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AFRICANMECCA DESTINATION MANAGEMENT

INTEGRITY IN AFRICAN TOURS & ADVENTURES

AfricanMecca Newsletter - May 2005 - Update from Americas, European and Africa Offices.

News

Owen & Mzee Update

Forward from Owen & Mzee Book. [Click here](#) to download it for free.

"December 26th, 2004 started off as a normal, quiet day. My son Joshua and I were out for a morning walk along the beach in front of my home when suddenly the sea began to race in. Within minutes the ocean became threatening. The tide had risen well beyond the high water mark. At that instant it became apparent the Tsunami that had started nearly 4,000 miles away far across the Indian Ocean would impact us as well. In less than 12 hours the Tsunami had finally reached the coast of

Africa from its point of origin in Banda Aceh. We ran from the beach back to my house where my sister and her children were waiting for us. They were all crying having just seen on television the haunting images of the devastating Indian Ocean Tsunami. Although we escaped the waves, a one year old hippopotamus 80 kilometers away was not as lucky. Just before Christmas the unseasonably heavy rains near Malindi town washed a family of hippopotamuses down the Sabaki River and out to sea.

The residents of the town tried in vain to urge the family back up the estuary. When the Tsunami hit Malindi, the sea turned angry, the sky clouded over and for a moment the hippos disappeared and were forgotten as all efforts went to rescuing the stranded fishermen. The next day only one hippo could be seen. It was the baby and he was stranded on the reef. Hundreds of people came to watch the efforts to rescue the hippo. It took ropes, boats, nets and cars – though the hippo was tired he was still fast and slippery. It took a brave rugby tackle to finally capture him, and the cheering of the crowd could be heard over a kilometer away. Lafarge Eco Systems agreed to provide a home for the baby hippo and I

rushed to Malindi to collect him. Tangled in fishing ropes, angry and tired, the hippo did not seem to appreciate our rescue at all. As we left for Mombasa, the crowd unanimously agreed to name him 'Owen' in honor of the volunteer who tackled him to the ground. Exhausted, confused and extremely frightened, Owen immediately ran to the safety of a giant tortoise when we released him in Haller Park. Mzee, our 130 year old tortoise, just happened to be nearby and he was very surprised by Owen's odd behavior cowering behind him as a baby hippo does to its mother. Mzee quickly came to terms with his new friend and even returned signs of affection. The unusual relationship between this baby hippo and the ancient tortoise amazed people the world over and has featured in most countries on television and in news papers. Owen and Mzee continue to spend their days together in the pond, feeding and patrolling. Owen nudges Mzee to come for walks, and Mzee sometimes even follows Owen. Hundreds of people have witnessed this incredible spectacle first hand at Haller Park which is open every day to the public. Owen will eventually be moved to a bigger pond in Haller Park were he can socialize with other hippos.

Dr. Paula Kahumbu
Chief Environmentalist, Haller Park
Mombasa, Kenya"

For more information on Haller Park, [click here](#)



Safari Destination Guide

Tsavo East National Park

The combined area of Tsavo East and West National Parks makes Tsavo one of the world's largest game sanctuaries,

larger than Wales in Great Britain or Jamaica in the Caribbean. Lying about halfway between Nairobi and Mombasa it covers 20,812 square kilometers. Tsavo East is larger and more arid than Tsavo West and is less frequented. The vegetation around Tsavo East National Park is savannah grassland with thorny bushes and some swampy marshland near Voi River. The landscape is unique because of the Yatta Plateau formed from the lava that oozed from Ol Doiyo Sabuk Mountain. A variety of animals can be seen: lions, leopard, cheetah, zebras, giraffes, serval, antelopes, kongoni, lesser kudu, oryx, klipspringer, impala, striped hyena, ostriches, gazelles, buffalos, elephants and many more. [Click here](#) for more details



Satao Camp - Tsavo East National Park - AfricanMecca Tier 2 Accommodation

There is a luxuriously superb, wild and rustic accommodation in Tsavo East National Park by the name of Satao Camp, which most have never have heard about but ought to visit it. Close your eyes for a second and imagine a comfortable wilderness place for yourself. A place so relaxing and incomparable to anything where animals walk in and out of camp like magic, surrounding you when you stealthily trot, and scurry briskly where your shrug a move. Imagine a place, which felt so divinely blessed with the experience most visitors don't have the opportunity to learn about but you do because you know you will only accept the best and will not conform to doing what everybody else does. This is the magic of Satao Camp through the experienced eyes of AfricanMecca like no other experience in the whole of Kenya - Guaranteed! [Click here](#) for more details





What are AfricanMecca Safari Tier™ Ratings?

Safari Tier™ Ratings are AfricanMecca's proprietary and innovative three tier itineraries designed in complete harmony with our accommodation gauging standards, the first in the East African tourism industry designed from a guest's perspective that allows the guest to accurately and intellectually judge the quality of the accommodations and related services proposed to them.

AfricanMecca's Safari Tier™ Ratings are crucial and beneficial for visiting guests because of the following simple reasons:

1. **Creates Consistency In the Services:** As knowledgeable and experienced professionals representing our countries, our programs create a consistency in the services received from the accommodations and experience in the park, which in turn means guests are going to be satisfied with their experience in Africa. This specifically relates to the aggregate of the wildlife experience in the park, quality of rooms, quality of meals and quality of services.

2. **Well Balanced Itineraries:** Our equal opportunity destination focused programs creates a systematic three-tier approach allowing guest to visit the same ecology and ecosystems, and came away with similar experiences while creating a diversity at the accommodation level. Simply put: The constant in our itineraries are our dedicated, highly specialized and personalized services, and variables are the accommodation and activity experience selected by our clients.

3. **Tiers Correspond To Rates:** We believe that accommodations that represent a certain tier should also reflect their corresponding Safari Tier™ Ratings in the prices it provides. AfricanMecca's Safari Tier™ ratings allow guests to independently judge the value of a program. This approach is superb because prospective guests can determine when a tier three accommodation is overpriced (or over-rated) or a tier one accommodation is priced well below the industry rates.

[Click here](#) for more details on Safari Tier™.

Indian Ocean Beach Destination Guide

Funzi Island - Kenya

Funzi Island is located on the southern coast of the Mombasa coast, accessed by first crossing the Indian Ocean channel by ferry and driving down 70 kilometers on tarmac roads, passing Diani beach on the left, to Bodo pier. From Bodo guests would travel via boat to Funzi Island. The island has one accommodation, and is surrounded by the Indian Ocean waters with patches of mangroves trees, swaying palms and sparkling sand. The unique remoteness of Funzi Island, along with the close proximity to: Kisite Mpunguti Marine Park where guests can snorkel or dive, Funzi Creek where guests have the opportunity to watch birds, dolphins, and crocodiles, and the Ramisi River where boat trip ends with superb sundowners makes it one of the best places to visit on the Kenya coast. If that wasn't enough to make Funzi Island an attractive exotic Indian Ocean beach island destination, lying on the Pemba channel makes it one of the best fishing spots in whole of Africa. Relaxation at Funzi Island is furthered by the low tides, which reveals a superb sandbank where guests relax and sunbathe for the rest of day.



Funzi Keys Lodge - Kenya - AfricanMecca Five Star Experience

Tucked away on an unspoilt island in the Indian Ocean, yet only 15 minutes flying time from Mombasa, The Funzi Keys' unique appeal is its luxurious seclusion and beautiful natural scenery. Surrounded by water and superbly located on a west-facing beach with glorious views of the African sunset, this remote and exclusive hideaway is the perfect place to escape from the outside world in style. Funzi Keys was voted, for the second time, one of the top 101 hotels in the world by Conde Nast. [Click here](#) for more details





AfricanMecca New Program Offerings

Mombasa Beach Holidays From UK - Including Flights, Hotel & Transfers. [Click here](#) for prices and programs

Bush & Beach Safari - Combine with Mombasa Beach Holidays From UK. [Click here](#) for prices and programs

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We ask that all destination travel requests such as yours be submitted through our reservation inquiry services page, where we can generate a request number and have a specialist who can quote you accordingly. We have several confirmations we are working with and want to make sure we can serve you in the best manner possible and at the same time create a quality follow through of your request.

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

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