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Shukran Palace, Zanzibar

KILIMANJARO

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STONE TOWN

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INCREDIBLE LOCATIONS BACKED BY PASSION AND COMMITMENT

I am delighted to note that 2023 was a record year for travellers to East Africa. I'm also happy to see that Covid-19 is well and truly behind us and 2024 enquiries indicate that we will surpass 2023 numbers.

Last year was also a busy one for Mada Hotels, the highlight of which was the opening of the 500-person Kilifi Convention Centre at the Kilifi Beach Hotel. It has proved so successful that this year we will increase the number of conference halls to four by adding a new 400-person facility. Also, at Kilifi Beach we have added a new bar deck with one of the best views on the African coast.

In Tanzania, we have undertaken some re-branding by renaming our Balloon Camp Tarangire as Elephant Rock. The new name reflects the recent enhancements we have made to the property and its incredible hilltop location which gives guests incredible 360° views of Tarangire National Park.

During 2024, the Shukran Palace in Zanzibar will become the newest addition to the Mada Collection. As the name suggests, Shukran Palace will be a five-star premium resort that will take luxury to a new level. Standard rooms offer approximately 90 sq metres of living space and all rooms are ocean facing. Suites will feature private jacuzzis and the resort will offer guests a choice of several specialty restaurants, three pools and an impressive 500-metre beach frontage. We are confident this new property will showcase the best of Zanzibar for guests looking for a super-luxury experience.

As our hotel business grows, and to efficiently handle a larger inventory as well as give guest better connectivity to Mada Hotels information and booking opportunities, we have upgraded to the Cloud base reservation system across all properties in East Africa. The new system will allow a direct link from guests to our reservation portal and will keep them updated on our latest services.

Adventures Aloft, East Africa's biggest hot-air balloon operator, goes from strength to strength. We now have six bases, the newest of which is located in Seronera in Serengeti National Park. Opened in 2023, the base is within easy reach of camps and lodges in the area.

Mada Hotels today has a presence across East Africa with hotels and resorts serving both the business traveller and holiday maker. Our success is based on a combination of incredible locations from where we operate and the passion and commitment of our team who see that all our guests receive the very best of Africa's warm hospitality.



Tinu Mhajan
Chief Executive
Mada Group





Enjoy our endless range of Taste & comfort











INSPECTION OF SHUKRAN PALACE

Shukran Palace which opens in 2024 will be the newest addition to the Mada collections of Luxury Camps, Hotels and Resorts. Shukran Palace located in Michamvi on the East Coast of Zanzibar will offer clients a true Palace experience. In December 2023, His Excellency, Vice President Suleiman

Abdallah paid a visit to Shukran Palace to see developments of the property together with Cabinet Ministers and Directors from the Zanzibar Investment Promotion Authority. Mr Tinu Mhajan of Mada Hotels was at the event to show the dignitaries around the property.



NEW CLOUD BASED RESERVATION SYSTEM

Mada Hotels in 2024 will work on a new reservation system across all hotels in East Africa.

The new reservation system will allow guests to manage their reservations from their phones and take advantage of specials and offers on new packages across the group.

Through the new booking system, loyalty packages and benefits will also be offered.

NEW KILIFI BAY BEACH DECK

The Kilifi Bay Beach bar has always been one of the most popular features of the hotel.

In 2023, the deck was renovated to include new facilities including a restaurant seating area overlooking the Indian Ocean and new rest areas that give the deck a floating sensation over the Ocean.





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REBRANDING BALLOON CAMP TO ELEPHANT ROCK

Mada Hotels recently re-branded Balloon Camp Tarangire which is now known as Elephant Rock. A perfect name that represents the big elephant population in the area and the camp's location high on a viewpoint surrounded with massive boulders. Elephant Rock recently underwent a major renovation with enhanced facilities at the camp including a new restaurant and bar on a hilltop offering guests 360° views of Tarangire National Park.





KILIFI CONVENTION CENTRE

In June 2023 Mada Hotels in Kilifi proudly opened the new Kilifi Convention Centre. Located next to Kilifi Bay Hotel, the new Convention Centre offers convention and meeting facilities in a state-of-the-art centre.

The four meeting rooms are spread across separate wings and offer a total capacity for over 500 participants.

The Kilifi Convention Centre was officially opened by H.E Gideon Mungaro, Governor of Kilifi County. Also present at the event was Mada CEO, Tinu Mhajan.

WHERE TO

WTM, London - Nov '24
ITB, Berlin, Germany - March '24
MKTE, Kenya - Nov '24
Karibu Fair, Tanzania - June '24
WTM Africa, Cap Town, SA April '24
Indaba. Durban. SA - May '24



EXCLUSIVE BALLOON CHARTER FLIGHTS

Adventures Aloft, East Africa's most popular balloon company has now began offering exclusive hot-air balloon charter flights. Designed to cater for clients looking for a more exclusive experience, Adventures Aloft invested in a new fleet of smaller aircraft for families and clients looking for their own private balloon experience.

Clients who book exclusive balloons will be able to enjoy the entire aircraft to themselves and will have the experience of a private breakfast on landing.

Three separate sizes of balloons are available for exclusive flights with a capacity of 8, 12 and 16 passengers respectively.

Information for bookings for charter flights are available from sales@madahotels.com



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THE BEST WAYS TO THE TOP

December to mid-March are considered the best time of the year to climb Mt Kilimanjaro. There are several different ways to reach Africa's highest peak. Reflections assesses the options open to would-be summiteers.

Rule number one and for most people climbing Mt Kilimanjaro is that it pays to take things slowly and allow plenty of time to acclimatize to the thinning oxygen levels as you ascend. Most guided hikes to the top and back down take between five and nine days.

Kilimanjaro has seven well-established routes to the summit - Lemosho, Machame, Marangu, Northern Circuit, Rongai, Shira and Umbwe – and choosing the right one can have a major bearing on whether you make it to the top. Here's some help on making your decision.

THE MARANGU ROUTE

Choose it if... You don't like camping or money is tight

Distance: 70km / five to six days

Chance of summiting: 50% (five days) - 65% (six days)

Plus points: Starting point is close to Moshi town so easy to get to. Easy trekking makes it ideal for novices. Huts en route offer comfortable sleeping.



Negatives: You ascend and descend along the same path so there is little new to see on the way down. Can get crowded and the final ascent is challenging.

Marangu is also known as the 'Coca Cola' route as there are huts selling – among other refreshments – soft drinks to thirsty climbers along the way. You can also stay overnight in the huts - the mountain's only permanent accommodation offering meals and beds with mattresses and pillows – so the route is ideal for those to whom camping does not appeal. Considered the 'tourist route', it can get crowded in high season. Though one of the easier routes, it is often underestimated by ill-prepared climbers with the challenging summit stage regrettably forcing many to turn back.

THE MACHAME ROUTE

Choose it if... Want an array of spectacular scenery and to summit at sunrise

Distance: 61km / six to seven days

Chance of summiting: 73% (six days) to 85% (six days)

Plus points: Opportunities climb high, sleep low; excellent chance of summiting

Negatives: Can get crowded and the challenging route involves steep and rugged sections.

Machame earned its 'Whiskey' nickname as the popular climb is the hard liquor to the far easier Marangu's soft drink. The route up is steep but scenic, beginning at the Machame gate in the rainforest zone to the south of the mountain. As you ascend, you'll pass through many ecosystems before being treated to spectacular views from the Shira Plateau. The undulating climb allows plenty of opportunities to climb high and camp low to expose the body gradually to higher altitudes. This should ensure climbers are primed for the midnight push on the last ascent for an unforgettable sunrise summit.



THE SHIRA ROUTE

Choose it if... you are a confident trekker with experience of high altitudes

Distance: 58km / six to seven days

Chance of summiting: 65% (six days) to 75%+ (seven days)

Plus points: Very scenic with beautiful vistas and views

Negatives: Starting point is at high altitude.

Shira is not a route for first timers as it begins with a drive in a vehicle to the entry gate on the western side of the mountain 3,596 metres up the mountain, nearly 2,000 metres higher than the Machame Gate. This allows little time to acclimatise to the elevation and bypasses the mountain's beautiful rainforest, one of the highlights of the ascent. Experienced hikers love it though for its remoteness with little chance of encountering crowds until it joins the Lemosho Route day two and then with the Machame Route.





THE LEMOSHO ROUTE

Choose it if... you want to wildlife spot and go off-grid

Distance: 67km / six to eight days

Chance of summiting: 85% (seven days) to 90%+ (eight days)

Plus points: Few other climbers, stunning views

Negatives: Expensive, longer trek that gets crowded when it meets the other trails

The relatively easy and scenic start to the Lemosho route – the first two days are spent trekking through the rain forest to Shira Ridge – means it is ideal for those keen to ease themselves into the climb and get used to hiking at altitude. For those who want to explore the mountain's western side, but are put off by Shira altitudinous start point, Lemosho is ideal and there are chances to see some wildlife on the way.

THE RONGAL ROUTE

Choose it if... a remote, but less arduous trek

Distance: 74km / six to seven days

Chance of summiting: 70% (seven days) to 85% (eight days)

Plus points: Calm ascent, dryer weather, beautiful views

Negatives: Extended flat sections are great to hike, but won't help you acclimatise

Only the Rongai route approaches Kilimanjaro from the north, along the border between Tanzania and Kenya. You register at the Marangu Gate and then head through to the start point on the Kenyan side of the mountain. This route attracts only a trickle of trekkers, so wildlife encounters are more common, and you'll have the eye-rubbingly beautiful scenery of Kilimanjaro to enjoy to yourself. This side of the mountain gets less rain than the southern section, so it is a good route to pick in the wet season. However, while the route's flatter sections may be pleasant to walk, acclimatising by this route will take time so take as long as you can.

THE NORTHERN CIRCUIT

Choose it if... you are looking for a new Kilimanjaro challenge

Distance: 88km / eight to nine days

Chance of summiting: 95%+

Plus points: Excellent summit success rate, takes in all sides of mountain for a panoramic perspective

Negatives: As one of the longest routes, it's also one of the more expensive.

The newest and longest route up Kilimanjaro initially follows the Lemosho Route before living up to its name circling north-west

around the northern slopes before joining with the Rongai Route. Its expense makes for an exclusive experience and the lucky hikers not only avoid the crowds but have an excellent chance of getting to the top with the Northern Circuit having the highest summit success rate of all the Kilimanjaro routes.

THE UMBWE ROUTE

Choose it if... you are an experienced climber looking to take on Kilimanjaro at its toughest

Distance: 48km / five to seven days

Chance of summiting: 60% (six days) to 70% (seven days)

Plus points: A true challenge away from the crowds

Negatives: Challenging route, little opportunity to acclimatise to the altitude

Tourists keep away. The short and steep Umbwe route is only for capable climbers who have had previous experience at high altitude, but it rewards with diverse and breathtaking scenery. The challenging route keeps away the crowds with steep trekking from the start. Taking such a direct path to the summit gives your body little time to acclimatise to the increased elevation so you'll need to have experience at high altitudes and ideally will have prepared with a period of local pre-acclimatisation before your ascent.



A JOURNEY THROUGH KENYA AND TANZANIA'S ENCHANTING ISLANDS



Scattered along the coastline of Kenya and Tanzania are some of the world's most intriguing tropical islands. All of them, blessed with soft talcum-powder beaches, clear turquoise waters and down the centuries, influenced or controlled by outsiders – be they Arabs (more specifically Omanis) or sometimes the Portuguese, Germans or the British.

While there are many linguistic, cultural and geographic similarities, each island has its own beguiling flavour and unique attractions. Reflections takes a north-to-south trip along the 2,800 km coasts of Kenya and Tanzania.

KENYA

Pate island - Let's start with little-visited Pate. This is the largest island in the Lamu Archipelago but mostly bypassed by tourists and, in many ways, remains largely neglected and unspoiled. Yet the island enjoys the same history as its better-known neighbour (Lamu) but sadly has enjoyed almost no restoration of its historic buildings and unfortunately many have fallen into decay. Nevertheless, the island has a thriving Swahili community that maintains a traditionally way of life based on fishing.

For those wishing to visit Pate, there are day tours by boat (it's a 30-minute journey) from Lamu and the schedule includes visits to Siyu Fort, Faza – a village dating from the 14th century as well as the Shanga and Nabahani ruins. There are sea turtles, plenty of birdlife and the occasional dugong to spot. There is no overnight accommodation, but there is now a tourism banda to welcome visitors.

Lamu - For many, Lamu epitomises the Omani-influenced Swahili culture and lifestyle of the East African coast. A truly magnificent UNESCO World Heritage Site, the narrow streets of Lamu old town (where the only transport is by donkey) are just the

place to soak up the laid-back atmosphere, sample the tasty local cuisine and sip the strong freshly brewed coffee.

Incredibly, Lamu has 23 mosques. The most visited is the Riyadh Mosque, home to the Maulidi Festival, which is held every year to celebrate the Prophet's birth.

The annual Lamu Cultural Festival allows visitors to enjoy exciting dhow races, swimming, traditional dances, and donkey races among other fun activities. Otherwise, see how dhows are built at Matondoni village.

There also the fashionable beachside village of Shela, which is popular with trendy independent travellers with stylish beach-side villas available to rent.

Further off the beaten track, you'll find Manda Island, with immaculate beaches and coral reefs to explore.

Wasini - Travelling beyond Mombasa, Wasini Island lies off the southeast coast. It is just 7 kilometres long and 3 kilometres wide. There are no cars or carts here – not even a bicycle.

Strong cultural connections and family ties exist between the island and the Tanzanian islands Pemba and Unguja across the border further south.

Just 10 km from Kisite-Mpunguti Marine National Park, it's the perfect base for snorkelling and diving.

Funzi - Funzi comprises four small islands. Funzi Island is the main island and the only one with permanent inhabitants. There is one village on the island with some 1,500 members of the Shirazi tribe who live by fishing and agriculture. The archipelago is located in Kwale district.

Funzi Island is known for its pristine beaches and as Kenya's best nesting site for a variety of sea turtles. These are found on Funzi due to a low level of human disturbance. Popular excursions for visitors include a boat trip to a naturally formed offshore sandbank.

TANZANIA

More than 50 islands and islets make up the Zanzibar archipelago. Some are little more than a scoop of sand, but the primary islands offer a mix of ancient culture, bountiful nature and some of the world's best beaches.

Unguja (also known as Zanzibar Island) is very much the daddy of the archipelago: at 1,666 sq km it is bigger and brasher than the others.

High-end hospitality investment has helped develop the island in a big way (including Mada Hotel's new Shukran Palace). The popular coastal areas of Paje in the southeast and Nungwi in the north still maintain a balance between sleepy fishing village and beach-side resort. Inland, the Jozani Forest – Zanzibar's only national park – is a great escape with walking trails and canoe trips through the mangrove swamps.

Wandering Stone Town – the old port area of the capital city – is essential to soak up Swahili culture. While you'll now find plenty of exclusive boutiques, restaurants and







bars within its winding streets, the UNESCO Heritage Site is still very much a living museum, showcasing ancient architecture and a way of life of life that have gone unchanged for centuries. Take in a taarab (traditional Swahili music) concert, explore the bustling markets, and reflect on the port's dark past at the Old Slave Market.

The one for an untouched island adventure and about 80km northeast of Unguja is Pemba. It's the archipelago's second largest island. Early Arab sailors called it 'El Huthera', meaning 'The Green', and it is still largely a fertile paradise of gently rolling hills, fragrant clove farms, lush forest and coral reefs teeming with marine life.

Pemba is a serene escape with the locals paying scant attention to what few tourists arrive and little to get in the way of whiling away your stay on its white sands with the occasional dip in the sapphire waters.

Tranquil as it is, Pemba's natural treasures provide a wild playground for active visitors. Jump on bicycles to explore traditional villages and ancient ruins or take to the crystalline waters for swimming and kayaking. The Pemba channel is reputed to offer the best diving in East Africa with untouched coral reefs, bath warm water and superb visibility.

There was a time when Pemba was covered almost coast-to-coast in tropical forest. Now just a small section remains, the Ngezi Nature Reserve, but its double-canopy denseness still presents a magical world to visitors where bird life abounds, and vervet monkeys swing from vines. There are trails for guided tours with the longest reaching Vumawimbi Beach while night tours offer the chance to spot the forest's endemic nocturnal denizens such as the Pemba scops owl and gigantic fruit bat, the Pemba flying fox.

And one to ensure you leave the lightest of environmental footprints is Chumbe Island.

This small private island a few km off Unguja was uninhabited until, in 1991, its forested land and surrounding coral reef was set aside as a nature reserve. A visitor and education centre, nature trails and amazing diving opportunities are now offered to day visitors who arrive by boat from Unguja while the recent building of an eco-lodge with beach restaurant means guests can enjoy longer stays.

Everything is run here with state-of-the-art eco-technology – rainwater harvesting, solar energy and solar water heating, composting toilets and vegetative greywater filtration – aimed at zero impact on the environment. The eco tiptoeing extends to protecting the island's rare wildlife such as Ader's duiker, roseate terns and turtles.

One of the island's strangest occupants is the coconut crab with a 300-strong population thriving here. After dinner, overnight guests have the chance to encounter the world's largest land-living land crab on a walk into the coral rag forest. At this time these scavengers are on the look-out for food with – as their name suggests – coconut a favourite on the menu with the giant crab using its curved and claw-like legs to scale the island's palm trees for their high-hanging fruit.

Mafia Island (Kisiwa cha Mafia in Swahili) is the one for unforgettable close-up encounters with whale sharks.

The Mafia archipelago is made up of five islands – Jibondo, Juani, Chole, and Mafia. The latter is the third largest island in Zanzibar and situated 160 km to the south of Unguja. Much of the southern stretch of its coastline is protected by the Mafia Island Marine Park, the largest protected area in the Indian Ocean and seasonal home to marine giants such as whale sharks.

Its pristine reefs and plankton-packed waters mean Mafia Island offers some of

the best diving in the world. The season to swim with filter-feeding whale sharks here is the longest in the world with trade winds pushing a layer of plankton-packed ocean water towards the island, encouraging the sharks to linger here from September to February. The waters here are also an excellent spot to watch humpback whales make their way up and down the coast as part of their annual migration. Add in incredible secluded beaches such as Ras Kisimani, just across from Bwejuu Island, and Utende Beach, which edges onto Chole Bay, and you have the perfect aquatic adventure holiday.

As well as its marine-life packed ocean depths, Mafia Island has a deep cultural history. Like Unguja, has long been a crucial and cosmopolitan stop-off for Indian Ocean maritime routes. The remains of its trading heyday, dating back to the 13th Century, can be seen in ruins such as those at Kisimani Mafia – evidence of what is thought to be the earliest settlement on the island.

Mnemba Island is tiny – about 1.5km in circumference – this private island is located 3km off the northeast coast of Unquja.

Just footsteps from the cerulean waters and a few swimming strokes from the Mnemba Atoll, a coral reef that encircles the island and provides one of the best scuba and snorkelling spots in Zanzibar with hundreds of species of colourful marine life darting before your eyes.

This is an exclusive escape – billionaire philanthropist Bill Gates is a regular (and rumoured owner) here – and can feel like you have your own private island at times.

While human guests on the island are restricted to just a select few, Mnemba does have plenty of wild inhabitants including the elusive suni antelope. Its beach is a popular nesting spot for green turtles and during hatching season – usually between February and March



SWAHILI CULTURE AT ITS BEST

Over the past 400 years, the Zanzibar archipelago has been ruled by a number of different administrators, including the Portuguese, the Sultanate of Oman, the Sultanate of Zanzibar and the British Empire.

In the 19th century trade flourished and there were many immigrants from Oman, India and Persia. Many of these merchants settled specifically in Stone Town on Unguja (the main island of the Zanzibar archipelago), triggering the harbour's development. That influence is still very visible today for anyone exploring this historic UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Wandering the narrow alleys of Stone Town – the old harbour area of the island's capital city – is essential to soak up Swahili culture at its most sophisticated. While there are plenty of exclusive boutiques, restaurants and bars within its winding streets, the UNESCO Site is still very much a living museum, showcasing ancient architecture and a way of life of life that have gone unchanged for centuries. Take in a taarab (traditional Swahili music)

concert, explore the bustling markets and reflect on the harbour's dark past as a centre of the slave trade.

Some highlights comprise The House of Wonders (Beit-al-Ajaib), formerly the Sultan's residence which dates from 1883. The building is not completely original as a major refurbishment was required after the residence received a direct hit from a British warship as a result of the unbelievably shortlived Anglo-Zanzibar War of 1896. Today, it's a museum dedicated to local Swahili culture.

The Old Fort (known locally as "Ngome Kongwe") is close to the House of Wonders, and a stone fortress that was built in the 17th century by the Omanis.

The Palace Museum ("Beit el-Sahel") is another former sultan's palace. Built on the seafront in late 19th century, it's now a museum dedicated to the life of the Zanzibari royal family.

Perhaps surprisingly for such an island whose population is largely Muslim, there's an Anglican cathedral in the centre of

Stone Town. It was constructed on the site of Zanzibar's largest slave market. Added to which, Stone Town also has a Roman Catholic Cathedral.

A particular favourite for visitors – especially in the cool of the evenings – is Forodhani Gardens opposite the Old Fort and The House of Wonders. The garden was restored about 15 years ago thanks to a very generous donation by the Aga Khan Trust for Culture.

Besides the grandeur of former royal residence, Stone Town offers visitors a chance to glimpse some of the architectural styles of more humbles dwellings. Anyone who walks into a basic residential property in Stone Town will see it is not a typical duplex house. It will most likely be made with "coral rock" mined from the Indian Ocean, then you'll see a beautiful Zanzibari sofa set, a few steps further in and you'll encounter an ornate spiral staircase made of very strong wood and which leads you to the bedrooms. Other distinguishing features include the roofs and ceilings in Stone Town, which are quite narrow and high as they were made using mangrove poles.

For all its colourful history, the town is still culturally vibrant today with some of its biggest internationally renowned events such as the Sauti za Busara music festival and the Zanzibar Film Festival taking over the awesome amphitheatre in the Old Fort.

Anyway, take your time, don't hurry, just make your Stone Town visit one to savour. You'll not be disappointed.













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Before the British colonised what is now Uganda in the 1890s, this part of East Africa and beyond was made up by a patchwork of kingdoms. Each had a king or chieftain who held sway over their people and were "crowned" among much pomp and ceremony.

The arrival of the British and creation of the Uganda Protectorate had only a limited impact on their royal status and, as in India, the coloniser generally sought to work with rather than against these highly revered tribal chiefs.

To those not familiar with modern-day Uganda, many of these kingdoms remain in place. And while these kings have no formal role within Uganda's constitution, they still have significant political influence.

However, since independence their position has not always been secure nor their presence in absolute harmony with the rulers of the day. Some politicians have feared the soft power wielded by these kings. And when late President Milton Obote created a new republican constitution in the late 1960s, he abolished all of Uganda's kingdoms at a stroke. These kingdoms were not officially restored until 1993 by president Yoweri Museveni and some eight years after Obote's final stint as president.

BUGANDA

Arguably, the most prominent and influential of these chieftains is the King of Buganda to whom any Ugandan president would prefer to be on good terms. In fact, at independence in 1963, the Buganda king Mutesa II was elected ceremonial President of Uganda. However, this marriage of apparent political convenience was shortlived since the autocratic Obote (from the Lango ethnic group of north central Uganda) and King Mutesa soon fell out.

Once an absolute monarchy and still politically powerful, Buganda is the largest of the traditional tribal kingdoms in present-day East Africa. Today, Buganda has a population of around 12 million and covers 26 of Uganda's 135 districts, including the capital Kampala, and comprises some 16 per cent of the nation's population.

The present King or 'Kabaka' of Buganda, Muwenda Mutebi II, has 'ruled' for just over 30 years. He is the 36th Kabaka. He studied

in the UK and worked as a journalist. The current queen, known as the Nnabagereka

or Kaddulubale, is Queen Sylvia Nagginda.

BUNYORO

Arguably the oldest of the East African kingdoms and ruled by the King (Omukama) of Bunyoro-Kitara. The current ruler is Solomon Iguru I, the 27th Omukama. The kingdom was banned in 1967 and restored along with Buganda and Tororo in 1993.





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Distributors and importers of fine groceries to Nairobi, Mombasa, Upcountry. Proud to be associated with Mada Group of Hotels

All leading brands



with a total population of 2.3 million - the minority, mainly pastoralist Bahima, and the mainly agriculturalist Bairu.

But other traditional kingdoms have not been so lucky in having the monarchy restored. For example, the Kingdom of Nkore was abolished in 1967 by President Obote and has not been officially restored. The king was known as the Omugabe of Ankole. The Ankole in south-west Uganda are over four million in number. As a result of this unrestored status, leader Charles Rwebishengye is only officially regarded as a prince.

On the eastern shores of Lake Victoria is Busoga – one of the country's oldest

dispute between two rival chieftains but is officially held by the splendidly named William Wilberforce Kadhumbula Gabula Nadiope IV.

Several other minor kingdoms and chiefdoms are officially recognized by the government, including the union of Alur chiefdoms, the Iteso paramount chieftaincy, the paramount chieftaincy of Lango (as mentioned regarding President Obote) and the Padhola state.

In all, these various kingdoms and their unique traditions and ceremonies add to the rich cultural tapestry that comprises present Uganda and makes the country such a compelling tourist destination.



TICK OFF PLENTY OF ADVENTURES FROM YOUR MUST-DO LIST

MASAI MARA BALLOON SAFARI

If you are making a trip to the Masai Mara, you cannot miss taking a Balloon Safari.

Rated as one of the best balloon rides in the world, a Balloon Safari offers an eagle's view of one greatest game reserves of the world and home of the Big Five. Balloon rides fly daily from Fig Tree Camp and transfers from surrounding camps are available.

Each balloon ride is celebrated with a Champagne breakfast and an opportunity for clients to enjoy a hot breakfast and a Bloody Mary on the Mara plains.

SAILING IN KILIFI



The Kilifi Creek is one of the most scenic water bodies on the East African coast and a sail in the creek is must do for anyone on the North Coast. Local Dhows offer the excursion and pontoon boats can also be arranged from Kilfi Bay and Boabab Sea lodge.

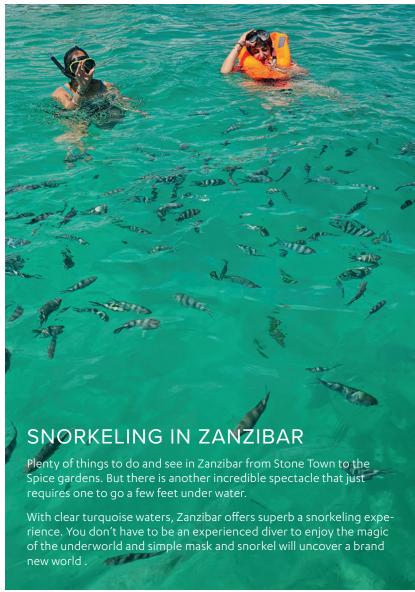
The sail trip is best in the evening and drinks and canapes are served on board. Trips go around the creek and 'bird island" where egrets settle in the evening to roost. Full of mangroves and rich in birdlife, the Kilfi Creek provides a true Indian Ocean experience.

SUNDOWNERS IN AMBOSELI

There is not greater backdrop in Africa than the majestic view of Mt Kilimanjaro.

With over 400 acres of private conservancy, Kilima Safari Camp is able to offer a most majestic sundowner facing Kilimanjaro. A very special memory where guest are able to enjoy the perfect gin and tonic with the tallest mountain In Africa behind you and in the company of the big Elephant tuskers. It just doesn't get any better.









Hunters Lodge is a bird watchers paradise. With the natural springs flowing along the property , the lodge is home to hundreds of species. No need for long walks or big lenses and just from the comfort of your balcony chair. You will be able to see more birds here in an hour than you perhaps will see over a 10-day safari. From the large black headed herons who roost on the acacia tops to the Pygmy Kingfisher, Hunters lodge is any twitcher's jackpot .



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WANDERING SAMARITANS



THE QUEST FOR LIGHT AND CLEAN WATER By Yatendra Agrawal

In 2017 I took my family on a safari trip in Kenya. Our first stay was at Mada Hotels' Kilima Safari Camp, which is in Amboseli National Park.

Like many others we also did the Maasai village trip. On this trip I asked the villagers to show me the inside of their huts. I noticed the dark and gloomy interiors filled with smoke. There was no electricity and in one corner of the hut wooden sticks were being burnt for cooking food resulting in intense smoke inside. This was in stark contrast to the beautiful and colourful costumes that they wore to welcome and entertain tourists.

I resolved at that moment to provide solar lamps to all the different bomas surrounding the Amboseli National Park. Returning to Kilima I asked the waiter to let me know who was the owner of the hotel. He provided me a copy of the Reflections magazine and mentioned that the owner was of Indian descent (and that he was a "nice person").

SOLAR LIGHTING

Returning to India I opened Google maps on my laptop and by zooming in on the Amboseli area I could see the different bomas and I counted the number of manyattas in each boma. I identified 40 bomas and nearly 500 manyattas. I contacted Mada Hotels through email and







mentioned my desire to donate Sun King solar lamps (from Greenlight Planet) to all the villagers.

Tinu Mhajan, Mada Hotels managing director, contacted me the very next day and showed great surprise at my idea of

donation as he had not seen any client do such work. I had mentioned that we do not want any publicity and that the reach-out would be done through his Mada Hotel employees. This was another surprise for Tinu as most Trusts and NGOs are looking for publicity.





Greenlight Planet had an office in Nairobi and I sent money for the solar lamps and these were then picked up by Mada Hotels staff. Using the supply truck, the lamps were sent to Kilima and quickly distributed. This was the beginning of my relationship with Tinu and Mada Hotels.

Since then, I have visited different areas in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Zanzibar and Rwanda. At most places Mada Hotel has provided all the logistics and lodging facilities. This has helped me in focusing on my reach-out work.

Travelling to all these countries has shown to me the desperate need for solar lighting in homes and for clean drinking water. Water is often taken from ponds and is highly contaminated. In many areas there are issues of iron and fluoride contamination in water.



INDIAN ARMY

We have also reached out in South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. This was done through the Indian Army which is part of UN Peacekeeping Force. The solar lamps and water filters were handed over to the Indian army in New Delhi and they have taken them to these countries through special charter flights which were used for troop rotations. Deep reach-out was done in both the countries.

CLEAN DRINKING WATER

During my reach-out in India in remote areas I noted the difficulty villagers where facing to access clean water. Iron, fluoride, arsenic and bacteria contamination were observed in different parts of the country. I have an engineering degree from the IIT Mumbai university and I utilised my technical knowledge to search on internet various solutions which have proven to be effective in removing contaminants from water to make it potable. Many research papers were read, experiments were initiated and visits to universities were undertaken. The most important criteria for the filter was it should be fit into a bucket, must work with no access to electricity and not a drop of water wasted.

The Terafil filter for iron removal was identified as a good solution. Specialized

resins were identified to remove fluoride and arsenic from water.

For bacteria and virus removal we have made a special gravity-based EcoH20 filter which use hollow-fiber technology. This filter, once connected to any bucket or tap, can prevent water-borne diseases like cholera, dysentery, and typhoid by blocking all harmfull bacteria.

ECOH20 FILTER

I believe a large scale roll-out of EcoH20 filters will have major implication for many countries in reducing the prevalence of water-borne diseases and thereby reducing medical expenditure. The filter has been made in different sizes and can be used in home, offices, government buildings, schools, hospitals and any place that requires clean water.

Large-scale roll-out is possible only through government initiatives. In this way costs such as customs duties and local taxes can be reduced to zero thereby providing the product to the poorest at lowest possible cost.

Through support of Mada Hotels we continue our efforts to make people aware of good clean drinking water solutions.

For more information on the filter, visit WhatsApp: +91-8080182356
Email: yatendra.agarwal@gmail.com www.ecosolutiontechnologies.com.

FOR THE LOVE OF CHILDREN



FOR THE LOVE OF CHILDREN

As a regular visitor to the Masai Mara and a welcome guest at Fig Tree Camp, Reflections magazine had the privilege of interviewing one of the world's greatest philanthropists, Ashid Bahl. This is his story.

I have been helping underprivileged children in Kenya for the past 44 years. It all started at the age of 11 when I used to give my lunch and toys away to some of the less fortunate children when I attended Westlands Primary School and the process of giving never stopped.

None of us get paid to do the charitable work, we just do it out of the goodness of our hearts. I have also been helping some of the schools in Nairobi over the years by giving them school supplies/equipment, electricity, water, sports equipment, school

repairs and building extra classrooms – just to mention a few.

I have also been helping the Maasai over the 44 years supplying food, clothing, shelter, medical supplies, water wells and more. I built Sanare School for the Maasai in the remote village of Mosiro in the constituency of Kajiado West as there was no nearby school for the children. After building the school we realised that we needed to do more for the local people. We built a water well as there was lack of water and also provided food every time they got hit with a bad drought and were

on the brink of starvation. We would even have children approaching me for help; I remember one child who got bit by a snake but never received the proper required treatment which resulted in his hand twisting. We had to help him get an operation in Nairobi to straighten it.

Recently children approached me from the same village and asked me to build a church near the school as they did not like praying under a tree where snakes could bite them. I built the church for them which is also used as a community centre.

We built the first classrooms, an administrative building and toilets for the Loigero Primary School in Talek, near Masai Mara. Recently we built a library for the school. This is in addition to giving them school supplies and equipment over the years. In all our schools we ensure that 40% to 50% of the students comprise girls as they often do not get a chance to go to school.

We have currently have 98 schools and orphanages around the world and have 30,000 children under our care. It is helpful to have community leaders and agents like Daniel Teyiaa, Kuldip Sapra and Tinu Mhajan (of Mada Hotels) who help distribute the aid when we are not on site to do so.



PHILANTHROPIST

An enthusiastic philanthropist, prolific writer, poet, talented artist, Bahl is the President and Founder of a charity aid organization For the Love of Children Society (FTLOCS) of Alberta. He was only 11 years old when he started giving his lunch and toys to less fortunate children in his Kenya school and the process of giving never stopped for him.

This year marks the 44th anniversary of Bahl's aid work with FTLOCS, providing millions of dollars of aid in supplies, support and manpower to build stable orphanages and schools and to deliver medicine and healing methods that would otherwise be unavailable.





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Email: jaflofuels@gmail.com / jaflotrading@yahoo.co.uk





It is estimated that through his hard work FTLOCS has helped over one million children in Canada and beyond.

RECOGNISED

Prime Minister Stephen Harper, His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Angelina Jolie are among the people who have recognised Ashid's efforts to help less fortunate children around the world. Her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II recognised him three times for his work.

Ashid has demonstrated a lifetime commitment to philanthropy in supporting healthy and vibrant communities of children across the globe. He continues to reach out to disadvantaged children in improving living

conditions to educating them. No one in the organisation gets paid to do the charitable work. The vital funding he has provided stems from countless hours of volunteering and fundraising. He has singlehandedly raised over US\$ 15 million in aid to help the less fortunate around the world.

Ashid aims to impart his message of hope, compassion and that even one person can make a big difference to bring about peace and stability in this world. As he says: "Life is not about us, life is about making life happen for someone else who is less fortunate...in that, is the true significance of living."

For more information, visit www.fortheloveofchildrensociety.org









TICK BEHIND THE TOCK



CHEF SARAN RANA

HEAD CHEF, KILIFI BAY

Passion: Making new recipes

Goal in Kenya: To introduce exciting menus which showcase the best fresh seafood with a Kenyan coastal flavour.

Specialty: Oriental seafood

fusion dishes

Fun Time: Taking long drives with

friends. Playing football.

Obsession: A true foody



BREAN BWAMBALE

POSITION: HEAD CHEF, KAMPALA NILE RESORT

Claim to Fame: Running the best African/Continental fusion kitchen in Uganda

Goal: To travel and learn different cuisines from around the world

Specialty: Grilled whole tilapia with Ugandan matoke (plantan) and ground nut kachumbari

Fun Time: Playing football

Other Passions: Making cooking videos





THOMAS BALLOON PILOT, ADVENTURES ALOFT IN KENYA AND TANZANIA

Nationality: Lithuanian

Experience: 16 years of flying balloons, two years in Kenya and Tanzania

Why he loves his job: Gets to fly big balloons in the best parks of Africa

Passion: Snowboarding

New Hobby: A keen wildlife enthusiast

Mantra: To keep guests smiling

CARLOS: BALLOON PILOT, ADVENTURES ALOFT IN KENYA AND TANZANIA

Nationality: Spanish

Experience: 23 years flying balloons

Top 3 Passions: 1. Barcelona FC

Barcelona FC
 Barcelona FC

What he loves about Africa:

The sounds

Mantra: Safety first

FRIDAH KATHOKI FRONT OFFICE MANAGER AT HUNTERS LODGE

27 years old

Fridah likes travelling and exploring and also loves to cook. Pillau is her favourite dish

Her favourite part of Kenya is the Taita Hills.

In the long term, Fridah would like to have her own business – preferably in the hospitality and leisure sector.

Fridah enjoys her music and Rihanna is her favourite artist.



TICK BEHIND THE TOCK



JOSEPH OOGA FOOD AND BEVERAGE MANAGER, HOTEL LA MADA

Age: 42 years

Experience: 20 years in

hospitality

Home: Kisi, Kenya

Favourite Part of Kenya:

Mombasa

Sport: Swimming

Passion: Working with creative chefs who love experimenting



JOEL NKUKUU DRIVER GUIDE, FIG TREE CAMP

Age: 38 years

Experience: Driver guide with Mada Hotels for the last

12 years

Specialty: Flora and fauna

Favourite Animal: Elephant

What a Hat Trick: Being able to spot all the Big Five

three days in row.

Hobbies: Football and Manchester United is his

favourite team





RIZIKI OMAR MASSUESE, **BAOBAB SEA LODGE**

Claim to Fame: The massage centre at Baobab Sea Lodge has one of the best views on the Kenya coast

Goal in Kenya: To see that each client comes back for a second massage as a confirmation that they really enjoyed the experience.

Specialty: Neck massage

Fun Time: Travel and swimming.

Other Passions: Dance and

music



KEVIN ACANIT HEAD HOUSEKEEPER, JINJA NILE RESORT

Claim to Fame: Working on the only property in Africa with over 1 km of frontage on the River Nile

Goals for 2024: Learning to swim

Why She loves what she does: Meeting people from all over the world.

Fun Time: Spending time with her two children

Passions: Reading and hiking

NATALIE PESI

CAMP AMBASSADOR, FIG TREE CAMP

Home: Narok Age: 23 years

Duties: Making sure all guests experience the best of Fig

Tree Camp and the magical Masai Mara

Her favourite day: When guests tell her that their stay at Fig Tree was their best holiday experience ever (happens all the time!)

Why she likes the Mara: Every day is a different

Hobbies: Trying to learn different languages

experience







The Mada Hotels group comprises 11 properties – seven in Kenya, two in Uganda and two in Tanzania/Zanzibar. In addition, the group operates balloon flights from several locations in both Kenya and Tanzania.

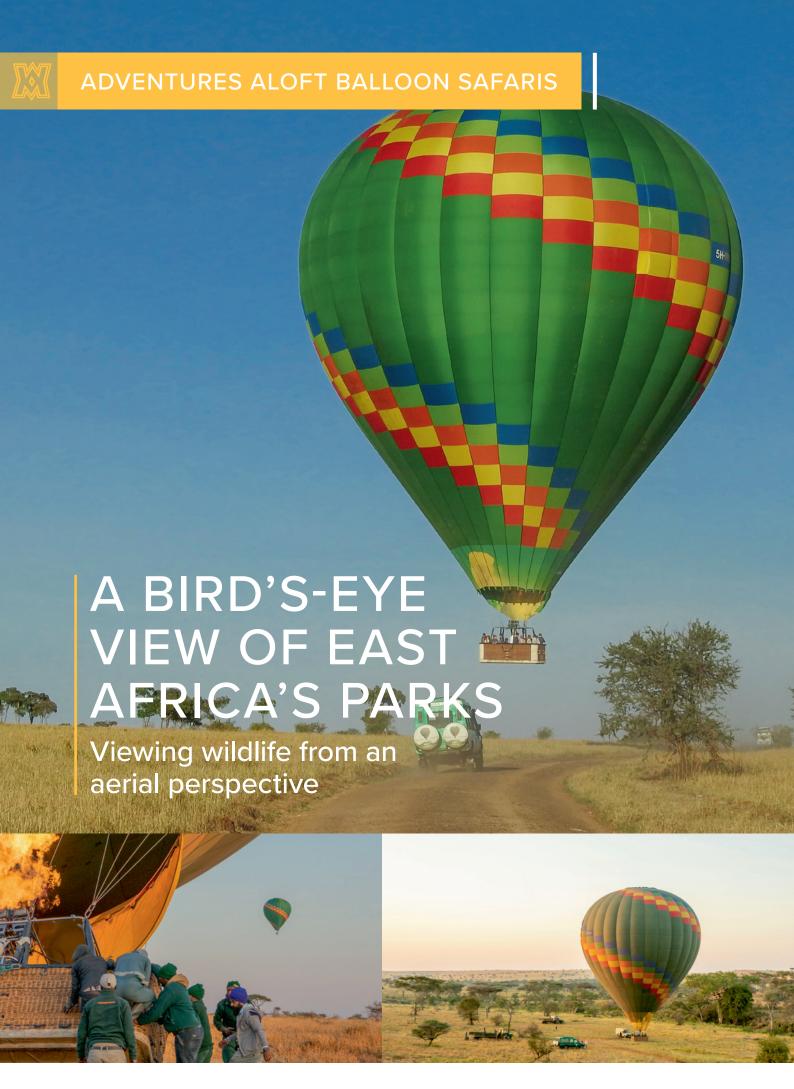
The current Mada properties consist of tented camps in the Masai Mara, Amboseli and Tarangire; a pair of oceanfront hotels in Kilifi; two city hotels in Nairobi; a resort in Jinja, Kampala and Zanzibar; and a lodge located just off the Nairobi-Mombasa highway.

For more information visit www.madahotels.com

MAP LOCATIONS KEY

- 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. KAMPALA NILE RESORT | KAMPALA
- 9. ADVENTURES ALOFT | MASAI MARA
- 10. ADVENTURES ALOFT | SERENGETI
- 11. ADVENTURES ALOFT | TARANGIRE
- 12. ELEPHANT ROCK | TARANGIRE
- 13. HUNTERS LODGE | KIBOKO
- 14. SHUKRAN PALACE | ZANZIBAR







Guests can enjoy the sights and sounds as Africa awakes. Once back on the ground, a champagne-style breakfast is served, with an open bar and attentive butler service

With well over 25 years' experience operating hot-air balloons, Adventures Aloft provides clients with memorable experiences and an opportunity to have a bird's-eye view of East Africa's iconic parks.

Pilots are extremely experienced, with over 1,000 hours of flying time, and ensure flights always take off and land safely, running smoothly from beginning to end. Each flight takes off at 06.30 each morning and lasts for around an hour. This is when wildlife is at its most active, and guests can enjoy the sights and sounds as Africa awakes. Once back on the ground, a champagne-style breakfast is served, with an open bar and attentive butler service.

The company has a safe record, which means guests can have peace of mind when they choose to experience a balloon safari. Adventures Aloft aims to be as eco-friendly as possible and all operations are carried out with minimal impact on wildlife and the wider local environment and the company

asks for passengers to adhere to a similar conduct wherever possible.

Adventures Aloft operates from four bases across Tanzania and Kenya: the Masai Mara, Tarangire and three bases in the Serengeti. These top locations provide outstanding opportunities to witness a range of spectacular sights.

TARANGIRE

Operations in Tarangire began ten years ago using a 12-passenger capacity A-315 Cameroon balloon.

Guests are picked up from their accommodation within the park and driven to the launch site by company staff. All balloon routes tend to follow the meandering Tarangire River enabling guests to view animals moving around either side of the water.

After landing, a delicious breakfast is served on the riverbank in the shade of baobab trees. Guests are taken back to

their camp or lodge with a further chance to view wildlife en-route.

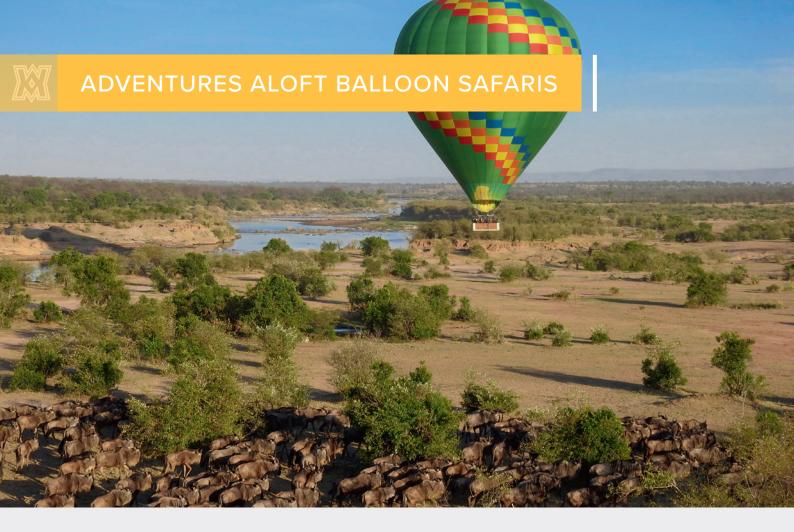
Tarangire Balloon flights are extremely popular and daily capacity is limited.
Bookings can be made through Adventures
Aloft directly or via a tour operator or staff at your own camp.

SERENGETI

Operating a fleet of 16-passenger capacity A-415 Cameron balloons, Adventures Aloft has four different bases in the Serengeti: at Togoro, a wide open plain, in the central area, at Kogatende, close to the Mara River and the Tanzania-Kenya border and since 2023 in Seronera. The Serengeti is an ideal place to view the Big Five and is a top safari destination.

MASAI MARA

Adventures Aloft has operated in the Masai Mara National Reserve for over 20 years. The location is great for guests



Scan with your mobile device to watch the experience



wanting an aerial perspective of the annual wildebeest and zebra migration, and is deemed one of the seven wonders of the modern world.

Flights commence at 06.30 each day from Mada's Fig Tree Camp, with transfers available from most of the camps and lodges in the area.

NGORONGORO

Adventures Aloft fly three balloons over the Ngorongoro, each with a capacity of 16 pax. Flights commence at 06.00 everyday and transfers are available from camps and lodges around the area. The Ngorongoro Conservation Area is home to the Big Five and at times, guests can spot the annual migration of millions of wildebeests and zebras traverse its plains. In addition, Ngorongoro features the world famous Ngorongoro Crater and Olduvai Gorge, an archaeological site.



FACT FILE

LOCATIONS: Masai Mara, Tarangire, Serengeti, Ngorongoro

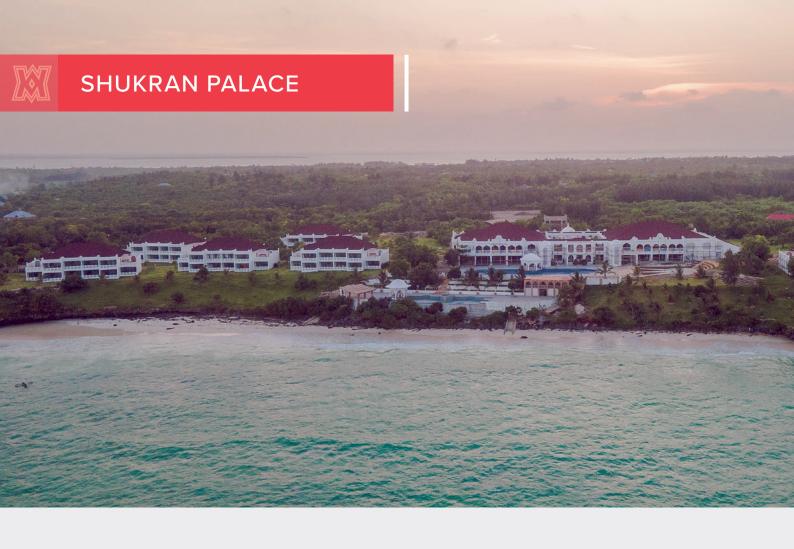
FLEET: Fifteen 16 pax sitting capacity balloons. Two 12 pax sitting capacity. One 8 pax sitting capacity. Total 18 Balloons.

DEPARTS: 06.30

FLIGHT DURATION: About 1 hour

ADDITIONAL SERVICES: Breakfast on landing, transfers to and from accommodation in national parks and reserves.





The Shukran Palace in Zanzibar is set to become the newest addition to the Mada Collection and its first property on Unguja (Zanzibar Island).

Set in 25 acres, the Shukran Palace will indeed be palatial in every way and is a five-star premium resort that will take luxury to a new level. The 80 standard rooms will offer an incredible 85 sq m of living space and all rooms face the Indian Ocean. While 20 sumptuous 130-sq m suites will feature their own Jacuzzis, star shower and lounge among a host of top-of-the-range amenities.

The resort will offer guests a choice of two specialty restaurants and a coffee shop, a main bar and an Italian bar, three pools (one 50 metres in length and another 35 metres) and a truly impressive 500-metre wide private beach of flawless white sand lapped by the azure waters of the ocean.

For the health conscious there's a gym, a yoga centre with aerial aerobics plus a sauna and steam bath with three treatment rooms and a private Jacuzzi. An activity room includes a pool table, table tennis and fussball. There is also a children's care centre.



The Shukran Palace is sure to prove popular for meetings with conferences facilities for up to 250 people.

As darkness falls over the delightful corner of Zanzibar guests will be entertained with evening shows in the hotel's amphitheatre.

This new property will showcase the best of Zanzibar for guests looking for a super-luxury experience.









GPS: Latitude: S6.136569° South

DISTANCE | ESTIMATED TIME:

STONE TOWN: 64 km/1 hour 25 mins

ZANZIBAR AIRPORT: 65 km/1 hour 25 mins.



FACT FILE

STAR RATING: ★★★★

LOCATION: Michamvi, Zanzibar

NUMBER OF ROOMS: 100

(80 Palace Rooms/20 Palace Suites)

LEISURE: Three swimming pools, Gym and Spa, Children leisure centre

RESTAURANTS: Main Restaurant, 2 specialty restaurants and Coffee Shop

BARS: Main Bar, Pool bar, Italian bar

BEACH FRONTAGE: 500 meters

POWER SUPPLY: 230V

CONFERENCING: Catering for up 250

people

ENTERTAINMENT: Live shows

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS: Stone Town (UNESCO World Heritage Site)

OTHER FACILITIES: Airport shuttle

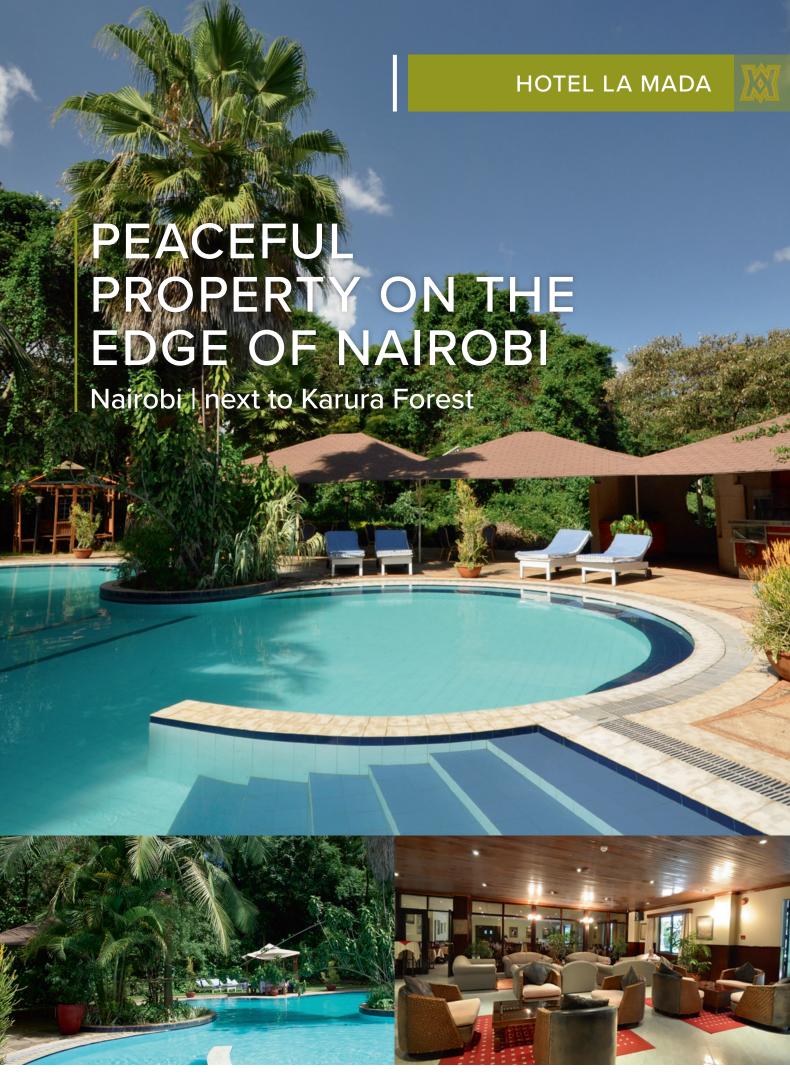


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A popular coffee shop and relaxing pool bar provide guests with refreshments amid a picturesque woodland setting

Hotel La Mada, located adjacent to the Karura Forest in Kenya's capital, has 35 spacious and luxuriously appointed en-suite guest rooms – 25 double rooms, six twin rooms and four executive rooms. All are furnished with classic-style wooden beds and crisp white linens. The modern property is four-star with a contemporary ambience.

Guests can choose from the hotel's two dining options: the à la carte restaurant serves fine food in an elegant setting while the Lion's Den restaurant serves delicious cold and barbecued lunches in a more relaxed and casual environment. A coffee shop and pool bar are on site providing guests with refreshments in a beautiful woodland setting.

Hotel La Mada's swimming pool is the ideal place to unwind in a shady environment and guests can take advantage of free Wi-Fi and an reliable airport shuttle service.



OUT OF TOWN

The property is an ideal base for busy executives wanting to stay out of town for meetings, seminars and conferences. La Mada has well-equipped facilities comprising four conference halls and an executive boardroom with LCD projectors, computers and a secretarial and photocopying service. The Lion's Den can be used to host events with cocktails and live entertainment.









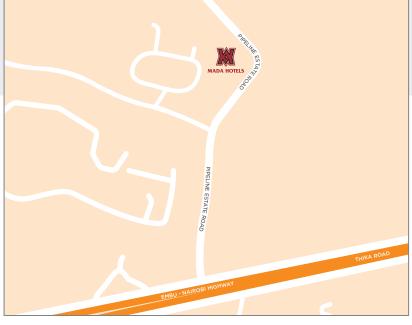
GPS: Latitude: 1° 14′ 42.2″ (1.2451)° South Longitude: 36° 51′ 31.9″ (36.8589)° East

DISTANCE | ESTIMATED TIME:

CITY CENTRE: 10 km | 15 to 20 mins

JKIA: 25 km | 20 to 40 mins

WILSON AIRPORT: 18 km | 25 to 35 mins.



FACT FILE

STAR RATING: ★★★★

LOCATION: Thika Road, Nairobi

NUMBER OF ROOMS: 35

(30 Deluxe/5 Executive suite)

LEISURE: Swimming pool

DINING: Two restaurants

BARS: Main bar, Pool bar

POWER SUPPLY: 220V

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

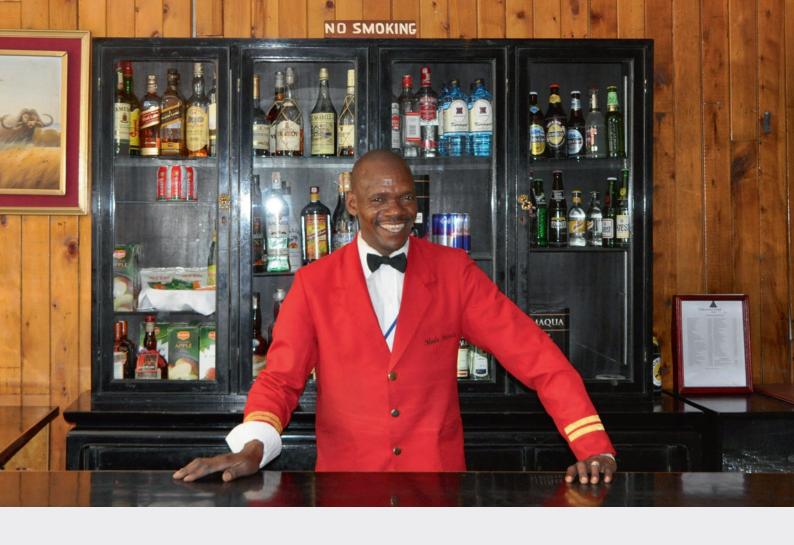
ENTERTAINMENT: Live bands

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS: Karura Forest

OTHER FACILITIES: Airport shuttle service,

business centre, Wi-Fi





The hotel's name originates from the traditional oak wood panelling that graces the property

In the heart of the capital's Central Business District is the Oakwood Hotel – an ideal location for visitors wanting to experience a charming old-world property in a downtown setting. A wide choice of bars and restaurants are in the surrounding area.

The hotel is located in the Elite House building, formerly known as Livingstone House, and dates back to the colonial 1950s. The building has retained its original architectural charm but has undergone a modern refurbishment to add to its appeal and comfort. The hotel's name originates from the traditional oak wood panelling that makes this property so unique and delightful and adds to its character. The Oakwood has 19 self-contained bedrooms, all equipped with a phone, TV, in-house video, mini fridge and tea- and coffeemaking facilities.

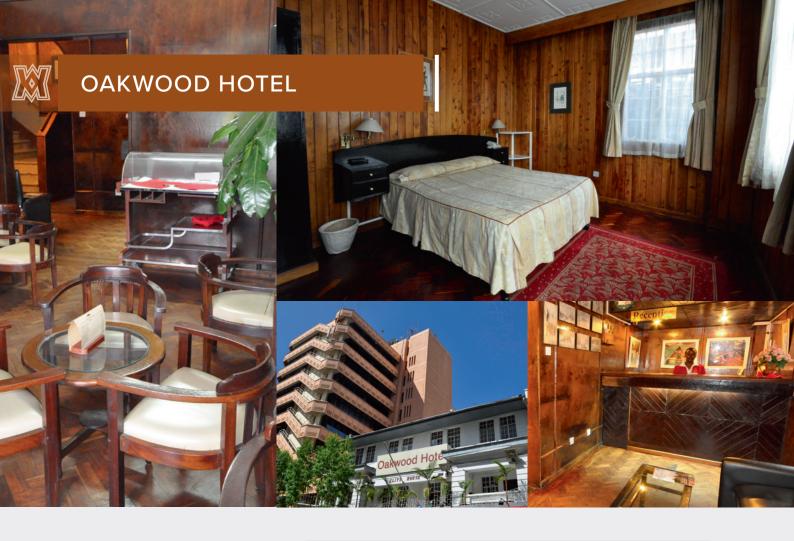
A business centre is on the property's site, including a meeting hall equipped with Wi-Fi and free parking.

The on-site restaurant serves dishes à la carte style and a traditional and hearty full English breakfast is included in the room rate. Additionally, the property's bar serves refreshments with its popular balcony overlooking lively Kimathi Street below.

Close by is the railway station, giving ready access to other towns and cities in Kenya such as Mombasa and Naivasha, thanks to the high-speed SGR line.











GPS: Latitude: 1.2921° North Longitude: 36.8219° South

DISTANCE | ESTIMATED TIME:

CITY CENTRE: No distance

JKIA: 12 km | 20 to 30 mins

WILSON AIRPORT: 8 km | 20 mins.

FACT FILE

STAR RATING: ★★★

LOCATION: Kimathi Street, Nairobi

NUMBER OF ROOMS: 19

DINING: One retaurant

BARS: One bar

POWER SUPPLY: 220V

OTHER FACILITIES: Wi-Fi, Business Centre,

Meeting Hall





The delightful resort offers 180-degree views of the Indian Ocean, superb conference facilities and is set amid lush tropical gardens

Kilifi boasts two Mada properties along its entire length of spectacular beach: Baobab Sea Lodge and Kilifi Bay Beach Resort.

Surrounded by white sand and 26,000 square metres of verdant tropical gardens, Kilifi Bay Beach Resort offers guests complete relaxation on one of the Indian Ocean's finest shorelines. The resort offers 180-degree views of the ocean and is set amid lush gardens, dotted with tall palm trees. The fourstar property has a laid-back atmosphere and highly personalised service to leave guests worry-free during their beachfront escape.

There are 49 rooms for guests to choose from, all with private balconies and ocean views and equipped with a TV, phone and free Wi-Fi. A free massage service is available to all guests and there is a choice of two swimming pools.

The exclusive resort's restaurant serves buffet breakfasts, light lunches and tasty evening meals. The dinner menu

features international cuisine, and theme nights are scheduled throughout the week as well as barbecues. The Teppanyaki Restaurant serves elegant Japanese cuisine and fresh seafood while poolside, the Coconut Bar offers a selection of drinks and snacks during the day. In 2023, the Resort's beach deck was completely renovated allowing guests incredible vistas and a relaxing atmosphere.

Also in 2023, Mada Hotels opened the Kilifi Convention Centre – the biggest and most modern such facilities north of Mombasa. The Centre comprises four large conference rooms accommodating up to 500 persons. Further expansion will take place during 2024.

Guests can take advantage of the hotel's own boat, which departs throughout the day on scenic excursions into nearby Kilifi Creek. On-board, guests can enjoy soft drinks and snacks. A wide range of water sports including snorkelling, diving and canoeing can be enjoyed from the beach.











GPS: Latitude: 3°36′20.1″ (3.6056)° South Longitude: 39°52′59.6″ (39.8832)° East

DISTANCE | ESTIMATED TIME:

MOMBASA AIRPORT: 64 km | 1 hr 20 mins

MOMBASA 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



FACT FILE

STAR RATING: ★★★

LOCATION: Kilifi

NUMBER OF ROOMS: 49

LEISURE: Two swimming pools, snorkelling, windsurfing, scuba diving, glass-bottomed boat, deep sea fishing,

creek cruises, Table Tennis **DINING:** Two restaurants

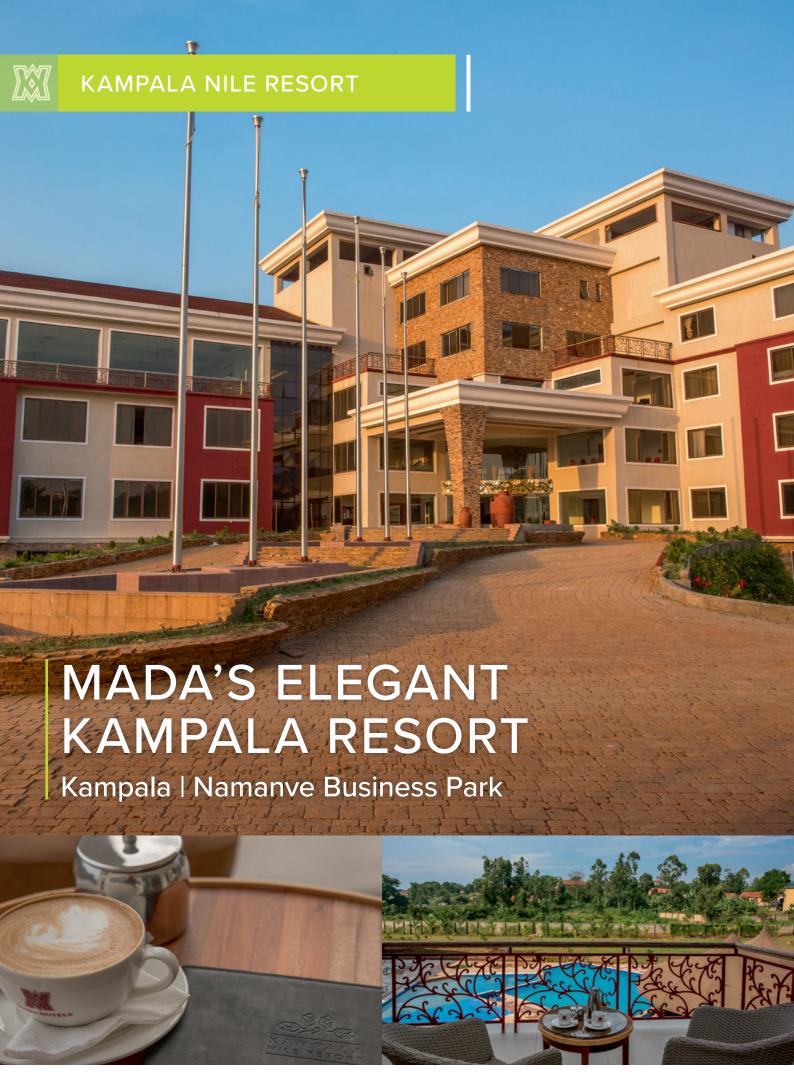
BARS: Three bars

CONFERENCING: Facilities for up to 500 people. PA systems and LCD projectors

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

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS: Kilifi Harbour and Creek

OTHER FACILITIES: Massage service, Wi-Fi, Curio Shop





The elegantly appointed and well-located property draws inspiration from Uganda's vibrant natural beauty

Mada Hotels opened the prestigious Kampala Nile Resort as a response to the demand for more accommodation in the fast-growing Namanve Business Park. By road, Kampala Nile Resort is 14 km from the city centre (along Jinja highway) and 55 km from Entebbe International Airport.

The four-star resort is spread over six acres of lush gardens with a fresh-water spring running through the property. Kampala Nile Resort offers world-class hospitality to international and national guests alike to enhance their experience. All 125 luxury guest rooms are elegantly appointed, drawing inspiration from Uganda's vibrant natural beauty and quality finishes.

There are all the amenities that any international traveller would expect including high-speed Wi-Fi, air conditioning, a 43-inch smart TV with DStv, hair dryer and laundry service. Rooms range from standard twin rooms to presidential suites and penthouses.

Guests can choose from a variety of bars and dining facilities when staying at the Kampala Nile Resort. Pick from four all-day restaurants serving local and international cuisine including oriental dishes. 24-hour room service is available for ultimate convenience. The property is also home to three stylish bars that provide the perfect place for pre-dinner cocktails or a relaxed business meeting. The coffee shop serves freshly brewed coffee and is open

BUSINESS CLIENTELE

To cater for business clientele, Mada has built an on-site conference centre comprising five conference halls, three meeting rooms, a banquet room and a boardroom. The centre is fitted with the latest technology, Wi-Fi and air conditioning.

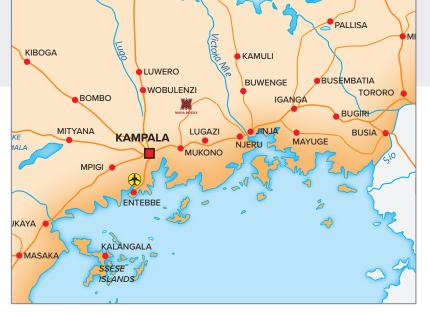
For those who want to unwind, the property has a spa complete with a sauna,



Jacuzzi, steam bath and massage services. There is also a gym, outdoor swimming pool and aerobic classes, as well as tennis courts and a football pitch. The gardens are an ideal setting for a wedding reception and other celebrations.







GPS: Latitude: 0°21′39.553″ (0.360987)° North Longitude: 32°41′53.339″ (32.698150)° East

DISTANCE | ESTIMATED TIME:

CITY CENTRE: 14 km | 40 mins

ENTEBBE AIRPORT: 55 km | 1 hr 40 mins

STAR RATING: ★★★★

LOCATION: Namanve Business Park

NUMBER OF ROOMS: 125

LEISURE: Swimming pool, spa and gym

DINING: Four restaurants

BARS: Four bars

CONFERENCING: Five conference halls, three meeting rooms, a banquet room

and a board room

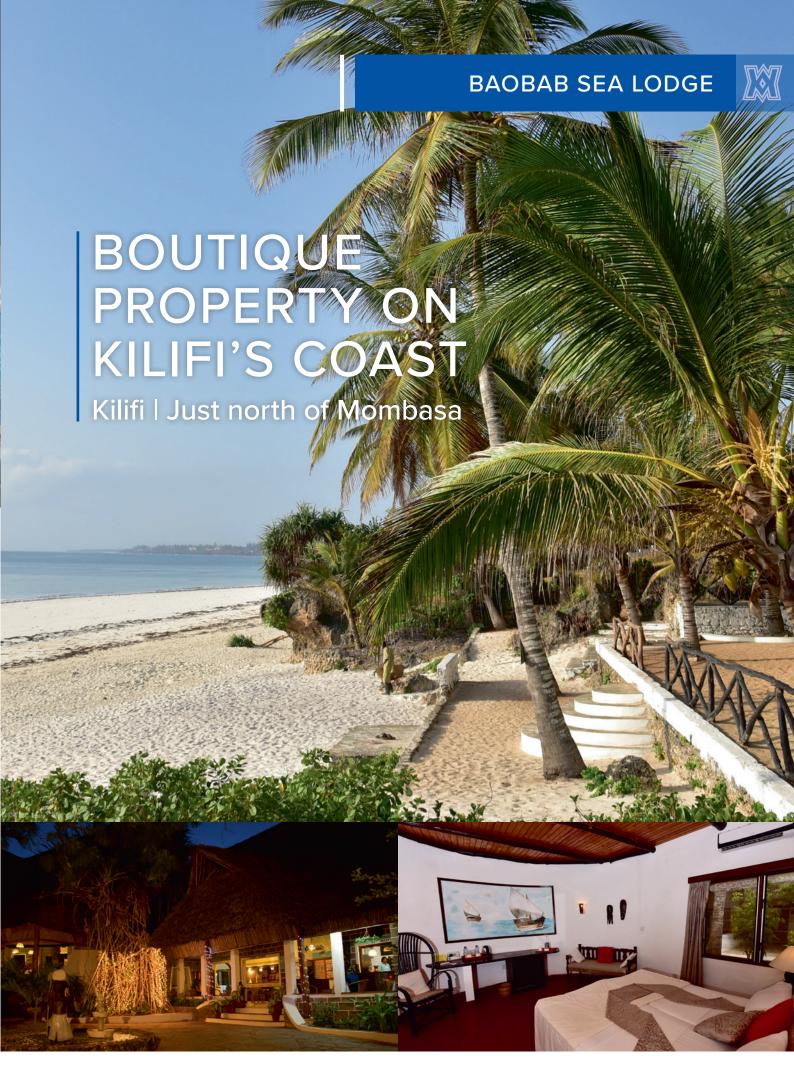
ENTERTAINMENT: Live bands, traditional

dances, in-house disco system

Nearby attractions: Independent Monument, Mandela National Museum,

Garden City

OTHER FACILITIES: Concierge service, luggage storage, lockers, tour desk, currency exchange





The Baobab Sea Lodge is located close to the coastal town of Kilifi – equidistance between Mombasa and Malindi

The three-star Baobab Sea Lodge is a budget-friendly hideaway located on Kilifi Bay beach and set in seven acres of gardens with a full 60 metres of fabulous Indian Ocean frontage. Quite simply, it's a hidden gem.

Like its sister property just up the coast, the Kilifi Bay Beach Resort, the Baobab Sea Lodge is close to the laid-back coastal town of Kilifi, located halfway between Mombasa and Malindi. Kilifi may be a small town, but it has a good selection of small shops, two banks, a post office, a pharmacy and even a hospital. Kilifi also possesses what is possibly Kenya's finest creek.

SWAHILI STYLE

The lodge has 30 tastefully appointed guest rooms in a contemporary Swahili style. Guests can opt for different meal plans, from all-inclusive to simply just bed and breakfast. The bed and breakfast option gives guests the ability to either eat at nearby restaurants or sample some of the delicious and fresh seafood served at the lodge.

The lodge hosts themed nights including acrobatics, discos, live music and traditional dancers. For those who would prefer a more tranquil atmosphere, there are two bars for a quiet cocktail, plus a TV lounge.

BOAT TRIPS

Guests have access to a massage service included in the price of their stay. There's a wide choice of water sports including snorkelling, deep-sea fishing, windsurfing, scuba diving and canoeing, as well as trips out on a glass-bottomed boat. Mada's own boat is available for excursions around sheltered Kilifi Creek.

Baobab Sea Lodge is an important conference venue with a theatre-style room which can accommodate up to 200 people. Banquets can also be arranged.









GPS: Latitude: 3°37′20.1″ (3.6056)° South Longitude: 35°52′59.6″ (39.8832)° East

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



FACT FILE

STAR RATING: ★★★

LOCATION: Kilifi

NUMBER OF ROOMS: 30

LEISURE: Two swimming pools (one for children), tennis, snorkelling, windsurfing, scuba diving, glass-bottomed boat, deep sea fishing and creek cruises

DINING: One restaurant, banquets on

request

BARS: Two bars and a swim-up pool bar

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

computers

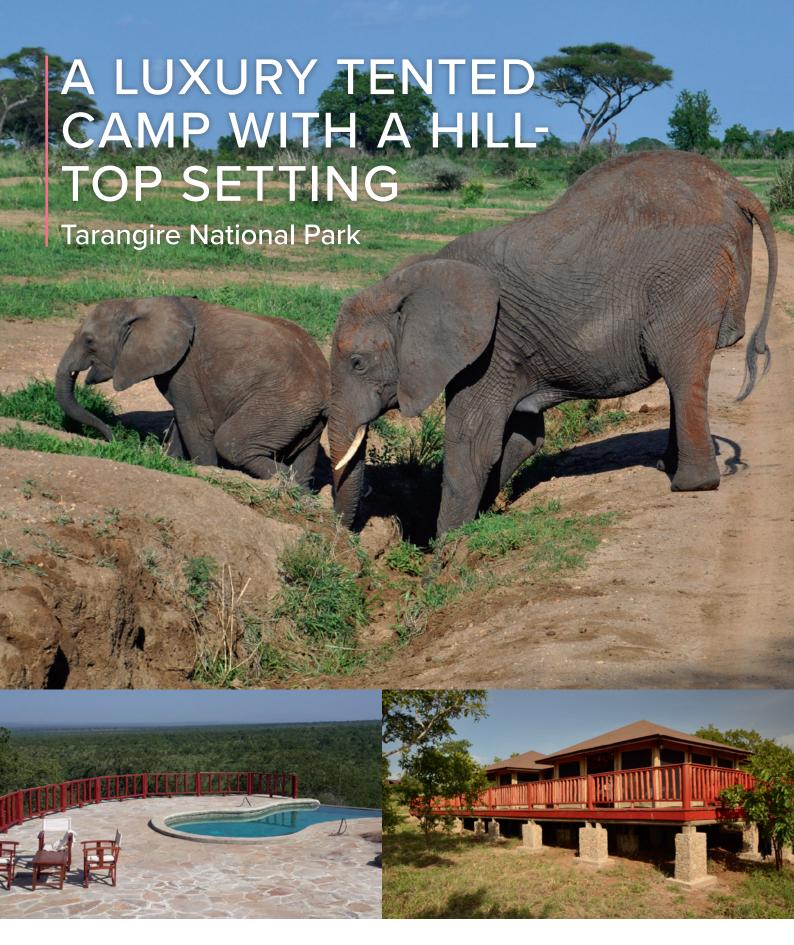
ENTERTAINMENT: Live music, themed nights and traditional African shows

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS: Kilifi Harbour,

Kilifi Creek, fruit markets

OTHER FACILITIES: Wi-Fi







Guests can look forward to a fabulous views in one of Tanzania's finest parks

Set atop Boundary Hill in Tanzania's breath-taking Tarangire National Park, Elephant Rock is a place of extraordinary vistas of a baobab-dotted horizon.

Elephant Rock was previously known as Balloon Camp Tarangire, but the new name reflects recent improvements to the camp with a new bar and dining area.

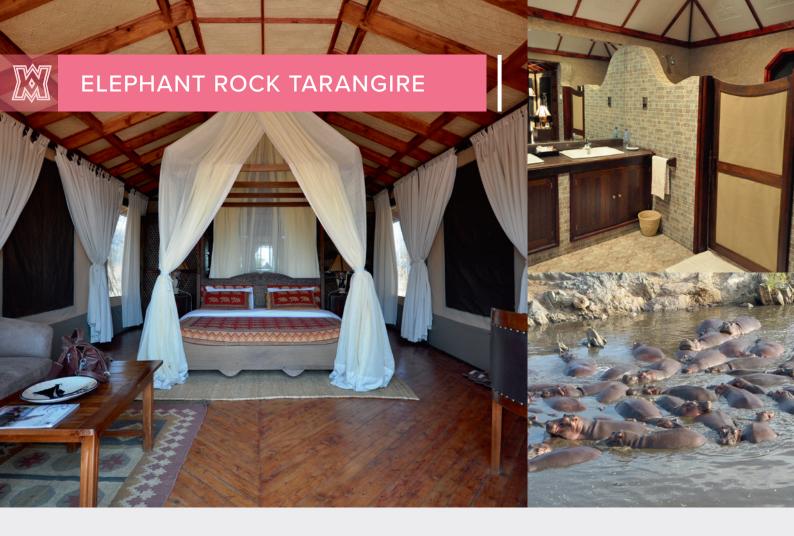
RAISED ON STILTS

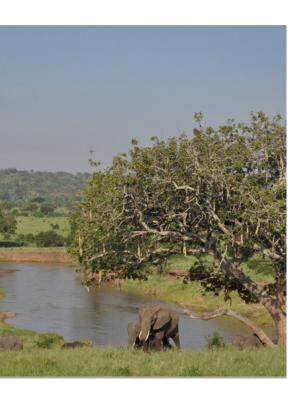
The Camp itself is made up of ten grand safari tents and all come complete with sturdy four-poster beds and spacious and beautifully appointed bathrooms. Each tent stands on its own platform, raised on stilts and with a broad veranda for those welcome sundowners and, maybe, a chance to read a book.

Game drives throughout the underrated national park are undertaken with an experienced guide and in one of the Camp's fleet of 4x4s. After an absorbing day enjoying the very best that wildliferich Tarangire has to offer then head home and take an exhilarating dip in the Camp's unusual pool. After which, guests can look forward to a fabulous evening meal and drinks in the lounge bar.











GPS: Latitiude: 3°52′48″ (3.88°) South Longitude: 35°58′42″ (35.9783°) East

DISTANCE | ESTIMATED TIME:

ARUSHA: 115 km | 2 hrs

KURO AIRSTRIP: 15 km | 30 mins

FACT FILE

LOCATION: Tarangire

NUMBER OF TENTS: 16

LEISURE: Balloon safaris, nature walks, bush

dinners

DINING: Restaurant, champagne breakfast

in park

POWER SUPPLY: 220V

FACILITIES: Swimming pool, Wi-Fi

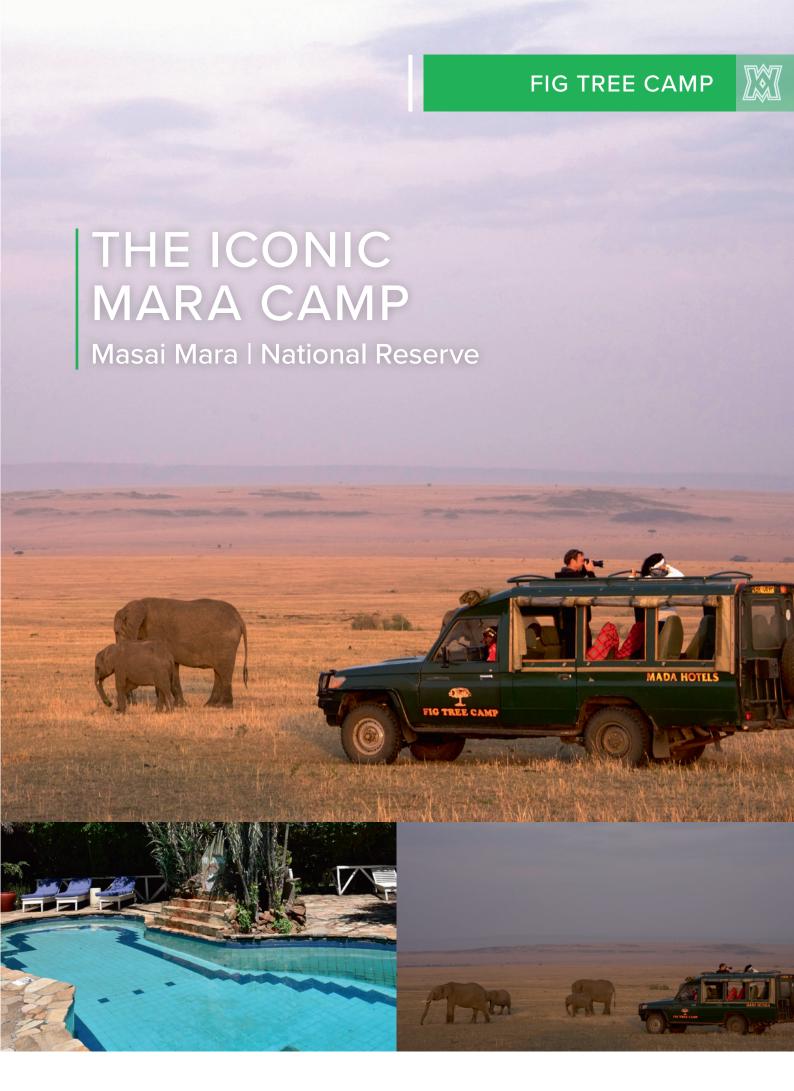




Fig Tree Camp offers the chance to organise special gatherings in a unique setting

Fig Tree Camp in the Masai Mara National Reserve is situated on the banks of the Talek River, offering guests the perfect stay in an incredible location.

The classic camp comprises 48 Deluxe / Ngamboli tents with either single or double beds and a secluded private patio overlooking the Talek River with its pods of hippo. In addition, there are 32 delightful Superior chalets, each with a private balcony.

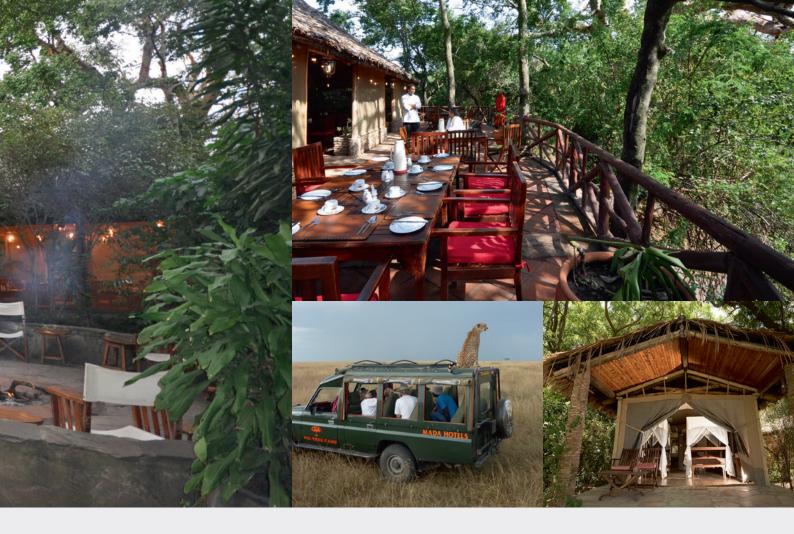
Breakfast, lunch and dinner are included in the room rate, with all meals served in the main dining area. In the evenings after dinner, Maasai perform for quests, and for a truly memorable experience, guests can opt for a moonlit champagne bush dinner.

Guests can take game drives in the Mara accompanied by informative guides, listen to lectures by naturalists or take a game walk led by a knowledgeable Maasai moran. For a truly memorable experience, Fig Tree Camp is a base for the ballooning operations of Adventures Aloft.

Conference facilities are a suprising option at Fig Tree Camp, offering the chance to organise special get-togethers in a unique bush setting. Service includes LCD projectors, Screen, Wi-Fi and Breakout areas.











GPS: LATITUDE: 1°25′53.1" (1.4314)° South Longitude: 35° 18′ 46.6″ (35.3129)° East

DISTANCE | ESTIMATED TIME:

NAIROBI: 240 km | 5 hrs

NAROK: 110 km | 2 hrs

KEEKOROK AIRSTRIP: 24 km | 40 mins

OL KIOMBO AIRSTRIP: 14 km | 30 mins



FACT FILE

LOCATION: Masai Mara National Reserve

NUMBER OF ROOMS: 80 (48 Deluxe / Ngamboli Tent and 32 Superior / Chalet Room)

RECREATION: Game drive, Nature walk, Hot Air Balloon Ride with champagne bush ACCESS: Guests can fly in from either breakfast

DINING: Main restaurant, Bush dinners and Bush breakfasts

LEISURE AND ENTERTAINMENT: Massage service, Swimming Pool, Camp Fire, Wi-Fi, Masai Cultural or wildlife talk, Curio shop

BARS: Two bars and a tree-house coffee

Nairobi Wilson or Mombasa





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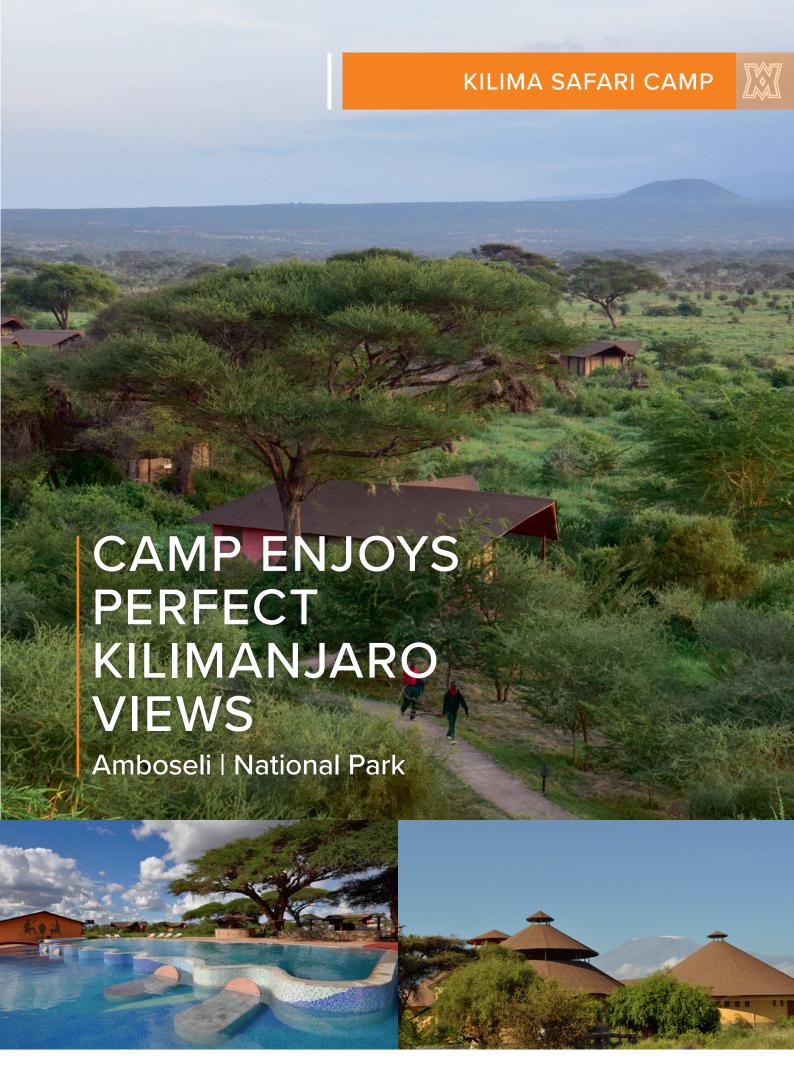
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Ten Deluxe/Milima Safari Tents – each positioned to capture views of Africa's highest mountain

Set in 360 acres at Amboseli National Park and with truly spectacular views of Mount Kilimanjaro, Kilima Safari Camp is among the best located in Kenya.

The camp offers 50 tastefully appointed Superior safari tents, 10 Deluxe/Milima tents and an additional 12 Superior rooms. Each is positioned to capture the imposing presence of the continent's highest mountain.

WILDLIFE

Directly adjacent to the property is a waterhole, where a variety of wildlife come to drink each day. For a close-up view, guests can go on game drives in one of the camps' own 4x4 vehicles to gaze upon Amboseli's vast herds of elephant, which total around 1,500. Mada guides, with their comprehensive knowledge, ensure clients are able to get the most from their safari to this breath-taking corner of Kenya.

In addition to game drives, the Maasai morans can take guests on guided game walks, while local naturalists provide insights about the environment. For those wanting to unwind, a massage room is available as well as a swimming pool, ideal for a refreshing dip after an exhilarating day spent on a game drive.

ROMANTIC

Guests can dine under the stars for a romantic evening, or head to the fine restaurant serving Mada breakfasts, healthy buffet lunches and delicious evening meals.

Unique to the camp is the three-storey Kibo Lounge – a look-out tower offering superb views of the mountain and the waterhole.

Kilima Safari Camp features a conference hall, making it an ideal venue for retreats and seminars.









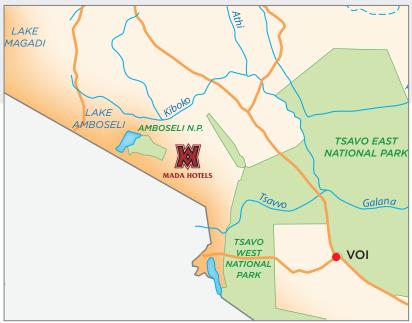
GPS: Latitude: 2°42′21.4″ (2.7226)° South Longitude: 37°22′51.2″ (37.3809)° East

DISTANCE | ESTIMATED TIME:

NAIROBI: 235 km | 4 hrs

NAMANGA: 80 km | 2 hrs

AMBOSELI AIRSTRIP: 12 km | 20 mins



FACT FILE

LOCATION: Amboseli National Park

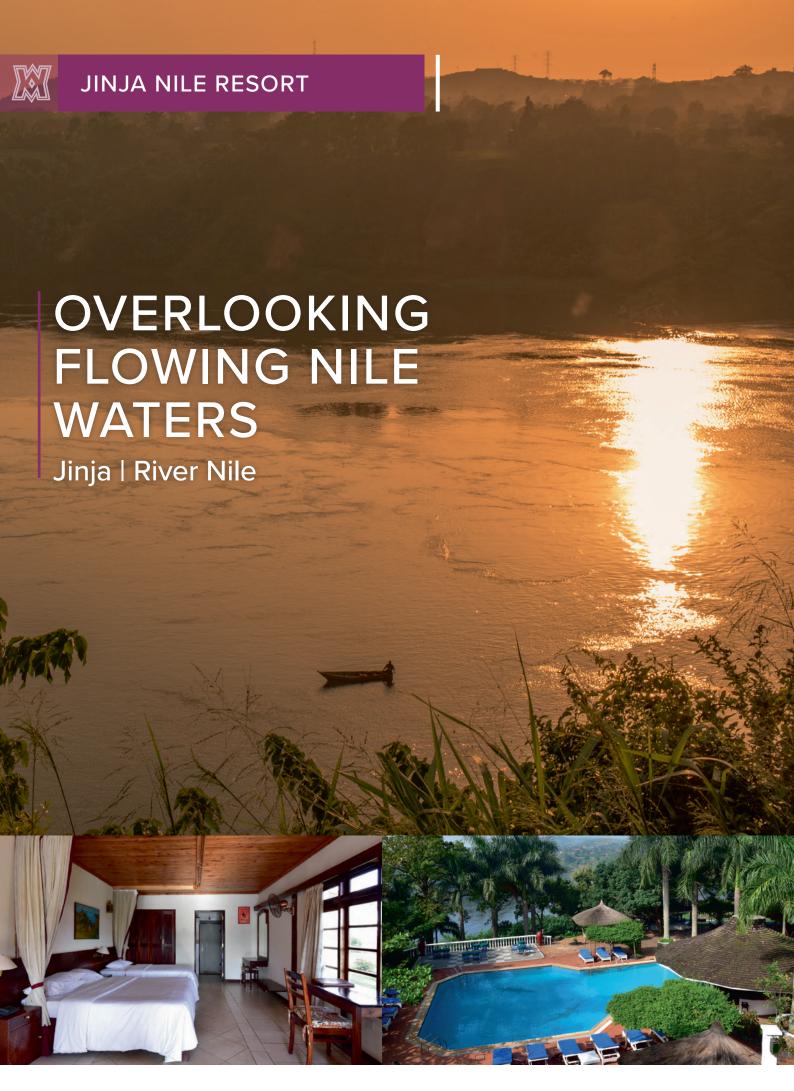
NUMBER OF ROOMS: 72 (10 Deluxe/ Milima Tents, 50 Superior Tents and 12 Superior rooms

DINING: Main Restaurant, Bush dinners and Bush Breakfast

RECREATION: Game drive, Nature walk

LEISURE & ENTERTAINMENT: Swimming Pool, Camp Fire, Wi-Fi, Masai Cultural or Wildlife talk, Curio Shop

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS: Mount Kilimanjaro





Set in lush tropical gardens with neatly tended lawns dotted with tall swaying palms

Jinja Nile Resort is regularly voted as one of Uganda's top getaway hotels, and is located on a prime spot overlooking the waters of the River Nile as it flows from Lake Victoria.

The property is ideal for all occasions and is suitable for both business travellers and tourists alike. It is the perfect out-of-town destination for those seeking to host seminars or conferences, yet it's also popular with business visitors to Jinja and with tourists seeking the thrills and excitement in Uganda's adventure capital.

TROPICAL GARDENS

The resort, which covers around 75 acres of tropical gardens with manicured lawns and swaying palm trees, has been constructed in a colonial style and all guest rooms are designed to offer spectacular views of the river. There are presidential and honeymoon suites available for an extra special stay.

The elegant main Nile palace restaurant can seat up to 150 guests and has a terrace overlooking the Nile. Set on a 20-metre cliff and offering exquisite food, the on-site eatery is a favourite venue for special events.

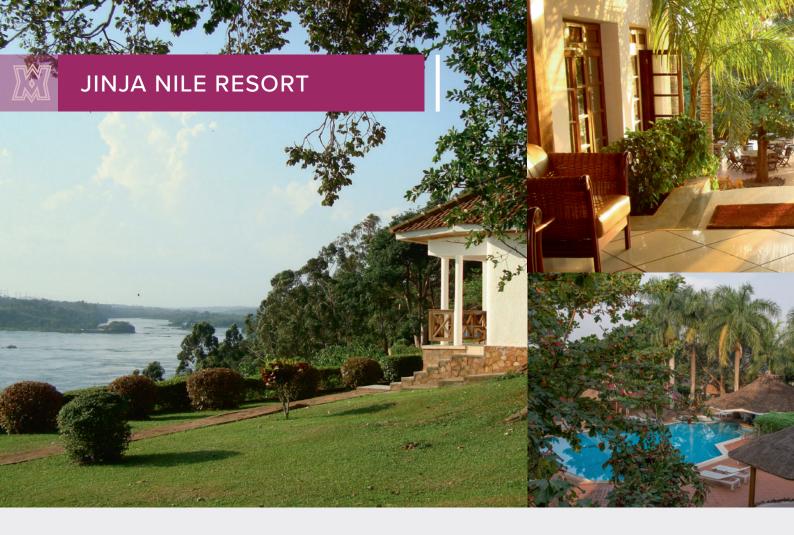
MEETING HALLS

A spacious and well-equipped conference dining room is located near meeting halls allowing food to be served easily to attendees. There is also an independent bar serving refreshments.

To relax and unwind, guests can enjoy the health club, which features Technogym equipment, a sauna and a steam bath as well as a massage room.

For business guests, there are three conference halls and three meeting rooms as well as a board room. For large events and outdoor concerts, the resort boasts a river-facing amphitheatre that accommodates up to 3,000 people.









GPS: Latitude: 0°25'39.252" North Longitude: 33°12′18.612″ South

DISTANCE | ESTIMATED TIME:

ENTEBBE AIRPORT: 120 km | 2 hrs

KAMPALA: 80 km | 1 hr 30 mins

JINJA TOWN: 4 km | 15 mins

MALABA: 135 km | 2 hrs



FACT FILE

STAR RATING: ★★★★

LOCATION: 4 km from Jinja

NUMBER OF ROOMS: 140

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

DINING: Four restaurants plus two private dining rooms

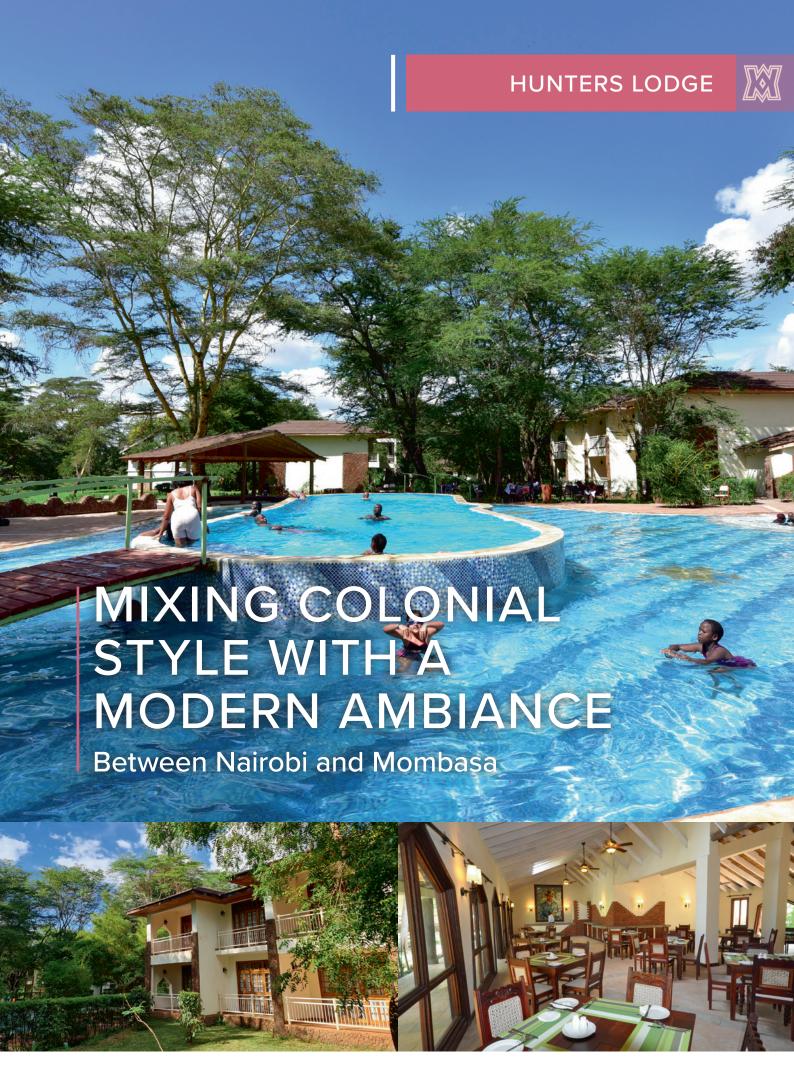
BARS: Five bars

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

ENTERTAINMENT: Weekend discos

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS: Nine-hole golf course (Jinja GC)

OTHER FACILITIES: Children's park, nanny service, gift shop, WiFi available





Hunters Lodge offers tasty business and lunch menus and provides a welcome stopover for those taking the long drive between Nairobi and the coast

Hunters lodge was built in 1958 by J.A. Hunter and is located halfway between Nairobi and Mombasa. It has since been fully restored by Mada Hotels and mixes traditional colonial styles with modern features to create an eye-catching property ideal for out-of-town conferences and as a convenient stopping point for those driving to and from the coast.

In previous years, Hunters Lodge offered modest accommodation and basic camping facilities for travellers, but Mada has fully upgraded the property and pitched Hunters Lodge at a different market. The renovations took the property from just 12 rooms to 50 and included the addition of a conference centre for Nairobi-based companies looking for an out-of-town location.

The lodge is located in Kiboko Springs which is 160 km away from Nairobi. Set in 25 acres of lush gardens and surrounded by countryside, Hunters Lodge provides the

ideal place to relax. There's also over 100 bird species in the area for guests to catch sight of.

CONSERVATION

J.A. Hunter, who built the lodge, was widely regarded as one of the most prolific game hunters in the 1950s, but he turned to wildlife conservation, writing about his adventures, and the hospitality sector. After his death, his wife and their sons ran the lodge. After the lodge sadly saw a slow decline, Mada revitalised the landmark property and won back visitors to the lodge.

Hunters Lodge offers attractive business and lunch menus and provides a range of amenities and facilities for those taking the long drive between the capital and the coast. As a result, Hunters Lodge has once again become the obvious stopover choice for travellers.









GPS: Latitude: 3°52′48″ (3.88)° South Longitude: 35°58′ 42″ (35.9783)° East

DISTANCE | ESTIMATED TIME:

NAIROBI: 160 km | 2 hrs 15 mins

MOMBASA: 340 km | 5 hrs



FACT FILE

STAR RATING: ★★★★

LOCATION: 160 km from Nairobi, 340 km from Mombasa

NUMBER OF ROOMS: 50

LEISURE: Birdwatching, boating at Kiboko Springs

DINING: Restaurant and coffee shop

BARS: One bar

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

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

OTHER FACILITIES: Swimming pool, Wi-Fi

POWER SUPPLY: 220v with backup

generator





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On Your Side



INGREDIENTS

Ingredients:

- 3 tablespoons butter
- 8 oz of mixed seafood (king prawns, squids, and octopus)
- 2 cloves of garlic, minced
- 2 tablespoons of chopped shallot
- 1 tablespoon of oyster sauce
- 1 teaspoon of sesame oil
- · Salt and pepper to taste
- Optional garnishes: sprinkle spring onion or parsley
- 3 chopped fresh basil
- ¼ teaspoon dried oregano
- 1 teaspoon roasted pine seed
- Salt & black pepper to taste

INGREDIENTS

Lime juice 10ml Passion fruit liqueur 30ml

Vanilla vodka 30ml Passion fruit juice 10ml Champagne/Prosecco

INSTRUCTIONS:

- Heat butter in a large skillet over medium heat. Add minced garlic and chopped shallot then sauté for about 1 minute until fragrant.
- 2. Add the mixed seafood to the skillet and cook until they are opaque and cooked through, about 3-4 minutes until they begin to soften.
- Drizzle oyster sauce and sesame oil over the seafood and toss to combine. Season with salt and pepper to taste.

- **4.** To assemble the seafood bowl, divide the accompaniment.
- **5.** Garnish with spring onion or parsley
- **6.** Serve immediately and enjoy your delicious Kilifi coastal seafood bowl.
- **7.** Feel free to customise this recipe with favourite seafood and accompaniment.
- 8. Enjoy!

DIRECTIONS

- 1. Add all ingredients except the Champagne/ Prosecco to a cocktail shaker with ice
- 2. Shake well for 10-15 seconds or until the outside of the shaker becomes frosted
- 3. Strain into a chilled cocktail glass
- **4.** Garnish the cocktail with a half a passion fruit, which will float nicely on top
- **5.** Pour the Champagne/Prosecco in a chilled shot glass and serve both glasses together



MADA CONTACTS



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HOTEL LA MADA, NAIROBI

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HUNTERS LODGE, KIBOKO, NAIROBI

Mombasa Road, Kiboko, PO Box 40683-00100, Kenya +254 (0) 727 209509 hunters@madahotels.com www.madahotels.com/hunters-lodge

KILIFI BAY BEACH RESORT, KILIFI, NAIROBI

Bofa Rd Mnarani Kilifi, North, PO Box 40683-00100, Kenya +254 (0) 725 888560 kilifibay@madahotels.com www.madahotels.com/kilifi-bay-beach-resort

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BAOBAB SEA LODGE, KILIFI, NAIROBI

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FIG TREE CAMP, MASAI MARA, KENYA

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KILIMA SAFARI CAMP, AMBOSELI, KENYA

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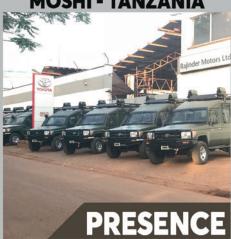
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