



MADA HOTELS

Reflections

Your complimentary take-home copy
ISSUE 8

BALLOON SAFARIS

UP ABOVE THE WORLD SO HIGH....

Flying from the Masai Mara,
the Serengeti & Tarangire

LUNATIC LINE

You'd be mad not to ride

CROWNING GLORY

The majestic crested crane

THRILL SEEKERS

Set a course for Jinja



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Reflections

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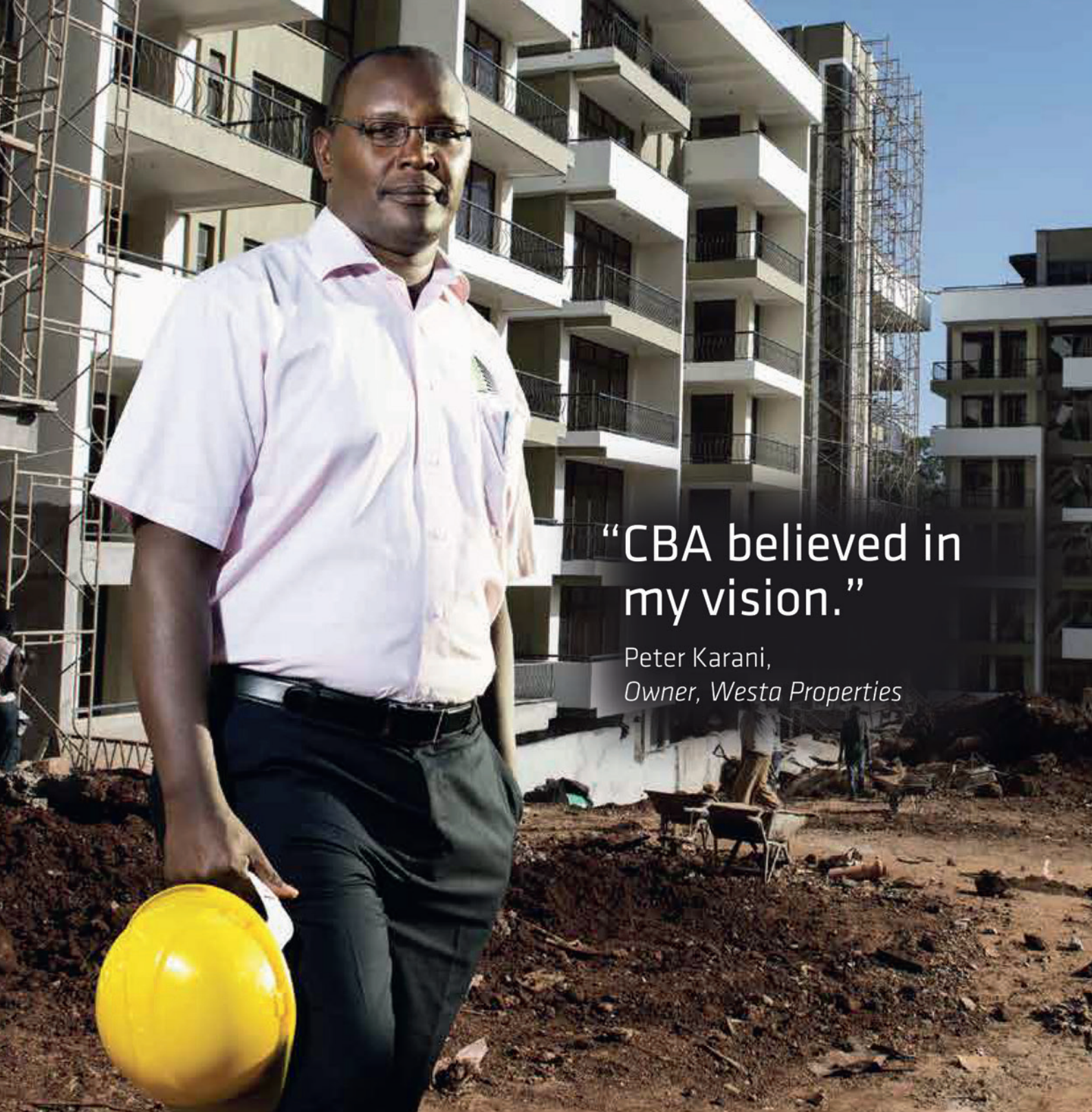
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INVIGORATING THE BRAND



*Right: Mada
Hotels Chief
Executive
Tinu Mhajan*

Welcome to the latest issue of our in-room magazine 'Reflections'.

Mada is one of East Africa's biggest and fastest growing hospitality groups comprising hotels, lodges, camps and ballooning operations in unique and truly remarkable locations across Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda.

These are exciting times for Mada. New properties are under construction, while others are being expanded and upgraded as we broaden the Mada brand and reinforce its appeal.

During 2014 we refurbished and reopened Hunters Lodge, a perfectly positioned and iconic roadhouse on the Nairobi-Mombasa highway. Set in delightful grounds,

the 62-room lodge is an ideal out-of-town conference venue and, of course, a welcome stopover for those driving to and from the coast.

Work is under way, too, on our Kampala Namanve Hotel – another property in a key location and one for which we have chosen a particularly compelling site.

In Tanzania we plan to roll out from Tarangire our highly successful balloon camp concept and set up similar 'bases' in other national parks including the magnificent Serengeti.

We also expect to start work in 2015 on our new resort on the spice island of Zanzibar where, I believe, our oceanfront setting is a real gem.

Our Adventures Aloft ballooning operation now comprises 12 balloons

flying from bases in the Masai Mara and over the border in Tanzania, in both the Serengeti and Tarangire. Our balloon safaris offer a unique and exciting way to experience the wonders of Africa's wildlife.

As in previous issues, we have highlighted some key members of staff. All our employees are there to make your stay as pleasurable as possible, whether they work behind the scenes or are in guest-facing positions.

I really hope you enjoy reading this issue of Reflections. Please write to me with any comments about the magazine or, more generally, about the Mada Hotels group. I will be pleased to receive them.

Tinu Mhajan
Chief Executive
Mada Hotels Group

AUTHENTIC MANYATTA FOR FIG TREE

At Fig Tree Camp in the Masai Mara, Mada has added an authentic manyatta (a traditional compound in both the Maasai and Samburu cultures) to the range of facilities and activities available to guests.

The manyatta comprises two huts, and inside the bigger of the two huts are two beds. The larger bed is for the father and the smaller one for the

mother and children. There is also space for milk calabashes, cooking pots, cups and firewood, plus room for calves, lambs and an area for visitors.

The new Fig Tree manyatta has two roles: it's ideal for showing clients more about Maasai culture, and the manyatta boma is a perfect setting for weddings, birthdays, private cocktail gatherings, breakfasts and exotic bush dinners.

The manyatta is totally traditional and is taken care of by a Maasai woman who welcomes guests and explains details of the rich Maasai culture to visitors.



WORK STARTS ON THE KAMPALA NILE RESORT

The foundation stone for Mada Hotels' fabulous new five-star Kampala property was laid in late 2014 by the Mada Group's chief executive, Tinu Mhajan.

The new 80-room hotel, to be named the Kampala Nile Resort, is due to open in July 2016 and is being constructed on a five and a half acre site in the Kampala Industrial & Business Park, located in the city's Namanve district and close to the Kampala-Jinja highway.

Mada Hotels has chosen this site due to its close proximity to Kampala's central business district – just 8 km away or 10 minutes by car.

The hotel also comprises six conference halls, two meeting rooms and an executive boardroom. There will also be a swimming pool and spa, and the entire property will be centrally air conditioned.



INFINITY POOL AT TARANGIRE BALLOON CAMP

Tarangire Balloon Camp continues in its development with the addition of a new infinity pool in 2014. Balloon Camp is situated on a high point near the Boundary Hill Gate in Tarangire National Park. The pool has been carved into the rocks on a cliff and offers guests the most spectacular views over the park.

Mada has used only natural materials including local stone from the Tarangire River to make the infinity pool and, as a result, it blends in perfectly with the surrounding boulders.

The pool has now become a favourite sundowner venue for Balloon Camp's clients. The camp also offers early morning and evening massage services at the poolside.

Meanwhile, Mada Hotels has plans to repeat the successful Balloon Camp concept elsewhere in Tanzania.



NEW HOME FOR BABY ELAND AT FIG TREE CAMP



Fig Tree Camp in the Masai Mara has adopted and cared for a baby eland called Naserian.

Naserian – which means 'blessings' – was found by a group of Maasai boys in June 2014. The boys were looking after their cows when the calf ran into the herd after her mother had been killed by lions.

The camp has excellent relations with the local Maasai community, so it was only natural that the boys called Fig Tree general manager Kerore Lasity and advised that they had found an eland calf.

Kerore says: "They asked me if I could report the find to the game rangers since the calf was dry and the cows did not have enough milk to feed her. Kerore then went to the village which is two kilometres from the camp to see the abandoned calf. When he reached the village, he saw that Naserian was tired and hungry; they told me to take her to the camp and hand her over to the rangers.

I put her in the vehicle and brought her to the camp. She was only two days old and still had a fresh umbilical cord. On reaching the camp that morning we gave her milk and in the afternoon, I called the chief park warden to inform him. I asked him if he could let

us feed her and take care of her. He agreed on condition that we feed and house her properly, provide the very best in hygiene and to report three times a week in his office as to how she was getting on."

Since then, Fig Tree's gardener, Ole Silantoi, has taken care of her.

Here are some highlights of Naserian's early months at Fig Tree:

- *She was fed three times each day with two litres of fresh cow's milk for four months.*

- *After four months she was fed four litres of milk three times a day.*

- *From six months old she stopped feeding on milk.*

- *At time of going to press, Naserian is now nine months old and in good health.*

- *Naserian grazes on grass for most of her food but particularly likes pineapples and watermelons (two fruits not ordinarily found in the Mara).*

- *She relates to Ole Silantoi as if he is her mother.*

- *Naserian likes people who look after and feed her, and she now welcomes guests at Fig Tree Camp. Guests can take photos while feeding her with leaves.*

- *Most of the time during the day she is grazing and playing.*



YOU'D BE MAD
NOT TO RIDE

the Lunatic

*'Railway termini ... are our
gates to the glorious and the
unknown. Through them we pass
out into adventure and sunshine,
to them, alas! we return.'*

Quote from Howards End (1910) by E.M. Forster

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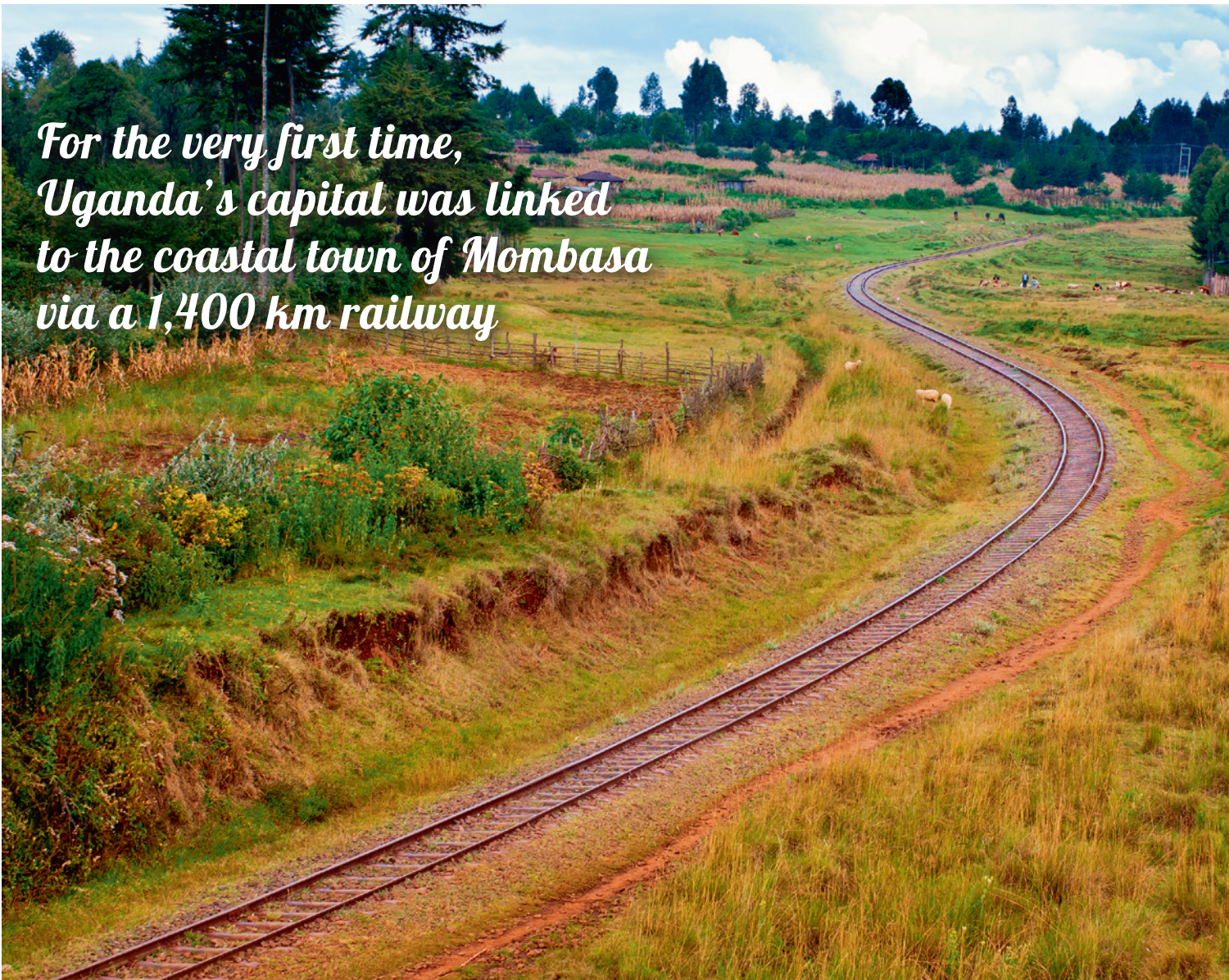
Line!



Above: Enjoying the scenery

If you're thrilled by grand tales of adventure, mischief and creativity then you can't do better than to read the history of the Kenya-Uganda Railway, also known as the 'Lunatic Line'.

When construction began in 1896 there was a spirit of optimism and excitement in the region and understandably so. The vision was to provide a link between the East African coast and various inland destinations of major importance. It would provide a ready means of access to landlocked Uganda and would allow the settlers and soldiers – mainly British – to travel across the region's vast plains and keep their interests secure.



For the very first time, Uganda's capital was linked to the coastal town of Mombasa via a 1,400 km railway

The plan was extraordinary and the task Herculean, requiring thousands of labourers and hundreds of thousands of tons of iron, steel, timber and other materials. It was truly the project of a lifetime.

The task of bringing this project to fruition was far from easy, and as a result, it became known as the 'Lunatic Line'. Labourers were constantly beset by illness such as malaria and dysentery as well as suffering accidents in the course of construction work. And there was also the very real danger of attack by one of the many wild animals that roamed the savanna.

Just a couple of months into the building of the railway, two lions, named The Ghost

and The Darkness by local people, began to kill labourers residing near the Tsavo River. It got so bad that construction was halted until the lions were hunted down and killed by a British foreman.

The story goes that Colonel John Henry

Patterson, an officer in the British Army, stalked the lions – both males – over the course of a week, during which they would randomly attack residential areas, bringing terror. Patterson finally shot both lions, which are now on display at the Field Museum in Chicago. Patterson retold every breathtaking moment of this amazing episode in his book, 'The Man-Eaters of Tsavo', which was later brought to the screen in the 1996 film 'The Ghost and The Darkness', starring Michael Douglas and Val Kilmer.

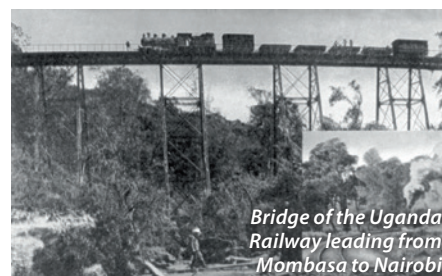
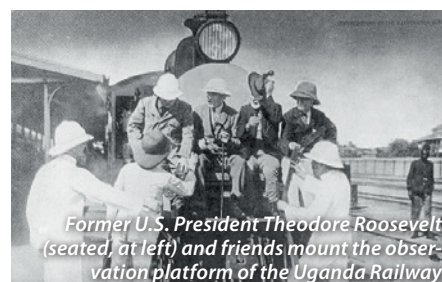
Network

Construction of the 1 metre gauge railway was carried out mainly by thousands of labourers from British-ruled India and it is estimated that about 6,700 stayed on and settled in various parts of the region, eventually forming a network of East African Indians.

For the very first time, Uganda's capital was linked to the coastal town of Mombasa via a 1,400 km railway. For a time it was run by the East African Railways and Harbours Corporation, since Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda were all under British colonial rule. Later, its name changed to the Kenya-Uganda



LUNATIC LINE: THE EARLY YEARS



Below: Getting back on track



Railway. The route connected places that are now popular tourist destinations such as Mount Kenya, Nakuru and the commercial city and port of Jinja as well as Kisumu and Nairobi.

The Kenya-Uganda Railway was used by many dignitaries of the time including Sir Andrew Cohen, who governed Uganda in the 1950s, as well as the Kabaka of Buganda.

Over the years the railway became less efficient. Journeys took longer and the transport of freight between Kenya and Uganda was badly hit. Carriages were often derailed as a result of poorly maintained track and fewer people were willing to risk the journey. The remaining infrastructure was badly in need of investment if this historical gem was to be revived.

Exciting

In 2006 the Rift Valley Railways (RVR) took over the running of the Kenya and Uganda railways, which had become independent entities in the 1980s. RVR has opened a number of stations in Kenya. The line connects various towns and provides reliable transport, especially for those working in between towns.

The most exciting news came early in 2015 when a formal agreement was signed between East African and Chinese investors to build a new standard-gauge line from Mombasa to Nairobi and eventually to Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi and South Sudan. The new track, which will replace the old narrow-gauge line, is expected to cost US\$ 3.8 billion in the first stage of construction, which is expected to begin in October 2015.

ALL ABOARD!

Three times each week at 1900 hours, the Nairobi-Mombasa train sets out on its regular overnight journey to the coast. At the same time (but on different days), the very same train heads back to the Kenyan capital. At least that's the theory.

In recent times, not all has been well with the route and the daily service was cut to three times weekly, to once a week and was even suspended for a time. The operator, Rift Valley Railways, has now reinstated the three-times-

weekly timetable and made efforts to ensure greater reliability.

A first-class ticket (recommended) purchased from RVR will cost KES 4,405 per person sharing a two-berth compartment. The ticket price includes dinner and breakfast. Tickets can be more expensive if booked through an agency.

If you like to add a slice of adventure to your visit to Kenya then the train is highly recommended. Nowadays however, it's much cheaper and quicker to fly between Nairobi and Mombasa. But, of course, a lot less fun.



Mombasa is a gateway for goods in transit to landlocked Uganda, Burundi and Rwanda. The new line will reduce the cost of transporting these goods to inland destinations as well as encouraging travel between these nations. Passenger trains are expected to travel at up to 120 km per hour while freight will move at a maximum speed of 80 kph.

African leaders today are agreed that the continent's railways should be developed to open up regions and give a boost to business and tourism. Let us hope so.



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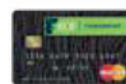
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BIG GAME FISHING
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Kilifi is a resort town 56 km from Mombasa with a beautiful creek and a harbour that usually contains high-end yachts owned by both local and international travellers. Water sports are popular here. They include water-skiing, jet skiing, scuba diving, and deepsea diving. The town has been the backdrop for inspired pieces of art and was also the setting for the award-winning novel 'Kilifi Creek'.

Competition

But what draws fishing enthusiasts to Kilifi is the growing popularity of big game fishing. In common with Lamu and Watamu, two islands close to Kilifi, the deep waters of the locality are home to the highly sought-after black marlin and sailfish. Fishing competitions take place between October and December each year, mostly in Malindi, Mtwapa, Watamu and Kilifi.



Among the most popular are the Churchill Light Tackle and Herbie Paul Fishing Festival, both in Malindi; the Eye-Go Fishing and Christmas Hamper/Open Boat in Mtwapa; and the Watamu Sea Fishing Club Christmas Competition and Ocean Sports Kids Christmas Competition.

In particular, scores of dedicated enthusiasts are drawn to the Christmas Hamper Competition in Kilifi and to the Delamere Fishing Competition, usually held in January, which has run successfully for over 50 years.



Left: Taking to the waters

Many clubs have formed over the years to keep big game fishermen abreast of what's happening both locally and internationally. The Pemba Channel gives advice on fishing locations, mainly on the Pemba Channel, and has a worldwide reputation for its marlin catches, holding 75 per cent of all record marlin catches out of Shimoni, over 50 per cent of all Kenyan marlin records and seven all-Africa marlin records.

Another favourite is the Malindi Sea Fishing Club, one of the oldest fishing clubs in East Africa, which began in the late 1950s. Located at the centre of the coast, it has some of the best and most productive big game fishing grounds in Kenya.

Picturesque

Members can enjoy good food and drinks while overlooking a picturesque harbour. It was here that Kenya's first 'grander blue' marlin, weighing 567 kg, was brought ashore, as were a 2,267 kg great white shark and the largest broadbill and mako sharks.

Big game fishing – also known as offshore sport fishing, offshore game fishing and blue-water fishing – is one of Kenya's most recognised recreational activities at the coast. It is classified as an international sport owing to the sheer skill and practice that big game fishing requires. Because the fishing season in Kenya is for only three months of the year,

opportunities to catch a large sea creature such as a sailfish or marlin are limited and it is vital to plan one's fishing trip.

Kenya's Fisheries Department keeps a close eye on sport fishing, ensuring that the country's natural resources are not destroyed. Those taking part in the sport must observe the rules and regulations so that future generations can enjoy the beauty and adventure that the Kenyan coast offers.

KILIFI

Kilifi has a selection of resorts and lodges. One of the most popular is Kilifi Bay Beach Resort, a beautiful beachfront property with fine ocean views. Because of the quaint size of the property, each guest receives personalised service and attention to detail is second to none.





Global warming: *fact or*

Over the past 20 years or so the greatest topic of debate around the world has been that of climate change. It doesn't matter which part of the planet you call home, there is always a discussion going on about melting glaciers and snowcaps, rising sea levels and significant changes in temperature.

So what is the debate all about? Well, on the one side a group of respected scientists claim that the climatic changes being experienced now can be attributed to natural events that occur gradually over time, while another group believes the change is a completely man-made phenomenon – the result of activities that have been escalating since the industrial revolution.

Millions of dollars are being invested in this debate, and countless man-hours are dedicated to research that goes deep

into history, investigating how ancient civilisations dealt with similar changes and whether those practices can be applied today.

Debate

The discussion seems to have persuaded even those willing to ignore the issue to emerge from their climatic shell and contribute to the debate. In some cases, these viewpoints arise from people's religious beliefs. The international media has, of course, played a vocal role in this discussion; and when former United States Vice President Al Gore released a film and book entitled 'The Inconvenient



fiction?

Truth', even sceptics began to pay attention. Whatever side one takes in this great debate, there are common nuances about what is fact or fiction. Here are the five most common points for debate:

1 Global warming is apparent, with temperatures rising or falling at an unprecedented rate. Some argue that this can be attributed directly to greenhouse gases as well as carbon emissions into the atmosphere, while others say that climatic change began as long ago as the 1800s, with temperatures rising and falling over the years, and that much of it can be attributed to naturally occurring phenomena. >

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2 Activities such as the emission of gases and fossil fuels has led to a steady rise in temperatures since the industrial revolution. This is broadly agreed by everyone; but opinions are divided about the rate of change as well as research findings suggesting that historical factors should always be considered as opposed to relying solely on computer projections about global warming.

3 The debate over the role played by carbon dioxide in global warming is that, on the one hand, some say it is the main cause of the greenhouse effect, while others say it is a result of and not the cause of the warming. In fact, some believe the focus should be not just on carbon dioxide but on other harmful gases that are contributing to the greenhouse effect.

4 One of the most emotionally charged points of discussion is the suggestion that a change in global temperature of 2°C will have a disastrous effect on human beings and ecosystems across the world. The alternative school of thought argues that adaptation should never be lost in the cognisance of global warming and history should once again be visited.



5 Hollywood, too, has joined in the debate, albeit through spectacular scenes and storylines in various blockbuster movies. Melting glaciers and snowcaps, rising seas, disappearing ice at the North and South poles and even storms that could turn the world's climate upside are all cinema themes we have come to recognise. Herein lies the last but

by no means least global warming point of discussion. On the one side, all the environmental catastrophes being experienced today are said to be a direct result of human activities, while the counter-argument says that all factors including progressive changes over time should be taken into consideration – even those events not influenced by mankind.

Climate plays a significant part in global tourism, especially in destinations that rely on natural features such as beaches, wildebeest migrations and mountain regions. Tourists have to plan their holidays more carefully; they have to take into consideration weather patterns that may have changed.

International organisations such as the United Nations World Tourism Organization are now helping to shed more light on how climate change affects tourism via conferences and exhibitions aimed at broadening the discussion by bringing together key players in the industry.

MARA RIVER ECOSYSTEM

A precious resource for local communities and tourism

The Mara River, made famous through images of crocodiles devouring wildebeest during their annual migration, is one of East Africa's key rivers as it passes through the Masai Mara Game Reserve in Kenya and the Serengeti National Park in Tanzania.

As the only permanently flowing river in the area, the Mara not only provides water to support a delicate ecosystem but also meets the needs of almost 1 million inhabitants. Originating from the Mau Escarpment, the river drains into

Lake Victoria in Tanzania. Over the years its resources have been under increased pressure as more people depend on the river for survival.

Sustainable

The Mara River Basin covers an area of 13,750 sq km of which about 65 per cent is located in Kenya and 35 per cent in Tanzania. Large-scale irrigation projects as well as pastoral activities have increased over the past decade, prompting various interventions aimed at providing sustainable solutions for the preservation of this

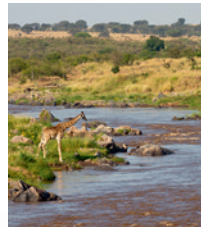
key natural resource. Over the years the river has suffered as a result of uncontrolled developments, deforestation and poor farming practices as well as pollution leading to uncontrolled water abstraction. All this has taken its toll on the ecosystem.

Conservation efforts are taking place, however. There have been interventions by experts from government authorities and the private sector, as well local and international organisations. Local communities have been empowered through education and safe farming practices along with investment in sustainable water management.





Left: Narrow escape for this lucky wildebeest



huddle on the edge of the Mara River for what may seem like an eternity to the keen tourist waiting for the grand spectacle. After numbers have built up, the wildebeest, together with zebras and antelopes, choose a crossing point where they think they are least likely to be attacked by the crocodiles that dwell in the murky waters. Then the animals leap into the water and attempt to cross the river. This ultimate show of survival in the wild attracts thousands of visitors each year.

Tourism activities in the Masai Mara and Serengeti also support local communities by generating jobs as well as various environmental conservation projects. Over the years the public and private sectors have worked together to develop sustainable practices aimed at conserving the river and ensuring that tourist activities do not hinder the health of the river. Hotels, resorts and lodges in both the Mara and Serengeti play an active role in implementing sustainable practices as well as involving guests in conservation efforts such as tree planting.

In 2012 the Sectoral Council of Ministers for the Lake Victoria Basin held its 10th meeting in Kigali, Rwanda, to discuss how conservation efforts in the Mara River Basin could be stepped up. It was at this meeting that the annual Mara Day Celebrations were adopted – an event to raise awareness of the challenges surrounding conservation in both the Mara and Serengeti. This provides

a platform for experts to present sustainable solutions to the challenges.

Migration

Every year thousands of tourists visit Kenya and Tanzania to watch the migration of over a million wildebeest – one of the world's most spectacular sights. The wildebeest



Every year thousands of tourists visit Kenya and Tanzania to watch the migration of over a million wildebeest





UP ABOVE THE WORLD *so high...*

Floating serenely in a hot air balloon above the beautiful savanna plains, while viewing herds of elephants and, if you're lucky, a pride of lions after a kill, is one of the more extraordinary adventures on offer in the Serengeti and Masai Mara national parks.

Today East Africa offers some of the best balloon safaris on the continent, with a number of companies offering spectacular rides in colourful balloons. Most rides take place in the early morning or late afternoon in order to experience nature's beauty at

its best. Sunrises and sunsets that seem to have been painted by a great artist form the backdrop while expert pilots gently navigate the powerful balloons through the air to provide customers with an experience that is second to none.

Adventures Aloft Balloon Safaris, one of East Africa's leading operators, made its inaugural flight in 2010 with a 16 passenger capacity balloon and has been flying tourists above the stunning landscape ever since. The balloon experience includes an animated guide through the skies by one of the experienced pilots as well as

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breakfast or a light snack and a sundowner, depending what time one chooses to fly.

Adventures Aloft also flies daily from Fig Tree Camp in the Masai Mara Game Reserve. Flights take off at 06.30 each morning in time to capture the beautiful sunrise and provide passengers with an

HOT AIR? MAIS OUI!

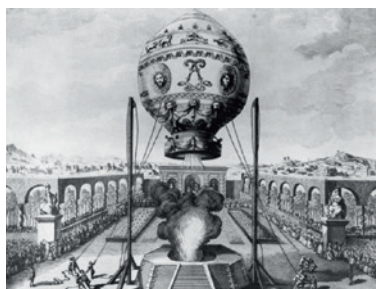
Hot air ballooning has a long history – in fact, it goes back a lot further than most people realise.

It was in 1783 that the paper makers Joseph-Michel and Jacques-Étienne Montgolfier staged a public demonstration of their invention by sending a hot air balloon into the sky above their home town of Annonay in the south of France.

Their fascination with what happens when you fill a paper chamber with hot air led the brothers to develop a balloon that would carry passengers.

They experimented first with caged animals, and even a convicted criminal, before opening up the experience to the public.

In more recent times, Ed Yost – often referred to as the ‘Father of the Modern Day Hot-Air Balloon’ – launched a balloon into the skies of Nebraska. The balloon was made from nylon, and it had a propane burner system, which Yost invented himself. Instead of a basket, there was only a single seat attached for him to sit in. Impressively, the balloon flew for 1 hour and 35 minutes.



eagle’s view of the Masai Mara and all its beauty.

Champagne

A champagne breakfast is served overlooking the Mara plains after the flight, complete with butler service and an open bar. Pick-up services are available from most Mara camps and lodges making it convenient and hassle-free, allowing guests to relax and enjoy the whole experience.

Flights can last up to an hour, providing guests with a wonderful bird’s-eye view of the landscape. A chase crew follows the balloon to ensure a safe landing.

Below: A view like no other



The Balloon Safari Breakfast

I’m not sure if it’s the crisp dawn Mara air or getting up at 05.30 and downing a quick cup of coffee and a biscuit before departure, but I can honestly say that the smell of bacon and eggs has never ever been this good.

Not only is a balloon safari the true adventure of a lifetime, but the Adventures Aloft bush breakfast is something else.

A secluded and picturesque spot is chosen by the crew as the breakfast site. And after landing and pick-up by the support crew, balloon safari guests are treated (and that’s definitely the right word here) to the heartiest of early morning feasts.

But first, guests are offered Buck’s Fizz or refreshing orange juice to consume as everyone excitedly relives the morning’s flight. Meanwhile, the Mada chefs



busy themselves with the bacon, the eggs and a whole host of other goodies in the specially adapted catering truck.

Guests are then invited to help themselves to the breakfast buffet and to sit down at the carefully arranged long trestle tables. Fuelled by the Buck’s Fizz, the conversation flows as easily as the breakfast is devoured.

It’s one of the world’s truly awesome experiences – and the balloon flight’s not bad either.





A USEFUL
ANTIDOTE TO

'barking' elephants

Elephants are highly intelligent, live to a ripe old age and, by all accounts, possess great wisdom. What's more, the elephant is often emblematic of Africa's various conservation movements – and rightly so.

On the debit side, however, elephants have one particularly irritating habit that can be very detrimental to the environment and to their fellow species – especially in and around the unfenced Amboseli National Park, the location for Mada Hotels' fabulous Kilima Camp.

Roughage

This habit centres on an elephant's love of tree bark. Amboseli's impressive elephant herds are often and otherwise seen shoulder-deep in swamps that are fed from nearby Mount Kilimanjaro. But in addition to a regular diet of delicious swamp plants – and some 150 kg of vegetation can be consumed every day – elephants like nothing more than to strip and eat the bark from acacia trees. Tree bark contains calcium and roughage, which aids digestion. The elephants use their tusks to gnaw into the trunk and tear off strips.

All very tasty – at least for the elephants. But the end result is that Amboseli's trees were becoming something of a rare commodity. Conservationists have made many attempts to protect the few remaining wooded areas in Amboseli to the point of erecting defence systems around individual trees.

AMBOSELI'S ELEPHANTS

Amboseli is considered one of the best places in Africa to get up really close to elephants in the wild. The park's growing elephant population of around 1,500 is probably the most closely studied in Africa.

The Amboseli Elephant Research Project was set up in 1972 and has been monitoring the park's elephants ever since; building a unique story, in many cases following the very same creatures for over 40 years and documenting the lives of some 3,000 creatures.

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It has been a tough battle; and these defences have not always been entirely successful. Let's face it, a hungry and determined seven-ton bull elephant can take some stopping when he wants to snack on bark.

But help is at hand. As part of its CSR programme, Mada Hotels has been at the forefront of a concerted tree-planting scheme in and around the park

Since creating Kilima a few years ago, Mada Hotels has worked tirelessly with the local Maasai community and has also made every effort to maintain and enhance the park's environment.

Reforestation

So to this end, and to combat the destructive tendencies of the elephants, Mada Hotels has planted some 15,000 saplings in the park. Many others involved in tourism in the national park have also contributed to the scheme.

Given the elephants' voracious appetite and fondness for saplings, not every tree planted as part of the reforestation programme has survived, of course. Nevertheless, huge numbers of saplings

have managed to avoid becoming an elephant meal and these are now maturing. If they continue to survive, in what remains a difficult growing environment, then Amboseli National Park will be the beneficiary.

It's worth noting that elephants are not the only reason for the decline in acacia woodland. There are two others: a rising water table has resulted in alkalis coming to the surface and these have killed many trees; while, in the past, free-ranging safari vehicles had a negative impact on acacia trees. Luckily, the park now has a strict policy towards off-road driving so they are no longer a problem. Unlike the elephants.

Since creating Kilima a few years ago, Mada Hotels has worked tirelessly with the local Maasai community

Right: Tempting treat for these elephants



KILIMA CAMP

The tree-planting scheme at Kilima Camp has been a success and has managed to replenish some of the elephants' damage.



Before planting



After planting





Crowning glory...

EAST AFRICA'S MOST MAJESTIC BIRD

The East African crowned crane continues to capture the attention of avid birdwatchers the world over.

Sporting a crown of tall, stiff, golden feathers, this tall, majestic-looking bird inhabits the savannas, swamps and lakes of East Africa with an unassuming authority.

Records show that crested cranes were once found in parts of Europe and North America, but the bird became extinct there because it was unable to tolerate the increasingly cold weather.

Today there are 16 species of crane, of which four – including the ‘great’ grey crowned crane, the national symbol of Uganda – are found in Africa. This non-migratory bird can also be found in eastern and southern Africa. It is well adapted to manoeuvring through grass-land and evading its many predators.

Hypnotic

The mating dance between male and female cranes is a colourful, hypnotic courtship that involves rapid head bobbing with fully extended wings, all the while circling each other in slow, gentle movements.

It is not uncommon for cranes to be seen roaming alone, but they usually prefer to be in pairs or even larger groups. Cranes do not have the urge to move to different settlement areas. After bringing their fledglings into the world, they will stay together for up to a year before the young finally form their own social networks and move away from home.

The crested crane has been Uganda’s national symbol for more than a century and is the country’s most revered bird.

It is said to have been chosen by Sir Frederick Jackson, Governor of Uganda before the First World War, who loved the sheer beauty of the bird. Over the years the bird’s colourful appearance, coupled with its elegant demeanour, has attracted artists from around the world in an attempt to immortalise the crested crane on canvas and in other media.

Clash

In the past decade, however, the crane population in Uganda has been hit hard by a clash between human behaviour and the local wildlife population. It is estimated that the number of crested cranes has fallen from 50,000 to 20,000 as a direct result of poaching.

Among Ugandans, there is a traditional belief that consuming the crane’s feathers and eggs will help to strengthen and prolong human relationships, owing to the fact that the crane mates for life. In addition, the birds need swampy areas in which to breed; but the encroachment of human settlements, along with agricultural activities such as livestock rearing, have affected the breeding cycle of cranes and their mortality rates.

Development agencies, together with various wildlife protection organisations, have joined forces with the Ugandan government to ensure that laws are enforced to curb further loss of the nation’s most beloved emblem.

For many years the International Crane Foundation (ICF) has executed successful programmes involving local communities, aimed at conserving habitats as well as breeding programmes to increase the number of crested cranes in Africa. ICF has worked with conservation groups in Kenya,

Uganda and Rwanda and has supported community-based conservation efforts in Zimbabwe and the Lake Victoria Basin.

Things are changing now and across Africa, in the countries where the crested crane is found, the people of the tribes are learning to live in harmony with the crane and to regard the bird as an integral part of society. Tribes in eastern and southern Africa have responded to the call of the crane by giving it a special name. In Muganda the call is ng’aali; to a Swahili it is m’waari; to an Acholi, o’welo; to a Zulu of South Africa, the sound is maahem; and to a Munyarwanda it is muraaho.

The crane’s call also helps in the telling of the time and provides melodic background music during special occasions as well as moments of relaxation and joy. During traditional ceremonies in Uganda it said that when people clap and sing a particular song, the cranes nod their heads in time.

Below: Uganda’s national symbol standing proud



Thrill Seekers

SET A COURSE FOR JINJA

Jinja vies with Livingstone and Victoria Falls as Africa's adrenalin capital – a destination for those thrill-seekers hooked on white-knuckle rides and dare-devil activities. So while visitors still come to Uganda to experience the wildlife, the unforgettable scenery and its eclectic mix of cultures, there's a rather more exciting attraction for the young at heart: adventure sports.

Jinja, about 80 km from Kampala, the Ugandan capital, offers adrenalin-packed adventure sports that are truly unique to the region. Jinja is said to be the source of the Nile, Africa's longest river, regarded as a symbol of life from time immemorial in all the countries it passes through. The river's class V rapids have made Jinja one of the most popular spots for white water rafting. Each year they attract thousands of tourists, including first-time thrill seekers, looking for the adventure of a lifetime.



The class of rapids varies and highly safety-conscious professional guides are on hand to ensure the safety of those taking part in white water rafting. Along the Upper Nile near Jinja the backdrop is magnificent. Without a doubt, it is one of the most spectacular places in Africa to go white water rafting. The experience can be quite intimidating for the first-timer, especially when rapids reach classes IV and V; but guides are ready with a fleet of kayaks to rescue anyone who may become too squeamish during a ride.

Experience

Family float trips are a fun way of experiencing the Nile, offering a much calmer experience and allowing the participants to enjoy the view while slowly drifting down clear, fresh water. Kayaking is another favourite way of navigating the Nile. Most recommended hotels and resorts offer packages that include training courses for novices as well as guided excursions.

When it comes to bungee jumping, you would be hard pressed to find an experience in East Africa quite like Nile High Bungee in Jinja. This 44 metre jump is not for the faint-hearted, but definitely offers the experience of a lifetime.

Backpackers and those wishing to spoil themselves with unsurpassed luxury have a good choice of resorts and lodges.

Below: Jinja Nile Resort



Jinja Nile Resort, voted best weekend getaway and best country hotel in Uganda by Travel News magazine on numerous occasions, is ideal for both the business and leisure traveller. The resort offers various packages that include white water rafting and bungee jumping. This 30 acre piece of paradise offers luxury accommodation together with a personalised service to ensure an unforgettable guest experience.

Other activities in Jinja, offering a great opportunity to tour the area, include horse riding, mountain and quad biking, boat cruises and jet boating.



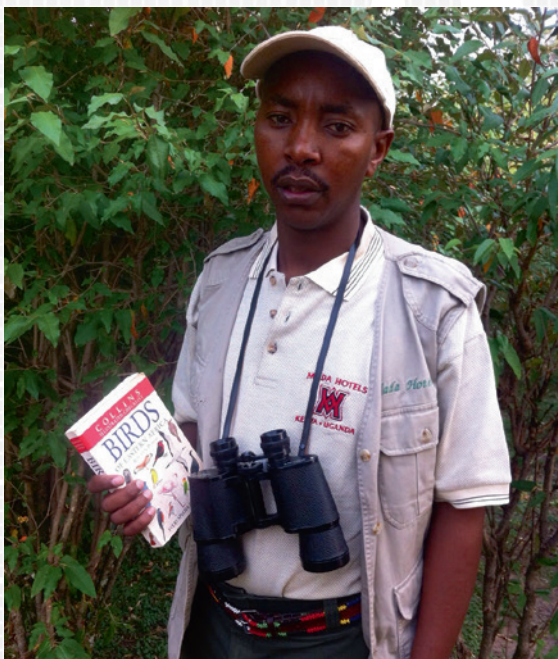
*Jinja offers adrenalin-packed
adventure sports that are truly
unique to the region*

MEET THE MADA TEAM

'The tick behind the tock'



MADA HOTELS



PAUL SANINGO KERORE

Driver Guide, Fig Tree Camp

Paul Saningo Kerore has worked for Mada Hotels for six years.

He is responsible for picking up and dropping off guests at the airstrips in the Masai Mara National Reserve as well as transporting guests from different camps and lodges for balloon safaris. Paul is also a driver for game drives and enjoys showing guests the flora and fauna of Africa.

Paul likes "meeting new friends from all over the world" and learning about their culture, history and also differences between their home countries and Kenya. Even when guests leave, Paul likes to stay in contact with his new friends by sending them updates and photos on WhatsApp.

Paul knows the Masai Mara like the back of his hand and always tries to find exactly what guests want. If he can't, then he goes the extra mile to make sure his guests are happy by showing them the Big Five or Big Three. "There is so much to see in the Masai Mara that you can never get bored. Every minute there is something new to see."

When he's not working, Paul is very much a family man. He is father to a baby girl and has two brothers and four sisters. He also enjoys farming and birdwatching and is a big fan of Manchester United.



RACHAEL WANZA

Security Guard - Kilima Safari Camp

Rachael has been with Mada Hotels for seven years.

As a security guard, her main responsibilities are to ensure there is no loss, harm or danger to anyone visiting Mada and to oversee the general safety of all company properties.

"I get a lot of satisfaction working at the main gate," says Rachael, who likes to interact with clients checking in and out of the property. It can be challenging, however, when guests have little patience or are not willing to undergo the security checks.

Rachael is married and a proud mother of four girls. Away from work, she enjoys listening to music, reading and spending quality time with her family.



JOHN NJUGUNA

Bakery Chef

John is the bakery chef at Fig Tree Camp and has been part of the Mada family for seven years.

John has a very busy job. He does all the baking, so he has to get up at 4 am to make sure guests at the breakfast buffet can enjoy freshly baked items when they arrive in the morning. It's not all hard work, though, and John enjoys receiving positive comments from guests and learning what people from all over the world think of his baking. He also likes to meet VIP guests who visit Fig Tree Camp and get them to sample his baking.

An avid football fan, John plays for Fig Tree FC (as a no. 6) and supports Arsenal FC. He also enjoys listening to reggae music.

'There is too much to see in the Maasai Mara that you can never get bored. Every minute there is something new to see'

'I've been happy to see Mada grow into a chain of hotels over the years'



JOAN MUTHOMI

Reservation Officer

Joan has been with the Mada group for no less than 30 years, having started when Mada had only one property, Fig Tree Camp.

Joan is responsible for receiving and confirming bookings as well as making sure that all bookings are chartered and invoiced. She enjoys her role because her colleagues are "cooperative and supportive all the time". She loves the interaction with employees at all levels of the organisation and across many different areas and is "happy to see Mada grow into a chain of hotels" over the years.

When she is not at work, Joan, who is married with three children, spends her free time with her family and attending church.



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GRACE ALICE KITEMA

Storekeeper

Grace has worked at Mada for 14 years.

Her main responsibility at Mada Hotels is to make sure that weekly orders are placed from central storers on time so that operations run easily for all departments.

Grace enjoys issuing, costing and balancing the stores' monthly reports. It can be quite challenging, however, if there is a delay in the supply from central stores.

Back at home, Grace is married and enjoys spending time with her family. She has 10 siblings. She also likes going to church and watching her favourite football team, Manchester United.



JOSPHEME RUGELLA

Guest Relation Officer

Josphine has been with the Adventures Aloft operations for Mada Hotels since July 2013.

She originally completed her training at Kempinski Hotels, where she trained in front office and guest relations. She then moved to the Mada group, where she has been ever since.

In her role, Josphine enjoys meeting lots of different people – a key aspect of the hospitality industry. Adventures Aloft offers balloon rides in addition to accommodation. This keeps Josphine busy and helps her to learn more about her role and the company's operations.

There are challenges, however, when clients suddenly cancel their balloon rides. Josphine does her best to convince them the balloon ride is not to be missed, especially since all the preparations have been made. She says her colleagues are always there to assist her, which "qualifies to our mother name, Mada Family, because we work as one family aiming at one goal."

Josphine is the oldest child in a family of seven. She enjoys visiting them when not working at Adventures Aloft.

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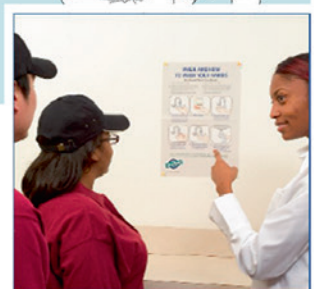
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LAWRENCE MRANJA

Hotel Manager

Lawrence has worked at Mada Hotels for 18 years.

One of Lawrence's main responsibilities is to see that guests receive a level of service that matches their expectations. Quick service delivery is especially important for many stopover guests. He also has to ensure that all staff perform their individual responsibilities and duties at the expected time.

One of the most enjoyable parts of his job as hotel manager is when he receives good feedback from guests about service, food and accommodation. He has enjoyed supervising the building of the new deluxe rooms. It can be difficult, though, when construction materials do not arrive in time.

Lawrence is married with two children. Away from work, he enjoys reading, swimming and singing.



DENNIS KANTET NKURUNA

Chief Crew - Adventures Aloft Balloon Safaris

Dennis has worked for Mada hotels for the last 15 years.

As Chief Crew, Dennis's main responsibilities are "ensuring the crews are well trained, making sure that the balloon baskets are moved to the launch site, and assembled and inspected before the flight." Dennis also is responsible for making sure there is proper communication between the pilots and ground crews.

Dennis enjoys meeting new people every morning and learning one or two things about their lifestyle. It can be challenging however, as the climate does not always favour ballooning.

Dennis says: "I have to wake up very early in the morning and make sure everybody is in his position of duty and everything is running smoothly." After the flights, the guests are treated to a breakfast, so Dennis has to make sure everything is ready for when the clients arrive, which isn't always an easy task.

Dennis is the father of three boys and one girl. He comes from a large family, and has nine brothers and ten sisters in total. His hobbies include looking after his livestock and travelling. Dennis also enjoys volleyball and is a big fan of Manchester United Football Club.

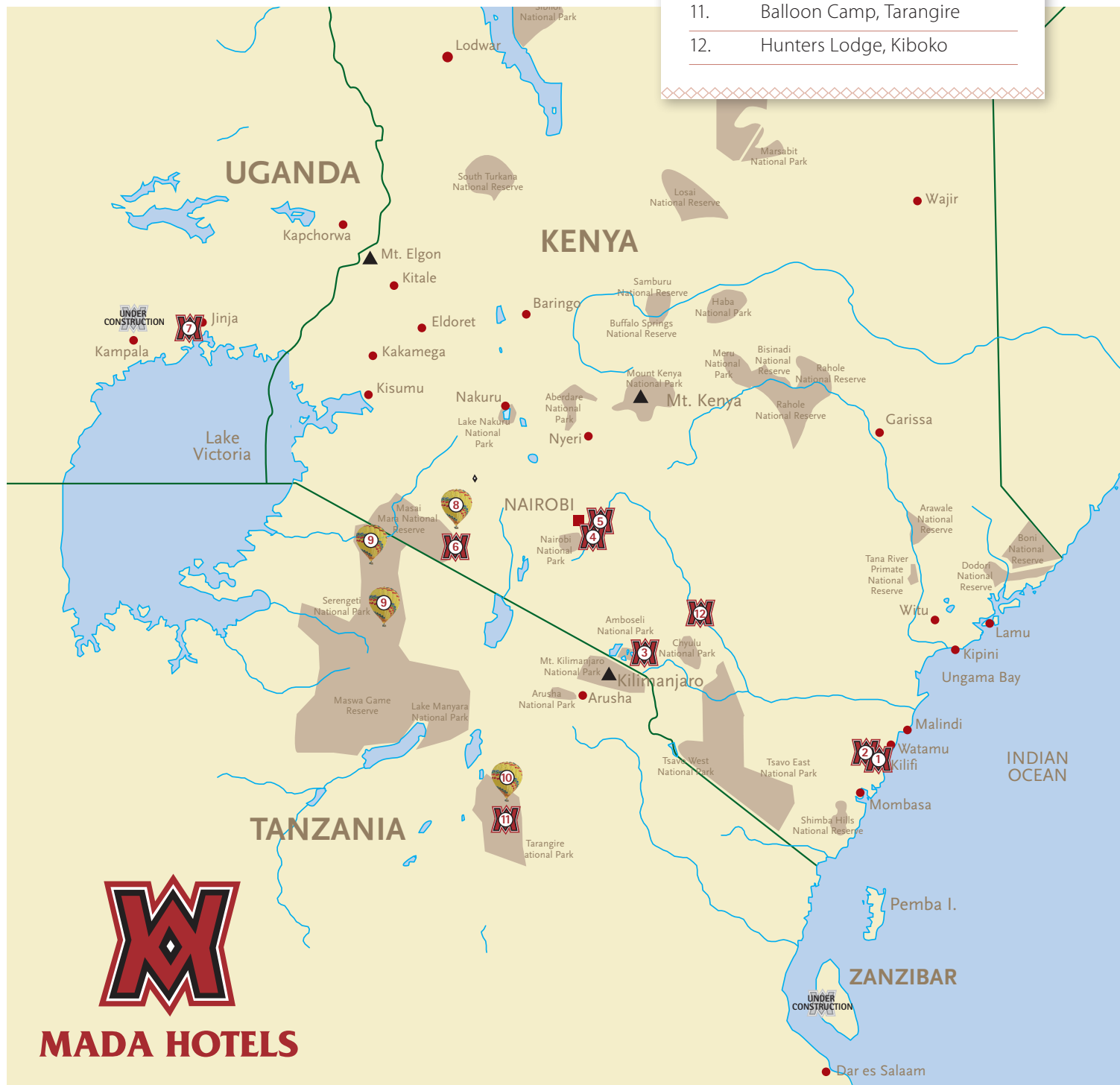
THE MADA FAMILY

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





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A bird's-eye view of natural wonders

Adventures Aloft Balloon Safaris

FACT FILE

LOCATIONS: Masai Mara -
Fig Tree Camp, Tarangire Base
- Balloon Camp, Serengeti
Base - Togoro and Kogatende

FLEET: Twelve 16-capacity
A-415 Cameron balloons, two
12-capacity A-315 Cameron
balloon

DEPARTS: 06.30 am

FLIGHT DURATION: Around
an hour

ADDITIONAL SERVICES:
Breakfast on landing,
transfer service to and from
accommodation in the
national parks

ADVENTURES ALOFT BALLOON SAFARIS



*Guests can enjoy
the early-morning
treasures of Africa*



BEST VIEW OF THE MIGRATION - MASAI MARA

Adventures Aloft has been creating memorable balloon safaris in the Masai Mara National Reserve for almost 20 years and is now flying seven balloons in Kenya on a daily basis with a total capacity of 108 passengers.

Balloon safaris are the best way to view the annual wildebeest migration that makes the Mara so famous and exciting. No matter what time of the year, there are always spectacular views across the reserve.

There are daily flights from Fig Tree Camp departing at around 06.30. For guests not staying at these two resorts, a transfer service is available to and from most of the camps and lodges in and around the Mara.

Adventures Aloft has a fleet of Cameron balloons consisting of six A-415 balloons with a capacity of 16 passengers each and one A-315 balloon for 12 passengers.

With over 25 years' experience of providing out-of-this-world balloon safaris, Adventures Aloft excels in giving clients an unforgettable experience and a different view of the safari world.

The company employs a team of experienced pilots with a perfect safety record, plus a larger team of knowledgeable and skilled staff who make the operations possible.

Each balloon flight is planned precisely, usually departing at 06.30 and lasting for about an hour. Guests can enjoy the early-morning treasures of Africa before returning to land and enjoying a champagne-style welcome with butler service, an open bar and a full English breakfast. Guests receive a certificate to commemorate their flight before enjoying a game drive back to camp.

Tranquillity

Travelling in a hot air balloon gives passengers a weightless feeling that creates a sense of freedom and tranquillity. Such has been the popularity of Adventures Aloft that two new sites were opened in the Serengeti in June 2013.

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



FLOATING ABOVE THE BAOBABS – TARANGIRE

Operations in Tarangire began in 2010 using an A-415 Cameron balloon with a capacity of 16 passengers.

Balloon Camp Tarangire is located close to Boundary Hill, which offers spectacular views of the park.

Guests are collected from lodges and camps in the park by company staff and taken to the launch site, ready for take-off at sunrise. Flights are weather-dependent, so the location may be altered in the event of bad conditions.

The balloons don't follow a strict path, because the wind determines the exact route, but they tend to follow the Tarangire River as it meanders through the park. This unique vantage point allows guests to gaze down on the animals as they go to the river to drink and cool off.

After the flight, breakfast is served on the river bank, with panoramic views and a cooling breeze in the shade of the baobab trees. Tour guides then drive the guests back to their camp, lodge or drop-off point, with an opportunity to view the wild animals on the way.

Bookings should be made in advance to avoid disappointment as the balloon flights are very popular. Guests can book either through Adventures Aloft directly or via a tour operator or staff at their own camp.

*Fine dining
and luxury in a
tranquil setting*



Hotel La Mada FACT FILE

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.

In the lush greenness of the Karura Forest lies Hotel La Mada, a four-star boutique hotel with a lot to offer. Set in seven acres of woodland, but only 10 km from the centre of Nairobi, Hotel La Mada is a perfect place to escape from the city's bustle.

The hotel itself is intimate, friendly and luxurious. With 35 exclusive en-suite guest rooms – 25 double rooms, six twin rooms and four executive suites – there is something for everyone. All with large wooden beds and crisp white linen and towels for that added touch of class.

When it comes to cuisine, La Mada offers a choice of top quality dining options at its two eateries. The à la carte dining room offers fine food in an elegant venue while the Lion's Den Restaurant, nestled in the forest, offers delicious barbecue lunches. There is a quaint coffee shop for that afternoon beverage as well as a pool bar serving refreshing drinks in a beautiful setting.

Unwind

Guests can relax and unwind by going for a swim in the large pool and enjoying the tranquil surroundings. Other facilities



HOTEL LA MADA

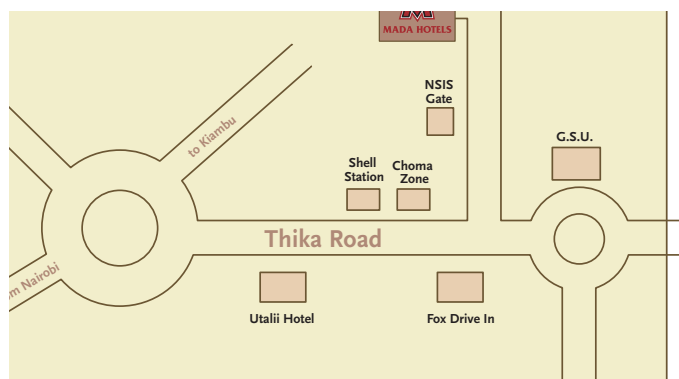
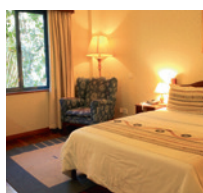


include an airport shuttle service and free Wi-Fi to keep guests fully connected.

Thanks to its close proximity to Nairobi, coupled with beautiful forest surroundings, La Mada is a popular venue for business meetings and conferences. The hotel is well equipped for business needs with a choice of four conference halls and an executive boardroom equipped with LCD projectors, computers and a secretarial and photocopying service. When meetings have finished, staff are on hand to organise special events in the Lion's Den Restaurant as well as cocktails and live band entertainment.

Hotel La Mada LOCATION

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



*The hotel itself is
intimate, friendly
and luxurious*



THE OAKWOOD HOTEL



The Oakwood Hotel

FACT FILE

STAR RATING: ***

LOCATION: Kimathi Street,
Nairobi

NUMBER OF ROOMS: 20

DINING: One restaurant

BARS: One bar

FACILITIES: Wi-Fi available

*Old-world charm,
modern comforts*

THE OAKWOOD HOTEL

The Oakwood Hotel, with its ideal location in the centre of Nairobi, offers the perfect venue for guests who want to experience the charms and busy nightlife of the Kenyan capital.

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

Homely

The hotel gets its name from the traditional wood decorations and furnishings that help to create a warm and homely atmosphere. There are 20 self-contained rooms, all with telephone, TV, in-house video, mini fridge and tea/coffee facilities.

Guests can enjoy the stylish bar and restaurant, with its à la carte menu. A traditional full English breakfast is included in the room rate.

For business meetings, the Oakwood offers a range of facilities including Wi-Fi.

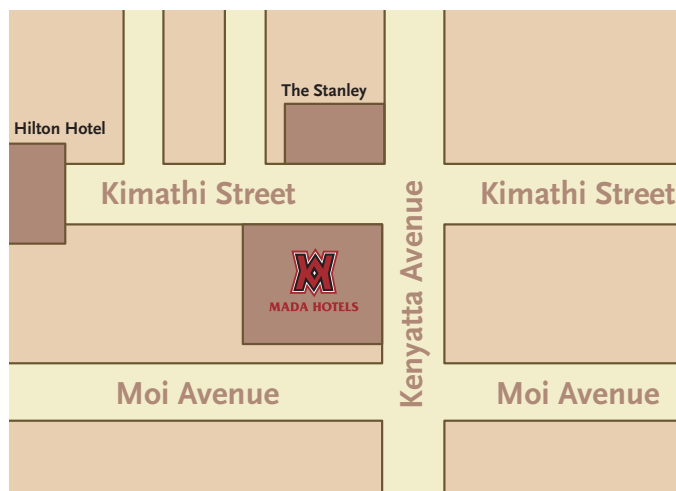
The Oakwood is ideally located for the business district and is close the railway station, giving ready access to other major towns and cities. There is a wide choice of bars, restaurants and evening entertainment in the surrounding area. Guests can experience all that Nairobi has to offer and see why it is one of Africa's most exciting cities.



The Oakwood is ideally located for the business district

The Oakwood Hotel LOCATION

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





*Tranquillity,
fine dining,
water sports*

Kilifi Bay Beach Resort

FACT FILE

STAR RATING: ****

LOCATION: Kilifi

NUMBER OF ROOMS: 50

LEISURE: Two swimming pools, snorkelling, scuba diving, boats with kayaks, big game fishing, cruises in the creek, table tennis

DINING: Two restaurants

BARS: Three bars

CONFERENCING: Facilities for between 10-100 delegates, PA systems and LCD projectors

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

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS: Kilifi Harbour and Creek

ADDITIONAL FACILITIES: Massage service, Wi-Fi available

KILIFI BAY BEACH RESORT



The gardens surrounding the property are filled with shady palm trees and a cool breeze blows in from the ocean





Kilifi Bay Beach Resort

LOCATION

	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

Guests can expect to enjoy total peace and quiet at the four-star Kilifi Bay Beach Resort, the only hotel on this stretch of beautiful coastline.

This exclusive resort offers unspoilt panoramic views of the Indian Ocean across the white, sandy beaches of Kilifi. The gardens surrounding the property are filled with shady palm trees and a cool breeze blows in from the ocean. The buildings and guest accommodation have been refurbished with fresh, modern interiors.

The hotel offers a truly personalised service. There are only 50 rooms, each with a private balcony where guests can relax with a book or a sunlounger and enjoy the view. A free massage service is available to guests, and there is a choice of two swimming pools.

Delicious barbecues

The main restaurant serves buffet breakfasts, light lunches and sumptuous evening meals. The dinner menu features international cuisine. There are themed nights throughout the week as well as delicious barbecues. On the beach, the 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 pre-dinner cocktails, and a pool bar, where guests can relax in the sun with a refreshing beverage.



The hotel's own boat, the 'Baobella', departs throughout the day on scenic excursions through Kilifi Creek. Soft drinks and snacks are provided on board. Guests also have a choice of water sports such as snorkelling, diving and canoeing, all available from the beach.

In addition to leisure facilities, the resort is a well established conference venue, with trained staff on hand to cater for large groups. The quiet atmosphere is ideal for business meetings and conferences. A range of activities is available for special functions, including beach dinners, day trips to Malindi and beach cocktail parties.



*Boutique hotel
in a magical
ocean setting*



Set in seven acres of tropical gardens with 60 metres of ocean front, Baobab Sea Lodge is the ideal spot to relax, soak up the sun and enjoy the magic of the Kenyan coast.

This welcoming boutique hotel is located in the old coastal town of Kilifi, halfway between Mombasa and Malindi. This small and picturesque town has a good range of facilities including fruit markets, small shops, two banks, a post office, a pharmacy and a hospital. In addition, Kilifi has many grand houses alongside the creek and overlooking the ocean.

Baobab Sea Lodge has just 30 guest rooms, all recently refurbished, for maximum luxury and guest comfort. When it comes to dining, every meal is fresh and delicious. Guests can choose a meal plan to suit their needs, from all-inclusive to basic B&B, so you can eat in the hotel as often or as little as you wish.

Entertainment

The main restaurant offers a selection of good cuisine. There are theme nights throughout the week, including acrobatics, discos, live music and traditional African dancers. For those who prefer a more

Baobab Sea Lodge

FACT FILE

STAR RATING: ***

LOCATION: Kilifi

NUMBER OF ROOMS: 30

LEISURE: Two swimming pools, tennis, snorkelling, boats with kayaks, scuba diving, table tennis, game fishing and creek cruises

DINING: One restaurant, banquets on request

BARS: Two bars and a swim-up pool bar

CONFERENCING: Conference 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



The ideal spot to relax, soak up the sun and enjoy the magic of the Kenyan coast



BAOBAB SEA LODGE



tranquil evening, there are two bars where guests can enjoy a quiet cocktail, plus a TV lounge where you can catch up on the latest news.

Activities

All hotel guests can benefit from the hotel's free massage service. For more active types, there is table tennis and a wide choice of water sports including snorkelling, deepsea fishing, scuba diving and

canoeing as well as boats with kayaks. The hotel's own boat, the 'Baobella', is available for excursions around Kilifi Creek.

The Baobab Sea Lodge is a perfect venue for conferences thanks to its theatre-style room which can cater for up to 200 people. In addition, banquets can be arranged, either indoors or outdoors.



Baobab Sea lodge LOCATION

	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

Luxury camp with a very high reputation

Balloon Camp Tarangire

FACT FILE

LOCATION: Tarangire

NUMBER OF ROOMS: 10

LEISURE: Balloon safaris

DINING: Restaurant, champagne breakfast in the park

FACILITIES: Swimming pool, Wi-Fi available



The camp sits on Boundary Hill and offers spectacular views over the national park

BALLOON CAMP TARANGIRE

Located in the heart of Tarangire National Park is Balloon Camp, a luxurious boutique-style property. The camp sits on Boundary Hill and offers spectacular views over the national park – views that cannot be improved on except by taking to the skies for a balloon safari.

Accommodation at Balloon Camp consists of 10 grand safari tents, each with a king-sized four-poster bed and a large open-plan bathroom. Each tent is raised on stilts and has a spacious veranda from which guests can enjoy the spectacular sunsets and the wonderful views of Tarangire.

Balloon safari

Of course, the camp's main attraction is the hot air balloon safaris, which depart daily from a nearby take-off area close to Tarangire Sopa Lodge. The balloon safaris are run by the Mada-owned company Adventures Aloft, which has years of experience in creating memorable flights for clients. Typically, flights depart at 06.30 and last for about an hour. On landing, the balloon crew sets up a full English breakfast – complete with Bloody Mary cocktails and champagne – on a site next to the Tarangire River. As a memento of the flight, each passenger receives a certificate to complete the adventure. After breakfast, guests can enjoy a game drive en route to the lodge or the main gate.

In addition to balloon safaris, guests can go on game drives throughout the park in one of camp's impressive fleet of 4x4 vehicles. After a busy day, guests can relax in the evening with a gourmet meal before retiring to the lounge bar, where coffee, whisky and other drinks are served.



Of course, the camp's main attraction is the hot air balloon safaris

Balloon Camp Tarangire

LOCATION

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



FIG TREE CAMP

*Luxury living
in a famous
wildlife reserve*





Fig Tree Camp is located in the heart of the Masai Mara National Reserve, on the banks of the Talek River, making it a very special place for guests to enjoy the unbeatable surroundings of the park.

The camp is made up of 38 classic safari tents and 10 superior Ngamboli tents, with single and double beds and a private patio by the river. For guests looking for a more luxurious travelling experience, the camp also has 32 garden chalets available with private balconies.

Dining

Breakfast, lunch and dinner are included in the room rates, with all meals being served in the main dining area. At each meal there is a generous buffet with a wide selection of food. In the evenings, local Maasai perform for guests after their meal, providing a unique example of their singing and dancing. For a more exclusive

Fig Tree Camp FACT FILE

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

CONFERENCING: 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 or Mombasa



FIG TREE CAMP

experience, guests can opt for a moonlit bush dinner with champagne. It all adds up to a special evening to remember.

Nature

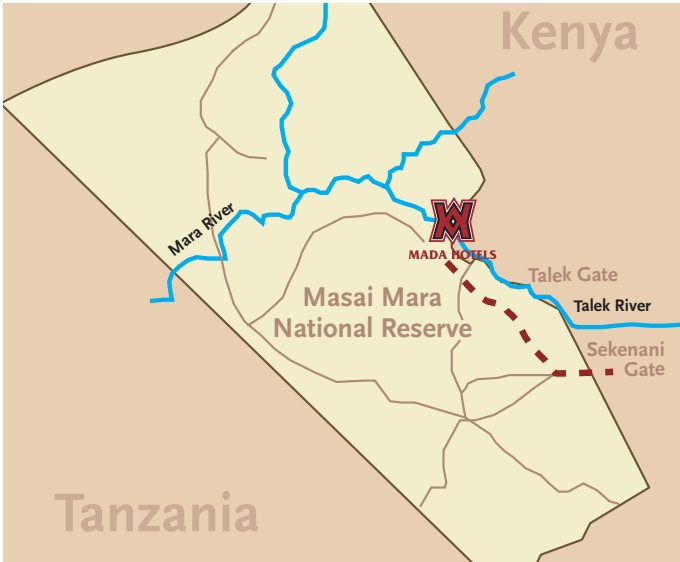
Guests at Fig Tree Camp have ample opportunity to learn more about the local area. There are lectures by naturalists, game walks led by Maasai morans and 4x4 tours of the surrounding area conducted by professional guides in the camp's own vehicles.

Conference facilities have recently been added to Fig Tree Camp, offering the chance to hold that special conferences in a private retreat with a safari setting. Equipment includes LCD projectors, computers and a secretarial service.



Fig Tree Camp LOCATION

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



Guests at Fig Tree Camp have ample opportunity to learn more about the local area

Luxury camp has a 'tower with a view'



Kilima Safari Camp

FACT FILE

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



Kilima Safari Camp is set in 360 acres in Amboseli National Park with wonderful views of Mount Kilimanjaro. Guests are spoilt for choice when it comes to accommodation, with an impressive 72 rooms to choose from: 50 classic safari tents, 10 superior tents and 12 luxury lodge rooms.

From their room, guests can view the animals as they come to drink at the nearby waterhole. Often there is a variety of animals and birds. For a closer view, guests are taken on game drives in comfort and style in one of the camp's 4x4 vehicles. With their deep local knowledge, the driver guides will ensure that clients get the best out of their safari.

Game walks

Aside from the classic game drives, Maasai morans are on hand to take clients on game walks, while a local naturalist gives free lectures about the local environment.

For guests who want to relax and unwind, a massage room is available with therapists on hand. There is also an ornate swimming pool, perfect for a refreshing dip after a morning game drive.

Guests at Kilima Safari Camp can enjoy dinner under the stars – a truly magical experience. There is also a fine restaurant serving hearty breakfasts, buffet lunches and delicious evening meals.

In the centre of the dining room is the three-storey Kibo Lounge. A high point for guests in more ways than one, it is actually a look-out tower offering superb views of Mount Kilimanjaro, the national park and the waterholes. Guests can watch the sunrise with a morning cappuccino or star-gaze with an after-dinner drink.

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



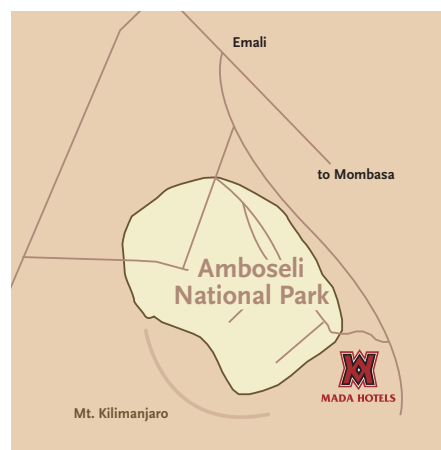


From their room, guests can view the animals as they come to drink at the nearby waterhole

Kilima Safari Camp

LOCATION

	DISTANCE	ESTIMATED TIME
NAIROBI	235 KM	4 HRS
EMAIL	165 KM	2 HRS 30 MINS
AMBOSELI AIRSTRIP	12 KM	20 MINS



*Five-star
hospitality
with unique
river views*





Voted 'Best Weekend Getaway' and 'Best Country Hotel in Uganda' by Travel News magazine, it is hard to find a reason not to visit Jinja Nile Resort.

The resort offers some of the finest accommodation and hospitality in Uganda, all in a strategic location with panoramic views of the River Nile.

Popular with business travellers and tourists alike, 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 provide guests with the best Nile-facing views.

Excellent

The elegant main restaurant seats up to 150 guests and has a terrace with excellent views. The spacious conference dining room is located near the conference halls, thus ensuring that delegates are provided with a fast and efficient service. There is also an independent bar serving refreshments to conference and workshop attendees.

Jinja Nile Resort

FACT FILE

STAR RATING: *****

LOCATION: 4 km from Jinja

NUMBER OF ROOMS: 140

LEISURE: Gym, health club, swimming pool, badminton, three pool tables, 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, 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

Jinja Nile Resort LOCATION

	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

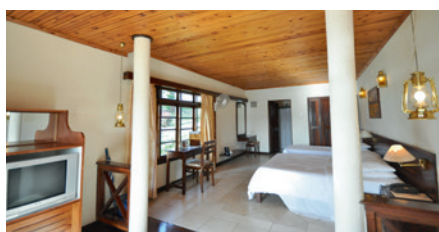
On a 20 metre high cliff overlooking the river is the Nile Palace restaurant and bar. Its unique location, combined with exquisite food, has made the Nile Palace a favourite venue for special events.

Health club

For relaxation, guests can enjoy the health club, which features Italian-made 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 has a river-facing amphitheatre with a total capacity of 3,000 people.



The resort offers some of the finest accommodation and hospitality in Uganda



Famous roadhouse gets new lease of life

Hunters Lodge

FACT FILE

STAR RATING: ****

LOCATION: 160km from Nairobi,
340 km from Mombasa

NUMBER OF ROOMS: 62

LEISURE: Birdwatching, boating
in Kiboko Springs

DINING: Restaurant and coffee
shop

BARS: One bar

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

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

ADDITIONAL FACILITIES:
Swimming pool, Wi-Fi available



HUNTERS LODGE



Built in 1958 by J.A. Hunter, one of Kenya's most famous safari enthusiasts, Hunters Lodge has been restored to its former glory by Mada Hotels.

Hunters Lodge, which reopened in 2014, offers beautiful new accommodation along with top-class dining facilities.

The renovation and refurbishment began in 2012 after the lodge was acquired by Mada Hotels. The existing 12 rooms were enlarged and a further 50 rooms were added, as well as a new conference centre.

Traditionally the lodge – a well-known stopover on the road from Nairobi to Mombasa – has offered good, reasonably priced accommodation and inexpensive camping. Mada Hotels has managed to preserve the original charm while renovating the property and giving a more contemporary style to the building.

Countryside

The lodge is located at Kiboko Springs, about 160 km from Nairobi on the Mombasa road. Set in 25 acres of lush gardens and surrounded by beautiful countryside, the

lodge is perfect for birdwatchers as there are over 100 bird species in the area.

J.A. Hunter, who built the original lodge, was widely regarded as one of the greatest professional big game hunters of his generation. He became famous in the 1950s through his best-selling books about his safaris and other adventures. The lodge was run by his wife Hilda and their sons David and Dennis.

Back in the days when the original lodge was still new, no trip to the coast would be complete without a stopover there, either for breakfast on the outward journey or a cup of tea or a glass of beer on the return leg.

Mada Hotels has breathed new life into this once-popular venue. Its aim has been to win back visitors to the lodge by offering attractive business and lunch menus while also offering a range of amenities for

Hunters Lodge offers beautiful new accommodation along with top-class dining facilities



those undertaking the long drive between Nairobi and the coast.

The hope is that, once again, Hunters Lodge will become the natural stopover for travellers on the Mombasa to Nairobi trail.



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



Left and above: A mosaic of John Hunter and an old bar receipt



WHAT'S COOKING

Creamy seafood pasta

Enjoy a seafood dish that's great for casual entertaining AND can be on the table in just 30 minutes

- Prep time: 30 mins
- Total time: 30 mins
- Servings: 8

Ingredients

- 16 oz uncooked tagliatelle
- 18.5 oz freshly made vegetable chowder
- 1 cup milk
- 1/2 cup shredded Parmesan cheese (2 oz)
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 1/2 lb uncooked deveined large shrimp, tails peeled
- 1 package (8 oz) sliced fresh mushrooms (3 cups)
- 4 medium green onions, chopped (1/4 cup)
- 1/4 to 1/2 teaspoon crushed red pepper flakes
- 1/2 cup chopped fresh parsley
- Salt and pepper to taste, if desired

- 1/2 cup shredded Parmesan cheese (2 oz), if desired

Preparation method:

- 1 Boil freshly made tagliatelle al dente. Drain well and cover to keep warm. Make sure you put in a drop of olive oil to keep the sheen.
- 2 Meanwhile, place the chowder, milk, 1/2 cup Parmesan cheese and the garlic in the blender and blend on a medium speed until mixture is smooth. Set aside.
- 3 In a 12-inch nonstick skillet or wok, heat oil over medium-high heat until hot. Add shrimp, mushrooms and onions; cook for about five minutes, stirring frequently, until the shrimp turn pink.
- 4 Stir in pepper flakes and the soup mixture; cook until thoroughly heated. Stir in the parsley. Add salt and pepper to taste.
- 5 Pour over cooked tagliatelle in oven; toss gently to coat. Top individual servings with Parmesan cheese.



WHAT'S SHAKING

Protein-rich choco shake

BY: FRANCIS MUSYOKA NDABUKI



A favourite shake at all Mada properties. Perfect for a hot day on safari or an afternoon at the beach. And easy on the waistline. Here's a taster to get you started on Mada's shake mastery.

Ingredients:

- 1 medium banana
- 1 tsp raw cocoa powder
- 1 tsp tahini
- 1 tsp good honey
- 2 ice cubes
- 500 ml raw almond milk

Preparation method:

- 1 Place the banana, raw cocoa, tahini, honey and ice into a blender.
- 2 Add the raw almond milk, making sure it does not go above the 500 ml line on the blender.
- 3 Blend the mixture together until smooth.
- 4 Serve.



Fresh home-made pasta

BY: LILIAN CHERUTO NAIBEI



It's easy to buy pasta off the supermarket shelf, but you get much more taste and quality when you make it yourself. Plus it's great fun.

Ingredients:

- 1 kg Taifa Kenyan flour, or farina di grano tenero ('tender' or 'soft' flour)
- 4 large free-range eggs
- 1/2 tsp turmeric powder

- 1/2 cup water

Preparation method:

Just mix eggs and flour with a little love and attention.

- 1 Place the flour in a mound onto a clean work surface and make a well in the centre.
- 2 Crack the eggs into the well and gently mix with a fork.
- 3 Gradually draw the flour into the mixture as you mix until the dough becomes thick.
- 4 Knead the dough until smooth and elastic (about five minutes).
- 5 Leave to rest for about 30 minutes.
- 6 Divide into four. Feed each quarter into a pasta machine until it is the desired shape and thickness.

You can also make your dough in a food processor if you have one.

Simply put everything into the processor and whizz until the flour resembles breadcrumbs.

Then tip the mixture onto your work surface or use a pasta-making machine to shape it into your chosen variety: tagliatelle, spaghetti, macaroni, etc.



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