

# AFRICANMECCA DESTINATION MANAGEMENT

INTEGRITY IN AFRICAN TOURS & ADVENTURES

## Blessed Easter Greetings From The AfricanMecca Team!

AfricanMecca Newsletter - Spring 2008 - Update from Americas, European and Africa Offices

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### News

#### Kenya Revived & Energetic!!

We are delighted to announce that a peace treaty was brokered and signed on 28 February 2008 between the opposition leaders of President Mwai Kibaki and Mr. Raila Odinga. In a power-sharing deal brokered by ex-UN head Kofi Annan, the future of Kenya is looking brighter than ever – and this is thanks to the unwavering support from all of Kenya's partners, agents, clients and friends. We look forward to continuing to work with you all to ensure a speedy return to the pre-election tourism levels and hope you will join with us in celebrating the closure to the brief post-election violence. Spring & summer charter flight beach holidays to Kenya from the UK and other European countries have been reinstated following a downgrade of travel advisories. Since the announcement of the power-sharing agreement, the post election security situation throughout Kenya has been calm and peaceful in all areas with a mood of relief and celebration. None of our guests had any regrets or felt their security was compromised at any point during their January & February 2008 travels. We thank all our guests who traveled with us during the concluded and past troubled times. Read the below customer comments from one of our many guests who traveled during the post-election period of January 2008.

#### AfricanMecca Customer Comments from Melissa Ngala - January 2008

Dear Raza,

Sorry it took so long to get back to you returning from our vacation. The problem is there is so much to say I don't know where to start! Obviously, you are aware of how great Kenya is so I will try to keep it short! I can honestly say this was the best vacation I have ever been on. The beach was beautiful (even more than the pictures!) and the weather was absolutely perfect. We also enjoyed our 2 day safari to Tsavo East. 2 weeks is not nearly enough time in Kenya! Everyone was friendly and I felt very welcome. I had several family members and friends here who were concerned about the current political situation who were advising me not to go. However, I knew from contact with Raza as well as family in Kenya that there was nothing to worry about. I saw not even a hint of trouble and was never in a situation where I felt the least bit unsafe. It's terrible how the whole country of Kenya is portrayed badly on the news as a result of some isolated areas. I loved the trip so much we have cancelled a Southern Caribbean cruise for next year and are planning to go back to Kenya in January. I would

definitely book with your company again. My husband and I really appreciate your fast and organized responses. Everything went so smoothly and we were provided with all of the information we needed. Overall, it was the most wonderful experience. Thanks again!! Melissa Ngala, United States

## Safari Destination Guide

### Lake Natron - Shompole Conservancy

Shompole Conservancy is home to many species of animals and birdlife and includes one of the most ecologically diverse areas in Africa with environments ranging from rainforest, through acacia woodland, grass plains, riverine forest, salt plains and soda lakes. There is an abundance of plains game and night animals frequently seen include aardwolf, civet, serval, leopard and striped hyena. Elephant, lion and cheetah are found in the swamp and grassy plains, while the birdlife is varied and plentiful. All funds collected from Conservancy fees contribute to the maintenance and patrolling of the area and to projects that benefit the community as a whole; such as the establishment of schools, clinics and other self-sustaining businesses. The variety of landscape available at Shompole allows for a great range of activities from early morning and evening walks, night drives, sundowner visits to Lake Natron to see the flamingos, picnics and nights spent out in romantic fly-camps.



**[Click here for a complete guide to Lake Natron - Shompole Conservancy](#)**

### Little Shompole Lodge

**AfricanMecca Tier 1 Accommodation.** [Click here for](#)

[details on Safari Tier™](#)

Little Shompole, an eco-lodge with elegance of an eco-camp, lies on the edge of the Great Rift Valley overlooking sun-baked plains and riverine forest, great creased volcanic mountains and lush green wetlands. It is a creation of imagination and the product of a partnership with the Maasai people of that area. Constructed to emphasize the beauty of natural materials combined with flowing water and smooth white walls, the camp is truly an unusual and exquisite place. The colorful Maasai that are Shompole's partners in this project remain traditional in much of their life-style and dress. They are fully involved in the project, employed in the lodge and included in any decision-making involving the business. They welcome visitors to both the camp and their villages and are an important focal point of a stay at Little Shompole. In addition, the area is also home to the Tanzanian Maasai whose white beads and very traditional way of life, distinguish them from the Maasai of Kenya.



[Click here for complete information on Little Shompole.](#)

## Indian Ocean Beach Destination Guide

### **Changuu Private Island**

Changuu Private Island (natively/traditionally known as Prison Island) has been described as a Small Paradise on Earth, with its private white beach surrounded by the pristine waters of the Indian Ocean. The islet lies 3 ½ miles to the northwest of **Zanzibar Stone Town**, and it is oblong in shape about ½ mile and 250 yards broad at the broadest part. Getting there after a comfortable 20 minutes' boat drive from Stone Town by a traditional Dhow (fishing boat) takes you to the most unique experience in life.



[Click here for complete details on Changuu Private Island](#)

### **Changuu Private Island Paradise Lodge** **AfricanMecca Tier 2 Experience.** [Click here for details on](#)

#### AfricanMecca Rating

Changuu Private Island Paradise Lodge peaceful island today drives AfricanMecca guests through its historical buildings to its past intense history. Today, Changuu Private Island Paradise Lodge has restored these historical buildings to make them living structures, adapted to new uses while preserving their authenticity. The Prison ruins have now been converted into a bright living structure, offering a host of entertainment facilities, such as a café, boutique and library. The Mathews' Restaurant is an artfully restored building that was erected in the late 1890s; its wide verandah, enjoying the invigorating sea breeze, overlooks the irresistible swimming pool at which fresh water is available for the first time in the history of this islet. This awesome renovation has been achieved whilst maintaining the perfect balance between nature and culture.



[Click here for complete details on Changuu Private Paradise Island Lodge](#)

## Recommended Indian Ocean Beach & Cultural Program

### Overnight Prices:

- **Changuu Private Island Paradise Lodge:** From US \$175 or GBP 93 per person/night sharing a standard room. **Programs Inclusions:** Breakfast & dinner and all taxes.

[Click here for more Zanzibar & Surrounding Beach Island Holidays & Cultural Programs](#)

## Prices.

### Recommended African Safari Program

- **3 Nights Shompole Safari Extension:** From US \$2600 or GBP 1382 per person sharing. **Programs Inclusions:** Round-trip **private charter** flights from Nairobi to Shompole Conservancy, 3 nights accommodation at Shompole Main Lodge, meals, conservancy fees, game activities, airstrip transfers, drinks and all taxes. Upgrade to Little Shompole: From US \$735 or GBP 390 per person sharing.

We recommend adding the Shompole Safari Extension to our recommended safari programs. [Click here](#) for complete details

### Another Perfect AfricanMecca Customer Experience - Traveled January 2008

Dear AfricanMecca,

We had a marvelous time in Kenya, despite all the advertised problems. At no time did we feel unsafe as all the places we visited, other than Nairobi, seemed distant from any trouble. **Little Governors Camp (Masai Mara Game Reserve)** was marvelous with few vehicles to interrupt our game viewing. **Mfangano Island Lodge (Lake Victoria)** was a gem in itself. Accommodation was excellent as was the food. We had a great time with our friends at **Deloraine (Naivasha)** where we tried to learn how to play polo! This area was in the heart of the conflict but we were not affected. Us Mzungus are obviously not being at all targeted. At no time did we feel any hostility. **Funzi Keys Island Lodge (Funzi Island South Coast Mombasa)** wins the prize! Alessandro, our host was perhaps the best hotelier we've met in all our travels. The service, the food, the accommodation were all excellent, and should be highly recommended as a great place to visit. All in all we had a marvelous trip thanks to your excellent planning and communication with us. We are so glad we took your advice in not canceling our trip to Kenya. We are still in **South Africa** and will be back in the States side March 18. Thanks very much,

Anthony and Hunter  
Colorado, United States



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Please visit and submit all your details at: <http://www.africanmeccasafaris.com/reservationrequest.asp>

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