



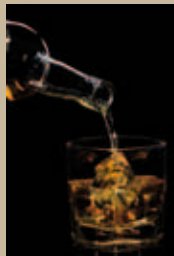
MADA HOTELS

Reflections



INVEST KILIFI

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PARADISE



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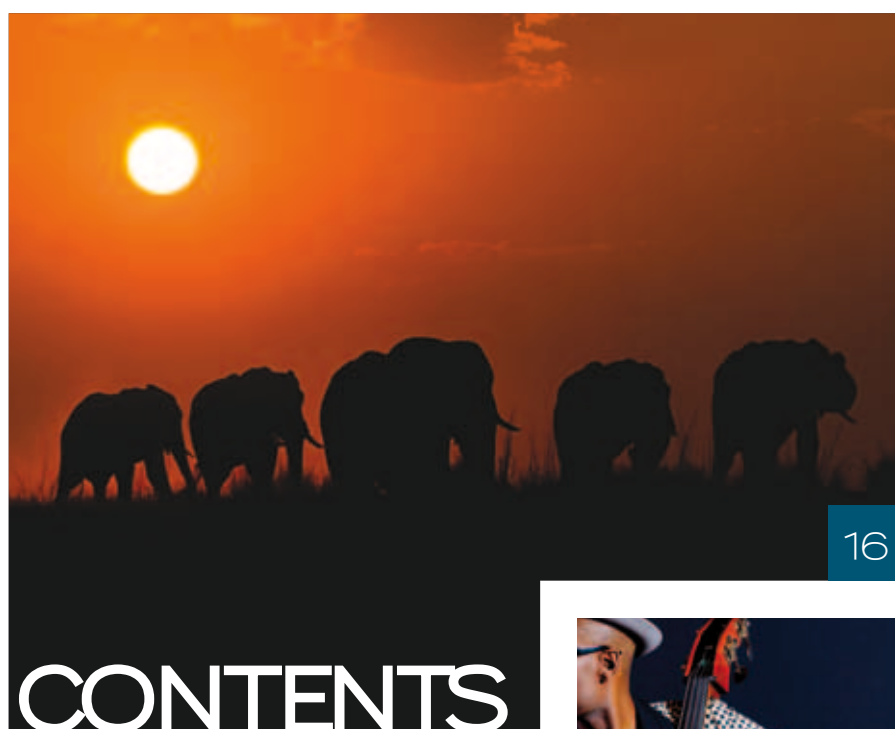
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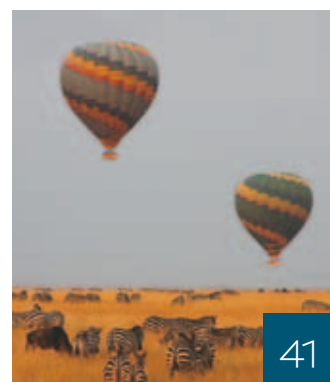


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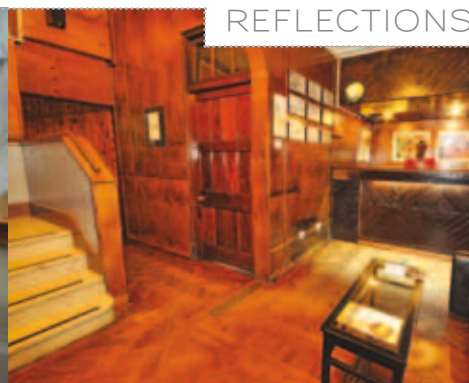
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MAINTAINING TRADITION

Welcome to this edition of Reflections. I am delighted to report that Mada Hotels has emerged in great shape from the recent global economic downturn and we now look forward to a sustained period of renewed growth and expansion, both in Kenya and elsewhere in the wider region.

Our core values of hospitality and customer service have seen us through this difficult period and these will now be

the cornerstones of our future development as a group as we continue to offer our customers value for money, reliability and an ever-improving product.

DIVERSIFIED

It has also helped that we own a highly diversified property portfolio, from well-established city-centre hotels to exclusive safari camps, plus a successful ballooning company that now spans two countries, Kenya and Tanzania. We are also especially

Our core values of hospitality and customer service have seen us through this difficult period



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With the recession now behind us, 2010 was an exciting year for the group with the opening of new lodge rooms at Fig Tree Camp

fortunate to operate in different market segments such as conferences, safaris and beach-side holidays.

EXCITING DEVELOPMENT AT MADA HOTELS

With the recession now behind us, 2010 was an exciting year for the group with the opening of new lodge rooms at Fig Tree Camp in the Masai Mara; the completion of the Nile Palace function suite at our Jinja Nile Resort in Uganda; and the launch of ballooning operations in Tanzania's Tarangire National Park.

For 2011, our new Balloon Safari Camp will open mid-year and will be the group's first property in Tanzania. The new camp forms part of an overall strategy to raise the quality of group accommodation and service. Other major projects are in the pipeline as we continue to develop across our East African home market.

Creating and maintaining top quality accommodation in beautiful locations is



Tinu Mhajan

only part of the story, and having the right people in the right place is critical in the hospitality sector.

For example, we have appointed Mark Kumara as executive chef to further enhance our menus and oversee training in our kitchens across the group. Mark was previously employed at the super exclusive Frégate Island Private resort in Seychelles.

At the same time, we are sending Barnabas Shisanya to train overseas as

a balloon pilot. Once qualified, he will become Kenya's fourth 'home-grown' balloon pilot.

But there are lots of great guys behind our operations and those featured in this issue of Reflections are just a small selection of a huge team of dedicated staff that support our operations and to whom we owe our thanks.

PASSION

As a group, we like to think that we deliver service with passion, and this edition contains articles about two of my favourite passions, Scotch whisky and great-sounding motor-bikes, which we would like to share with you.

I hope you enjoy reading Reflections and have a memorable stay at Mada Hotels. ■

Tinu Mhajan

Chief Executive, Mada Hotels



PRIME TIME TO INVEST IN PARADISE

An idyllic ancient town on the Kenyan coast, Kilifi is a thriving, up-and-coming area, full of luxury villas, well positioned plots and smart apartments.

The town has always been an unhurried holiday destination with several well established hotels including Mada's Kilifi Bay

Beach Resort and Baobab Lodge Resort, uncrowded and beautiful beaches, a sprinkling of restaurants and clubs and some of the coast's finest water sport activities.

Pivotal

Investing in Kilifi's property market began in the mid 1990s when a bridge was built across the creek connecting Mnarani and Kilifi. This development was pivotal in boosting the attraction of Kilifi's Bofa

Beach and pushing up property prices.

A villa at Adansonia, Kilifi



KILIFI'S PREMIER DEVELOPMENT

Adansonia Property Development in Kilifi consists 16 large beach-facing plots.

The development is located 500 meters along the beach from Baobab Sea Lodge and will include a private infinity pool.

Bay Ocean Ltd own the development and can build and design properties at the investors' request.

Plots initially became available along the beachfront as the location became more popular and developments spread to the Kilifi town side of the creek. Based on sales figures from 2010, investors can expect to pay about GBP33,600 for a one-acre plot on the creek and GBP82,000 for ocean-front plots. These figures are on the increase, however, with land and property prices rising by about 20 per cent each year, based on statistics from the past 18 to 24 months.

Researchers and doctors formerly contracted to the Kilifi-based Kenya Medical Research Institute (KMRI) led the

Kilifi is a thriving, up-and-coming area, full of luxury villas, well positioned plots and smart apartments



ALL YOU NEED



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been followed by affluent Nairobi-based professionals and those investing for retirement. Some individuals are looking for capital appreciation and others just a weekend or short-break getaway. A sizeable proportion of investors are European – although, unsurprisingly, their numbers have fallen since the recent global economic downturn.

Although pre-owned houses regularly come on the market, most people choose to invest in new property or buy a plot and commission a new villa to suit their tastes and requirements. Typically, these are built on one-acre plots and include a guest cottage and pool. However, in an area set back from the beach, on the far side of Bofa Road, there is a growing number of single houses built on half-acre plots.



Benefits

Kilifi is well positioned midway between Malindi and Mombasa and fairly close to the Tsavo East and West National Parks. It is easily accessible from other Kenyan towns and cities and from Moi International (Mombasa) and Malindi International airports.

The town is self-sufficient, with supermarkets, restaurants, banks, a post office, a chemist, craft shops and daily fruit and vegetable markets. The town is well policed and has an active residents' association.

There is plenty to keep sociable residents busy and entertained. For those who enjoy water sports, there is excellent sailing. In fact, the annual International and All

Africa sailing competitions are held in the creek each June and July. There is a well established marina and boatyard, with its popular restaurant, as well as facilities for windsurfing, dhow cruises and big-game fishing. There are several well equipped and staffed training schools for diving enthusiasts, catering for beginners, intermediates and experienced divers.

For teenagers, however, the social hub is further up the coast at Malindi and Watamu.

A day exploring the ruins of Mnarani or the town's many mosques and tombs, dating from the 14th to the 17th century, is a great way for visitors to reflect on Kilifi's historical past.

In terms of what residents can expect from their investment in Kilifi, the long-term property market prospects look promising. The government's economic development plan, Kenya Vision 2030, has anticipated that Kilifi will boom in terms of leisure resorts and residential complexes.

Low cost

The Kilifi Creek Development, by Hello Properties, aims to build low-cost housing units on the former Wilson Plantation land. Four large hotels with international backing are also planned, along with an assortment of locally owned accommodation.

A new nine-hole golf course is also under way. Not only will this provide an additional leisure option, but the adjoining clubhouse is likely to become a social hub appealing to those who have invested in Kilifi.

These future developments will no doubt make Kilifi even more 'livable' than it currently is, while the lifestyle is likely to remain barefoot and easy ■

The town is self-sufficient, with supermarkets, restaurants, banks, a post office, a chemist, craft shops and daily fruit and vegetable markets



MADA HOTELS

MADA NEWS

TURNING UP THE HEAT AT KILIMA CAMP

Kilima Camp is now using solar water heating systems that were installed during January and February 2011.

Using solar panels, each tent is heated separately by individual systems, allowing plenty of hot water per room.

The superior Milima tents have large, white, free-standing baths so that, after a long game drive, guests can enjoy a relaxing soak before dinner.

Supplying hot water to remote bush camps has always been a problem; but thanks to Kenya's sunny climate, solar power heats the water to a piping 75°C. Luckily, there is more than enough fresh Kilimanjaro water to cool it down, too.

Solar power is eco-friendly and therefore in keeping with the camp's environmentally friendly practices.



NEW VENUE COMMANDS BEAUTIFUL VIEWS



Just in time for the Christmas party, Jinja Nile Resort opened the Nile Palace function rooms in December 2010.

The Christmas festivities were attended by many of the hotel's business partners and dignitaries from Kampala and Jinja and included an exhibition showcasing the work of Ugandan artists.

Nile Palace is a multi-function room with a capacity of 150 people. It is an ideal venue for parties, meetings, weddings and private exhibitions.

This new venue offers breathtaking views over the River Nile and benefits from its own private kitchen, entrance, bar and secure parking.

Many of those attending events at the Nile Palace choose to stay at Jinja Nile Resort because it is conveniently close to the venue.

ADVENTURES ALOFT UPDATES ITS BALLOONS



Adventures Aloft imports its balloons and equipment from the UK-based manufacturer Cameron Balloons.

In part, Adventures Aloft owes its perfect safety record to the high quality of these balloons.

Modernising the equipment is essential in maintaining the company's reputation. For this reason, Adventures Aloft will be importing three new balloons in 2011 to replace some of the existing fleet in the Masai Mara.

This will bring the total East African fleet to five Cameron 415 aircraft and a Cameron 315 aircraft.

The 415 aircraft have a capacity of 16 passengers each, while a 315 can carry 12.

SKY'S THE LIMIT AS MADA SPONSORS KENYAN PILOT

As a child, Barnabas Shisanya, who has worked as a receptionist at Fig Tree Camp since 2005, dreamed of being a pilot.

Mada Hotels is sponsoring Barnabas who, once he has completed his training, will become only the fourth qualified local balloon pilot in Kenya. There are no training schools in East Africa, so novice pilots must travel overseas to obtain their balloon licence.

Barnabas has recently acquired a United States visa in order to attend the Balloon Excelsior training school in California, where he hopes to achieve his CPL licence. Going to the USA will be his first experience of air travel.

Training will take six weeks and will involve a written test and at least six hours of flight training with an instructor, two solo flights, and one altitude flight. Once he has completed his training, Barnabas will need to convert his American CPL licence to a Kenyan CPL, which requires a further Kenyan air law exam.

With Adventures Aloft, Barnabas will have an opportunity to build his hours on big commercial balloons and, following his return from the USA, he will work closely with the senior balloon pilots. In a few years, he could be in command of large passenger balloons over the plains of the Masai Mara.



NEW LEVELS OF LUXURY AT FIG TREE CAMP



Accommodation at Fig Tree Camp has recently undergone major refurbishments. Sixteen new safari lodge rooms were built in 2010 to replace the old-style cabins.

Designed for ultimate relaxation, the new rooms are large and luxurious.

The queen-sized beds and the four-poster singles are comfortable, with traditional-style soft furnishings. Throughout the rooms, classic mahogany furniture has been used to create a warm and homely feel.

Each of these new rooms has a private balcony, allowing guests to sit, read a book or simply enjoy the natural surroundings.

The bathrooms have modern amenities such as twin wash-basins, shower and bidet.

These rooms are already welcoming guests and improving the overall standard of hospitality at the camp.



INDUSTRY MEETS CHALLENGE OF CONFERENCE SECTOR WITH FLAIR AND INNOVATION

The travel and tourism sector in the wider East African market has been on an upward trajectory for the past few years. The industry is not only redefining itself in terms of services and products, but is always looking for more innovative packages that enhance the destination as a top business and leisure player in Africa.

Today, MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions) is one of the fastest growing areas in the world's travel and tourism sector. This has forced major players in the industry, especially in East Africa, to come up with innovative products and services that tap into this niche market.

As a major player in the hospitality industry, Mada Hotels has been awake to

the dynamics shaping the sector in East Africa, where MICE business has been growing for the past few years.

SERVICE

To capture and satisfy this niche market, Mada Hotels has been on a path of product improvement, with better and quicker service delivery, while at the same time investing in its human capital so as to meet the added demands that come with MICE.

For Mada Hotels, the location and ambience of its properties has been a key factor in the success it has so far enjoyed in the MICE sector.

Tinu Mhajan, Chief Executive of Mada Hotels, notes that, with a wide selection of

For Mada Hotels, the location and ambience of its properties has been a key factor in the success it has so far enjoyed in the MICE sector



The La Mada has two large conference rooms with a capacity of up to 200 people in theatre style. It also has a well-furnished boardroom and two meeting rooms.

MIXING BUSINESS WITH LEISURE

While everything points to growth in the region's conferencing business, Tinu notes an appetite for combining business and leisure, especially as far as conferencing is concerned. According to Tinu, many people like to unwind and relax after long sessions of brainstorming and meetings. This is especially so for smaller group meetings and gatherings.

With this in mind, the Mada Hotels has a portfolio of properties in exclusive locations across the region that can offer a combination of meeting rooms and other activities such as game viewing.

Within this range, Mada Hotels offers the Kilifi Bay Beach Resort and the Baobab

exclusive properties scattered across East Africa, the group has a stronger property portfolio to choose from that guarantees to meet and exceed the demands of any MICE grouping.

NAIROBI – AFRICA'S CAPITAL

In Nairobi, the La Mada Hotel has large grounds in a quiet and serene location

away from the bustle of everyday Nairobi life. This, says Tinu, is an added incentive for group conferences as it ensures total participation for the delegates. The large grounds ensure secure and convenient parking for delegates. This, together with the benefits of wireless internet connection, makes it an ideal conference and business meeting venue with easy access to the city.



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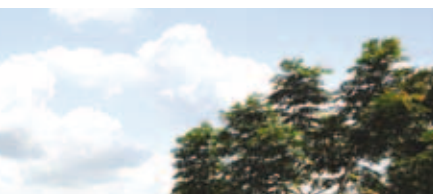


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Sea Lodge on the Kenyan coast. Delegates attending conferences and meetings at these coastal properties have room to unwind after at the end of the day or at the tail-end of their conference sessions.

Hosting conferences and meetings at either of the two properties is an experience like no other. Delegates attending meetings on the Kenyan coast will find luxury that is as functional and practical as it is exciting and totally different from normal conferences at the coast. Picture a board meeting on the MV 'Baobella' as it sails along the Kilifi Creek.

The same is true of other properties such as the Fig Tree Camp in the Masai Mara National Reserve. Here, conference delegates can unwind by going on morning or

evening game drives either before or after their meetings.

As the potential grows for people to mix business with leisure, Mada Hotels is setting up a brand-new conference facility at Kilima Safari Camp in the Amboseli National Park. Here, Mada Hotels can organise a breakfast meeting within the grounds or in the bush after delegates have enjoyed spectacular game views from a hot air balloon. And, come the evening, a refreshing sundowner with views of the Mount Kilimanjaro is the perfect way to end a long day of brainstorming.

UGANDA — LET'S MEET AT THE NILE!

Across the border, Mada Hotels has one of Uganda's largest and most highly developed

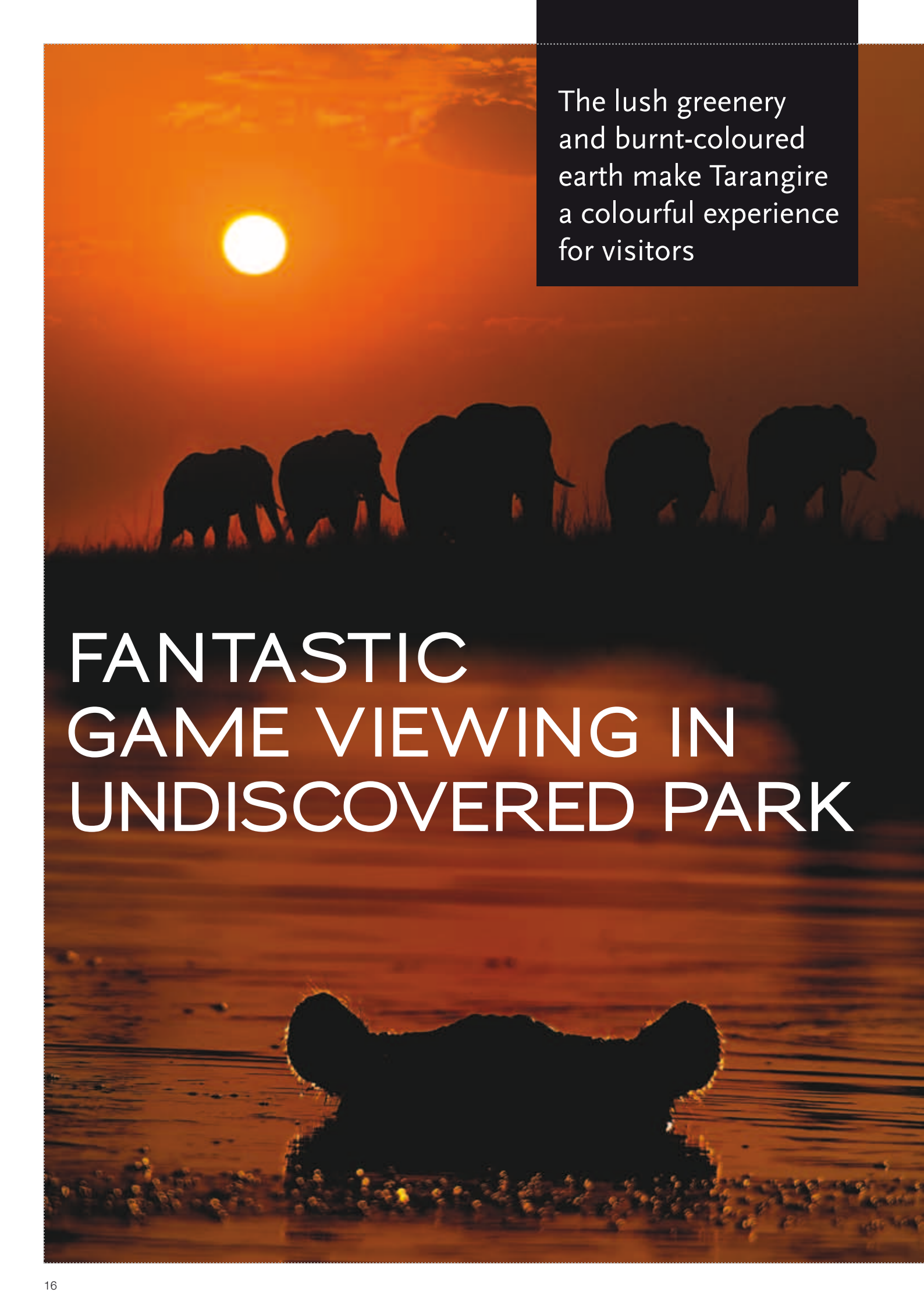
conferencing facilities at the Jinja Nile Resort. Close to Kampala yet tucked away from the bustle of city life, the resort is a perfect venue for both high profile and private conferences and meetings.

Tinu says the resort was developed with this in mind and is an ideal venue, offering delegates a range of interesting activities that include rafting on the River Nile as well as spa therapies.

The addition of the new Nile Palace within the confines of the Jinja Nile Resort makes the resort the ultimate meeting and exhibition venue. In addition, it is a popular weekend getaway destination for many Kampala people. The Nile Palace is a multi-functional venue that can host anything from wedding receptions to conferences to trade exhibitions.

Not only does Mada Hotels have the properties to host conference delegations, but it has invested in highly trained personnel capable of anticipating and meeting the needs of conference organisers and delegates. ■

Mada Hotels has one of
Uganda's largest and most highly
developed conferencing facilities
at the Jinja Nile Resort

A full-page photograph of a savanna landscape at sunset. The sky is a deep orange with a bright sun low on the horizon. In the middle ground, five elephants are silhouetted against the orange sky as they walk from left to right. In the foreground, a crocodile is silhouetted in a body of water, its head and back visible. The water reflects the orange light of the sunset.

The lush greenery
and burnt-coloured
earth make Tarangire
a colourful experience
for visitors

FANTASTIC GAME VIEWING IN UNDISCOVERED PARK

Spread over 2,850 sq km of grass-land, flood plains and tall acacia woodland, Tarangire National Park, in Tanzania, derives its name from the Tarangire River, which runs through it.

The lush greenery and burnt-coloured earth make Tarangire a colourful experience for visitors. The park is known for its majestic baobab trees, which dot the landscape, as well as for its large elephant population.

The Tarangire River is a reliable source of water for wildlife throughout Tanzania and in the dry season (June-October) vast herds of antelope, wildebeest, buffalo and zebra (as well as giraffe) migrate to the park. In their turn, predators such as leopard, lion, wild dog, hyena and cheetah are attracted by the quantity of prey.

It has the greatest concentration of wildlife in Tanzania outside the Serengeti ecosystem, but Tarangire is still relatively undiscovered by tourists and has not become decidedly overcrowded like some other East African parks.

Although animals can be seen in greatest concentrations during the dry season, many of them – including elephant, lion, cheetah, leopard, hyena, buffalo, giraffe, zebra, a wide range of antelope and warthog – stay in the park all year round. Pods of resident hippo can be seen in the river and swamps, as well as flamingos and small animals such as the bat-eared fox, jackal, hyrax, varieties of mongoose, ground squirrel, porcupine and civet.

The park is home to several extremely rare species – notably, the greater kudu and the fringed-eared oryx. It attracts serious bird-watchers, with over 550 recorded bird species including the extremely rare ashly starling.

Activities

Walking safaris, guided by armed rangers, provide a close-up look at more nervous creatures likely to be frightened by vehicles. Contrastingly, visitors

can obtain a ‘zoomed-out’ view across the park by taking a balloon safari – a magical experience now possible since flights began by Adventures Aloft last year. These extra activities, combined with traditional game drives, provide guests with a well-rounded safari experience.

With plenty to see and do in the daytime, the park closes at 18.00 hours. Night drives and bush dinners are not permitted at Tarangire. From a conservation perspective, this means animals get some much-needed time away from human eyes and vehicles.

Providing guests with an experience of local tribal culture, day trips to Maasai and Barabaig villages give an insight into the way communities live and work. Also worth a visit are the many ancient rock paintings to be found in the vicinity of Kolo.

Scenery

In addition to the wildlife viewing, visitors are surrounded by delightful scenery, with distant views of volcanic mountain ranges and unique landscape features. The Poachers Lookout Tree, an ancient baobab in the north of the park, has a

GETTING THERE

Tarangire can be reached in about two hours from Arusha along a well-surfaced road, or via a 20-minute flight to the local airstrip.

Although Tarangire is readily accessible all year round, 4x4 vehicles are necessary in the rainy season, while regular cars can be used during the rest of the year.

small man-made entrance leading into the hollow interior where, in days gone by, poachers would hide from patrolling wardens. Disused termite mounds, created from the bright red earth, make interesting column statues, while sausage trees serve as lounging places for tree-climbing pythons (an unusual characteristic of pythons found in this park).

Balloon Camp

Mada’s newest property, Balloon Camp, is due to open in May 2011. The camp will be the group’s first in Tanzania and will support the newly established Tarangire Adventures Aloft Balloon Safaris operations. Ideally positioned, the camp has majestic views of the Tarangire River to the north and the swamp to the south. ■



MEET THE MADA TEAM

"The tick
behind
the tock"



MADA HOTELS



Peter Njoroge

General manager

Kilifi Bay Resort / Baobab Sea Lodge

Peter is general manager at both the Mada properties on the Kilifi coast. The hotels differ in style: Kilifi Bay Beach Resort offers spacious designer accommodation, while Baobab Sea Lodge is small, charming and boutique.

With over 20 years in the hospitality industry, Peter has plenty of experience to prepare him for the challenges he faces in managing two properties simultaneously.

Peter has also increased the hotels' occupancy from a monthly average of 65 per cent to 85 per cent by attracting new markets, both local and foreign. In part, he puts his success down to his staff: "The presence of long-serving staff members ensures confidence and understanding amongst the management and the service staff," he says.

"I like being part
of a reputable
fast-growing chain
of hotels"

Peter Mugi

Unit manager
Kilima Camp

At Kilima Camp, Peter Mugi is in charge of maintaining the high standards guests expect at this luxury safari camp.

The camp is spread across 360 acres, with spectacular views of Mount Kilimanjaro, and comprises 72 tents. Comparatively large for a camp, the property employs a team of dedicated staff who are supervised by Peter.

A keen conservationist and nature lover, Peter thoroughly enjoys every aspect of his job, from talking to enthused guests after their first game drive to ensuring the highest quality cuisine and service.

In his spare time, Peter enjoys being with his family. He has a wife, two sons, aged five and seven, and a daughter, who is 14.



"I genuinely enjoy what I do"



"Excellence is my goal"

Mark Kumara

Group executive chef

Mada group executive chef Mark Kumara is responsible for coming up with new recipes and menus each day for all Mada properties.

Originally from Sri Lanka, Mark has travelled around the world working, and his travels and heritage are reflected in the diverse tastes and dishes he creates.

Mark's previous employment includes working in the Seychelles at Fregate Island, a seven-star small luxury resort; the Maldives at Diva Maldives Hotel; and the The British Club in Abu Dhabi. Mark also did the catering for SriLankan Airlines.

Despite his extensive resumé, Mark especially enjoys working with Kenyans. "Kenyan chefs are always ready to learn a new trick in the book," he says. "Every day I come up with new ideas and share them with my fellow chefs."



"I love meeting people from various countries"

Martin Thinji

General manager
Hotel La Mada

General manager at Hotel La Mada for the past nine years, Martin Thinji handles a range of responsibilities at this small boutique hotel located near the Karura forest.

The perfect mix of town and country, the property attracts all kinds of guests, from businessmen to holidaymakers and families. Fortunately, Martin thrives on interacting with new guests of various ethnicities and backgrounds.

Owing to its four-star status, Martin and his team ensure La Mada's good reputation is always maintained. Airport transfers, conferences and the restaurant run like clockwork. Martin refers to the staff at La Mada as "the best I have ever worked with, trustworthy, hard-working, co-operative".

Martin is keen on politics, reading and keeping up with current affairs.



"Ballooning,
ballooning and
more ballooning!"

Kim Jong-Gook Balloon pilot, Adventures Aloft

Previously the vice-chairman of Korea Balloon Association (KBA), Kim has been working for Mada Hotels for the past three years.

Each day Kim gets up at 5 am and takes guests on an hour's balloon flight, followed by breakfast. His favourite part of his job is interacting with passengers and seeing their enjoyment the first time they fly.

Kim is the proud father of two children. His 17-year-old daughter is currently preparing for university and his 14-year-old son has just begun training to be a balloon pilot and joins the crew for the Korea National team for the Saga Japan International Balloon Competition in November 2011.

Aside from piloting, Kim is in charge of maintaining the balloon equipment and ensuring the team and ground crew work in harmony.

Jason Livingston Balloon pilot, Adventures Aloft

To date, Jason has never cancelled a flight, an accolade he is proud of. More importantly, however, he has maintained the company's perfect safety record and always ensures that all clients are flown safely and have an enjoyable and memorable hot air ballooning experience.

Before coming to Africa, Jason was flying over the Gold Coast Hinterland in Australia as well as in Central Australia, Canada and in New Zealand.

Jason is enthusiastic about his work: "I get to spend every day working in the fresh air, flying over amazing scenery and wild animals. Who can beat that?" Ballooning is also Jason's hobby. In his spare time he flies a one-man balloon with no basket called a Cloudhopper. He also attends balloon festivals around the world.

"In the past 20
years I've worked
as a pilot in
10 different
countries"





Lasiti Ole Kerore

General manager

Fig Tree Camp

"I've worked for Mada Hotels for 26 years"

In 1985 Lasiti started working for Mada as a gardener. Ever since then he has remained loyal and hardworking, climbing the career ladder from kitchen and room steward to his current position as general manager at Fig Tree Camp.

Over the years, Lasiti has worked abroad (Jinja Nile Resort) and opened a new property (Kilima Safari Camp). He considers himself "a Mada family member" and became interested in the hospitality industry owing to his own father's profession as a hotelier. As a boy, Lasiti would visit his father during the school holidays and always dreamed of following in his footsteps.

Lasiti is proud to welcome guests to Fig Tree Camp, which is located on the banks of the Talek River.

Betty L. Olwenyi

Reservations/marketing manager head office

Betty runs the sales and marketing office at Mada Hotels. With eight properties to cover, she is busy visiting travel agents and attending travel exhibitions all over the world.

The manager always has a smile on her face and works with incredible energy. She has been with Mada Hotels for 20 years and has seen the group grow from a single safari camp to a chain of impressive hotels.

Betty runs a team of four staff and considers Mada Hotels her second home. "It's a challenging job," she says. "I listen to clients' needs and relay the information to the people on the ground so we can deliver the highest service. It's hard work, but plenty of fun."

In her spare time, Betty enjoys spending time with her family and is a keen member of the church choir.



"I've grown up with Mada Hotels"



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James M. Mbatia

General manager,
Jinja Nile Resort

Like so many Kenyans in the hospitality industry, James started his training at Utalii College in Nairobi. After that he worked with the Serena Group and later KQ/KLM. He began working at Mada Hotels in 2008 as general manager at Jinja Nile Resort.

The resort is spread over 60 acres of gardens and James takes responsibility for maintaining its internationally recognised standards of service. Everything from the beautifully landscaped lawns to the modern gym equipment must be kept in perfect condition. He also makes sure that this impressive property is constantly improving and excelling in all areas: "I get satisfaction from learning new things and working towards improving my career."

James was brought up in the hospitality industry, and his wife and three sons are fully supportive of his career.



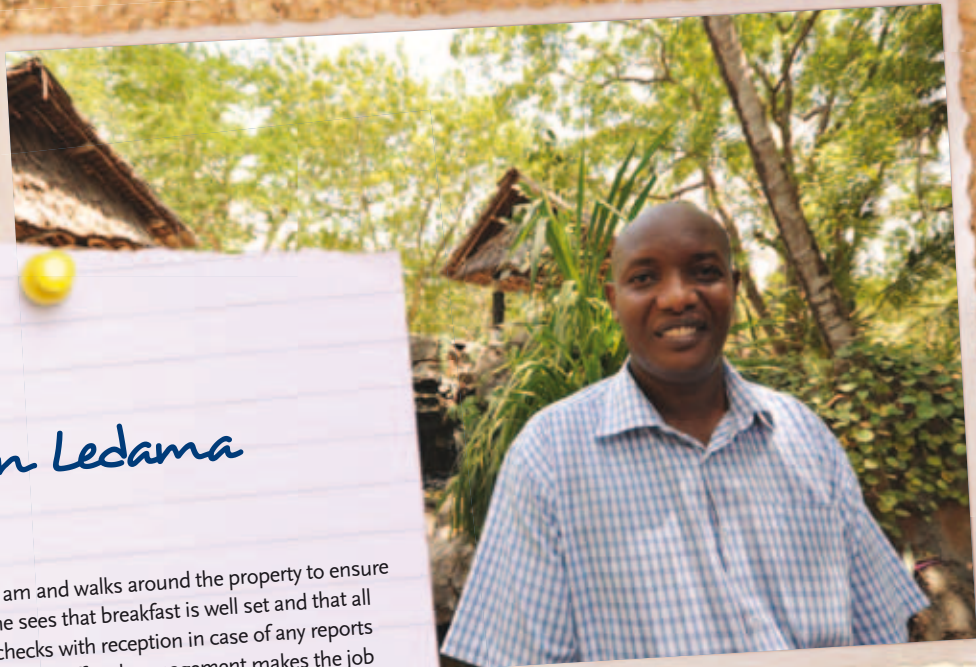
"We work as a
Jinja Nile Resort
family"

Evans Martin Ledama

Unit manager,
Baobab Sea Lodge

Every morning, Evans wakes at 6 am and walks around the property to ensure everything is intact. Afterwards, he sees that breakfast is well set and that all staff have reported for duty and checks with reception in case of any reports from guests. "Having a good team of staff and management makes the job more enjoyable," says Evans, who has worked for Mada for three years. He adds: "Team work is our motto."

Originally from Maasai land, Evans's family are wheat farmers and he likes to visit them when possible. In his free time, he enjoys finding a quiet place to meditate, think about life and listen to some slow music.



"I meet each
guest and ensure
they are happy
with our services"



A FREE SPIRIT ON A HARLEY

AS EAST AFRICA HOSTS ITS FIRST HARLEY-DAVIDSON TOUR

They drove into town with a loud growl, attracting the attention of everyone as they whizzed past. Their sheer size, and their colours in the afternoon sun, drew gasps of amazement and admiration at the same time.

The Harleys are in town and everyone has taken note. They are on a 3,000 km trip through Kenya and Tanzania in what is dubbed the Harley-Davidson Kilimanjaro Expedition.

Anyone who has seen the mean machines, heard their growl or ridden them, will testify to this fact: Harleys are awesome machines. The eyes are insatiable when you lay them on a Harley. Their growls are great to hear and the ride is breathtaking.

BIKING CULTURE

Although still in its parturient stages, a new biking culture is taking root in Kenya. With brand-new, smooth roads appearing in Nairobi and other parts of the country, biking has become a passion for many Kenyans. In neighbouring Uganda, there has been a strong biking culture for a couple of years and Kenya is now trying to catch up.

But while the biking culture has yet to be fully appreciated, especially within the wider region, there are tell-tale signs across the cities of East Africa that the culture is taking root. While the region is awash with boda boda motorcycles, a young crop of serious bikers is quickly coming up.

Driving around Nairobi over the weekends will reveal a great bike here and a speeding biker over there. Outside many entertainment joints in the leafy suburbs of Westlands, and at major shopping malls, you will see a Harley-Davidson.

Tinu Mhajan, Chief Executive of Mada Hotels, is one of the many people who have taken to biking in a big way. Like most

bikers, Tinu feels passionate about the whole biking experience as opposed to just the mechanics of the road machines.

KILIMANJARO EXPEDITION

To promote a biking culture in East Africa, the Tanzanian Ministry of Natural Resources & Tourism recently organised the first Harley-Davidson tour in East Africa. Flagged off from Tanzania's tourism capital, Arusha, the tour would take the bikers through the Ngorongoro Crater and into Nairobi.

The tour is billed as a sporting festival that encourages the biking culture in East Africa, while at the same time helping to market East Africa as a favourable tourism destination that can also be sampled from the saddle of a Harley.

From Nairobi, the Kenyan leg was flagged off by Tourism Minister Najib Balala and will see the bikers take to the road from Nairobi to Kenya's own tourism capital, Mombasa.

TOURISM

Sport tourism has largely been untapped in East Africa and according to Jean-Marc Chapel, organiser of the Harley-Davidson Kilimanjaro Expedition, this is just a first step into not only popularising the tours

The tour is earmarked as a sporting festival that encourages the biking culture in East Africa

across the world, but also making the Harley-Davidson brand popular in East Africa.

The Harley-Davidson expedition is expected to create a lot of buzz in sporting and tourism circles across the world. This being the first Harley-Davidson tour in East Africa, it has attracted a lot of media attention both locally and internationally. Newspaper and television crews will follow the 70-bike caravan through Kenya and Tanzania and will capture some of the magical moments and scenery that have made East Africa one of the best holiday destinations in the world. ■



Tinu Mhajan with his Harley

ENJOYING THE TASTE OF SCOTCH – AND OTHER FINE WHISKIES

All over Kenya, connoisseurs, collectors and groups of enthusiasts get together to sample, learn and discuss malts, blends and brands of whisky.

Whisky has been available in Kenya for some time, but it is only recently that the major distillers, principally Scottish, have set up their own companies or joint ventures in Kenya. This, in turn, has led to an increase in organised and tutored tasting events.

Venues

Events are targeted mostly at middle-class consumers. In particular, those held in Nairobi attract a mix of local businessmen, expatriates and Kenyans of European and Indian descent.

Helen Arthur, one of the world's leading writers on whisky, has promoted and staged public events at various prestigious venues in Kenya, including the Muthaiga Club in

Nairobi, and special events for the British Army both in Nairobi and Nanyuki. She has also organised events for guests, usually American or British, at Kenyan game reserves. These gatherings are light-hearted yet educational and are often part of an entertainment package that may also include live music and dinner. In November 2010 at Cape Chestnut, in Nanyuki, Helen Arthur arranged a six-course dinner with a different whisky to complement each course. The theme of the evening was the prohibition era and entertainment consisted of 1920s music as attendees dressed up in vintage clothing and acted out scenes from the gangster era of Al Capone.

Tastings

Major whisky brands, such as Johnnie Walker, hold their own promotional events and tasting evenings. Most of these brand-focused whisky tastings are free to attend.

Aside from organised events held in large corporate hotels, some of the luxury camps and lodges within the game parks have chosen to stock large whisky collections, allowing guests to enjoy a well aged whisky around the evening campfire.

The whiskies available in Kenya are mainly Scottish and principally blends such as Johnnie Walker and Famous Grouse. Single malts, such as Glenfiddich, are also available and, thanks to growing interest, the choice is expanding all the time. Diageo, owner of Johnnie Walker, has introduced Cragganmore, Talisker and



RESPONSIBLE

It is advised that people drink any alcohol beverage in moderation and sensibly.

All advertising bears a health warning and all whisky tastings and events are monitored carefully to ensure that people don't drink too much or drink and drive.

It is important not to drink the whisky too fast. One should savour it to get the maximum flavour and benefit

other single malts to its offerings, while Chivas Brothers, part of Pernod Ricard, has added Glenlivet single malt to its other brands, Chivas Regal and Ballantine's.

In addition, through Chivas Brothers, Jameson Irish whiskey and local joint-venture whiskies such as Bond 7 and Safari can be purchased in most supermarkets.



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◀ Tinu Mhajan conducting a whisky tasting session for club members

Kenya has a number of established whisky members' clubs, such as the East African Single Malt Club (sometimes referred to as 'The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen'), a men-only club based in Nairobi.

With so many brands and bottles from all over the world, it would be impossible for even the most ardent collector to obtain every one. For this reason, collectors often specialise in one brand, such as Macallan or Glenfarclas. Others collect bottles from one distillery, or one bottle from each distillery. There are also special bottles to celebrate an anniversary or an event such as a major golf tournament.

Thanks to specialised shops and duty-free outlets it is becoming easier for Kenyan collectors and whisky enthusiasts to obtain more unusual blends and malts without having to import them specially.

Taste

The art of tasting whisky is simpler than many people imagine. The type of glass is important. One with a wide base and a narrower opening is ideal, as this channels the aroma of the whisky towards your nose. After you have poured a reasonable measure, it should be swirled round in the glass for a short time to allow oxygen to get to the liquid and for evaporation to begin.

It is important not to drink the whisky too fast. One should savour it to get the maximum flavour and benefit. Many people are put off drinking whisky by the initial alcoholic 'burn' after swallowing. It is important to let this pass, however, because it is during the aftertaste that the whisky reveals its true characteristics.



WHISKY GLOSSARY:

BLENDED WHISKY – Whisky made by blending together any number of single malt whiskies and grain whiskies to create the required flavour and characteristics.

DISTILLATION – The process of turning the mildly alcoholic wash into highly alcoholic spirit.

FERMENTATION – The process of turning sugar into alcohol. In whisky production, a sugary liquid called wort is put into a container called a washback and yeast is added.

FLOOR MALTING – A traditional method of producing malted barley (now practised only in a few distilleries).

MALTING – The process whereby the starch in barley is converted to sugar, which can then be turned into alcohol during fermentation. Malting is achieved by soaking the barley grains in warm water and then allowing them to germinate. This turns the starch present into natural sugars.

MATURATION – The time taken for the whisky to gain the optimum amount of character from the wooden cask in which it is being stored.

VATTED MALT – A whisky consisting of two or more single malts blended together.



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GETTING INTO THE SPIRIT OF THE COLLECTOR'S ART

Tinu Mhajan, Chief Executive of Mada Hotels, tells us about his collection of almost 650 whiskies. The late Tarlochan Singh Mhajan began this impressive collection in the 1970s.

IS SINGLE MALT ALWAYS BETTER THAN BLENDED?

Not really. Single malts can change taste and so a 10-year-old Talisker of 2009 could easily be different to the 10-year-old Talisker of 1990. Blends for the most part are consistent in their taste and some blends have created perfect balances. The

17-year-old Ballantine blend is probably one of the nicest whiskies I've ever tasted.

IS THERE ANY PART OF SCOTLAND YOU PARTICULARLY RECOMMEND?

Each part of Scotland, due to its natural terrain and water sources, has a distinctive taste and all can create wonderful whiskies. [The island of] Islay is famous for its peaty whisky, full body and smoky flavours. The Highlands create malty whiskies with full body and the Lowlands produce grassy flavours.

HOW DID YOU COME TO COLLECT WHISKIES?

It was my father's hobby. He was a keen whisky drinker and collector who had an incredible eye for details and created what I consider the best whisky bar in Africa.

DO YOU STILL HAVE THE FIRST BOTTLE YOU COLLECTED?

Of course! My father's first real collector's bottle was a five-litre Teacher's whisky bottle that was purchased in the 70s from



Founder of the whisky collection: the late Tarlochan Singh Mhajan

Mumbai Airport. I've not seen a similar bottle since, so I'm sure it's quite a collector's item now.

ANY PARTICULAR WHISKY YOU WISH TO ADD TO YOUR COLLECTION?

There are new whiskies that come out each year, but we don't often get a chance to see those in Kenya. You can spend \$100,000 on a bottle and our aim has not been to have the most expensive whiskies, but really a broad collection of whiskies from across the world. It's a hobby for me, not really an investment.

Our aim has not been to have the most expensive whiskies, but really a broad collection of whiskies from across the world



A sign of Kenya's dedication to and love of jazz music is evident in the recently established Nairobi International Jazz Festival

NAIROBI'S JAZZ SCENE

MESMERIZING

SOUNDS

Every night of the week, somewhere in Nairobi, you can find music lovers enjoying some of Africa's finest jazz. Many international visitors head straight to their camps and lodges or to luxury hotels on the coast, rather than staying to sample the capital's delights – and even fewer know that Nairobi is the centre of an amazingly rich music scene.

You don't have to go to crowded night-clubs or noisy bars to enjoy the dazzling sound of jazz. Many of the capital's finest restaurants and hotels have this uplifting yet soothing genre in the background to entertain their customers. The Moonflower Restaurant at Palacina hosts a live jazz band; Toona Tree Bar & Restaurant plays energetic jazz each Friday and Saturday; and Tamambo Tapas Bar (at

Village Market) constantly attracts an animated jazz crowd. Additionally, Southern Sun Mayfair, Safari Park Hotel & Casino and Carnivore all provide jazz entertainment.

Those seeking a livelier and more interactive music experience should head to Tamasha Hurlingham for 'Sunday Jazz'. This long-standing, renowned venue has played host to such notable names as Chris Bittok and Lawrence Mwai. Guaranteed to get the crowd on its feet, Psys Bar

in Lang'ata is great for a frenzied session of adult contemporary jazz, while K1 KlubHouse, on Ojijo Road, plays laid-back classics in a lively environment.

SOULFUL

For pulsating, one-off gigs, the GoDown Art Centre – a converted warehouse and exhibition space in the eastern industrial area – and Mzizi Arts Centre both feature hypnotic jazz bands and soulful singers. Weekday performances usually commence about 7.30 or 8 pm, while weekend warm-ups begin around 9 to 10 pm and may not get properly rolling until midnight. Like Tamasha Hurlingham, some clubs have Sunday afternoon sessions that can be just as lively as the evening shows.

The flexibility of jazz music allows bands to sing in English, Swahili, Luo or even French. The music is a product of unrestricted creativity, interaction, percussion and collaboration, with skilled performers interpreting tunes in individual ways, never playing the same composition exactly the same way twice. This type of improvised music appeals to the Nairobi crowd, who embrace new approaches reflecting their national and regional cultures.

TREND

The current trend is jazz-infused renditions of popular hits and tracks rather than old classics. The singer Chris Bittok says: "It is easier to popularise a jazz

culture by playing popular cover versions before introducing hard jazz. Kenyans have eclectic tastes in music. They love rap, R&B, African music, Lingala, Latino – and we try to introduce a jazzy element to all tunes that are familiar to them. And it's working, especially with local hits."

A sign of Kenya's dedication to and love of jazz music is evident in the recently established Nairobi International Jazz Festival – Kenya's premier jazz music event, which aims to raise the global profile of Nairobi as a tourist destination and a centre of cultural excellence. There is also the vibrant Blankets & Wine Festival, an outdoor music event in Nairobi that showcases some excellent and upcoming jazz musicians.

DESTINATION

Nairobi is also becoming a touring destination for world-renowned jazz musicians – for example, the singer-songwriter Jonathan Butler has included Nairobi in his last two international tours.

The beauty of jazz – a heavy and frenzied mix of vocals, trombones, saxophone and drums – is its ability to leave listeners feeling empowered and inspired, a mood that somehow defines Nairobi's current optimism. Local jazz thrives by borrowing from influences such as benga, reggae and hip-hop in order to create a unique and addictive sound. Suffice it to say that the future of jazz music in Nairobi is looking bright. ■

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VICTORIA NILE HYDRO SCHEME COURTS CONTROVERSY

A new hydroelectric dam being built on the Victoria Nile River near Jinja will give a huge boost to the national grid; but the scheme is not without its critics owing to its economic and environmental impact

Four years in construction and due to be completed in 2011, the Bujagali Dam is an impressive structure, reaching to a height of 52 metres and stretching 30 metres underground.

At present, only five per cent of Uganda's population is on the national grid, with consequences both for the economy and for social progress. The dam, which has been commissioned by Bujagali Energy Ltd, will greatly increase the amount of power available nationally while also helping to bring down the cost of electricity. It will also reduce the need for rationing of electricity.

Generating 250 MW of hydro power, this new scheme has created over 2,500 jobs

Generating 250 MW of hydro power, this new scheme has created over 2,500 jobs for local workers

for local workers. Furthermore, Bujagali Energy Ltd has brought sustainable benefits to the local area, including water supplies, better schools and enhanced health care facilities.

One of the main benefits of hydroelectric power is that it produces no carbon dioxide emissions and therefore does not contribute to global warming.

Despite initial concerns, it seems unlikely that this hydroelectric scheme will affect facilities for rafting on the river, a popular tourism attraction in the area. However, rafting launch sites will be moved further downstream as a result of disrupted water-flow.

Jinja Nile Resort is located upstream from Bujagali Dam and the water level and impressive views from the resort are unaffected by the new construction.

Controversial

The dam was approved by the government in April 2007 and construction began later that year. The project has come under intense scrutiny in recent years, with environmentalists arguing that the change in water flow will affect the sacred Bujagali Falls and harm Lake Victoria, the world's largest tropical lake.

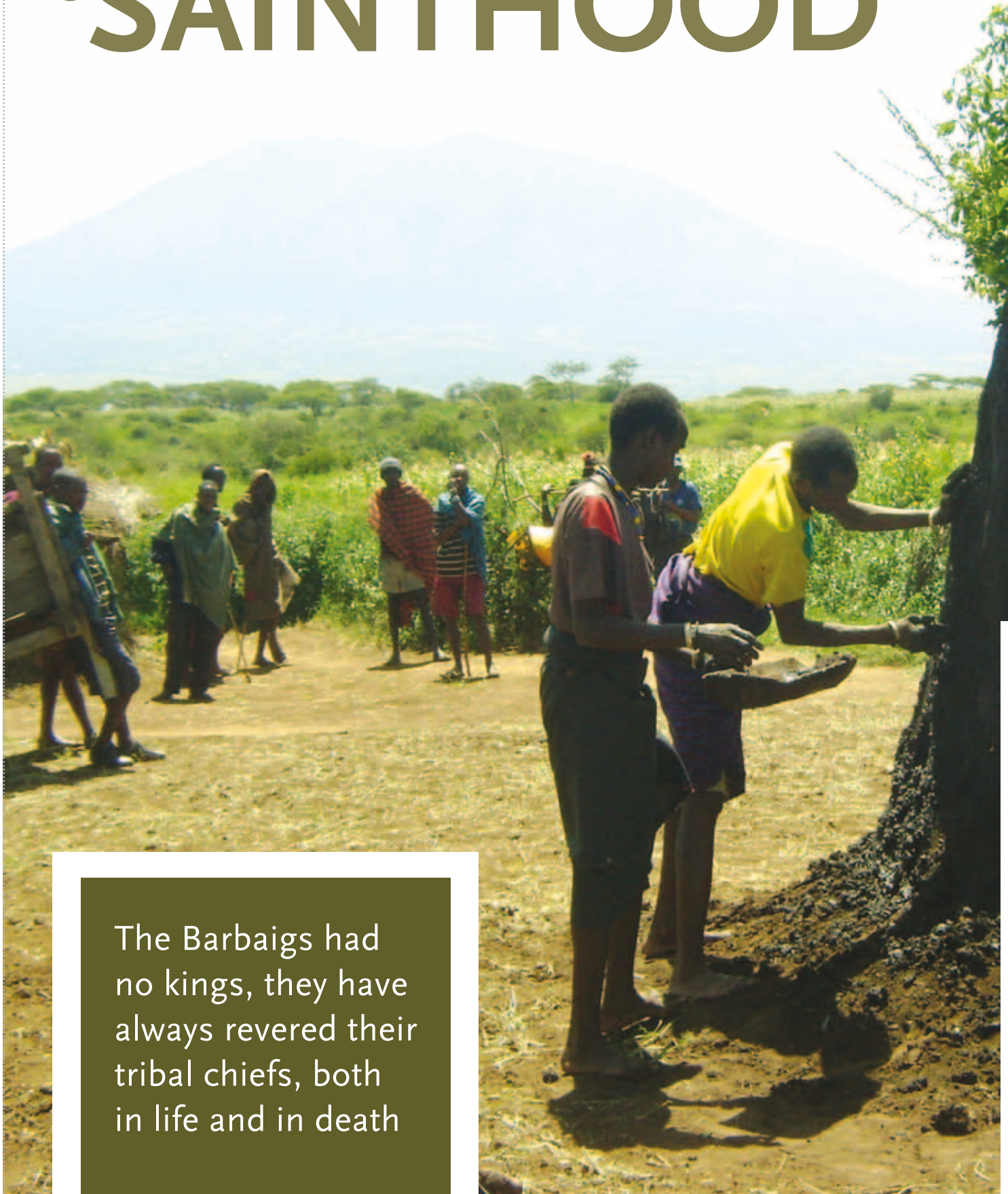
There are also fears that the disruption of water will continue to submerge highly productive agricultural land on the river banks, forcing local people to leave. Some villagers have already been resettled, with reportedly unsatisfactory results. Others argue that the project is too costly and will not meet the needs of the majority of Ugandans.

Future

Now that construction of the dam is well under way, it is unlikely that activists will prevent it from being completed. Reports of inadequate economic analysis and unforeseen damage to cultural heritage must be set against the fact that Bujagali Dam will vastly increase the amount of electricity available in Uganda and will make a positive contribution to the nation's social and economic development. ■



A JOURNEY TO TRIBAL 'SAINTHOOD'



The Barbaigs had no kings, they have always revered their tribal chiefs, both in life and in death

Deep in the north-west heartland of Tanzania is a militant and little-known community, the Barbaigs. This fearless tribe had some of the best archers in ancient times and is said to be ruthless on the battlefield – the only community feared by the bellicose Maasai.

They look similar to their sworn enemies, the Maasais, but speak a very different dialect, similar to the Amharic language of Ethiopia. Their cultural heritage has remained untouched for thousands of years until recently, when the Tanzanian government ordered them to 'style up' and get an education.

One of their tribal customs, still practised to this day, is reminiscent of ancient Egypt. Though the Barbaigs had no kings, they have always revered their tribal chiefs, both in life and in death. This is what sets them apart from the Maasais and makes them more like the ancient Egyptians. They have taken to mummifying their tribal chiefs immediately after death as a sign of respect. They also provide special graves, though not in the grandiose style of the pyramids.



The Bung'eda is a sacred ceremony lasting more than six months that is reserved for tribal chiefs and other influential members of the Barbaig community. The custom is both controversial and secret, but it remains the ultimate journey to 'saint-hood' for the singoche, the tribal chiefs.

OUTPOST

On my travels to their ancestral lands in the foothills of Mount Hanang on the edges of the Rift Valley in Manyara Region, I am welcomed by the community's council of elders in a remote village outpost. According to custom, only men are allowed to attend. The midday heat is unforgiving as each elder comes to shake my hand and look me in the eye, perhaps seeking reassurance that I have come as a friend, not a foe.

One thing is certain, I am told by my host and guide: the Barbaigs demand respect from everyone. Anything short of that is met with a double portion of hostility. Caution should be exercised when meeting these people, especially when calling them by their community name. Most Tanzanians

▲ Denis Gathanju is welcomed to the tribal homestead by Mama Seiya, third wife of the late Mzee Bunganga

◀ Young men prepare an Bung'eda using mud. Mount Hanang (the 'Mountain of Water') is in the background

▼ A Barbaig woman in traditional goatskin clothing shows off her jewellery

know the Barbaigs by the disparaging name of Mang'ati, which was given to them by the Maasais, who have been involved in cattle rustling and communal land conflicts for many years. Mang'ati means 'enemy' in Maa.

Quambadu Akbo, one of the elders, tells me that, for a tribal chief to be considered for a Bung'eda, he must have fathered sons and daughters to ensure the continuity of his name. He must also have no innocent blood on his hands.

MUMMIFYING

The initial stages of the Bung'eda are difficult to witness, especially for an outsider. According to Akbo, this is because the process of mummifying their fallen elders begins immediately after death.

Old men gather at a secret location to decide whether the departed brother deserves to be honoured with a Bung'eda ceremony. Once it has been agreed, the body is stripped and cleaned by the old men from his clan. A special circular grave is dug within the compound of the chief a few yards from his main hut or gheet. The grave diggers must provide a sitting stool at the bottom of the grave.



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Mara Nyekundu

(Swahili for Red) is a blend of Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot harvested from the Olifants Rivier valley in the Western Cape, South Africa. Fruity, velvety and medium bodied come to mind as one takes the first sip.

Mara Nyeupe

(Swahili for White) is a blend of the Cape's own Chenin Blanc and Chardonnay and is reminiscent of a very tropical wine with pineapple and passion fruit at the forefront.

The icing on the cake, or the legs in the wine as we would call it- is the satisfaction that the day's indulgence has a bigger, greater cause - as one reads about the Samburu women who hand-make the amulets that are put on every bottle and how in the last yrs they have grown from strength to strength- a journey from abandonment to empowerment.

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While this is being done, a bull from the departed man's herd is killed. No spillage of blood is allowed. The bull, explains Gwandu Gidasay, another elder, is suffocated to death using a rope tied around its nose and mouth. Using an axe handle, the rope is tightened until it succumbs. It is believed that the dead bull signifies the body of the departed chief and shedding blood while skinning it is tantamount to injuring him. The job is agonizingly slow, but must be completed before sunset.

The body is removed from his hut and seated by the graveside. The elders circle the body chanting. One of the sons, preferably the eldest son of the chief's first wife, must be present. Two young men hold the naked body to a sitting position facing east, towards the rising sun. Then an elderly man from the chief's clan scoops a palmful of animal fat and barks at the dead man to bless his wives and children as he departs to the afterlife. All the wives and children, both sons and daughters, must be mentioned by name. The elder must apply animal fat with his thumb to the chief's forehead at every mention and the rest must agree in unison to confirm that the mentioned person is the dead chief's wife or child.

SALUTE

The final part of the Bung'eda occurs when the body is clothed in the fresh skin of the killed bull. It is lowered into the grave and made to sit on the stool. The dead chief has to sit facing east to appease and salute the gods who shine light on their land every morning so that their cattle can have pasture. A pot of traditional beer and some tobacco are placed in the grave, next to the body. On burying the body, poles are hammered into the ground on the rim of the grave. Young men guard the grave for two days and nights. The skinned bull, representing the body of the departed leader, lies next to the grave. Its meat is not eaten and must be protected from dogs and other wild animals.

After two days, the now decomposing body of the bull is carried by the young men and left in the thickets. This is to signify that the community has accepted the departure of its leader and presented his body to the gods.

During my stay, I developed a close relationship with the Barbaigs, so much so that they allowed me to witness and participate in the most sacred of their tribal ceremonies that few people outside this tribe have ever witnessed or been allowed to participate in. ■

The writer is made to drink Gesoda by Barbaig clan elders before being allowed to attend the Bung'eda ceremony



The initial stages of the Bung'eda are difficult to witness, especially for an outsider

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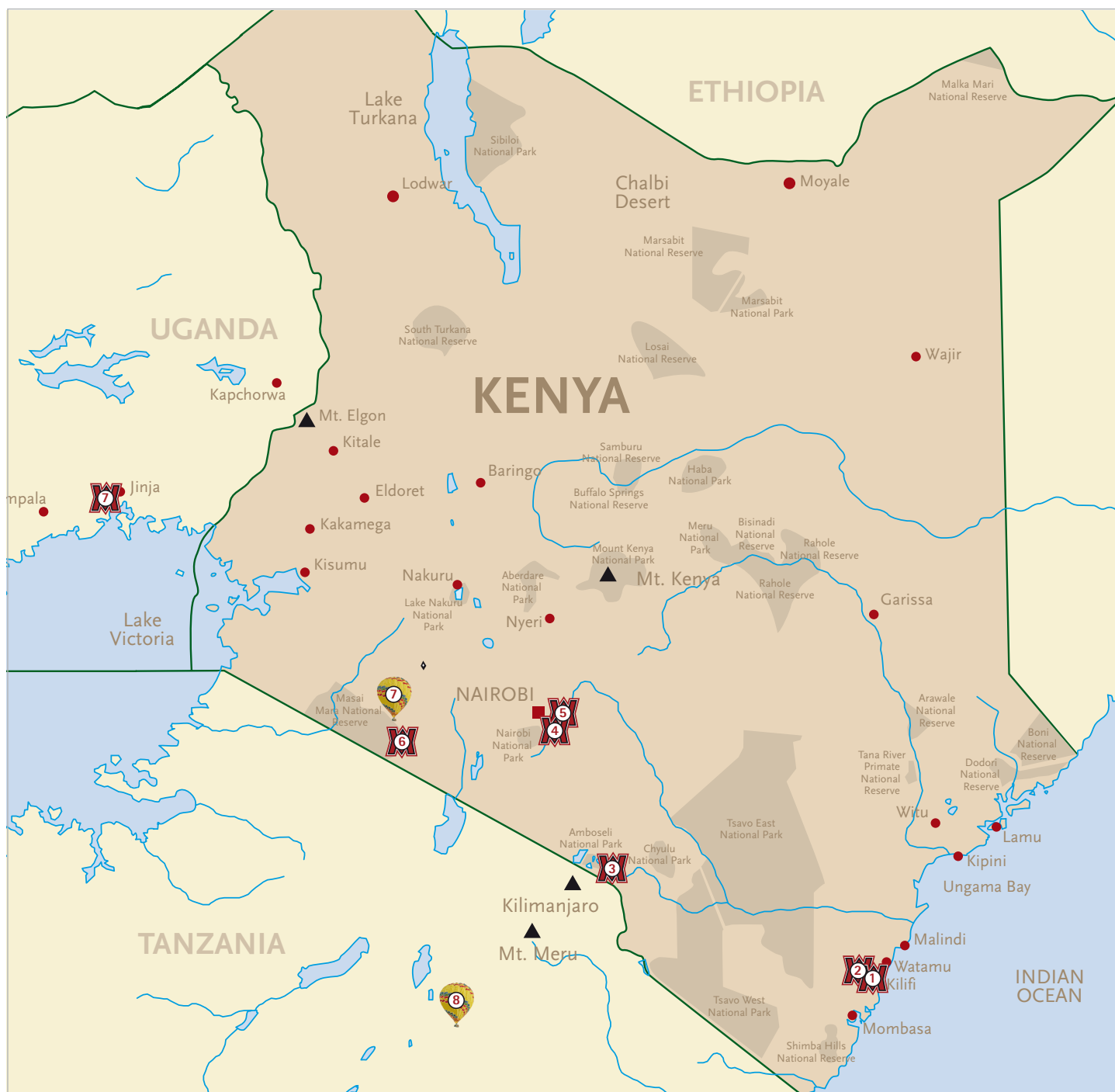
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THE MADA HOTEL FAMILY

The Mada Hotels group operates eight properties - six in Kenya, one in Uganda and one in Tanzania.

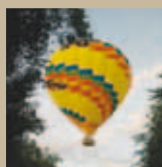
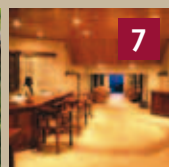
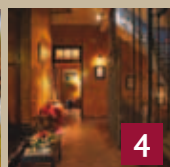
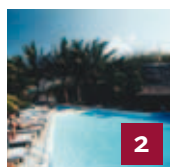
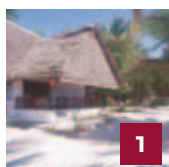
The six properties comprise: a tented camp in the Masai Mara, two beachside hotels on the Indian Ocean coast, two hotels in and around Nairobi and a resort in Jinja, on the banks of the Nile, in Uganda.

1. Kilifi Bay Resort, Kilifi
2. Baobab Lodge, Kilifi
3. Kilima Safari Camp, Amboseli
4. Oakwood, Nairobi
5. La Mada, Nairobi



MADA HOTELS

6. Fig Tree Camp, Masai Mara
7. Jinja Nile Resort, Jinja
8. Adventures Aloft, Masai Mara
9. Adventures Aloft, Tarangire





ADVENTURES ALOFT

FLYING HIGH ACROSS EAST AFRICA

In operation for more than 15 years, Adventures Aloft is proud of its perfect safety record. All its pilots are highly experienced and are commercially rated on the large-size balloons used by the company. The collective skills and knowledge of the staff ensure that guests feel completely safe and able to enjoy the experience knowing they are in good hands.

The weightless feeling you experience in a hot air balloon creates a sense of freedom and tranquillity. Over the years, Adventures Aloft has become an expert in creating memorable experiences for its passengers. Each flight is planned with precision so that all passengers have to do is enjoy the view. Since operations began in the Masai Mara, the company has built a reputation





for professional and friendly service. The business has expanded as a result of its growing popularity. Last year the company began flights from Tarangire National Park and added a new balloon to its Masai Mara operations.

Flights typically take off at 06.30 but passengers are woken early so they can freshen up and have some coffee and cake. Flights last an hour and allow guests a phenomenal bird's-eye view of the landscape. A chase crew follows the balloon, carrying equipment and ensuring a smooth landing.

After landing, the balloon crew sets up a champagne-style breakfast complete with butler service, an open bar serving Bloody Mary cocktails and a hearty English-style breakfast. To mark this once-in-a-lifetime adventure, each passenger receives a certificate from the pilot as a memento of their flight. The experience is completed by a game drive back to camp.

Adventures Aloft abides by eco friendly practices and all operations are carried out with minimal impact on the environment. The company expects its passengers to follow a similar code of conduct. ■

BALLOON CAMP - TARANGIRE

In 2010 Adventures Aloft began operations in Tarangire, where it uses an A-415 Cameron balloon with a capacity of 16 passengers.

Apart from the pilot, it takes a fleet of vehicles and several members of staff to make the flights run smoothly – especially in the first year of operations. The balloon crews have years of expertise and knowledge, thus helping to ensure a continuation of the high standards that passengers expect from Adventures Aloft.

Bookings should be made in advance to avoid disappointment. Guests can either contact Adventures Aloft directly or book through a tour operator or via staff at their own camp.

Company staff collect passengers from lodges and camps throughout the park and bring them to the launch

site. Typically, flights take off at sunrise. Take-off sites can vary depending on the weather, but all are easily accessible.

The balloon path is led by the prevailing winds, but mostly follows the meandering Tarangire River. The flights are peaceful and offer passengers a bird's-eye view of the wildlife that comes to drink and cool off by the river.

On landing, guests are served breakfast on the riverbanks as they enjoy panoramic views of the Tarangire River and the cool breeze through the baobab trees. Following a hearty breakfast guests are taken on a game drive en route back to their lodge or to the drop-off point, as agreed by the tour guide.





MASAI MARA NATIONAL RESERVE

Since 1997 Adventures Aloft has been creating memorable balloon safaris in the Masai Mara National Reserve and is now flying four balloons, with a total capacity of 60 passengers, on a daily basis.

Balloon safaris are the most outstanding way to see the annual wildebeest migration, for which the Masai Mara is famous. Whatever the time of year, passengers are guaranteed a spectacular view across the reserve.

There are daily flights from two separate locations at Fig Tree Camp and Siana Springs Intrepids. For guests not staying at Fig Tree or Siana Springs, Adventures Aloft offers a transfer service to and from most of the camps and lodges in and around the Mara.

The company has a fleet of Cameron balloons, consisting of three A-415 balloons with a flying capacity of 16 passengers each and one A-315 balloon carrying 12 passengers.



Flights last an hour and allow guests a phenomenal bird's-eye view of the landscape





HOTEL LA MADA

TRANQUIL HAVEN IN A BUSTLING CITY

It is hard to believe that La Mada Hotel is just 8 km from Nairobi city centre. This small four-star boutique hotel is surrounded by the lush Karura Forest, home to a rich birdlife and several monkey colonies.

Ideal for those wanting to escape the noise of the city, La Mada is a great place to relax and unwind. The property is set in seven acres of land with a tranquil stream running through the grounds.

Friendly

With just 35 guest rooms, the hotel is intimate and friendly with many personal touches. There are 25 double rooms, six twin rooms and four executive suites. All accommodation is luxuriously furnished with crisp

white linen and towels, large wooden beds and spacious en-suite bathrooms.

Variety

Guests can choose from a variety of culinary delights at La Mada. In addition to the elegant à la carte dining room, the newly opened Lion's Den restaurant serves barbecue lunches and is located in the forest. There is also a charming coffee shop, perfect for an afternoon beverage, and the pool bar serves refreshing drinks in a picturesque setting.

Thanks to its location, the hotel has become more and more popular for business meetings and conferences. In response to demand and its growing popularity, there are now four conference halls. In addition,

there is a well equipped executive board-room with LCD projectors, computers and a secretarial and photocopying service.

Staff are experienced in terms of organising functions and making every conference a success. Activities on offer include special events in the Lion's Den restaurant, poolside cocktails and live band entertainment.

Revitalising

There is a range of facilities aimed at making every guest's stay as relaxed as possible. For example, the large swimming pool is great for a revitalising swim, while the airport shuttle service helps take the stress away from travelling. In addition, there is free Wi-Fi to keep guests fully connected. ■



FACT FILE:

STAR RATING: ****

LOCATION: *Nairobi, Thika Road*

NUMBER OF ROOMS: 35

LEISURE: *Swimming pool*

DINING: *Two restaurants*

BARS: *Pool bar*

CONFERENCING: *Four conference halls, one meeting room and a boardroom*

ENTERTAINMENT: *Live bands*

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS: *Karura Forest*

ADDITIONAL FACILITIES: *Curio shop, airport shuttle service, business centre and free Wi-Fi.*

The property is set in seven acres with a tranquil stream running through the grounds



With just 35 guest rooms, the hotel is intimate and friendly with many personal touches.

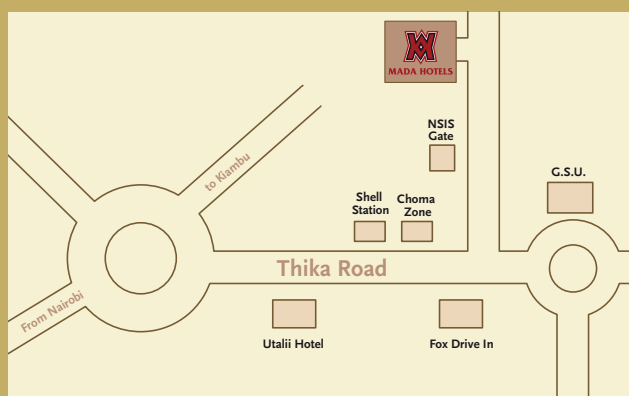
Distances and times to major places from Hotel La Mada

	Distance	Estimated time
City centre	10 km	15-20 mins
JKIA	25 km	30-40 mins
Wilson Airport	18 km	25-35 mins



Impressive conferencing ▲

Prime location ►





THE OAKWOOD HOTEL

STEEPED IN HISTORY

The Oakwood Hotel is a small, exclusive and perfectly located property. In fact, it's the ideal accommodation for guests who enjoy the hustle, bustle and non-stop night-life of Nairobi.

The property was built in the 1950s and maintains its classic old-style colonial architecture

The Oakwood resides in the Elite House building, formerly Livingstone House. The property was built in the 1950s and maintains its classic old-style colonial architecture. The hotel retains some of the original features, including the Otis lift, which is manually operated and has an open-age design.

Popular

In the heart of the business district, the hotel has become increasingly popular with business travellers who want the convenience of a central location with all the benefits of a comfortable boutique hotel.

The hotel is great for easy connections and shuttle services to other major cities and towns in East Africa and near the railway station. Also in close proximity are the many bars, restaurants and evening entertainment that make Nairobi one of Africa's most exciting cities.

FACT FILE:

STAR RATING: ****

LOCATION: *Kimathi Street, Nairobi*

NUMBER OF ROOMS: 20

DINING: *One restaurant*

BARS: *One bar*

NEARBY: *Close to all business facilities.*

▼ *Elite House building*



In close proximity
are the many
bars, restaurants
and evening
entertainment

Aptly named, The Oakwood is decorated
with traditional wood furnishings and
fixtures that create a homely and warm
atmosphere.

There are just 20 self-contained rooms, all
with telephone, TV, in-house video, mini
fridge and tea/coffee-making facilities.

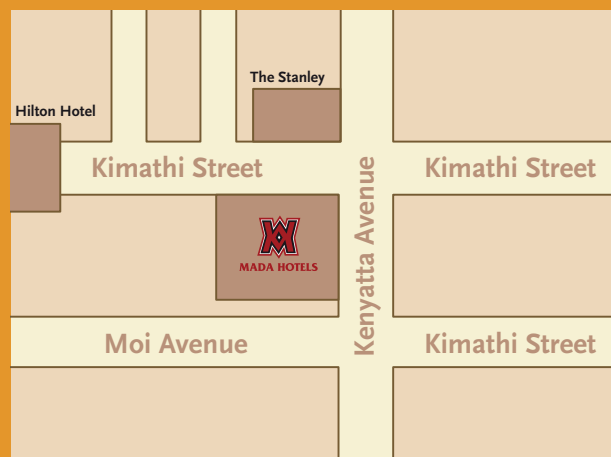
Stylish

The hotel has a stylish bar and a restaurant
with an à la carte menu. A full traditional
English breakfast is included in the room rate.

The Oakwood offers a wide range of facili-
ties, including internet connection. ■

Distances and times to major
places from The Oakwood Hotel

	Distance	Estimated time
City centre	0 km	0 mins
JKIA	12 km	20-30 mins
Wilson Airport	8 km	20 mins



- ▲ Intimate dining
- ◀ Self-contained rooms



KILIFI BAY BEACH RESORT

A LUXURY HIDEAWAY



Kilifi bay Beach Resort is a four-star property on the beautiful white sandy beaches of Kilifi.

The resort is small and exclusive with unspoilt panoramic views of the Indian Ocean. Since it is the only hotel on this beautiful stretch of beach, guests can be sure of total peace and quiet.

The hotel gardens contain hundreds of palm trees creating shade while the cool breeze blows in from the ocean. All the buildings and guest accommodation are painted white and the interiors are fresh and modern.

Personalised

With only 50 rooms, the resort puts emphasis on personalised service, ensuring that all guests are well looked after during their stay. Each room has its own private balcony where guests can relax with a sundowner or just read a book.

FACT FILE:

STAR RATING: *****

LOCATION: Kilifi

NUMBER OF ROOMS: 50

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

DINING: Two restaurants

BARS: Three bars

CONFERCING: Facilities and capacity for up to 80 delegates

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

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS: Kilifi Harbour and Creek

ADDITIONAL FACILITIES: Massage service



To help guests unwind, a free massage service is available. There are also two swimming pools, perfect for a relaxing dip.

The main restaurant serves buffet breakfasts, light lunches and sumptuous evening meals. The dinner menu is a selection of international cuisine, with themed nights and barbecues throughout the week. In addition, the Tepenyaki restaurant offers an exotic mix of Japanese cuisine and delicious seafood.

The Coconut Bar on the beach serves snacks and drinks throughout the day. There are two further bar areas within the resort: one in the lounge reception area, popular for pre-dinner cocktails, and the Pool Bar, ideal for a refreshing beverage while guests relax and soak up the sun.

The hotel boat 'Baobabella' departs throughout the day on scenic excursions through Kilifi Creek, with soft drinks and snacks provided. Other water sports

include snorkelling, diving and canoeing, all of which are available from the beach.

Conference venue

Kilifi Bay Resort is a well established conference venue. The atmosphere is quiet and the staff are trained to cater for large groups. Various activities are available for special functions, including beach dinners, day trips to Malindi and beach cocktail parties. ■



Distances and times to major places from Kilifi Bay Beach Resort

	Distance	Estimated time
Mombasa Airport	64 km	1 hr 20 mins
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



Fresh interiors ▲
Soak up the sun ►



The perfect hideaway; the resort is small and exclusive with unspoilt panoramic views of the Indian Ocean



BAOBAB SEA LODGE

A LITTLE PIECE OF PARADISE



The philosophy here is 'quality not quantity' so that guests are well attended by friendly and professional staff

Set in seven acres of tropical gardens and with 60 metres of ocean frontage, this is the ideal place to relax, soak up the sun and enjoy the magic of the Kenyan coast.

This boutique hotel is located in the old coastal town of Kilifi, halfway between Mombasa and Malindi. Kilifi is small, picturesque and self-sufficient, with fruit markets, small shops, two banks, a post office, a pharmacy and a hospital. Kilifi also has many grand houses, both alongside the creek and overlooking the ocean.

Unique

When it comes to dining at Baobab, every meal is fresh and unique. With meal plans from all-inclusive to basic bed-and-breakfast available, guests can eat in the hotel as little or as often as they want. The main restaurant serves a variety of

good-tasting cuisine and has themed nights with live entertainment throughout the week including acrobatics, discos, live music and traditional African shows with dancers. Guests who prefer a quieter and calmer evening may choose to have a cocktail in one of the two bars, or catch up on the latest news in the TV lounge.

Ultimate

For the ultimate in relaxation, visitors can enjoy a free massage, which is available to all hotel guests. More active types can enjoy the large variety of water sports on offer, including snorkelling, deepsea fishing, windsurfing, scuba diving, canoeing and a glass-bottom boat. The hotel's boat, the 'Baobella', is also available for excursions in and around Kilifi Creek.

With so much on offer, it may come as a surprise that Baobab Sea Lodge has just



30 guest rooms. The philosophy here is 'quality not quantity' so that guests are well attended by friendly and professional staff.

The Baobab Sea Lodge is a perfect venue for conferences with a theatre-style room available for up to 200 people. Banquets can also be arranged in either indoor or outdoor settings. ■



FACT FILE:

STAR RATING: ***

LOCATION: Kilifi

NUMBER OF ROOMS: 30

LEISURE: Two swimming pools, including a children's pool, tennis, snorkelling, windsurfing, scuba diving, glass-bottom boat, game fishing and creek cruises

DINING: One restaurant, banquets on request

BARS: Two bars and a swim-up pool bar

CONFERENCING: One conference room, public address systems, LCD projector and computers

ENTERTAINMENT: Live music, theme nights and traditional African shows

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS: Kilifi Harbour, Kilifi Creek, fruit markets and curio shops

This is the ideal place to relax, soak up the sun and enjoy the magic of the Kenyan coast

Distances and times to major places from Baobab Sea Lodge

	Distance	Estimated time
Mombasa Airport	63 km	1 hr 20 mins
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



- ▲ Exclusive beach
- ◀ Creek cruises



FIG TREE CAMP

A WARM WELCOME TO THE MASAI MARA

Fig tree camp is located on the banks of the Talek River in the heart of the world-famous Masai Mara National Reserve.

The camp has a fleet of four-wheel-drive vehicles, all driven by professional guides who are highly knowledgeable and always avail-

able to answer questions. Fig Tree Camp also offers guests a more in-depth understanding of the local area with lectures by naturalists and game walks led by Maasai morans.

Experience

Only from Fig Tree can visitors enjoy the special experience of moonlit champagne bush dinners. This is a truly magical, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that involves a



The charming tree-house coffee deck is ideal for afternoon relaxation surrounded by trees and wildlife

ADVENTURES ALOFT

The balloon safari company Adventures Aloft is a member of the Mada Hotels group and is based at the camp. Flights depart each morning at 06.30 hours. The experience offers guests a bird's-eye view of the Mara as they watch the sun rise over the plains. To top off this special occasion, a full champagne-style breakfast complete with open bar is organised on the landing site to celebrate the flight.



night game drive and a candle-lit barbecue dinner in a special conservation area.

Breakfast, lunch and dinner (all of which are inclusive in guests' room rates) are served in the main dining area. Each meal offers a huge selection of food from a large buffet. Evenings are lively, with local Maasai to sing and dance for guests after their meal. The charming tree-house coffee deck is ideal for afternoon relaxation surrounded by trees and wildlife.

In terms of accommodation there are 35 classic safari tents and 10 superior Ngamboli tents, all with single and double

beds and private patio on the banks of the Talek River. Guests looking for a more luxurious travelling experience could choose to stay in one of the 27 garden chalets, each with its own private balcony. The rooms are tastefully furnished with modern facilities.

Perfect

New additions at Fig Tree Camp include conference facilities, offering a perfect venue for those seeking a private retreat in a safari setting. Equipment includes LCD projectors, computers and a secretarial and photocopying service. ■

FACT FILE:

LOCATION: *Masai Mara National Reserve*

NUMBER OF ROOMS: 70

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

DINING: *One buffet-style restaurant, bush dinners*

BARS: *Two bars and a tree-house coffee deck*

CONFERENCING: *Two conference rooms*

ENTERTAINMENT: *Champagne bush dinners and guest lectures*

ACCESS: *Airstrip nearby. Guests can fly in from either Nairobi or Mombasa*



Distances and times to major places from Fig Tree Camp

	Distance	Estimated time
Nairobi	240 km	4 hrs 30 mins
Narok	110 km	2 hrs
Keekerok airstrip	24 km	40 mins
Ol Kiombo airstrip	14 km	30 mins



Only from Fig Tree can visitors enjoy the special experience of moonlit champagne bush dinners



- ▲ Crisp linen
- ◀ Talek River



KILIMA SAFARI CAMP

SPECTACULAR VIEWS OF MOUNT KILIMANJARO

Located in Amboseli National Park, the newest addition to the Mada portfolio, Kilima Safari Camp, is set in 360 acres and has commanding views of Mount Kilimanjaro.

In terms of accommodation, there is a choice of 50 classic safari tents, 10 superior tents and 12 luxury lodge rooms. Clients can view game from the comfort of their own room as they come to drink at the nearby waterhole, which attracts a wide variety of animals and birds.

Impressive

There is an impressive fleet of 4x4 vehicles so that guests can enjoy game drives in comfort and style. The professional driver guides are very knowledgeable, allowing clients to get the most from their safari experience.

Kilima Safari Camp offers a great selection of activities. In addition to classic game drives, Maasai morans are available to take clients on game walks, while a local naturalist offers free lectures about the local environment.

Those looking to relax and unwind can make use of the massage room, which offers a variety of treatments. Alternatively, the ornate swimming pool is perfect for a refreshing dip after a morning game drive.

Kilima's culinary delights include moonlit bush dinners, a magical experience that offers guests the chance to dine under the stars in the Amboseli. The camp also has a fine restaurant serving a hearty breakfast, a buffet lunch and delicious evening meals.

For guests at Kilima, the three-storey Kibo Lounge is a true high point, in more

ways than one. Situated in the centre of the dining room, the lounge is actually a look-out tower with splendid views of Mount Kilimanjaro, Amboseli National Park and the waterholes in front of the camp. This is a perfect place for guests to relax, watch the sunrise with a morning cappuccino or just gaze at the stars after dinner. ■

Kilima Safari Camp offers a great selection of activities



FACT FILE:

LOCATION: *Amboseli National Park*

NUMBER OF ROOMS: 72

LEISURE: *Game drives and nature walks*

DINING: *Restaurant and bush dinners*

ENTERTAINMENT: *Guest lectures*

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS: *Mount Kilimanjaro*

ADDITIONAL FACILITIES: *Resident nurse, massage service, excursions*

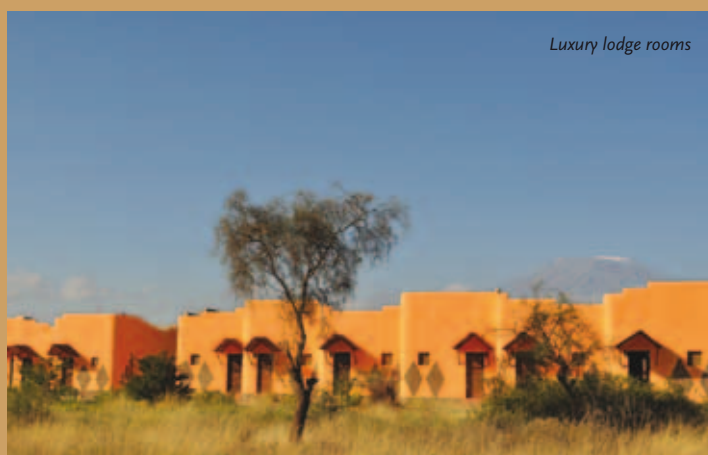
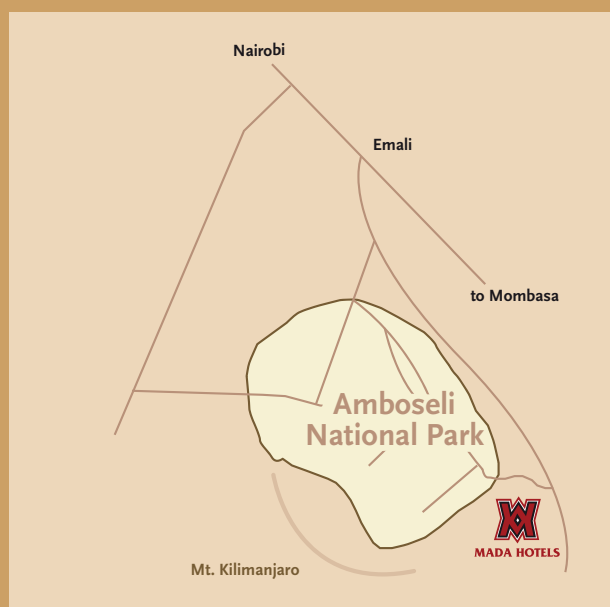


For guests at Kilima, the three-storey Kibo Lounge is a true high point, in more ways than one

Distances and times to major places from Kilima Camp

	Distance	Estimated time
Nairobi	235 km	5 hrs
Namanga	80 km	2 hrs
Amboseli airstrip	12 km	20 mins

▼ Restaurant



Luxury lodge rooms



JINJA NILE RESORT

THE IDEAL WEEKEND GETAWAY



All public areas and the colonial-style accommodation have been designed to give guests Nile-facing views

It's easy to see why Jinja Nile Resort has been voted 'Best Weekend Getaway' and 'Best Country Hotel in Uganda' by Travel News magazine for five years in a row.

The resort commands a strategic location providing a panoramic view of the River Nile and offers some of the finest accommodation and hospitality in Uganda.

Lush gardens

Popular with both business travellers and tourists, the resort is spread over 75 acres of lush gardens with beautifully landscaped lawns, palm trees and tropical

plants. All public areas and the colonial-style accommodation have been designed to give guests Nile-facing views.

Options

There are various dining options. The elegant main restaurant seats up to 150 guests at a time. It has a terrace overlooking the swimming pool and offers an excellent view of the River Nile and the surrounding countryside. The equally spacious Conference Dining Room is located near the conference halls for fast and efficient service to delegates. It has an independent bar for serving refreshments to conference and workshop attendees.



The newly opened Nile Palace is a restaurant and bar located on a 20 metre cliff over the river. With its unique location and exquisite food, the restaurant has become popular as a venue for special events.

Equipment

The health club features Italian Technogym equipment as well as a sauna, a steam bath and a massage room.

In terms of business facilities, the resort has three conference halls, three meeting rooms and a boardroom. For larger events and outdoor concerts, Jinja Nile Resort has a large amphitheatre, facing the river, with a capacity of 3,000 people. ■



FACT FILE:

STAR RATING: *****

LOCATION: 4 km from Jinja town centre

NUMBER OF ROOMS: 134

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

DINING: Three restaurants, plus two private dining rooms

BARS: Five bars

CONFERENCING: Three conference halls, three meeting rooms and a boardroom

ENTERTAINMENT: Weekend discos

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS: Nine-hole golf course

ADDITIONAL FACILITIES: Children's park, experienced nannies and gift shop



	Distance	Estimated time
Entebbe Airport	105 km	1 hr 30 mins
Kampala	75 km	1 hr
Jinja town	4 km	15 mins
Malaba	135 km	2 hrs



The resort is spread over 75 acres of lush gardens with beautifully landscaped lawns, palm trees and tropical plants



- ▲ Relaxing spots
- ◀ Smart furnishings

WHAT'S COOKING

LOBSTER DUGLERE WITH CHICKEN AND PASSION FRUIT SABAYON



METHOD:

Chicken

1. Sauté (fry) onion, garlic and ginger in a pan, then add the spinach until soft and cooked. Transfer mixture into a bowl and add mozzarella. Stuff the chicken with the spinach mixture; bind using kitchen string and marinate with soya sauce.
2. Line a baking tray with aluminium foil and add sugar, tea leaves, raw rice, garlic, onion shells, ginger, black pepper corns and herbs. Place chicken on a steaming tray and put on top of the baking tray. Cover chicken with further baking tray and cook on a low heat for 30-35 minutes.

Lobster

3. Using a food processor, blend the herbs, garlic, ginger, spice powder, onions, tomatoes, black pepper corns and soya sauce.
4. Cut the lobster, clean it, and dot cut to separate from shell. Using the mixture, marinate the lobster and squeeze over fresh lime juice.
5. Cook in oven until half done.* Remove from oven and coat with the mozzarella and white wine. Place back into the oven and cook.

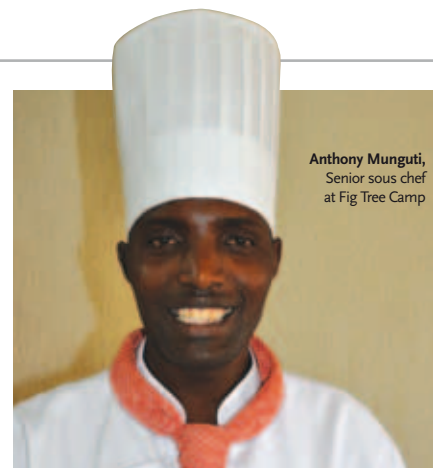
Sabayon

6. Place egg yolks, passion fruit and white wine in a bowl and whisk together until it foams. Add salt pepper to taste.

Presentation

7. Cut the stuffed chicken in two and arrange with the lobster on a plate. Pour sabayon over the food. Serve piping hot.

* Cooking time will depend on the size of the lobster



Anthony Munguti,
Senior sous chef
at Fig Tree Camp

INGREDIENTS:

- Lobster (in shell)
- Boneless chicken
- Spinach
- Tomato
- Onion
- Garlic
- Ginger
- Spice powder
- White wine
- Soya sauce
- 2 egg yolks
- Mozzarella
- Salt/ pepper/ mixed herbs
- Garlic shells skins
- Tea leaves
- Onions shells
- Sugar
- Raw rice
- Black pepper corns

SWAHILI BRAISED BEEF IN COCONUT AND DHANIA SAUCE

INGREDIENTS:

- Desiccated coconut
- Beef fillet
- Chopped ginger
- Chopped dhania leaves
- Fresh tomato cubes
- Salt/ white pepper
- Corn oil

METHOD:

1. Cut the beef into slices.
2. Combine the ginger, coconut, dhania leaves, tomato and corn oil.
3. Use the mixture to coat the beef and cook in the oven on a low heat until tender.



4. Remove beef from the oven and serve, using the braising ingredients as the sauce.

Serving suggestions

Serve with pilau rice and/or vegetables.



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