a river-facing amphitheatre which can accommodate up to 3,000 people.



LOCATION

Jinja Nile Resort

	DISTANCE	ESTIMATED TIME
ENTEBBE AIRPORT	120 KM	2 HRS
KAMPALA	80 KM	1 HR 30 MINS
JINJA TOWN	4 KM	15 MINS
MALABA	135 KM	2 HRS

FACT FILE

Hunters Lodge

STAR RATING: ****

LOCATION: 160 km from Nairobi,
340 km from Mombasa

NUMBER OF ROOMS: 52

LEISURE: Birdwatching, boating at
Kiboko Springs

DINING: Restaurant and coffee
shop

BARS: One bar

CONFERENCE: Rooms for up to
200 people. PA systems and LCD
projectors

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS: Trips
to lava caves and Chyulu Hills
National Park

OTHER FACILITIES: Swimming
pool, Wi-Fi available.



Located midway
between Nairobi
and Mombasa



Renovated
roadhouse draws
in new visitors

Hunters Lodge

Built in 1958 by the legendary J.A. Hunter and located midway between Nairobi and Mombasa, Hunters Lodge has been fully restored by Mada Hotels.

Reopened in 2014, Hunters Lodge happily fuses traditional colonial styles with modern features to create a unique property that is ideal for conferences as well as a great stopping point for those driving to and from the coast.

In years gone by, the lodge had offered only modest accommodation and basic camping facilities for travellers using the highway, but Mada Hotels has fully upgraded the property and pitched Hunters Lodge at a different market.

The renovation work included enlarging the property from just 12 rooms to 52 as well as building a new conference centre for Nairobi-based companies and organisations seeking a quiet out-of-town retreat.

Hunters Lodge is located at Kiboko Springs, some 160 km from Nairobi. Set in 25 acres of beautiful gardens and surrounded by unspoilt countryside, the lodge is the perfect place to relax in and around the property.

There are also over 100 bird species in the area for guests to try and catch sight of during their stay.

J.A. Hunter, who built the original lodge, was widely regarded as one of the most prolific big game hunters of his era. He later regretted his previous life and turned to wildlife conservation, writing about his adventures and, of course, the hospitality sector. Following his death, the lodge was run by his wife Hilda and their sons David and Dennis.

Stopover

Back in the 1960s and 70s, it seemed that no trip to the coast was complete without a stopover at Hunters Lodge, either for breakfast on the outward journey or for tea or a glass of ice-cold beer on the return leg.

Sadly, the lodge then saw a period of slow decline and Mada Hotels has now revitalised this landmark property. Mada is winning back visitors to the lodge; offering attractive business and lunch menus while also providing a range of amenities and services for those undertaking the long road journey between Nairobi and the coast. As a result, Hunters Lodge has once again become a natural stopover for travellers.





LOCATION

Hunters Lodge - Kiboko

	DISTANCE	ESTIMATED TIME
NAIROBI	160 KM	2 HRS 15 MINS
MOMBASA	340 KM	5 HRS

Baked red snapper with sun-dried tomato olive salsa

Flake it 'til you make it...

Strawberry Daiquiri

Ingredients:

- 12 ounces of frozen strawberries
- 6 ounces light rum
- 4 ounces lime juice
- 5 tablespoons sugar
- 6 fresh strawberry slices, for garnish

Prep time: 5 mins

Total time: 5mins

Serves: 6

Method:

- In a blender, combine the frozen strawberries, rum, lime juice and sugar.
- Blend until smooth and divide among six vintage champagne saucers.
- Garnish each glass with a strawberry slice and serve immediately.



INGREDIENTS

- 180 to 200 g red snapper
- 4 tablespoons melted butter
- 2 teaspoons lime juice
- 1 garlic clove, finely chopped
- ½ teaspoon crushed black pepper
- ½ teaspoon fresh thyme leaves
- 4 fresh basil leaves (2 for the fish and 2 for the salsa)
- ½ teaspoon oregano
- ½ teaspoon wholegrain mustard sauce
- 15 g parmesan cheese
- Salt to taste
- 30 g sun-dried tomatoes
- 2 black olives, pitted
- Few drops apple cider vinegar
- Tabasco sauce for salsa
- Olive oil for salsa

DIRECTIONS

- Preheat oven to 220 degrees Celsius. Lightly grease a baking dish.
- Rinse fish fillets and pat dry. Set them in a single layer in the prepared baking dish. In a small bowl, combine melted butter, lemon juice, garlic, crushed black pepper, 2 basil leaves, thyme, oregano and mustard sauce. Stir well. Pour evenly over fish fillets.
- Sprinkle with the cheese.
- Bake at 220 degrees Celsius for about 20 minutes or until fillets are flaky.

SUNDRIED TOMATO AND OLIVE SALSA

Chop the sun-dried tomatoes, olives and garlic and put in a mixing bowl. Add salt, crushed pepper, cider vinegar, the remaining two basil leaves, Tabasco, lemon juice and olive oil.

Serve baked fillet with your choice of vegetables and sun-dried tomato olive salsa.

BUILDING A BETTER FUTURE



HALAI HOLDINGS

Halai Holdings is a Uganda based, construction company incorporated in year 2006 is leading in diverse market segments. The company has earned recognition for undertaking large, complex projects, fostering innovation, embracing emerging technologies, and making a difference for their clients, employees and community.

Its primary business is of quarrying and production of stone aggregate and construction related activities. The company has ambitious plans to build upon a reputation for construction and producing excellent aggregates by diversifying into areas of manufacture of various construction materials to meet the regions' sustained demand for construction materials such as blocks, pavers, road slabs, curb stones, culverts and manholes. The quarry rock from which the materials are produced has high strength, durable, with high physiochemical durability and a good bitumen affinity. It has been certified by the ministry of works housing and communications (MOWHC) as being suitable for producing materials for different types of construction.

At Halai Holdings, we live the philosophy of "Constructing with Integrity." This commitment to excellence symbolizes our philosophy of doing business. It articulates our fundamental values of hard work, thrift, honesty and fairness. It reminds us to extend respect to all people and honor their individuality. It means listening to understand—then fulfilling our commitments made.

“

The road to success is always under construction.

~Arnold Palmer

”



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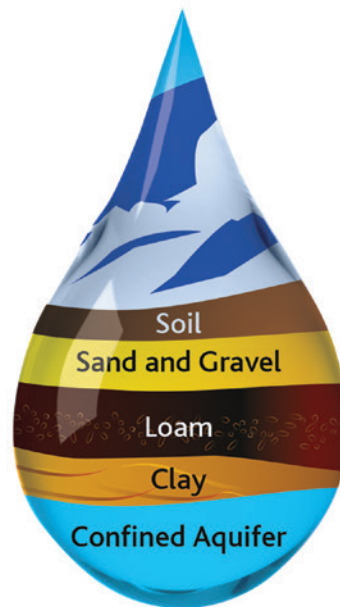
Nature creates the difference

Rwenzori Pure Natural Mineral Water's story is one that's untainted, beginning with the water's journey seeping through the earth's core, being enriched by minerals along the way and finally arriving at the surface, purified.

It's a process that we do not try to replicate, because that's the purity of nature. All we do is filter it 6 times to deliver its goodness in a bottle.

Enjoy Rwenzori Pure
Natural Mineral Water;

Naturally pure. Naturally good.



Keep the environment clean. Crush the bottle and dispose of in designated areas.