



MADA HOTELS

# Reflections

KILIMA SAFARI CAMP  
*Luxurious tented camp  
with breathtaking views  
of Mount Kilimanjaro*



## TARANGIRE TAKE-OFF

*Adventures Aloft launches  
Tanzania operation*



## SPORT OF KINGS

*Kenyans maintain a  
passion for horse racing*



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*A chance for golf lovers  
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# PRODUCT INNOVATION AND SAVING THE MAU



**Keringet**

Kenya's Premium Natural Mineral Water

*A simple geological survey carried out in the Molo Plateau area in 1988 to the dawn of 2010, has seen the brand 'Keringet Natural Mineral Water' develop into a national household name. The question has to be asked, 'Why?'*



## LEADING THE MARKET IN QUALITY

From as early as 1992 when the company's first batch of Keringet Natural Mineral Water was produced, the company marked an era that has brought about some of the biggest changes in the bottled water industry.

In line with international Natural Mineral Water standards set by CAC (Codex Alimentarius Commission), which WHO (World Health Organisation) is one of the co-sponsors and local presiding Natural Mineral Water standards set by KEBS (Kenya Bureau of Standards), Keringet has endeavoured from the beginning to comply, setting some of the highest standards in the market.

Treating the water with chemicals could have been an easier option for producing clean water. However, Keringet's focus was to adapt a natural filtration process whilst achieving the same results, which it has done successfully. This has been endorsed with further international recognition from the BBI (British Bottlers Institute) with 11 merits and awards in total for taste and packaging from as early as 1995 to just last year in 2009.

The brand also proudly holds the Diamond Mark of Quality from KEBS and is produced in an environment that is Halal certificated, SGS ISO 9001:2000 certified, HACCP certified and SGS ISO 22000 certified.

**“  
Quality is the key to building our future.  
”**

The company now also offers customers' and potential future clients' online monthly water analysis carried out on the product against presiding standards by internationally recognised institutions on its website.

## GIVING BACK

Through the brand's own foundation 'Water for Life' past years have seen a number of key initiatives to support local communities through partnerships with the International Red Cross and Childlife Trust.

This year with pressing issues affecting the Mau, the brand will be embarking upon its largest project to date, raising money to 'Save the Mau' with contributions coming from every bottle of Keringet sold. The Mau Forest borders the Keringet district from where Keringet Natural Mineral Water is bottled.

## PRODUCT INNOVATION

Keringet's product development plan focuses on ensuring it offers pure and simple solutions to consumer requirements.

Changes in market behavior have seen the introduction of value packs and economy sizes such as the 10.0ltr and 18.9ltr allowing customers to save and still enjoy their preferred brand. There has also been the development of products such as Keringet Sport and Sparkling with the emerging demands of a growing bottled water culture.

With 2010 already upon us, Keringet will launch the year with its exclusive range, labelled 'Keringet Finest'. It offers a sleek, contemporary 'rib-less' bottle available in 'aqua' blue for still water and 'blood' red for sparkling water. The concept is the first of its kind in East Africa, pushing the boundaries of quality to another level. The product is targeted for the true 'modern' connoisseur of bottled water and will be available in key bars, restaurants, hotels, wine stores and privately for special occasions.

## BRAND VALUE

*These values are summed up in the brand's core principle: to be 'Naturally perfect'.*



The forest's future is not only important for the local community but also for Kenya, as it is a vital link in the country's ecosystem.

Contributions will be managed by the 'Water for Life' foundation in line with government plans for the rehabilitation of mass desecrated parts of land, which once again need to become part of the Mau Forest.

*Water for life is a foundation supported by Keringet for the future of Kenya*





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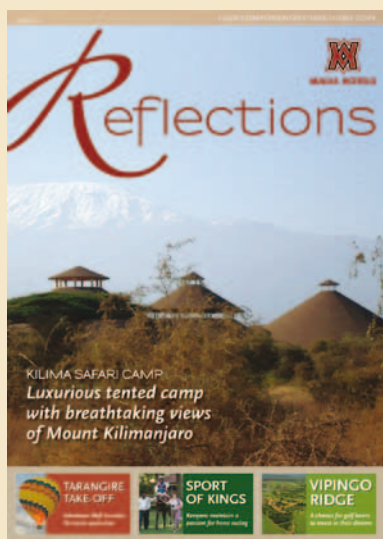
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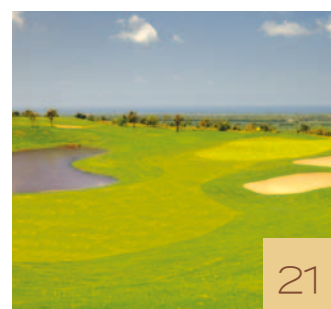
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# BETTER-THAN-EVER PRODUCT IS GOOD NEWS FOR CUSTOMERS

**W**elcome to the latest edition of Reflections, the magazine of the Mada Hotels group.

The past couple of years have been both challenging and exciting. We were naturally concerned about the global economic recession and how it would impact on us here in East Africa. At Mada Hotels, we came out with top marks. In spite of difficult times, we stuck to our expansion programme and were able to improve our occupancy figures.

## HOSPITALITY

The East African hospitality product is special. Nairobi is the financial centre of East and Central Africa, while this region also offers a unique combination of top quality holidays – both at the beach and on safari.

Mada Hotels now offers seven resorts, lodges and safari camps in East Africa. The group has two hotels in Nairobi; a safari camp in the Masai Mara; two beach resorts in Kilifi, on the Kenya coast; and the famed Jinja Nile Resort in Uganda. Mada Hotels also operates balloon safaris in the Masai Mara.

Newest addition to the group is Kilima Safari Camp, in Amboseli, which we opened in 2009. The camp is spread over 360 acres and offers spectacular views of



Jinja Nile Resort

Kilimanjaro. Feedback from both clients and the trade has been overwhelming and Kilima has clearly marked itself out as the top property of the Amboseli area.

## FIRST VENTURE

There are new plans for Mada Hotels in 2010. This year we make our first venture into Tanzania, where Adventures Aloft, our hot air balloon company, will be operating balloon safaris from Tarangire National Park. Tarangire is a beautiful park with amazing wildlife and we are sure this new attraction will add value both to the park and to camps and lodges in the area.

We continue to make our operations 'greener' and there are programmes in place to offset our carbon footprint. In the past year alone we have planted over 15,000 trees in the Kimana area in Amboseli. From the community angle, we support projects

in the areas where we work and in this issue we highlight the Home Candle Academy in Nairobi, which has done tremendous work in providing education for children in Kasarani.

At Mada Hotels, we are proud to have a strong and committed team behind us, working to deliver a top quality product. It is our customers, however, who continue to keep us strong and growing. We thank them all for the support they have given us in the past; and we look forward to giving them the same high level of service they expect from Mada Hotels in the years to come.

**Tinu Mhajan**

Chief Executive, Mada Hotels



Mada Hotels  
now offers seven  
resorts, lodges  
and safari camps  
in East Africa



## TRIBUTE TO TARLOCHAN SINGH MHAJAN (1933-2009)

# TALENTED INNOVATOR WHO ENRICHED ALL OUR LIVES

**F**or some he was Mr Mhajan; for those who knew him well he was Tochi; and for those who worked with him at Mada Hotels, Mr Tarlochan Mhajan was the 'Mzee'.

It is perhaps difficult to believe now, but Mzee Mhajan got into the hospitality industry by accident. By profession he was a photographer, having trained at the UK's

prestigious Guildford School of Arts in the 1950s and returned to East Africa to start his own photographic business.

### REGIONAL CHAIN

He soon developed Elite Studios from a single counter on a back street into a regional chain with over 15 outlets across Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania. He was

a born entrepreneur, and when a client offered him the opportunity to become involved in a safari camp in the Masai Mara in 1979, he jumped at the chance.

Despite his business success, Mzee Mhajan was not a mere number-cruncher or a man obsessed with the bottom line; he was driven by a passion for the industry. He was a natural creator with tremendous vision and over the years he developed Mada Hotels into one of East Africa's most prominent hotel groups.

### EYE FOR DETAIL

With his photographic background, he came to a project knowing what result he was looking for. He designed his own hotels and got his own construction team to build them for him. With an amazing eye for detail, he travelled the world looking for the right piece to put in the right place.

Today, the evidence of his contribution and detail is everywhere, from the gardens to the smallest door lock. His influence can be seen throughout the Mada properties, from the palm trees he grew from seedlings bought from an exotic plant collector in Mumbai to stained glass windows from a design studio in Shanghai.

### PROGRESS

Mzee Mhajan did what he liked and how he liked. He had no shareholders to account to; but he always acted in the best interests of the group and its staff. He listened carefully to all points of view and then made his own decision. When you see how far the Mada group progressed



Tarlochan Singh Mhajan



With an amazing eye for detail, he travelled the world looking for the right piece to put in the right place

under his chairmanship, you realise how consistently he got it right.

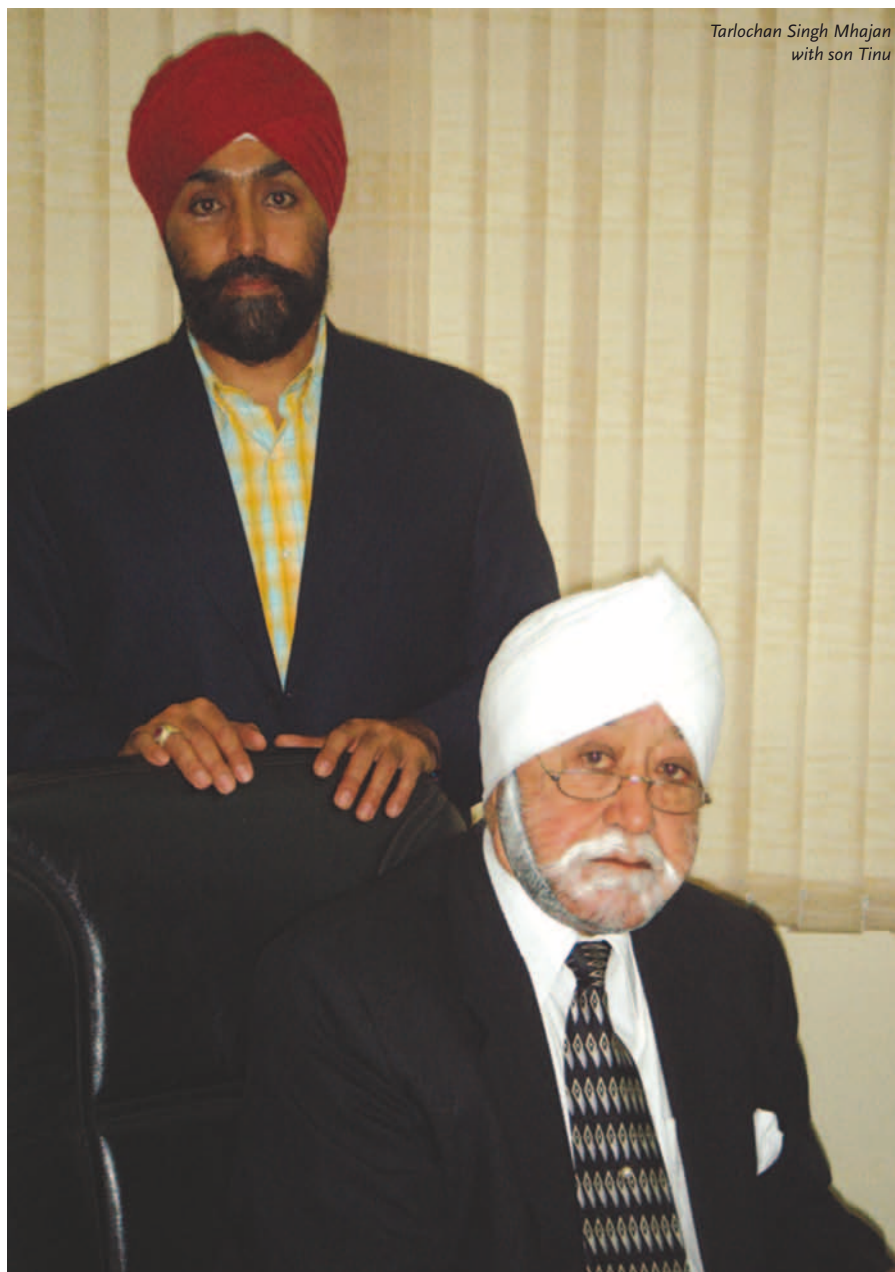
### EXTRA MILE

In the hospitality industry, Mzee Mhajan was a natural. Members of his family often called their home a hotel, as friends from all over the world spent many a night in the Mhajan residence. He was a superb host, always going the extra mile to make his guests feel welcome and special. His enviable collection of whiskies, comprising more than 600 bottles, obviously helped in this regard.

He put this personal warmth and hospitality into his hotels and made his management understand the importance of customer care – the underlying philosophy of the hotel industry.

### POSITIVE

Mzee Mhajan's greatest strength was his positive attitude. He saw only the good side of a situation and never allowed anything to hold him back. He used the example of his own life to encourage his team to grow, both personally and professionally, and always looked out for their best interests. Leading by example, he asked nothing from his staff that he was not prepared to do himself. What's more, he put maximum effort into everything he did; it was not uncommon to see him spend 18 hours a day on a building site for weeks at a time.



*Tarlochan Singh Mhajan  
with son Tinu*

For a man who ran a string of companies and employed more than 1,000 people, he made time for everyone and for everything and was always excited about starting something new. His positive spirit could be felt as soon as he entered a room and when Mzee Mhajan was around there was always a solution to any problem.

### DIGNITY

It is hard to understand how he managed to fit everything into his hectic schedule, but he did so with apparent ease. He made time for his business and gave equally to his family and friends. He was a great philanthropist and gave quietly to many individuals and institutions. As a

people person, he treated everyone with equal respect and dignity and left a warm impression on many people across the globe. What he gave out he got back; Mzee Mhajan was always treated with the utmost respect and dignity wherever he went.

Mzee Mhajan was a true gentleman of the old school. Always immaculately dressed, he lived passionately and majestically and naturally carried with him a princely air of royalty.

He leaves behind a strong legacy, and a clear path for the team of Mada to follow. He was truly a citizen of the world, and many of our lives are better because he was a part of them.■



ELEPHANTS, VIEWS  
& WONDERFUL CUISINE –

# KILIMA

HAS IT ALL

The spectacular new camp is shaded by mature black-barked acacia trees whose extended branches cast a welcome shadow in the heat of the Amboseli day

*The free-form swimming pool*



**A**mboseli has long been one of Kenya's must-see game parks. Its impressive elephant herds and its close-up and spectacular vistas of Mount Kilimanjaro are just two of the reasons why Amboseli has become so popular.

So it comes as no surprise that Mada Hotels should choose Amboseli as the location for its newest property, Kilima Safari Camp. Kilima means 'mount' in the Maasai language, Maa, and the new camp enjoys perhaps the best views of Kilimanjaro of any property in the Amboseli area.

The spectacular new camp is shaded by mature black-barked acacia trees whose extended branches cast a welcome shadow in the heat of the Amboseli day. Now, Mada Hotels has planted a further 15,000 acacia saplings throughout the 360-acre site. It is likely to be two years before they come into full view, so this is a long-term project.

## Elegant

Beyond the elegant bar and restaurant area, there is a campfire area where, before or after dinner, guests can enjoy a fireside chat and discuss the day's sightings and prospects for the next day.

It is reassuring to learn that the camp is encircled by an electrified fence, so no guest need fear an unexpected encounter with one of Amboseli's many elephants or any other wild animal. But game is extraordinarily close by. The property is fronted by its own waterhole, which entices animals throughout the day to quench their thirst. A second waterhole



has been dug and a salt lick has also been created next to the waterhole.

## Waterhole

For example, each day at about 13.00 hours the same small herd of seven to 10 elephants – sometimes fewer – come to the waterhole before setting off on their daily travels. Other elephants come and go during the day. Some prefer to drink fresh water directly from the pipe that keeps the waterhole topped up.

Kilima offers truly astonishing and uninterrupted views of Kilimanjaro. Each of the 60 tents and 12 lodge rooms is arranged to face the majestic splendour of 'Kili'. Each morning, guests can draw their curtains and see its snow-capped peak appear through the cloud that often lingers around the midriff of Kilimanjaro.

## AMBOSELI NATIONAL PARK – FACT FILE

- *Altitude: 1,200 to 1,400 metres*
- *Area: 392 sq km*
- *Elephant population: about 900*
- *Opened: April 1948*
- *Distance from Nairobi: 260 km*
- *In the foothills of Mount Kilimanjaro, Africa's highest peak*

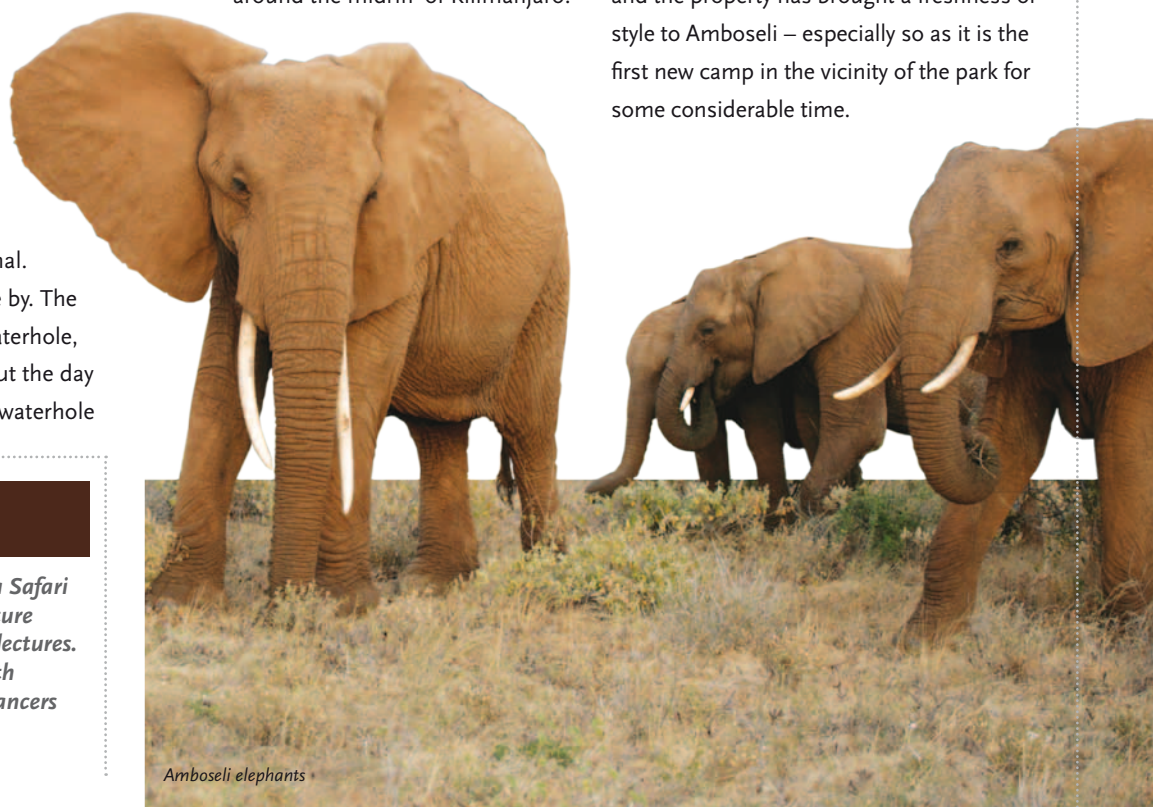
Bird feeders, strategically placed in the bushes around the bar and restaurant, attract many small birds and their busy chatter can brighten any day.

The large and impressive free-form swimming pool is shaded by a large acacia tree. The pool complex features outer and inner pools. The outer pool has built-in beds so that guests can relax in the water. A large Jacuzzi forms part of the pool complex, as well as a bar and a serving area for barbecues and light buffets.

Each property within the Mada group has its own distinctive style and atmosphere – and Kilima Safari Camp is no exception. The camp has been built to exacting standards and the property has brought a freshness of style to Amboseli – especially so as it is the first new camp in the vicinity of the park for some considerable time.

## ACTIVITIES

*Activities available from Kilima Safari Camp include game drives, nature walks, bush dinners and guest lectures. There is also a nature room with wildlife information. Maasai dancers entertain in the evening.*





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The camp's spacious tents are tastefully appointed and there is ample distance between them to ensure privacy. Each tent consists of a canvas and fixed structure that houses the bathroom. The permanent exterior of each tent has been styled differently. Each is painted orange and has its own veranda where guests can relax and enjoy the exotic sights and sounds of Amboseli. All rooms have safes and a desk with electric power between 06.00 and 22.00 hours. Ever-resourceful, and recognising that the company could do a better job at a more competitive price, Mada Hotels actually made the canvas element of the structures in-house.

It is worth noting, however, that a limited number of chalets are available for those uncomfortable with the idea of sleeping in a tent, no matter how luxurious.

Elephants can be highly destructive and Amboseli has plenty of evidence of their apparent and wanton vandalism. The elephants seem to prefer the yellow-barked acacia as it is comparatively easy to strip away the bark from the trunk. Fortunately, Kilima Safari Camp is surrounded by tortillias, many of which are bedecked with neat, carefully constructed sparrow weaver nests made by red-billed buffalo weavers (*Bubalornis niger*) and white-headed buffalo weavers (*Dinemellia dinemelli*).

These birds are attracted by feeders dotted in the desert date bushes, the fruit of which is enjoyed by birds and monkeys.

Before or after dinner, guests can climb the many steps to the observation platform that sits above the restaurant. The platform

Luxurious interiors



overlooks the waterhole and has special high chairs from which to view game.

After working up an appetite on a morning or evening game drive, guests will return to a truly hearty meal. In fact, the quality of cuisine is outstanding, with chefs placing a strong emphasis on fresh local meat and vegetables.

One of the advantages of Kilima is its location directly outside one of Amboseli's main gates. Guests arriving by road do not have to pay the KWS daily park fee of US\$60 per person. (Along with Lake Nakuru, Amboseli is designated a Premium Park by KWS.)

### Morning flight

Unfortunately, those flying into the KWS-administered Amboseli airstrip – there is a Safarilink flight each morning – do have to pay. In fact, with about 80 per cent of the area's available game actually located outside the park, there is no compelling reason to go through the gate.

Each evening, around the campfire, there is a show featuring two types of dancing on alternate days. The dancers are from both Maasai – probably Kenya's best known and most photographed tribe – and



the Akamba. Maasai dancing involves semi-competitive high jumps by warriors called morans. The music is produced by vocalists who sing harmonies while a song leader or olaranyani provides the melody.

### Akamba

For those unfamiliar with the Akamba tribe, this is one of Kenya's largest ethnic groups (about 11 per cent of the population) who have traditionally occupied an area between Nairobi and Tsavo known as Ukambani. Amboseli is close to these traditional lands, so it is fitting to include some of the Akamba's dance and drum-based music for which the tribe is justly famed.

The general manager of Kilima Safari Camp is himself a proud Maasai. He started work with the Mada Hotels group at its Fig Tree Camp property in the Mara and was previously in charge of Mada's Jinja Nile Resort in Uganda. "It's great to be back home," said Ole Kerore, who is looking forward to making Kilima the jewel in the crown of the Mada Hotels group.■

## ACCOMMODATION

- **50 Classic Safari Tents** each with a double and single bed and large private balcony
- **10 Superior Safari Tents** with four-poster double beds with enlarged bathrooms with lion claw bath tubs
- **12 Lodge Rooms** each with a double and single bed and large private balcony

# ADVENTURES ALOFT LAUNCHES TARANGIRE OPERATION





**T**he balloon safari company Adventures Aloft (AA), an affiliate of Mada Hotels, is to establish a new operation in Tanzania's Tarangire National Park.

Until now, Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA) had restricted ballooning operations to the country's popular Serengeti National Park. But in March 2009 TANAPA advertised for an experienced company to set up a ballooning operation in Tarangire.

TANAPA wants Tarangire to be more attractive and is working to reduce an over-reliance on traditional circuits involving Serengeti and Ngorongoro in order to promote Tanzania's other parks.

### SUCCESSFUL

AA has successfully operated balloons in the Masai Mara since 1985. In fact, AA now flies four balloons from Kenya's best-known National Reserve, operating from both Fig Tree Camp and Siana Springs.

With its deep understanding of East African ballooning, AA put in a detailed bid to TANAPA and was successful. Since winning the concession, AA has been working flat out to get the operation off the ground – in more ways than one.

### CHALLENGES

Tarangire will become only the second park in Tanzania to offer balloon safaris. Serengeti is classic open savannah and perfect for ballooning, but Tarangire has a lot more trees and thickets, so it presents additional challenges for AA's skilled pilots.

The regulation of ballooning is undertaken by TANAPA, which decides on matters such as the size of the balloon to be flown. AA will start with just one 12-passenger balloon (supplied by Cameron Balloons, of the UK) and another similar-sized balloon will eventually be added to the operation.

The new balloon will arrive in Tanzania by air freight. Before it is shipped from the UK, the new balloon will undergo an airworthiness test. On arrival in Arusha it will then have to meet tough Tanzania Civil Aviation Authority requirements.

Work is under way to create the new operating base and AA expects to make its first commercial flight in May 2010.

### REMOTE AREA

Setting up the new base in a comparatively remote area is a major undertaking. There are 20 crew and drivers to be accommodated; while the operation itself requires a lot of support. AA will be using four Toyota Land Cruisers for guests, two Land Cruisers for the crew and a set of 4x4 trucks for balloon recovery.

AA will pick up passengers from a range of camps and lodges in and around Tarangire National Park including Tarangire Sopa



◀ Looking up at the envelope

▶ Over the Mara



# go wild in east africa



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# From Kalangala to Jinja

a journey to the  
Home of the Nile and BUL



Lodge, Tarangire Safari Lodge, Swala Camp, Mawe Ninga Tented Camp, Oliver's Camp and Elewana's Tarangire Treetops.

Tinu Mhajan, chief executive of Mada Hotels, said: "We have a choice of three take-off sites to suit prevailing conditions and the requirements of our clientele. The first site is near Tarangire Sopa Lodge; the second is near Terminalia Camp; a third is in the Hondo Hondo area. Each one has been chosen for its easy accessibility to surrounding camps and lodges and to take advantage of the weather conditions at different times of the year."

## EXPERIENCED

AA's highly experienced Zimbabwe-born pilot, Andrew Peart, is taking early charge of the new operation. He will be joined by a second pilot later in 2010.

According to Andrew, a typical balloon trip will take a northerly flight path and will provide beautiful views over the Tarangire River. "We are going to be careful about the wind conditions," he said. "But the wind is less strong, so it will be easier to operate than in the Mara."

At 2,850 sq km, Tarangire is Tanzania's sixth-largest National Park and probably has more elephants for its size than any other in Africa. It is also a hugely diverse area famed for its plains game and incredible baobab trees. What's more, it has over 550 species of birds.

Tarangire is also conveniently located and easy to reach, being just one and a half hours from Arusha.



When it comes to booking, passengers can do this either through their tour operator (AA has set up a new office in Arusha to liaise with the local safari sector); directly with AA; or at the guest's own camp in Tarangire.

Once in the air, the pilot soon has idea of where he wants to land the balloon. Given the weather conditions on the day, the pilot will have in mind a suitable breakfast site and will send advance instructions to the ground crew below about where to set up. After landing, the pick-up vehicle will meet the guests and whisk them to the prearranged location. Hungry guests are then welcomed with lemon-scented face towels and a choice of chilled champagne, a Bloody Mary or a gin and tonic while they prepare to dine al fresco.

## BREAKFAST

In Kenya, AA's breakfasts are the stuff of legend; and those who take a balloon ride in Tarangire are set for a treat as a traditional and extremely hearty English breakfast is cooked in the open air.

Noting that a good breakfast site was all part of the experience, Andrew said: "Due

**Tarangire is also conveniently located and easy to reach, being just one and a half hours from Arusha**

to the restrictions of flying in Tarangire, we have to land alongside the river. But, luckily, this makes for a truly memorable breakfast spot."

## REDUCED IMPACT

At the same time, TANAPA expects balloons to land close to the road in order to reduce the environmental impact. But AA is only too delighted to comply with TANAPA's wishes and, in any case, as an eco-friendly company it already does the same kind of thing in the Mara.

AA is now looking forward to getting flights under way and believes its balloon operation will greatly benefit the park. Coming as a fresh additional attraction, this new operation is good news for the camps and lodges in Tarangire. "All are very happy to have us there," said Tinu. "It has also been very positive in terms of the tour operators in Arusha." ■





Kenyans maintain a

**PASSION**

for horse racing



*Jockey Samanga wins on  
Mr Mhajan's Kareena*



**T**he 'sport of kings' is alive and well in Kenya, where horse racing is more popular than for many years – both among local Kenyans and the expatriate community.

Sponsored meets at Nairobi's Ngong Racecourse attract thousands of spectators and the Jockey Club of Kenya, which regulates the sport, has embarked on a busy programme of new developments at the racecourse and a marketing campaign to persuade more and more Kenyans to spend a day at the races.

For those professionally involved in racing, Kenya has key advantages. It is much less expensive to keep a horse in training in Kenya than in many other parts of the world, while the perfect climate and fine atmosphere are ideal for horses and spectators alike.

## HISTORY

Racing has a long and colourful history in Kenya. It was started by the East African Turf Club. An event was organised as long ago as 1898 in the upcountry setting of Machakos. But the first official race meeting was in Nairobi on 4 January 1904 at the original racecourse site in Kariokor.

In January 1954 racing moved from Kariokor to its current site at Ngong because land rates at Kariokor were too expensive.

Today, Ngong is the only racecourse in Kenya; but in the past there have been courses in other towns including Eldoret, Limuru, Nakuru and Nanyuki.

For those professionally involved in racing, Kenya has many key advantages



► Thrilling finishes

▲ Pinkey takes the prize

## LEGEND OF PINKEY, QUEEN OF THE TRACK

*Like every country with a strong horse racing tradition, Kenya has its share of legendary characters and celebrities.*

*One of the most remarkable of these was a woman, the late Dr Pinkey Mhajan, who not only trained and bred champion racehorses but also rode to victory as a jockey.*

*Tragically, Pinkey was only 37 when she died in August 2006. But in that comparatively short life she achieved great things in the world of racing. She was the Nairobi Jockey Club's first Asian trainer, setting up her own racing stables at Ngong Racecourse in September 2000. In the same year, as a jockey, she won the Kenya Derby on Gingerbread Man. She later set the crown on a remarkable career by becoming Kenya's top trainer for two years in a row.*

### Legacy

*Today, her legacy is carried on with pride by her brother, Tinu Mhajan, who continues to run Pinkey Mhajan Racing Stables with Simon Wachira, her former assistant, as stable trainer. In addition to his passionate interest in racehorses and racing, Tinu is chief executive of the Mada Hotels Group.*

*Tinu recalls how Pinkey had a lifelong passion for horses. She took up riding at the age of five and, after graduating in veterinary medicine, became involved in the race scene at Nairobi Racecourse. Pinkey was able to juggle her career as a vet with her passion for horses and started racing as an apprentice jockey. With enough wins under her saddle, she turned professional.*



*"She was probably the best horseman Kenya has ever had," said Tinu. "Her brilliance on the racetrack was evident, hence her position as top trainer in her last two years. A good trainer gets winners, but a great trainer can teach others to train, and that is what Pinkey did with Simon Wachira. Pinkey brought Wachira up from a stable hand to her assistant and, after Pinkey, we made Wachira a full trainer."*

### Injury

*Pinkey continued to ride until a racing accident in March 2004 left her with a badly shattered leg, thus ending her career as a jockey.*

*Today, Pinkey Mhajan Racing Stables has about 20 racehorses in training and the Mhajan family continues to support it. Simon Wachira made history in his first season as a trainer, becoming the first local Kenyan to win a classic. He has now chalked up three classic wins, in the Kenya Guineas, Kenya Oaks and Kenya St Ledger. Since then Simon has brought in many winners and the stables has gone from strength to strength under his influence.*

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Limuru became famous in Kenyan racing and social circles for the annual Boxing Day charity race meeting at which large quantities of strawberries and champagne were consumed. The racecourse closed in the 1990s but is still a prominent landmark. In fact, the wooden fencing around the golf course at the present-day Limuru Golf & Country Club is actually the former race rails.

## NGONG RACECOURSE

Ngong Racecourse is a major asset for the Jockey Club of Kenya, which operates the course. The 400-acre course on the outskirts of Nairobi opened in 1954, when it replaced the old course in Kariokor.

Racing takes place all year round, with the season running from 1 August to 31 July. Races are held at Ngong most Sundays.

Flagship event of the racing calendar is the annual Kenya Derby, first held in 1914.

## PARADE RING

When it comes to a day at the races, Ngong has plenty to offer. Horses, jockeys and trainers gather in the parade ring 20 minutes before

each race, providing a perfect opportunity for racegoers to see the horses up close before they run.

Modern technology has made it easier than ever for racegoers to place their bets and follow the action at Ngong. In addition to betting points, the racecourse is dotted



▲ Trainer Simon Wachira and owner Mrs Mary Binks with winner Creekside Inn  
◀ Live TV coverage from South Africa

with monitor screens where punters can follow the odds and see where the money is being placed.

Kenyan racing is broadcast live every Sunday via Citizen to South Africa and people there can bet on races in Kenya. In the near future there are plans to broad-

cast South African and UK racing to the Kenyan public.

Ngong Racecourse has all the right facilities to provide punters with a grand day out. There is a choice of restaurants, and on major race days such as the Derby there is a whole range of family entertainment.

## CROSS-COUNTRY

In addition to horse racing, Ngong Racecourse is used for cross-country running events and ostrich racing. It has also acted as a special stage in the Safari Rally.

New racecourse and training facilities are currently being developed at Ngong by the Jockey Club as part of a series of developments within the secured grounds of the racecourse property.■

## AND ANOTHER GREAT LADY...

*Another famous woman in the history of Kenyan racing was Beryl Markham, the English-born adventurer, aviator and author, who became a horse trainer and breeder, winning the Kenya Derby six times. As an aviator, she made history in 1936 by flying solo across the North Atlantic from east to west. This adventure is described in her book of memoirs, 'West With The Night', published in 1942.*

A decorative graphic featuring several white dice with black pips in the upper right corner and a fan of playing cards (Ace of Hearts, Ace of Spades, Ace of Diamonds, Ace of Clubs) in the lower left corner. The main title is in large, bold, red capital letters.

# LOCALS AND TOURISTS TRY THEIR LUCK IN AN EVER-EXPANDING GAMING INDUSTRY

**I**t may not be Las Vegas or even Macau, but Kenya is definitely one of Africa's top spots for both high and low rollers.

Nairobi's glitzy casinos and those at the coast reflect a national affection for (some would say obsession with) gambling.

The gaming culture in Kenya is more

established than in most other African countries with higher quality casinos and larger variety of games. Hiram Okoth, CEO of the Association of Gaming Operators Kenya (AGOK), said: "Gambling in the past has not been well received by the general public, where in some quarters it was regarded as a wayward activity. The professional way in which casinos are being operated has helped in improving the image." In Kenya's case, this is partly due to the fact that gambling was legalised before most other African countries and therefore has a longer pedigree and wider acceptance.

## DIVERSE

Nairobi's casinos attract a diverse mix of visiting businessmen, expats and tourists, but the majority of its clientele are local residents. "There is an increasing number of middle-class clients who now regard gambling as an alternative form of entertainment," said Mr Okoth.

The newest addition to the Nairobi scene is Millionaires Casino at the Westgate Mall in Westlands, which opened in early 2009. This establishment boasts the latest

slots and card systems in town with 95 machines and a dozen tables, (six roulette and six for card games). State-of-the-art it may be, but Millionaires Casino has had to work hard to prove itself as a key player in the gaming market, since many Kenyans prefer traditional and more established forms of gambling.

## CULTURE

Nairobi's gaming culture is very different to that on the coast. Opening hours vary greatly depending on specific clientele or location of the casino. The Jokers Wild Casino on Kimathi Street, for example, opens at 09.00 each day and closes at 22.00 as it's the end of day in the CBD. All traffic then shifts to the Babylon Casino in the 680 Hotel, the newest, largest and busiest casino in Kenya.

Conventionally, most establishments open in the evenings and until the early hours. Bollywood Casino in Westlands is open daily from 18.00 to 06.00 and is popular with Kenya's Asian community. As with most casinos in Nairobi, food and drink is always plentiful.

Offering a more traditional experience, the well established Casino de Paradise

## CASINOS

*There are about 30 casinos in Kenya, most of them located at the coast and in Nairobi. However, there are a few in other towns such as Eldoret, Nakuru, Thika and Kisumu.*



## 'As all over the world, casinos in Kenya can offer an alternative form of entertainment to locals as well as to tourists'

Hiram Okoth, CEO of the Association of Gaming Operators Kenya

at the Safari Park Hotel & Country Club has 15,400 sq ft of gaming space. Hotel residents as well as local residents can enjoy 100+ slot machines or retire for long sessions in the classier table areas which offer American roulette, blackjack, pontoon, baccarat, poker and tai sai. Most tourists do not come to Kenya to gamble; but with its location within the hotel grounds it has a consistent market with hotel guests. Casino de Paradise offers no shortage of other entertainment, with five restaurants and evening entertainment at the adjacent and famed Cats Club.

### BOOST

As part of a continuing economic development, the Kenyan government plans to encourage the addition of new facilities like casinos with the hope that it will boost the tourism sector at the coast. Cashing in on tourists visiting the coast, many of the larger casinos are located within hotel complexes.

The glitzy Leisure Lodge & Casino is designed to appeal to tourists. With 2,293 sq ft and a large bar, the atmosphere is relaxed and spacious with 35 gaming machines and nine tables: four American roulette, four blackjack and one poker. The casino is popular with guests staying at the hotel who want to spend evenings

in a glamorous environment – sipping cocktails and enjoying a flutter.

More laid-back than Nairobi, the Mombasa residential gambling scene takes a less aggressive approach. Offering an intimate and exclusive experience, the Florida Casino is small and fun with friendly staff. Open until 05.00 every day, it has just five slot machines and seven gaming tables. Its regular clientele are locals who enjoy a quiet and welcoming atmosphere with flexible time restrictions.

### VARIETY

The quality and variety of casinos on the Kenyan coast is as good as anywhere in Africa. Casino Malindi is taking the lead with an astonishing 16 types of table games including blackjack, craps, Indian Ocean stud, punto banco, roulette and Texas Hold'em.

Broadly speaking, Kenyan casinos create an atmosphere that is busy and sociable with an uncompromising undertone. Most establishments attract a mix of both serious and recreational players and

## GIVING BACK TO SOCIETY

*Many casino operators, along with AGOK are becoming increasing involved in corporate and social responsibility programmes. This support and involvement has directly improved the image of gambling in Kenya. By creating job opportunities and broadening tourism activities, the Kenyan population is beginning to see the positive impact gaming can have.*

there is nearly always a bar offering cigars and a range of beers and spirits – often a restaurant, too.

### COMBINATION

The concept of creating an environment that offers a range of services is something Kenyans have taken from the 'big name' casinos in Europe and America. The combination works because it allows customers to feel relaxed; it heightens the sense of sociability; and it also means that players can take a break between games without leaving the casino. ■





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# A CHANCE FOR GOLF LOVERS TO INVEST IN THEIR DREAMS

**A**t last, Kenya's north coast has a world-class golf course – and with stunning property investment opportunities to match.

Located just off the Mombasa-Malindi highway, Vipingo Ridge is the first new golf course in Kenya for many years. It joins the coast's two existing 18-hole courses, Leisure Golf Club and Nyali Golf Club. There are also two nine-hole courses at Malindi and Mombasa.

In terms of overall quality, Vipingo Ridge is very much in a class of its own. This course has set new and exacting standards in terms of construction, presentation and attention to detail.

In terms of overall quality, Vipingo Ridge is very much in a class of its own

Designed by David Jones, director of the PGA European Tour, and built to tough United States Golf Association specifications, the first 18-hole course was officially opened in August 2009. Land is already set aside for a second 18 holes, but work has yet to commence.

## CARVED

Vipingo Ridge has been cleverly carved from a 2,500 acre former sisal estate. As its name suggests, the course sits high on a ridge about 140 metres above sea level. As a result, players can enjoy cooling breezes and truly commanding views over the turquoise waters of the Indian Ocean.

The clubhouse, currently under construction, will overlook both the ninth and 18th greens and fairways. It will be finished to five-star standards and will come complete with spacious locker rooms, a pro shop,

► Manicured greens and fairways

▼ Preparing the plots



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Much more than a premiere golf destination, Vipingo Ridge offers a host of other amenities including a private beach club, airstrip, game conservancy, sporting activities and a great deal more. All this comes together to make Vipingo Ridge one of the finest developments of its kind in Africa.

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bag storage, spike bar and restaurant. In addition, the clubhouse will have a large swimming pool; while for those who want to play other ball games besides golf, there are tennis and squash courts plus a bowling green.

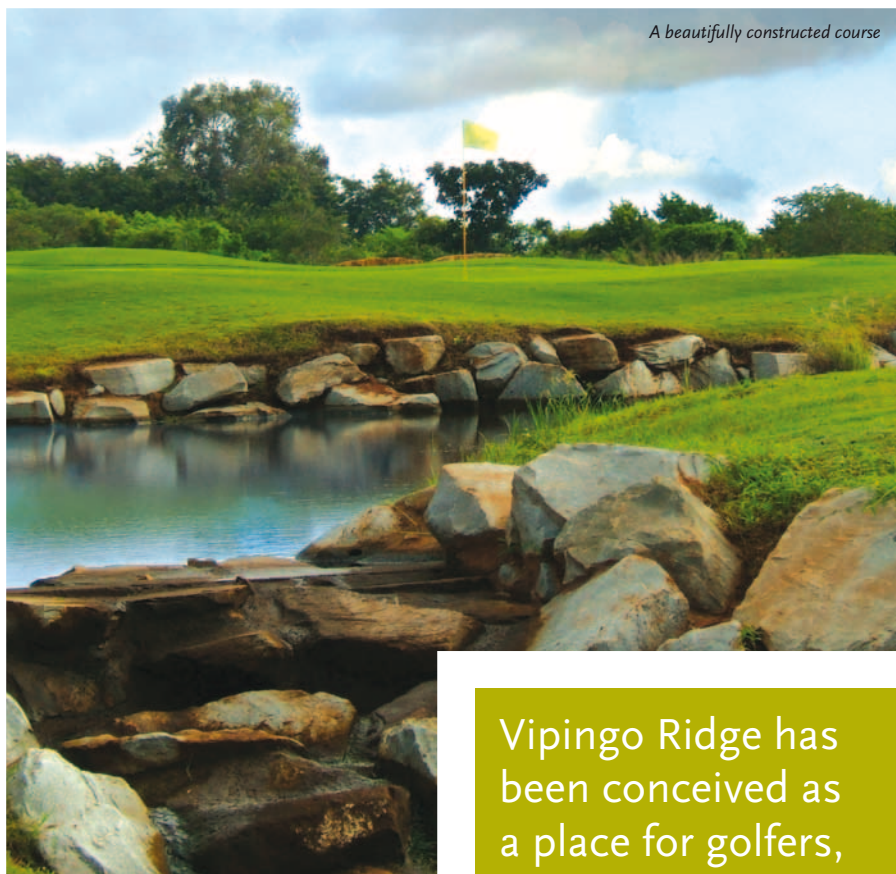
At present, the Sundowner bar, overlooking the undulating fairways, the ocean and the game sanctuary, serves as a delightful temporary clubhouse.

## DREAM HOME

Like so many modern courses, Vipingo Ridge is more than just a place in which to play a round of golf and then enjoy a glass of beer afterwards. Vipingo Ridge has been conceived as a place for golfers, both local and foreign, to build their dream home. And what a dream it is.

Building plots are divided into two main categories: those on the golf course itself – so-called footprint properties – and those surrounding the course but not located adjacent to it. Surrounding plots generally come in sizes of one or two acres, whereas footprint plots are limited to about one acre. To maintain the aesthetics that Vipingo Ridge has set for the benefit of its residents and visitors, all properties are governed by a set of regulations to control construction on the plot once it is acquired.

Surrounding plot prices start at about KES 10 million for those with inland views and KES 11.5 million for footprint plots. Prices for two-acre plots commence at KES 21 million.



*A beautifully constructed course*

Vipingo Ridge has been conceived as a place for golfers, both local and foreign, to build their dream home

All of the one-acre surrounding plots with ocean views have already been snapped up, as have many of the footprint plots. Generally, the closer a plot is to the proposed clubhouse, the more likely it is to have been taken already. However, a selection of surrounding and footprint plots with charming inland views and panoramic ocean views are still available for purchase.

## ALTERNATIVE

An alternative is to buy a luxury golf villa. These come in either two, three or four bedroom configurations and are being built and managed by the developers. These particular properties, which should see a good rental return for their owners, are aimed at those looking for an investment or for those who don't want the responsibility that comes with owning what might be an overseas property.

For those choosing to buy at Vipingo Ridge, security is assured as the entire development is enclosed by a 3 metre high wall. This wall allows the developers to introduce non-predator species to the

estate, as a care and breeding centre for game will be established and antelope, zebra and other herbivores will roam freely over the development.

## TOUCH OF CLASS

The still-to-be-built Vipingo Ridge Beach Club, just 3 km away, will add a further touch of class, as well as privacy, for those who want to swim or to laze on a truly delightful soft powdery beach. The exclusive beach club will provide residents with a tranquil environment in which to enjoy diving, snorkelling and other water sports.

Residents and guests are also fly in and out using the 1.5 km airstrip.

All in all, this is a remarkable development and one that adds to Kenya's attractiveness both as a holiday destination and as a canny investment opportunity.■

# INVESTING IN A BRIGHT FUTURE FOR NAIROBI'S CHILDREN

**‘The pursuit of a bright future’ is the motto of the Home Candle Academy. The school aims to provide every child with the very best start in life. It caters for low and middle income communities in Kasarani, a district in north Nairobi.**

About 85 per cent of children in Kenya attend primary school. The remaining 15 per cent are generally in rural areas where the walk to school and back is too far. Home Candle educates children in areas such as Mwiki, Hunters, Muirigo, Roysambu, Zimmerman and Githuri and offers reliable transport to ensure that children not only attend school but also arrive safely.

When the school opened in 2005 just two pupils attended. However, even from these humble beginnings the founders, Clement

Wakeanda, a former banker, and his wife, Lucy Wanjiru, had a long-term vision: ‘To build a bright future for children, for a strong nation’.

Today, an impressive roll of 420 pupils attend Home Candle Academy, divided into 17 classes. The school employs 35 highly qualified staff and provides an environment that is homely, secure and friendly.

## DAY CARE

Home Candle Academy is a primary school that teaches children from kindergarten (three to six year olds) to upper primary (nine to 14 year olds). The school also provides a baby day care service for one and two year olds.



Happy children



Graduates on parade

The aim is to produce citizens with strong literacy and numeracy skills, knowledge and expertise. From the age of six, the children are taught mathematics, English, Kiswahili, science and social and religious studies. The school also teaches computer skills and intends to start French classes in the near future.

## ACTIVITIES

Extra-curricular activities such as sport and visits to museums and parks are organised with the aim of producing not only educated pupils but also well rounded individuals.

The involvement of Mada Hotels with Home Candle Academy began in 2005 when the late Mr T.S. Mahajan became founding patron of the school. Over the



The aim is to produce citizens with strong literacy and numeracy skills, knowledge and expertise

years the relationship has grown and now his son, Tinu Mhajan, is continuing the good work of his father, becoming the new patron. Home Candle takes great pride in its association with Mada Hotels and appreciates the support provided by the hospitality group.

An example of this outside support is the funding of essential but costly learning resources such as textbooks and writing materials.

## SUPPORT

The Home Candle Academy aims to provide top quality education at a reasonable and affordable fee for parents, and the school could not keep going without financial support from outside donors like Mada Hotels.

In the future, the school is looking to expand its current facilities to accommodate even more classrooms and thus accept more pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds. With continuing support, the school also hopes to build a modern library, an all-purpose social hall and a spacious playground.■



School owner Clement Wakeanda with Tinu Mhajan

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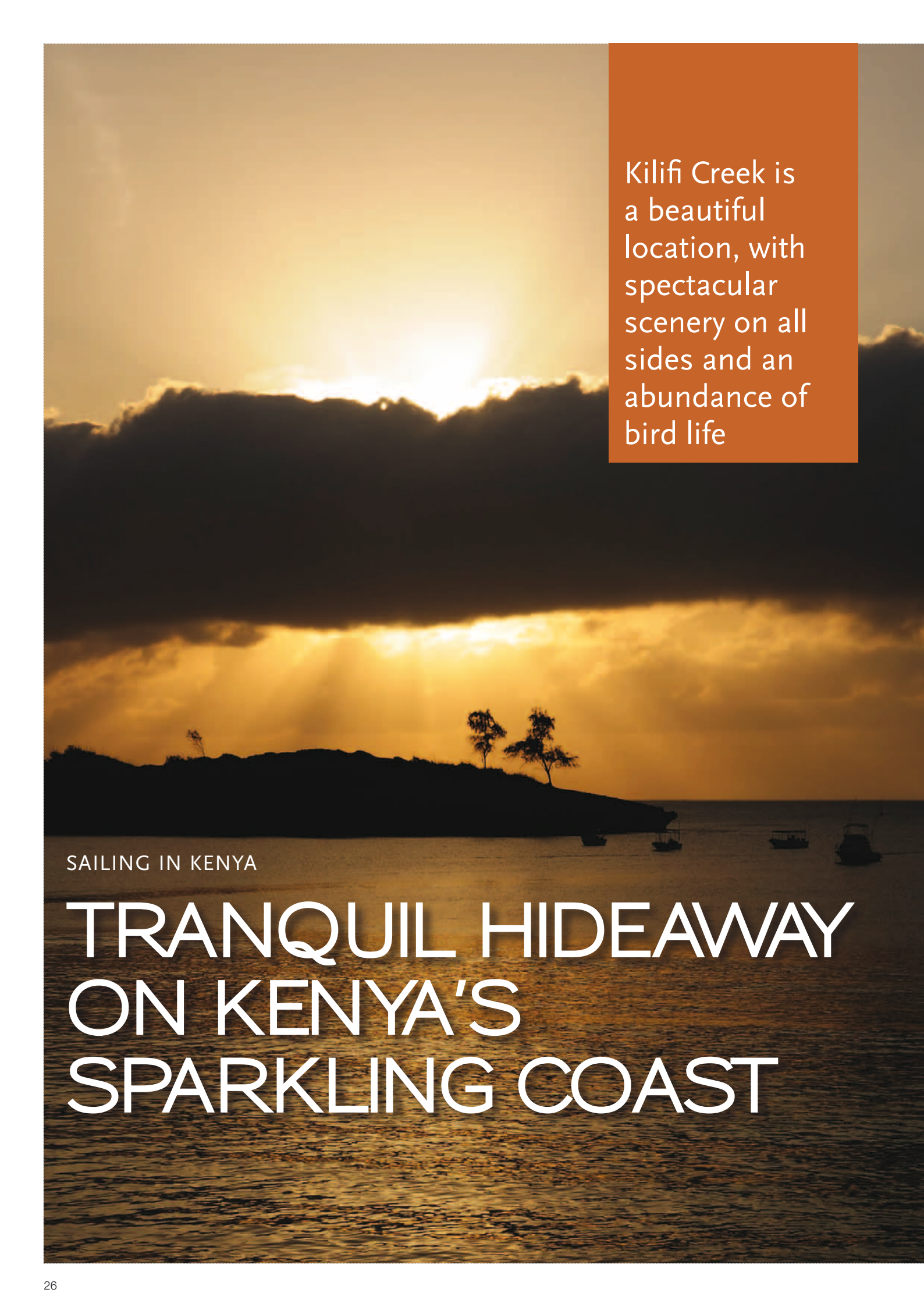
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A full-page background image showing a sunset over a body of water. The sun is low on the horizon, partially obscured by dark, heavy clouds. Bright rays of light break through the clouds, illuminating the scene. In the foreground, the water is dark with some ripples. In the middle ground, a dark silhouette of a landmass with a few trees is visible. Several small boats are anchored in the water. The overall color palette is dominated by warm oranges, yellows, and dark silhouettes.

Kilifi Creek is  
a beautiful  
location, with  
spectacular  
scenery on all  
sides and an  
abundance of  
bird life

SAILING IN KENYA

# TRANQUIL HIDEAWAY ON KENYA'S SPARKLING COAST



**T**ucked away on Kenya's pristine coastline is a multitude of small harbours and creeks – the perfect place for sailing enthusiasts to mess about in boats and spend lazy days by the water.

As a cruising ground for yachtsmen, Kenya is not the easiest of places to navigate. Restricted depths over reefs at the entrance to creeks and the lack of details on charts could prove a problem to those without experience or access to skilled pilots. However, Kenyan waters are ideal for the low-draught traditional dhows and multihulls.

One of the most popular yachting destinations in Kenya is Kilifi Creek, about 40 km north of Mombasa. It is perfect for staying overnight, enjoying the wonderful scenery and watching the sun go down over the Indian Ocean.

### Natural harbour

Because of its natural harbour, Kilifi is a perfect place to keep a boat. It comes as no surprise that Kilifi is home to more yachts than any other town on the coast.

Kilifi Creek is a beautiful location, with spectacular scenery on all sides and an abundance of bird life. There are several streams flowing into the creek, all surrounded by tropical mangrove trees.

Mada Hotels operates a pontoon on the Kilifi side of the creek, near the bridge, from where visitors can enjoy sunset cruises in a converted dhow. On the south side of the creek, a little further in, lies Kilifi Boatyard.

### Boatyard

Kilifi Boatyard offers probably the best boat repair services north of Durban on the east coast. Anyone crossing the Kilifi Bridge to either Kilifi Bay Beach Resort or the Baobab Sea Lodge will see impressive strings of yachts, fishing boats and power boats on the western side of the bay.



The boatyard was established in 2001 by Rene Faber after taking over the assets of Swynford's Boatyard, which had been there since the early 1980s. A retired company executive, Rene has built the yard up into a flourishing business employing about 40 qualified staff. Today, it provides moorings for about 40 boats and has hard-standing for a further 25.

Mr Faber said: "We have in total some 50 to 60 boats on the water and on the



hard. There are also regular visits by yachts from all over the world, though current pirate activity in the Indian Ocean has slowed the visits down.

### Bridge

"The access to the boatyard is limited by the height of the bridge, being 72 ft over the lowest low water. There are no other limitations. We have haul-out and

## SUNSET CRUISES IN 'BAOBELLA'

*Guests at Kilifi Bay and Baobab Sea Lodge can now enjoy tranquil sunset cruises in Kilifi Creek on board the beautiful 'Baobella', a traditional dhow converted to carry passengers in relative comfort.*

*Kilifi Creek is rich in bird life and surrounded by a wonderful landscape. Light refreshments are served on board and guests can even visit a typical Giriama village. Booking can be made directly at the hotels or through the Mada Central Reservations office.*

*Capt Hassan: 0735 857 425*

► Fun on the jetty

▼ Lateen sails on the horizon

## TRADITIONAL CRAFT

*Originally used by Arabs trading the coasts of the Red Sea and Indian Ocean, the traditional lateen-rigged dhow is a common sight along the idyllic shorelines of Kenya.*

*The dhow was used to carry people and goods from Mesopotamia to eastern Africa and across the ocean to India. Using seasonal winds, the Arab traders sailed to many ports in the region including Mombasa and Lamu in Kenya.*

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hardstanding facilities for yachts up to 15 tons and for sports fishing boats up to 20 tons. We have a small chandlery and a full maintenance and repair facility covering wood work, fibreglass work, stainless steel, high-quality spray painting, replacement of rigging, engine repair and overhaul.”

## On the water

Visitors to Kilifi can enjoy the creek from the water, with day trips in local dhows by various operators, all offering a good service at a modest price. There are opportunities, too, for visitors to go on voyages further afield to exotic destinations such as the island of Lamu, the Watamu Nature Reserve and Mida Creek. It's an overnight trip to Lamu and about the same to Tanga in Tanzania.

## Action

For those looking for a little action, fishing boats can be chartered to try catching marlin and yellow fin tuna, which are plentiful off the Kilifi coast. In fact, a couple of fishing records are held by boats from Kilifi.

Kilifi is a favourite stopping ground for yachtsmen from around the world sailing along the East African coast. The beach and safari option makes it a perfect stop for those wishing to relax and enjoy the wildlife of Kenya.

With the creek offering calm waters, guests at the Mada Hotel properties can enjoy water-skiing and other motorised sports in the creek



► Kilifi Creek  
▼ Idyllic location



With the creek offering calm waters, guests at the Mada Hotel properties can enjoy water-skiing and other motorised sports in the creek. Glass-bottomed boats are also available for trips to the reef to enjoy the colourful marine life of the Indian Ocean.

## Competition

As well as welcoming visits by yachts from overseas, Kilifi Creek is no stranger to international competition. In 2003 the International Fireball class, a popular 16 ft two-man racing dinghy, held its world championship in Kilifi, with top-class sailors from around the world attracted by the beauty and fine sailing conditions of the area.

Kilifi sends a couple of boats every year to compete in the Dar es Salaam-Tanga race,

held in November/December. In addition, Kilifi Boatyard proudly sponsors an annual dhow race that is always great fun for those involved.

In short, Kilifi Creek offers a bit of everything for those who love the water and getting afloat on it. ■

## CONTACT

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The company is a major player in Uganda's financial sector with estimated assets of US\$273 million (as of June 2009) or about 7.8 per cent of the nation's bank assets.

## INNOVATIVE

DFCU was established in 1964 as the Development Finance Company of Uganda. The company entered commercial banking in 2000 when it bought Gold Trust Bank and was renamed DFCU.

Over the years, DFCU has played a key role in bringing success to many sectors of the national economy including transport, education, floriculture, agriculture, manufacture and agro-processing by offering various development finance options.

Recently, DFCU Bank was named Most Innovative Bank by the Global Banking Alliance for Women at a ceremony in Singapore in October 2009. Among its innovations to assist women, DFCU Bank has introduced the Land Loan, Women in Business Investment Clubs and SACCO loans. It has disbursed over US\$16 million to women entrepreneurs and trained over 150 women in business and management skills.

The vision of DFCU is to be Uganda's preferred financial institution, providing a broad range of quality products to its chosen customer segments



The directors and staff of...

*The*  
***Orient***  
*Insurance Agencies Ltd.*

are proud to be associated with Mada Hotels

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After three years of low rainfall and almost none in 2009, the rain gods finally answered the prayers of millions



# AMBOSELI BACK IN BUSINESS AFTER DROUGHT ORDEAL

**B**ouncing back to its former glory, Amboseli National Park has recently undergone a magical transformation. In 2009 the National Park endured what the local Maasai elders described as ‘the most severe drought since 1961’ – a truly devastating year when they lost nearly all their cattle.

After three years of low rainfall and almost none in 2009, the rain gods finally answered the prayers of millions and November brought the arrival of heavy and widespread rain to soak the parched plains of Amboseli.

## LARGE HERDS

Well known for its large elephant herds, Amboseli lost hundreds of calves and matriarchs during the devastating drought, leaving the surviving animals distraught and confused. Exacerbating the situation further, some older males also died, not from the drought, but at the hands of poachers killing them for their tusks.

The average life expectancy of an elephant is 50 to 60 years; but it was the younger

elephants who were most affected by the shortage of rain. Young calves died because their mothers did not have enough milk, while the older, weaned infants could not find enough vegetation to sustain them.

## CASUALTIES

Elephants were not the only victims caused by the lack of rainfall. In fact, the knock-on effect led to casualties among all the wildlife of Amboseli and its populations of zebra, wildebeest, buffalo, lion and hippo were greatly diminished.

The impact on farming was a tragedy for the local community. Herders lost up to 80 per cent of their livestock and crop production was minimal. In addition, some safari camps were closed because of the fall in game viewing, thus halting wildlife revenues to the park.

Fortunately, when the drought breaks in Africa, it does so in full

measure. Ironically, some areas and roads in the park were hit by flash floods in early 2010. Amboseli is particularly susceptible to flooding because of its dry soda lake beds, which absorb little water.

Overall, the rains have brought green and flourishing vegetation to Amboseli and the fractured ecosystem is beginning to recover. To help restore the park, a large animal relocation project is under way and wildlife rangers are gradually restocking the area.

As a result, Amboseli is quickly returning to its position as one of the best places in Africa to view elephants in large numbers – and all under the watchful eye of majestic Mount Kilimanjaro. ■



Flash floods hit Amboseli



HOTEL LA MADA

# A boutique hotel overlooking the Karura Forest

**I**t is hard to believe that La Mada Hotel is located just 10 km from Nairobi city centre. This small four-star boutique hotel is surrounded by the lush Karura Forest, home to a rich bird life and several colonies of monkeys.

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

## Intimate

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

accommodation is luxuriously furnished with crisp white linen and towels, large wooden beds and spacious en-suite bathrooms.

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

Owing to its location, the hotel has become increasingly popular for business meetings and conferences. In response to demand and its growing popularity, there are now four conference halls with a

capacity of 30, 50, 150 and 300 attendees respectively. In addition, there is a well equipped executive boardroom with LCD projectors, computers and a secretarial and photocopying service.

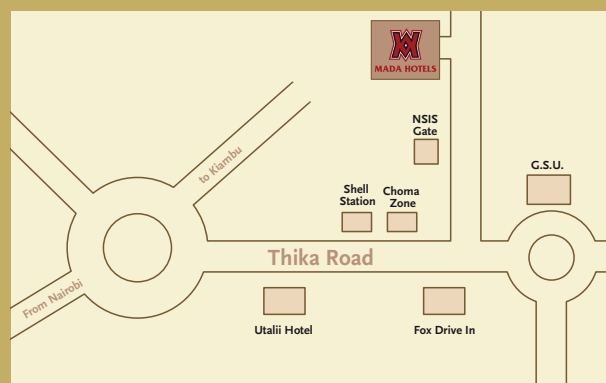
Staff have wide experience in organising functions to ensure a successful event. Activities include special events in the Lion's Den restaurant, poolside cocktails and live band entertainment.

There are many facilities that aim to make each guest's stay as relaxed as possible. For example, the large swimming pool is great for a revitalising swim. An airport shuttle service takes the stress out of travelling and the free Wi-Fi allows guests to remain well connected.■



Distances and times to major places from Hotel La Mada

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



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



▲ Unique-shaped pool

◀ Perfect for business travellers



THE OAKWOOD HOTEL

# A colonial-style hotel in the heart of Nairobi

**The Oakwood is a small, exclusive and perfectly located property. In fact, it offers the ideal accommodation for guests who enjoy the hustle, bustle and non-stop nightlife of Nairobi.**

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

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

## Connections

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

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

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

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

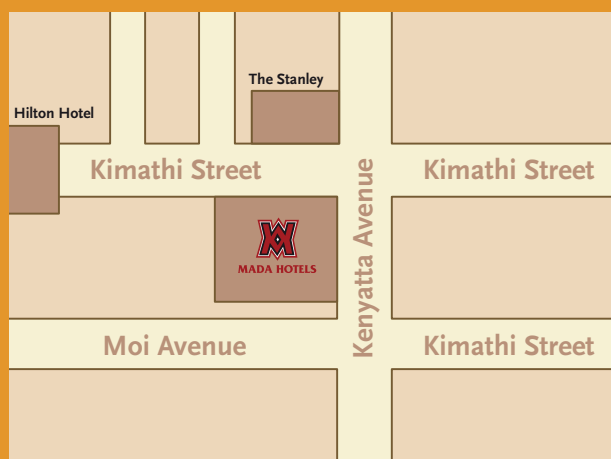
The Oakwood offers a wide range of facilities including internet connection. ■



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

Distances and times to major places from The Oakwood Hotel

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



- ▲ Self-contained rooms
- ◀ Homely atmosphere



KILIFI BAY BEACH RESORT

# A Swahili-designed hotel set on the best beach in Kenya

**K**ilifi Bay Beach Resort is a luxury four-star property located on the stunningly beautiful white sandy beaches of Kilifi.

Small and exclusive with unspoilt panoramic views of the Indian Ocean, the resort is a perfect hideaway. It is the only hotel on this beautiful stretch of beach, so guests are assured of total peace and quiet.

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

With only 50 rooms, the resort puts its emphasis on personalised service,

ensuring that all guests receive the very best during their stay. Each of the guest rooms has its own private balcony where guests can relax with a sundowner or just read a book.

## Unwind

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

The resort has two restaurants. The main dining restaurant serves buffet breakfasts, light lunches and sumptuous evening meals. The dinner menu is a selection of international cuisine, with themed nights and barbecues throughout the week. The newly opened Tepenyaki restaurant offers

an exotic mix of Japanese food and delicious seafood. Not part of the all-inclusive tariff, the restaurant is ideal for special occasions. Guests can choose from bed and breakfast to all-inclusive depending on preference.

In the evening, guests are entertained by an assortment of acrobatic shows, discos, live music and traditional African shows in the outdoor amphitheatre.

## Snacks and drinks

The Coconut Bar is located on the beach and serves snacks and drinks throughout the day. In addition, there are two further bar areas within the resort; one in the lounge reception, which is popular for pre-dinner cocktails, and the Pool Bar, which is



Distances and times to major places from Kilifi Bay Beach Resort

	Distance	Estimated time
Mombasa Airport	64 km	1 hr 20 mins
Railway station	58 km	1 hr 15 mins
Mombasa town	56 km	1 hr 15 mins
Malindi town	55 km	1 hr 15 mins
Malindi Airport	50 km	1 hr



ideal for a refreshing beverage while guests relax and soak up the sun.

The 'Baobella' departs throughout the day and provides scenic boat rides throughout Kilifi Creek with soft drinks and snacks offered during the excursion. Other water sports include snorkelling, diving and canoeing, all of which are available from the beach.

Kilifi Bay Resort is an ideal conference venue. The atmosphere is quiet and the staff are trained to cater for large groups. A variety of activities are available for special functions, such as beach dinners, day trips to Malindi and beach cocktail parties.■

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



▲ Aqua-aerobics

◀ Lie back and soak up the sun





BAOBAB SEA LODGE

## A charming hotel where privacy and service come as standard

**B**aobab Sea Lodge is a little piece of paradise. Set in seven acres of tropical gardens and with 60 metres of ocean frontage, this is the ideal place to relax, soak up the sun and enjoy the magic of the Kenyan coast.

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

When it comes to dining at Baobab, every meal is fresh and unique. With meal plans from all-inclusive to basic bed and breakfast available, guests can dine within the hotel as little or often as they want. The main restaurant serves a variety of tasty cuisine and has themed nights with live entertainment throughout the week. Every night is an experience, with acrobatics, discos, live music and traditional African shows and dancers.

Guests wanting a quieter and calmer evening may choose to have a cocktail in one of the two bars, or catch up on the latest news in the television lounge.

There are two swimming pools, one for children and one for adults. There is a swim-up bar and stunning views across the Indian Ocean. For the ultimate in relaxation, visitors can enjoy a free massage which is available to all hotel guests.

For more active types, there is a large variety of water sports, including snorkelling, deepsea fishing, windsurfing, scuba diving, canoeing and a glass-bottomed boat. The hotel's boat, the 'Baobella', is also available for excursions in and around Kilifi Creek.

Alternative activities include darts, table tennis, billiards, archery, beach volleyball,



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

bicycle hire and free use of the hotel's tennis court.

With so much on offer, it is perhaps surprising that Baobab Sea Lodge has just 30 guest rooms. The philosophy is 'quality not quantity', so that guests are spoilt and well attended by friendly and professional staff. The majority of rooms are set in rondavels and the rest are located in a pleasant double-storey building. All rooms are beautifully decorated and have air conditioning, ceiling fans, en-suite bathrooms and private verandas.

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

### Distances and times to major places from Baobab Sea Lodge

	Distance	Estimated time
Mombasa Airport	63 km	1 hr 20 mins
Railway station	55 km	1 hr 15 mins
Mombasa town	53 km	1 hr 15 mins
Malindi town	52 km	1 hr 15 mins
Malindi Airport	47 km	1 hr



- ▲ Large swimming pool
- ◀ Kilifi's unspoiled beaches



ADVENTURES ALOFT

# Daily balloon flights over the Masai Mara

**Imagine watching the sun rise over the Masai Mara National Reserve while drifting high in a hot air balloon. Adventures Aloft offers this magical experience, with daily flights from both Fig Tree Camp and Siana Springs Intrepids.**

For most, a balloon safari is a once-in-a-lifetime experience and Adventures Aloft ensures that every second of the flight is planned to perfection.

Balloon flights typically take off at 06.30. Passengers are woken in time to have a hot cup of fresh coffee and some cake at the camp and then watch the pilots torch the coloured fabric to inflame the balloon at the launch site.

Flights last one hour, allowing guests a phenomenal bird's-eye view over the National Reserve. Depending on the

time of year, balloon safaris are the most outstanding way to see the annual migration of wildebeest for which the Mara is rightly famous.

## Butler service

On landing, the balloon crew set up a full champagne-style breakfast on the Mara plains, complete with butler service, an open bar serving Bloody Marys and a hearty traditional English breakfast. Each passenger then receives a certificate from the pilot as a memento of their flight. The experience is completed with a game drive back to camp.

Adventures Aloft has been in operation for 15 years and is proud of its perfect safety record. All pilots with the company are highly experienced and commercially rated on the large-size balloons used by the company. The collective skills and knowl-

edge of the staff ensure that guests feel completely safe and enjoy the experience knowing they are in good hands.

The company has a fleet of Cameron balloons, consisting of three A415 balloons with a flying capacity of 16 passengers each and one A315 balloon with a flying capacity of 12 passengers. Therefore Adventures Aloft has a maximum capacity of 60 passengers per day.

For guests not staying at Fig Tree or Siana Springs, Adventures Aloft offers a transfer service to and from most of the camps and lodges in and around the Mara.

Adventures Aloft is also proud to announce its newest operation, which will run from Tanzania's Tarangire National Park from May 2010. By the end of 2010 the new location will be fully operational with two impressive 12-seater balloons.■



► Shadow across the Mara

▼ Hearty breakfast



A balloon safari is a once-in-a-lifetime experience and Adventures Aloft ensures that every second of the flight is planned to perfection



▲ Maasai moran takes a ride

◀ Spectacular views



FIG TREE CAMP

# A fantastic location over the Talek River in the Masai Mara

**F**ig Tree Camp is located on the banks of the Talek River in the world-famous Masai Mara National Reserve.

The camp's central location in the Reserve makes it ideal for accessing all areas during game drives. The camp has a fleet of four-wheel-drive vehicles, each with professional driver/guides who are highly knowledgeable and always available to answer questions. Fig Tree Camp also offers guests a more in-depth understanding of the local area, with lectures by naturalists and game walks led by Maasai morans.

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

in-a-lifetime opportunity that involves a night game drive and a candle-lit barbecue dinner in a special conservation area.

## Selection

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

Fig Tree Camp also offers several facilities and services to ensure every guest enjoys a comfortable and fulfilled stay. There is a swimming pool, a video room and a

curio shop. Also available is a massage service, which is a great way to relax after a morning game drive.

In terms of accommodation, there are 35 classic safari tents and 10 superior Ngamboli tents, all with single and double beds and private patio on the banks of the Talek River.

Guests looking for a more luxurious travelling experience could choose one of the 27 garden chalets, each with its own private balcony. The rooms are tastefully furnished with modern facilities.

The balloon safari company Adventures Aloft, a member of the Mada Hotels group, is based at the camp. Flights depart each morning at 06.30. The experience offers guests a bird's-eye view of the Mara



### Distances and times to major places from Fig Tree Camp

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



as they watch the sun rise over the plains. To top off this special occasion, a full champagne-style breakfast complete with open bar is organised on the landing site to celebrate the flight.

### Conferences

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

In spite of its remote location, the camp is easily accessible, with an air strip nearby. Visitors can fly in from either Nairobi or Mombasa.■



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



- ▲ *Delightfully and thoughtfully appointed*
- ◀ *Maasai guide*



## KILIMA SAFARI CAMP

# Luxurious tented camp with breathtaking views of Mount Kilimanjaro

**T**he newest addition to the Mada portfolio, Kilima Safari Camp, is located in Amboseli National Park. It is set in 360 acres and commands spectacular views of Mount Kilimanjaro.

In terms of accommodation, there is a choice of 50 classic safari tents, 10 superior tents and 12 luxury lodge rooms. Clients can enjoy great game viewing from the comfort of their own room, with views of a nearby watering hole that attracts a wide variety of animals and birds.

With an impressive fleet of 4x4 vehicles, guests can enjoy game drives in comfort and style. The professional driver guides are extremely knowledgeable, allowing

clients to get the most from their safari experience.

Never a dull moment, Kilima Safari Camp offers a great selection of activities. In addition to classic game drives, Maasai morans are available to take clients on game walks and a local naturalist offers free lectures about the surrounding environment.

Those looking to relax and unwind will find sanctuary at the massage room, which offers a variety of treatments. Alternatively, the ornate pool is perfect for a refreshing swim after a morning game drive.

Kilima's culinary delights include moonlit 'bush dinners' – a truly magical experience that offers guests the chance to

dine under the stars of the Amboseli. The camp also has a fine restaurant, which serves a hearty breakfast, a buffet lunch and mouth-watering evening meals.

## High point

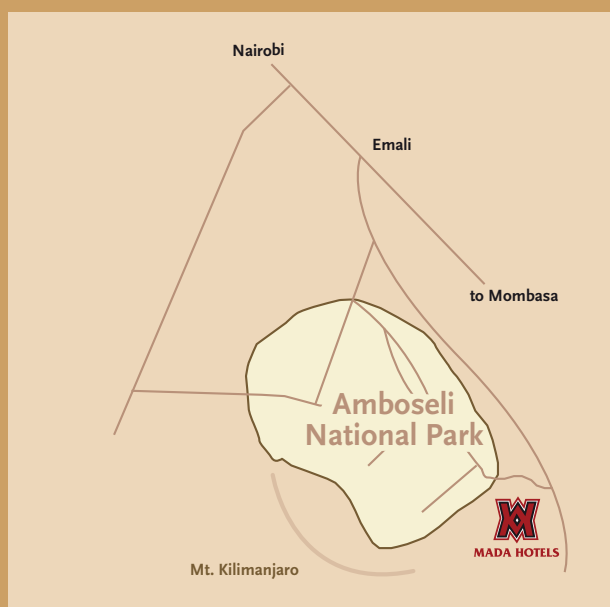
The Kibo Lounge is a true high point for any guests staying Kilima, in more ways than one. Situated in the centre of the dining room, the lounge is a three-storey look-out tower with breathtaking views of Mount Kilimanjaro, Amboseli National Park and across to the water holes in front of the camp. The lounge serves as a perfect place to relax, watch the sunrise with a morning cappuccino or just gaze at the stars after dinner.■



Never a dull moment, Kilima Safari Camp offers a great selection of activities

Distances and times to major places from Kilima Camp

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



- ▲ Spacious and well appointed
- ◀ The high point



JINJA NILE RESORT

# A stunning property with towering views over the River Nile

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

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

## Lush gardens

Popular with both business travellers and tourists, the resort is spread over 75 acres of lush gardens with beautifully landscaped lawns, palm trees and tropical plants. All public areas have been designed to give guests Nile-facing views.

Owing to its growing popularity, Jinja Nile Resort has recently increased guest accommodation capacity and now has a total of 134 rooms. Rooms are in colonial-style cottages with en-suite bathrooms, cosy sitting rooms and private balconies facing the Nile.

## Nile views

There is a choice of dining options. The elegant Main Restaurant seats up to 150 guests at a time, has a terrace overlooking the swimming pool and offers an excellent view of the Nile and the surrounding countryside. The equally spacious Conference Dining Room, located near the conference halls, offers quick and effective service to participating delegates. It has an inde-

pendent bar for serving refreshments to conference and workshop attendees.

The newly opened Nile Palace is a restaurant and bar located on a 20 metre cliff over the River Nile. Owing to its unique location and exquisite food, it is no surprise that the restaurant has become popular as a venue for special events.

For a more intimate dining experience or for private functions, the resort also has two private dining rooms. There is 24-hour room service available on request.

With a plentiful supply of recreational activities on offer, guests are always kept well entertained. There is a large free-form swimming pool with a swim-up bar,



### Distances and times to major places from Jinja Nile Resort

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



badminton, three pool tables, a squash court, a tennis court and a nine-hole golf course nearby. Ideal for families, the resort offers a children's park and swimming pool, while parents can call on the assistance of experienced nannies.

### Health club

The health club is equipped with Italian Techno gym equipment as well as a sauna, a steam bath and a massage room.

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



- ▲ The terrace
- ◀ Front desk

Popular with both business travellers and tourists, the resort spreads over 75 acres of lush gardens

# CASINOS OFFER A SPECIAL MIX OF ELEGANCE AND THRILLS

**A** special venue in the heart of Nairobi is the Babylon Casino, which opened in spring 2009. Located in the 68o Hotel, the casino has been fully refurbished with modern, impressively styled interiors and is now the largest in Kenya.

The Babylon Casino is a huge 24-hour complex with slot machines, roulette and card games offering the highest limits in Kenya as well as bingo games with huge prizes and sports betting with dedicated large-screen TVs. The casino has a great atmosphere thanks to its elegant *salle privée*, attractive bars, fine food and live music. There truly is something for everyone, and everyone is welcome.

In addition to its wide selection of games and friendly atmosphere, the Babylon Casino offers secure parking.

On the coast, the well established Casino Malindi, which opened in 1991, has

continued to develop its facilities.

The casino is a big, classy, European-style club with interiors that echo the style of Kenya and the coast. Along with all the usual casino games, Casino Malindi offers slot machines, bingo, a tournament hall with three wide-screen TVs for sports fans and a *salle privée*.

## RESTAURANTS

In terms of entertainment there are two bars, live music every night, an extensive programme of events and two restaurants. La Griglia has an extensive Italian pasta and grill menu while, across a bridge, the Shogun is a Japanese floating sushi bar on an island in a koi carp pool. Both restaurants are in a magical setting under the stars with views over the Indian Ocean.

Casino Malindi is increasingly popular with guests who drive there from Mombasa to enjoy an evening or weekend at the club.

In Mombasa, Casinoroco offers its guests an elegant and exclusive atmosphere and has attracted a regular clientele since opening in 2004. Also on the coast, Casi-

nomax is located across the bridge from Mombasa in Nyali.

All the casinos in this group offer the highest limits in Kenya, which naturally draws in the serious players.■



Roulette tables

There truly is  
something  
for everyone,  
and everyone  
is welcome

