

AFRICANMECCA DESTINATION MANAGEMENT

INTEGRITY IN AFRICAN TOURS & ADVENTURES

AfricanMecca Newsletter - Late July 2005 - Update from Americas, European and Africa Offices

News

Latest Masai Mara Wildebeest Migration Report - Courtesy Heritage Hotels

News Overview

"The concentration of the migration in the Mara has increased tremendously over the past seven days. The Loita herds have almost tripled in number, while the Serengeti herds have doubled, and are now beyond the main Keekorok/Mara Bridge Road."

[Click here](#) to download PDF for the latest Masai Mara Wildebeest Migration Game Report.

Safari Destination Guide

Masai Mara National Reserve

The Masai Mara National Reserve is Kenya's finest wildlife reserve. Everything about this reserve is outstanding. The wildlife is abundant and the gentle rolling grasslands ensure that animals are never out of sight. Birds, too, are prolific. Including migrants, well over 450 species have been recorded, among them, 57 species of birds of prey. The climate is gentle, rarely too hot and well-spread rainfall year round. Rain, when it falls almost always chooses the late afternoon or night. Between July and October, when the great wildebeest migration is in the Masai Mara National Reserve, the sensation is unparalleled. Masai Mara is one of the best plains' game reserve where you can actually encounter a live Discovery Channel, a haven for viewing a congregation of all sorts of animals in a five-mile radius: A pride of lions can be spotted ready to make a run for a gazelle (actually, the last time we visited the Masai Mara we saw a lioness take down a giraffe), a cheetah and its cub taking a nap on a rock, a pair of ostriches walking the open stretches of the savannah or a gazelle giving birth (we saw this too).

The Masai Mara National Reserve lies about 270 kilometers from Nairobi, and takes about 4 to 5 hours by road. There are scheduled flights, twice daily from Wilson Airport Nairobi, which take about 40 - 45 minutes. The reserve is about 1510 square kilometers having been reduced from 1672 square kilometers in 1984. However, the wildlife is far from being confined within the reserve boundaries, and an even larger area, generally referred to as the "dispersal area" extends north and east of the Masai Mara National Reserve. Maasai communities live within the dispersal area with their stock but a century of close association with the wildlife has resulted in an almost symbiotic relationship where wildlife and people live in peace with one another. The first sight of this natural wonderland is breathtaking. Here the great herds of shuffling elephants browse among the rich tree-studded grasslands with an occasional sighting of a solitary and ill-tempered rhino.



Thomson's and Grant's gazelle, Topi and Eland and many more species of plains' game offer a rich choice of food for the dominant predators; lion, leopard and cheetah which hunt in this pristine wilderness. In the Mara River, hippo submerges at the approach of a vehicle only to surface seconds later to snort and grumble their displeasure. Seemingly, the drowsy crocodile sunbathe on the riverbanks, mouth agape, waiting with subtle cunning for prey at which to strike with lightning swiftness. But this richness of fauna, this profusion of winged beauty and the untouched fragility of the landscape, are all subordinate to the Mara's foremost attraction, the march of the wildebeest

[Click here for a complete guide to Masai Mara National Reserve including videos.](#)

David Livingstone Safari Resort

AfricanMecca Tier 3 Accommodation. [Click here](#) for details on Safari Tier™

The David Livingstone Safari Resort is situated to the northeast of the Masai Mara National Reserve in the Koiyaki Lemek Wildlife Sanctuary on a broad bend with hippo pools on the Mara River. This newly refurbished lodge is set in 40 acres of tropical gardens with indigenous plants and botanical gardens.

[Click here to download brochure for David Livingstone Safari Resort](#)

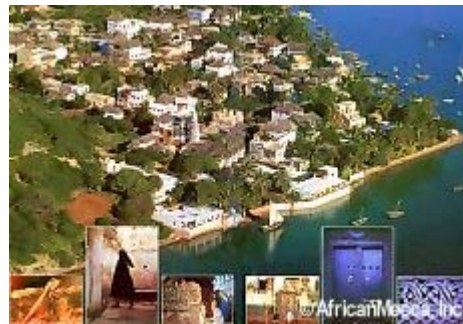


Indian Ocean Beach Destination Guide

Lamu Island - Indian Ocean's Secret, Exotic & Romantic Gateway

Lamu is a town, an island and an archipelago. If you visit, you should try to visit all three. The archipelago is a chain of seven islands and a multitude of islets, separated from the mainland at its narrowest part by a channel just a few meters wide. Dense mangrove forests fringe the mainland and the inland sides of the islands, while the seaward sides are protected by reefs and lined with dunes. Throughout the archipelago, there are numerous historical sites; visible and tangible evidence of ten centuries of a colorful, and often rich cultural past. Most of these settlements are Arab in origin and started as small trading stations. As these small colonies grew, they absorbed much from the local people and a distinct Afro-Arab culture emerged. This culture, which came to be known as Swahili, today dominates not only Lamu but also the urban centers of Mombasa and Malindi, and its language has become the principal Lingua Franca of East and Central Africa.

The beach on Lamu Island is 12 kilometers of empty sands backing on to an ocean unprotected by a reef, and therefore livelier and more powerful than you find elsewhere in Kenya. But no one comes to Lamu only for the beach. The town is now well known, a delightful anachronism carrying on its daily life as it has done for centuries so that the visitor has a science fiction experience of being transported back through time. Settlement dates back to the 14th century and by the 19th century Lamu was a flourishing trading community. But labor



emigration and a fall in the value of its exports brought, in the early days of the 20th century, an end to its heyday.

There are still many manifestations of the elegant, refined life led by the richer folk in past eras. If you can be shown the interiors of some of the grander mansions, from the outside appearing both formidable and similar, you will find enormously intricate plasterwork unknown in the rest of Islam.

[Click here for more information on Lamu Island](#)

Kijani House - Lamu

AfricanMecca Four and Half Star Experience. [Click here](#) for details on AfricanMecca Rating

Swiss owner Pierre Oberson created Kijani House to revive the tradition of stone Swahili houses and has created an authentic retreat for visitors looking to experience Lamu's past. It took Pierre more than ten years to rebuild the hotel from the ruins of three old houses, and he used only traditional methods and materials in the restoration.

The Kijani House Lamu Hotel Experience: off the bustling waterfront of Shela village, dhows sway gently on the incoming tide as merchants and fishermen cross back and forth on the shimmering sand. A few steps away, a few white steps and a small entranceway, framed by clusters of frangipani and bougainvillea flowers, opens to cool shade and green shadows.

Entering Kijani House is like stepping into a secret garden. Two aquamarine pools glow gently in the shade of giant kunazi trees, small tables and beach chairs lie in the shade of a profusion of different species of palm trees, and flowering flamboyant and yellow oleanders branch out over large terraces that face the ocean.

[Click here for complete details on Kijani House](#)

Recommended Lamu Beach & Cultural Programs

Overnight Prices

Kijani House: From US \$105 or GBP 66 per person sharing

Programs Inclusions: Breakfast, lunch, dinner and all taxes.

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

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