

msafiri

ENRICHING LIFE'S JOURNEYS

AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 2024 | ISSUE 186

RALLY CRY

ONE WOMAN'S DRIVE FOR CHANGE

LEAP OF FAITH

HOW TO BE A BUNGEE INSTRUCTOR

HERD AND SEEN

THE GREAT MIGRATION IN THE MAASAI MARA

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On the cover:
Faith Kipyegon models the Team Kenya kit by Gao Jing Xinhua/Alamy Live News

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ENRICHING LIFE'S JOURNEYS

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Tel: +254 (0)20 642 2000,

Email: msafiri@kenya-airways.com,
www.kenya-airways.com

Head of Communications: Henry Okatch

External Communications Manager: Vivienne Namadoa Atieno

Senior Officer, Communications: Kuria Kanyingi

Advertising: Ascent Group

Tel: +254 (0)11 000 2001

Email: msafiri@ascentgroup.co.ke

Projects coordinator: Caroline Wairimu, caroline.wairimu@ascentgroup.co.ke



For all editorial matters, please email msafiri@geckomags.com

Contributors: Tom Bailey, Carey Baraka, Lisa Christofferson, Imou Eparis, Fiona McIntosh, Peter Muiruri, Lutawo Ouma, James Rogoi, Paul Udoto, Josaya Wasonga, Vivianne Wandera and Wendy Watta

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karibu

DEAR READER

I'm delighted to welcome you aboard your flight with Kenya Airways. We have now resumed direct flights between Nairobi and Maputo – our 45th destination. This is a major milestone in our network expansion journey that complements our broader strategy for 2024, which includes increased frequencies to key destinations such as New York, Paris, Lagos, Accra and Freetown.

Aviation is critical to boosting national GDPs by creating jobs and fostering economic activity. The increase in intra-African travel will catalyse economic development across the continent. At KQ, our passion lies in connecting Africa, making trade and travel between our nations more accessible than ever before.

I'm also pleased to announce we are now operating flights to Dubai and the DR Congo with the recently introduced Airbus A330-300, offering a new level of luxury in Business Class with 46 flatbed seats.

Further, we have launched KQ Holidays, a thrilling offering that provides tailored travel experiences, allowing you to explore the beauty of our destinations with curated packages that suit your every need.

Finally, I am proud to mention that Kenya Airways was the first African airline to take a stance against Trafficking in Persons (TIP) in recognition of the World Day against TIP on 30 July. You can read more about our efforts and other exciting news in the Kusafiri section, starting on p67.

Enjoy your flight and thank you for flying the Pride of Africa.

Allan

ALLAN KILAVUKA GROUP MANAGING DIRECTOR AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, KENYA AIRWAYS

PS: Did you know there's also a digital issue of *msafiri*, which can be read anytime, anywhere? To ensure you receive every issue, direct to your inbox, join our mailing list at www.msafirimag.com.

WORLD TRAVEL AWARDS 2023

Kenya Airways won Africa's Leading Airline – Economy Class and Africa's Leading Inflight Magazine for *msafiri* at the 2023 World Travel Awards. The awards recognise travel excellence across the tourism industry.





TACKLING POVERTY

CHASP Advisory: advancing social assistance and poverty graduation in East and Horn of Africa

Africa is a continent of unparalleled beauty and resilience yet burdened by an enduring challenge: poverty. The roots of poverty in Africa run deep, stemming from a complex interplay of historical injustices, economic inequalities, and systemic challenges. In particular, social services and social support systems struggle to keep pace, leaving millions without access to basic necessities, and exposed to the effects of poverty.

Advancing social assistance and transiting households out of poverty (poverty graduation) in the Horn of Africa demands comprehensive and integrated approaches that address immediate population needs while laying the groundwork for sustainable development. By prioritising social safety nets, inclusive economic growth, human capital investments, good governance, climate resilience, and regional cooperation, the region can make

GOVERNMENTS AND DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS NEED TO BE DELIBERATE ABOUT THE SET-UP AND FINANCING FOR SYSTEMS AND PROGRAMMES THAT EXPAND SOCIAL SAFETY NETS

significant strides towards reducing poverty, empowering communities, and building a prosperous future for all its inhabitants.

As one of the impoverished regions globally, countries of the East and Horn of Africa, particularly require focused strategies and priorities to protect its most vulnerable populations (children, persons with disabilities and older persons) and expand programmes for poverty graduation. Governments and development partners need to be deliberate about the set up and financing for systems and programmes that expand social safety nets, improve existing models for poverty graduation, promote inclusive development, strengthen governance and institutional capacities, address climate change and environmental sustainability, and foster regional cooperation and partnerships.

That's where we, at CHASP Advisory, find our motivation. As a think-tank, we focus on generating evidence to support such crucial development and humanitarian investments in Africa.

We work with governments and development agencies to collect, analyse, and transform data into actionable insights. With these insights, we drive innovation and accelerate progress in the delivery

of social protection, health and nutrition programmes. We particularly support research, evidence and data visualisation; monitoring, evaluation and learning; innovations in global health and social protection; training and capacity development; programme design and strategy; and technical assistance in the implementation of social protection programmes.

As we celebrate our fifth anniversary, our contribution to knowledge and practice of social protection in the East and Horn of Africa region has been significant. We have developed social protection policies, supported sector reviews, developed country social protection strategies, developed programme manuals and operational frameworks, supported targeting, supported the development of social registries, and built digital solutions that improve the delivery and management of social assistance programmes. The initiatives we work on underscore our commitment to inclusive development and sustainable impact.

Our role is to give a hand, to generate knowledge, and to create linkages that promote learning and innovation. We work with governments and development partners to translate innovative social policy and healthcare ideas, whether small or grand, whether local or global, into life changing initiatives. We inspire and let ourselves be inspired.

You are welcome to tap into the spirit of service that unites our community – to improve the reach and quality of social protection and healthcare programmes in Africa.

We are open to strategic partnerships with actors who share our vision of Africa. Please reach out.

Omondi Otieno Ooyi is global director at CHASP Advisory



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JONATHAN AND ANGELA SCOTTY/ANI-IMAGES.COM

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EAZI DOES IT

*Exclusive interview with
Nigerian singer Mr Eazi*

PHOTOGRAPH: MICHAEL OLIVER LOVE

TEAM KENYA

TAKE PRIDE

Kenya Airways proudly supports Kenya's sports stars

The Pride of Africa has long supported sports development in Kenya, as part of the airline's commitment to harnessing the country's rich sporting talent.

Kenya Airways recognises the unique role sport plays in shaping the nation's identity, and its involvement with the World Rally Championship, the Magical Kenya Open and, previously, the Kenya Rugby Sevens team is testament to that.

It was with great pride in July that KQ helped wave the 83 Team Kenya competitors on their way to Paris to compete at this year's Olympic and Paralympic Games, with group managing director and CEO Allan Kilavuka attending the team's kit unveiling ceremony, held at President William Ruto's residence, State House in Nairobi.

Kenya Airways will be flying some of the Kenyan athletes to the Paris Olympics.

1, 3, 5 and 6: KQ group managing director and CEO Allan Kilavuka joined President William Ruto and other key industry figures during the unveiling of the Team Kenya Olympic kit event, held at State House on 5 July 2: Arc de Triomphe 4: Louvre Museum 7: The Eiffel Tower



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4

PIPROX/SHUTTERSTOCK.COM



7



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TEAM KENYA PHOTOS: HRAMU DWINDU/PRESIDENTIAL COMMUNICATION SERVICE

THE PARIS PODIUM

Three highlights of any visit to the French capital

1 THE EIFFEL TOWER

At 330m high, the symbol of Paris towers above a spectacular city landscape. Built in 1887-1889, *La dame de fer* (the Iron Lady) formed part of the celebrations marking 100 years since the French Revolution. Visitors can experience the capital from the clouds on three observation levels.

to see, not least the Venus de Milo statue, a collection of Egyptian mummies and its innovative reflective glass pyramid entrance.

3 ARC DE TRIOMPHE

Commissioned in 1806 by Napoleon to honour his army's victories, it took 30 years to complete, by which time the infamous general had died in exile. The imposing monument sits on a busy roundabout, where 12 streets, including the Champs-Élysées, converge. Visit the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at its base and climb the stairs for more panoramas of Paris.

2 LOUVRE MUSEUM

The most-visited museum in the world, the Louvre is home to arguably the most famous painting in the world, Leonardo da Vinci's *Mona Lisa*. But there's so much more

KAZURI BEADS

GETTING CREATIVE IN THE COMMUNITY

In 1975, a vision was born that would transform the lives of countless women in Kenya and create a legacy of hope and creativity. This is the story of Kazuri Beads...

Lady Susan Wood and her husband, Sir Michael Wood, initially arrived in Kenya to run medical camps under an initiative they founded called The Flying Doctors, later to become the African Medical Research Foundation (AMREF). In the same year, Lady Wood had a vision to use creativity to generate employment for disadvantaged and unemployed people, especially single mothers. With a workforce of two women and a small pottery in her backyard, Kazuri Beads was born.

"When Susan started Kazuri she didn't know anything about beading, there was a lot of trial and error," says Noora Zein, marketing, sales and creative designer at Kazuri Beads. "Single mothers would come looking for

employment and she would take them in and train them. She would challenge them and tell them to go home and come back with new designs. To this day we still maintain an open creative policy. If you see something that you think we need to do, we are willing to try it."

Susan later sold Kazuri to Mark and Regina Newman due to old age. The Newmans have since continued the work Susan started. Noora Zein, who joined Kazuri almost two years ago, explained that the women who work there are the inspiration behind Kazuri's longevity.

"They are the driving force behind why we get up and do what we must. We know the impact it has on their lives. We understand what it stands for. This is someone's daily bread, someone's support system for their family. We have women who are providing for all their children and taking care of children who aren't theirs because they are the only ones working in their families or communities. We know what this means."

The international brand has existed for almost 50 years, growing to host over 300 women. Unfortunately, the company had to downsize due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

"After Covid-19 we have had to downgrade," says Noora. "We are currently at 45 women, but we are hoping to grow back. We were considered a luxury brand and many people at that time were focusing on what was essential."

Apart from the Covid-19 pandemic, Kazuri has had to face other storms. "We have to import our glazes because we have not been able to get good enough

"To this day we still maintain an open creative policy. If you see something that you think we need to do, we are willing to try it"

1	4
2	5
3	

- 1: Milka Makwali
- 2: Kazuri Memory Wire bracelets featuring classic blue and pearl essence
- 3: Charity Kanini
- 4: An eye-catching display
- 5: Noora Zein, marketing, sales and creative designer at Kazuri Beads

Right:
Pearly White bracelet



quality here and that ends up running a higher cost. It also puts us at a disadvantage because of the pricing.

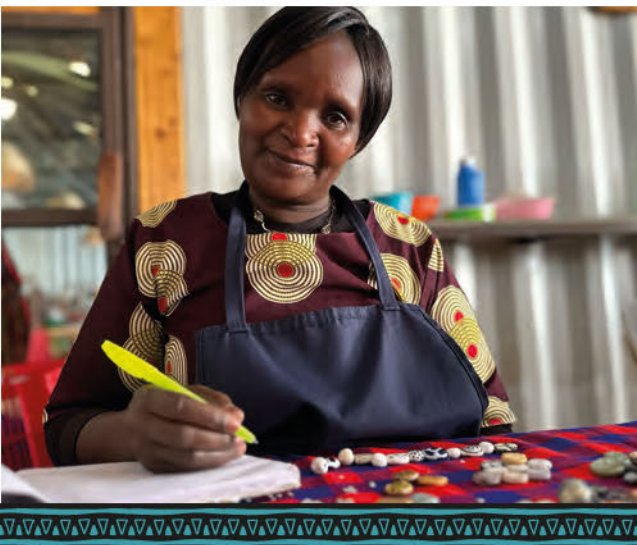
"We're trying to figure out a way of getting a different glaze that we can mix with a locally sourced glaze that doesn't tamper with the quality. We're still in the trial-and-error phase of that. We are still importing our glazes and looking into how we can make it last longer so it's not as expensive."

Change is inevitable with the passing of time and the evolution of trends and fashion. Noora shares that another challenge Kazuri faces is how to appeal to various generations.

"We are trying to stay relevant for the younger generation while also trying not to make the older generation feel like we are kicking them out. We are →



WORDS: IMOUEPARIS





“We want to bring back as many of our ladies as possible. We were over 300 women, and we want them to come back to Kazuri because Kazuri is home”

coming up with designs whereby if your mother hands down her jewellery, you still feel like it's you, it still feels like it represents your age.”

Looking to the future, Kazuri Beads aims to be more sustainable. “We're going greener,” says Noora. “We have revamped our new location into an open area and we have built our offices from repurposed shipping containers.”

Noora explains that Kazuri also has plans to grow back to its initial workforce. “We want to bring back as many of our ladies as possible. We were over 300 women, and we want them to come back to Kazuri because Kazuri is home.”

Noora began her journey at Kazuri as a part-time marketer and after spending two weeks at Kazuri and interacting with the people who worked there, she decided to leave her old role.

“I sat down with my former boss and told him that I loved what I did at Kazuri. I loved the interactions with the ladies. I was willing to work extra days, they didn't even need to pay me.”

Shortly after joining Kazuri, Noora's new employer gave her the leeway to design five jewellery pieces. Filled with enthusiasm Noora camped in the Kazuri factory for two weeks and came up with 15 pieces instead.

“All of them were accepted,” she says. “I'm not a designer – I studied journalism. That's what led to where I am today. I do marketing, creative design and business development for Kazuri.”

What Noora enjoys most about working at Kazuri is the community. She explains that if she is having a slow or low day, you will find her sitting with the women because she knows they will perk her up.

“The ladies will tell me something stupid or funny so they don't see me sad. I do the same thing for them. During our lunch breaks, we sit together and we share our meals. I always feel welcome. I always feel like I am one of them, from the get-go. It's a community. It's home.”



1		
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Above:
 1: Group photo of Kazuri ladies
 2: Pomsky bracelet
 3: The new Kazuri factory
 4: Kazuri X B Amandine collection
 5: African honey elastic bracelet
 6: African gold elastic bracelet



SPEAKING MY LANGUAGE

SURVIVAL PLAN

Josaya Wasonga explains how Kenyans can beat that most jinxed of months – August

Njaanuary. That's the name of the longest month in Kenya. In Swahili, *njaa* means hunger. Kenyans believe the first month of the year has at least 101 days of hardship, especially after we splurge in December like tenderpreneurs.

Then there's August. Which, according to most Kenyans, should be renamed Aghast – because it's jinxed.

Nobody knows when this jinx began. But we're constitutionally fixed. Guess when Kenya holds its General Elections? The second Tuesday in August, in every fifth year.

The drafters of our 2010 constitution were like: "I have a ghastly idea! Do they believe August is cursed? Let's turn it a notch higher!"

Guess where our legislators hold court? Aghast House.

HISTORICAL JINXES

Kenya's founding father Mzee Jomo Kenyatta died on 22 August 1978. Exactly 25 years and one day later, Kenya's then VP Michael

Kijana Wamalwa died on 23 August 2003, barely eight months after being sworn in.

Kenya experienced its first and – thank God – only military coup on 1 August 1982. Sixteen years later, on 7 August 1998, the Al Qaeda terror group bombed the US Embassy in Nairobi, killing 212 and injuring 5000.

On 14 August 1990, Bishop Alexander Kipsang Muge, whose anti-establishment stance rubbed the powers-that-be the wrong way, died in a mysterious road accident. Exactly 10 years and 10 days later, on 24 August 2000, another government critic, the Catholic Father John Kaiser, was murdered.

Folks, remember how, in the last issue of *msafiri*, I was griping about my debt issues? I've just found we were jinxed all along. On 12 August 1997, the World Bank announced the freezing of US\$5bn credit, which would have gone to Kenya's structural adjustment.

And that's just half of our historical jinxes.

SURVIVING AGHAST

Hell, yeah. We're ingenious. That's our

second nature. We've devised ways of beating Njaanuary (which will have to be a story for the Jan edition!). So? Let's talk about surviving Aghast.

One way of beating a jinxed August – which is among the coldest months of the year – is to hibernate. We can borrow a leaf from hibernating mammals. Hibernation will be a great time for families who hardly meet – except at mealtimes – to get to know each other. Just like during the Covid-19 lockdown when families were forced to hibernate, relationships will be tested. Plus, cheaters will be tethered.

Kenyans love holidays. We always find an excuse to rest from building the nation to, as we like saying, "thanking ourselves". How about compressing all our national holidays into the eighth month? That way, we can be done with the oh-so-important job of holidaying and, for the next 11 months, we can focus on serious business... he-he, I'm getting way ahead of myself.

The absolute best way to beat a jinxed month – well, anything that's jinxed – is to stop believing such a thing even exists. Which is a hard sell to Kenyans. Once our collective mind gets ensnared in some superstition or mysterious power that controls events, we'll cling onto that belief, even if it's a pain in the you-know-what.

Kenyans have the biggest funny bone in Africa. We deal with hard times and high taxes through our national coping mechanism: humor. From politicians, to priests, to paupers – there are no sacred cows. Anything goes.

Here's an idea. Let's turn August into our annual roast month. We can call it Aghast Roast & Roast. For 31 days and nights, we will poke fun at everything in the 254, while scarfing down our national party food, *nyama choma*.

Then on 1 September, it's back to serious business; a month-long holiday to thank ourselves for surviving Aghast.





NOTES TO MY FUTURE BETTER SELF

3 THINGS ABOUT RESPECT I WISH I KNEW EARLIER

The importance of self-respect and how to earn respect from others

RESPECT YOURSELF FIRST

A few months ago, my son was running late for an appointment. When he noticed that I, his designated driver, was moving in circles around the house, he handed me my shoes and read me the riot act, declaring that he would rather remain at home than be behind time. I was shocked at his stern warning, but proud of his firm stance and boundaries. Needless to say, I have never messed around with his time again.

I could see that he was being reasonable in respecting himself and his time, which he is a stickler for keeping. Fast forward to today and I find myself respecting his time in return. On matters of order and timekeeping, he did not need to ask for respect, he earned it by how he carried himself.

Do you respect yourself? If not, why not? What do you need to eliminate or add to your character or life?

What boundaries should you put in place? Have you been self-disciplined and invested enough in yourself to be where you think you ought to be? Are you aware and at peace with who you are and where you are at?

Humans are visual and reactive beings. We intuitively treat others based on our interpretation of their behaviour, their strengths, weaknesses and values. People will respect you for who you are and what you do, not who or what you plan to be or do.

It is almost impossible for others to respect you when you behave in a manner that suggests you have no respect for yourself. You cannot expect from others what you do not give to yourself. Simultaneously, self-respect frees us from the impulse to demand or beg for respect from others.



RESPECT IS A REFLECTION OF YOUR CHARACTER – DO NOT LOWER YOUR INTEGRITY FOR ANYONE

While it is imperative to respect others, not everyone will respect you in return. People's offer of respect is a choice that is based on their character, opinions and value systems. If people treat you with respect, treat them with respect in return. If they do not respect you, do not lower your integrity in order to settle scores. Their disrespect is not a valuation of your worth but a reflection of their character. They represent their ideology while you represent yours. The respect you give to others, or withhold, is an immediate reflection of the respect you give yourself. Always treat and talk to people with dignity, whether you agree with them or not, for they may forget what you said or did, but they will never forget how you made them feel.

Heshima haiji mpaka iletwe (SWAHILI PROVERB)

HONOUR DOES NOT COME BY ITSELF; IT MUST BE EARNED

PLANT YOURSELF WHERE YOU WILL BE WATERED

Surround yourself with people who respect you, even when they disagree with you. You can't force people to respect you, but you should always respect yourself and refuse to sit at tables where disrespect is served. Do not waste your time in situations, careers or relationships where you are not valued; or you will end up shrivelled, carrying loads of resentment and regret.

Respect is not begged or imposed; it is earned.

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Go for it

WHY A SUSTAINABLE TOURISM INDUSTRY IS A WIN FOR ALL

Judy Keper-Gona, founder and executive director at Sustainable Travel and Tourism Agenda [STTA], has over 20 years' experience working in the sustainable tourism space. She tells *msafiri* why tourism must benefit host communities if it is to succeed

Q WHAT DRIVES YOUR PUSH INTO SUSTAINABLE TOURISM PRACTICES? This journey has been fuelled by a genuine concern and a passion to create a more equitable tourism industry. I have sought to address the disparities and imbalances in the tourism sector with a focus on ensuring that local communities benefit more directly from tourism activities.

Q WHAT SPECIFIC DISPARITIES WERE YOU SEEKING TO ADDRESS? After working in the tourism sector for a while, I questioned why poverty was persistent in areas considered pristine tourism destinations. The tourism spend left behind in local communities was negligible. Tourism facilities had access to energy sources, while communities suffered from lack of energy and water. Tourists could afford every luxury, while host communities struggled to meet basic needs. How could luxury comfortably co-exist with poverty? How could people welcome guests who left them poorer? That was the disconnect I felt needed to be addressed.





Q HOW CAN THE INDUSTRY CONTRIBUTE TO CLEANER AND MORE SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES? Minimising negative impacts and focusing on responsible operations can contribute to cleaner and more sustainable holiday practices. Using the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as a benchmark can help evaluate performance and guide efforts towards sustainable development. We can have a mix of regulatory requirements and voluntary initiatives that promote sustainability with clear indicators and targets for measuring progress. In a push for transparency and accountability, we can compel tour companies to report on their social and environmental footprints and actions taken to mitigate negative impacts. By making such accountability mandatory, the industry can move towards a more sustainable future.

Q COULD THE INDUSTRY BE A VICTIM OF ITS OWN SUCCESS? This can happen if growth is not managed sustainably. Without comprehensive growth indicators and a clear understanding of carrying capacity, destinations can be overdeveloped, leading to negative impacts on both the environment and local communities. Countries like Kenya can establish and manage the carrying capacity of their premium destinations to ensure sustainable tourism practices.

Q COULD DIVERSIFYING THE TOURISM PRODUCT HELP DECONGEST POPULAR HOTSPOTS? Yes. Exploring new areas for development can help distribute visitors evenly across the country and reduce the strain on popular destinations. The emerging trend of youthful tour operators creating new

I questioned why poverty was persistent in areas considered prime tourism destinations... How could luxury comfortably co-exist with poverty? How could people welcome guests who left them poorer? That was the disconnect I felt needed to be addressed

itineraries and promoting diverse trips showcases the potential for expanding tourism beyond traditional attractions. This shift can help dispel the myth that tourism is solely dependent on wildlife, beaches, or specific iconic events like the wildebeest migration.

Q WHAT ARE SOME GAINS OF YOUR MANY YEARS IN THE SUSTAINABLE TOURISM SPACE? I have seen an increase in indigenous communities working in decent jobs in prime tourism destinations like the Maasai Mara, Laikipia, Samburu and Amboseli. As a result of campaigns for equitable benefit sharing, I was also delighted to see Kenya's wildlife laws reviewed to recognise communities as conservationists through the conservancy model. I was involved with modelling pioneer community conservancies in the Maasai Mara and designing them to be inclusive. Host communities have a chance to directly earn decent returns from tourism and conservation.

Q HOW CAN THE INDUSTRY ADOPT SOUND ENVIRONMENTAL PRACTICES? In my early career days, I challenged industry to eliminate or reduce single-use plastic water bottles in hotels and lodges. The industry thought it was impossible then. Today, many hotels and lodges have eliminated single-use plastic water bottles. Packaging of toiletries in small plastic containers has reduced. I opined that the weakest link in sustained tourism growth and development is not insecurity but the abuse of places and resources.

Q YOU ARE AN ADVOCATE OF INCLUSIVITY WITHIN THE TOURISM SECTOR. IS THIS WORKING? It is working. For example, there are more women working within the lodges in the Maasai Mara. The

lodges there have had to re-examine staff accommodation setup to make them more pleasant for women. One of the tourism companies I worked for in the Maasai Mara financed the first female Maasai guides to train at Koiyaki Guiding School, now Maasai Mara Tourism and Wildlife College. Today, the Maasai Mara has a large number of female guides, which excites travellers and has changed how women are perceived in the deeply patriarchal society. The industry just needs to be more intentional about its social responsibilities and gender parities.

Q IS CULTURAL PRESERVATION IN TOURISM VIABLE? We have been championing the need to preserve cultural pride by advocating local costume for tour guides, away from the khaki and white safari uniforms. Donning Maasai traditional wear is now an accepted practice not only in the Maasai Mara but in most safari destinations in Kenya. Sustainability is about tourism respecting and supporting local traditions, without attempting to change them.

Q WHAT MORE CAN WE EXPECT IN YOUR SUSTAINABILITY JOURNEY? Since 2022, I have been spending more time on Kenya's coast, promoting small enterprises working in cultural and heritage tourism. I would like to see the benefits of inclusivity and community gains from tourism duplicated in host communities along Kenya's coast. Sustainability is the new competitive advantage for any destination. Without explicit sustainable ideals, places will compete for the bottom tier of the tourism pie. Sustainability does not sacrifice luxury; rather, travellers seek luxury and are ready to spend more.

INVASIVE SPECIES

A PRICKLY ISSUE

Cactus plants can be seen in many parts of Kenya – but they're not native, and controlling their spread can be challenging

Various species of invasive cacti have become both a curse and a blessing in parts of Kenya, particularly in Laikipia County and Tsavo East National Park. Introduced by British colonialists in the 1940s as living fences and ornamental plants, some varieties have earned nicknames like 'devil's cactus' or 'green hell' due to their aggressive growth and adverse impacts.

In Laikipia County, *Opuntia stricta*, also known as the erect prickly pear cactus, has grown out of control, thriving in arid and semi-arid lands where it chokes grasses and other shrubs. Its hardy nature allows it to withstand heat, drought and poor soil conditions, making it extremely difficult to manage.

A 2017 study by researchers from the Centre for Agriculture and Bioscience International (CABI) Africa found that *Opuntia stricta* had

escaped cultivation and spread into conservation areas, rangelands and farmland. This spread has reduced fodder production, impeded mobility and negatively impacted livestock and human health.

Dr Arne Witt, a researcher with CABI Africa, notes that all invasive cactus species form dense, impenetrable thickets that reduce rangeland productivity and prevent access to grazing lands and water resources.

This little *dudu* (Swahili for insect) has huge potential to control the invasive cactus, which, if not managed, could result in the loss of over 70% of grazing land

To address this prickly menace, various methods have been tried with limited success. Historically, chemical control using herbicides and mechanical control by cutting down plants were the only options available. However, these methods were found to be expensive, environmentally harmful and impractical.

SAP SUCKERS

New solutions have emerged, including the use of a biological control agent, *Dactylopius opuntiae*,

or prickly pear cochineal. This sap-sucking scale insect feeds exclusively on *Opuntia stricta* and poses no threat to other cactus or native plant species in Africa.

With support from The Nature Conservancy, scientists from CABI's regional centre for Africa in Nairobi are working with the local community to manage the cactus using *Dactylopius opuntiae*. The cochineal, sourced from Texas in the United States, was evaluated for specificity and impact in South Africa before being released into the Loisaba Conservancy and the neighbouring communal lands of Naibunga.

"This little *dudu* (the Swahili word for insect) has huge potential to control the invasive cactus plants, which, if not managed, could result in the loss of over 70% of grazing land," says Dr Witt. "This biocontrol could save costs and restore land to local wildlife and livelihoods."

Besides this promising biocontrol method, other technologies such as biodigesters, drones and smartphone applications – for mapping invasions



02



03

PHOTOS: CABI AND ELIJAH MWANGI



01





from the Laikipia Permaculture Centre says Twala Women Group members sell cactus fruit to the centre for wine production, with technical support from the University of Nairobi. The market for cactus products, however, remains limited and production expensive.

On Makurian Ranch, cacti have been turned into biogas, stored in tanks and used for cooking, while waste sludge is used as fertiliser in kitchen gardens. Loisaba Conservancy has installed a biodigester, turning organic waste, including cactus,

into rich fertiliser and gas used for cooking, which is more eco-friendly than firewood or LPG. The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has introduced a process of breaking down the *Opuntia ficus indica* cactus variety and mixing it with other fodder for livestock and making manure.

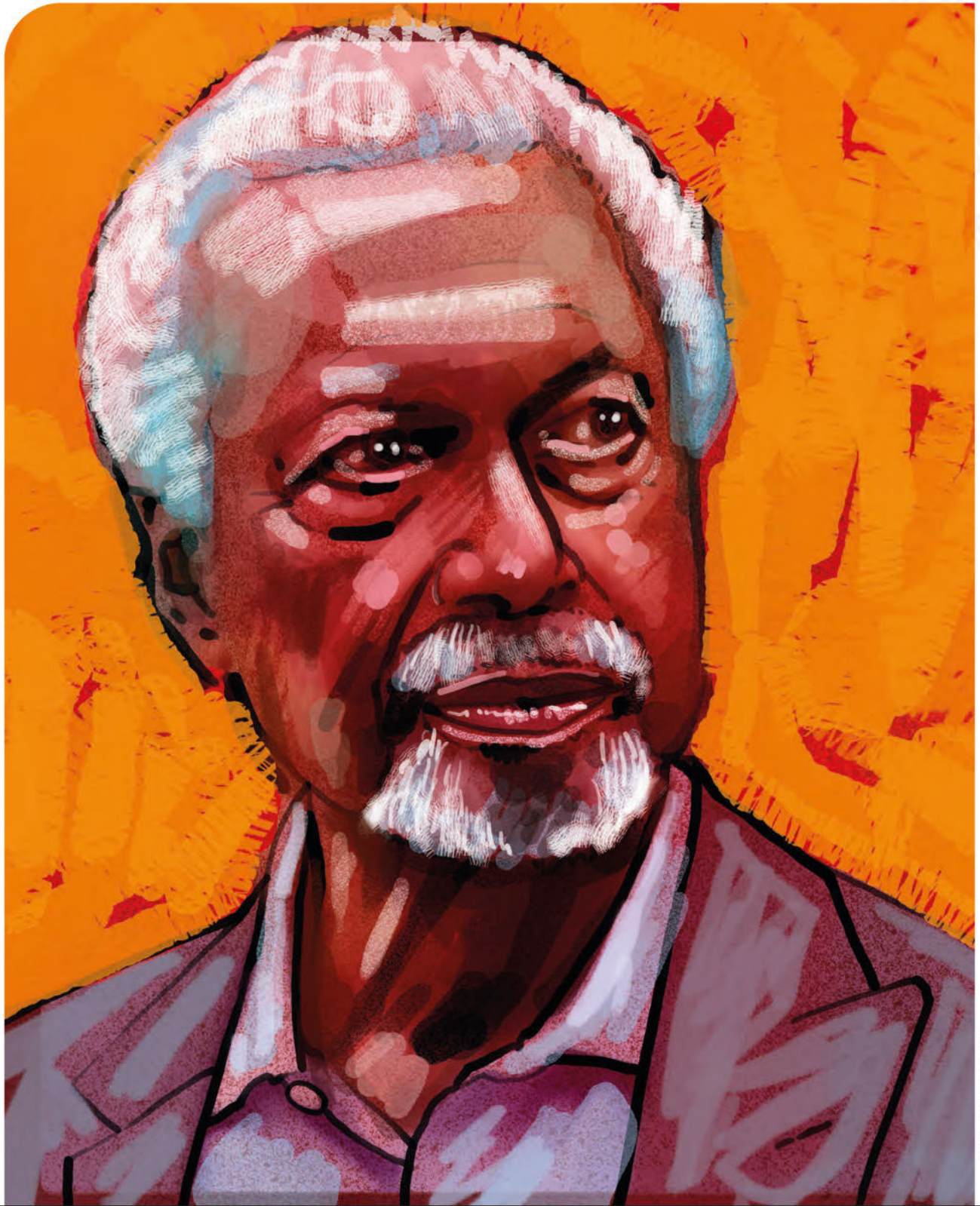
Overall, however, Dr Witt cautions that these benefits must be weighed

against the potential negative impacts when cacti invade productive landscapes. "If anyone benefits, it's the minority, and not the majority. In addition, removing fruit or using the cladodes for making biogas will have hardly any impact on the spread or abundance of the cactus."

- 1: Sap-sucking scale insects can be used as a biological control method for cacti
- 2: *Opuntia* cactus close-up showing its flower
- 3: Cacti can be used for biogas production, with the waste sludge used as fertiliser

Below: Harvesting the fruits of the cactus





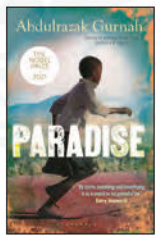
STEVE LILUE/ALAMY STOCK PHOTO



AUTHOR PROFILE

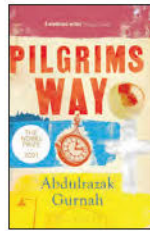
ABDULRAZAK GURNAH

Awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 2021, Abdulrazak Gurnah's work revolves around the history of Tanzania, displacement and immigration



PARADISE
Possibly Gurnah's finest book, this novel was nominated for the Booker Prize in 1994. It is the story of

Yusuf, a young boy in the interior of Tanzania whose life unravels when his father is unable to pay his debts to a wealthy trader called Aziz. Yusuf is then given to Aziz by his father and made to work as an unsalaried employee until the money is paid back. Set at the start of the 20th century, the book unfolds amidst German colonial activity in Tanzania, as well as the outbreak of the First World War. Yusuf grows in prominence while in Aziz's employ, and soon begins to traverse the country with him looking for goods to buy and sell. Their convoys get into misadventures when they meet hostile African communities, German soldiers and administrative authorities. We see Yusuf grow, becoming wiser and more experienced in ways of trade and politics. However, looming in his mind are memories of his family, who he hasn't seen for years, and who he misses dearly. In the background are the machinations of colonisations. Old power centres are eroded, and new ones emerge, centred around the German administration. Through it all, different people try to make sense of the changes in the country, whether Arab traders like Aziz, African villagers or Indian shopkeepers – all revealed to us through the eyes of Yusuf.



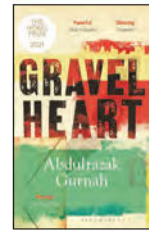
PILGRIM'S WAY

This novel, Gurnah's second, is the story of Daud, an immigrant from Zanzibar living in London. Daud lives in poverty, works an arduous job as an orderly at a hospital, and spends his time with two friends, one British and the other Ghanaian, who carry an intense hatred for each other. Daud spends a lot of time thinking about Zanzibar, thinking of his parents, and of the friends he had whose lives crumbled after the Zanzibari revolution. To him, fitting into England, despite his love for cricket, seems a hopeless task, but then everything changes when he falls in love with a nurse at the hospital.



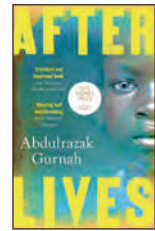
BY THE SEA

First published in 2001, this novel is the story of two people: Saleh Omar, a Tanzanian man who attempts to migrate to Britain on a falsified passport under the name Rajab Shaaban Mahmud; and Latif, Rajab Mahmud's son, living in Britain through legitimate channels. Saleh spends his days in Britain in an apartment in Dover, reliving his memories of Zanzibar, and looking out at the ocean in the city. Saleh and Latif are eventually brought together by a British caseworker called Rachel, and the two have long conversations about the country they both left.



GRAVEL HEART

This novel is the story of Salim, a young boy in Zanzibar who despairs at his father's lack of love for him, suffers from nightmares and loves his uncle Amir. However, things change. Zanzibar becomes a tourist trap, its beaches crowded, and Salim's father moves out of their house. Later, Amir will offer Salim a chance to go to the UK for college, a chance he takes, as he seeks to understand himself, his family and the undercurrents of the island he grew up on.



AFTERLIVES

Published in 2022, this is Gurnah's latest book. It starts with Ilyas, a boy whose life is upended when he's kidnapped from his home by German colonial soldiers. He becomes one of the Germans, thinking of his fellow Africans in the way they do, and fighting against them. However, when he returns home, he finds his parents absent and his sister kidnapped. He rescues her, and begins the slow process of decolonising his mind.

Before receiving his Nobel Prize for Literature, Abdulrazak Gurnah was already established as a figure of importance in African writing, both as an academic and novelist, as well as editorial adviser to the African Writer Series.



GADGETS FOR FOODIES

LOVE AT FIRST BYTE

Eight hi-tech gadgets designed to make healthy eating a breeze...



NINJA WOODFIRE ELECTRIC BBQ

If you like the sound of simpler, tastier cook-outs, this electric BBQ grill, smoker and outdoor air fryer is worth your consideration. Fill with half a cup of real wood pellets and you'll find that you can cook healthy food that tastes of rich flavours – rather than lighter fluid. It's ideal for crispy salmon and smoked chicken, as well as great low-fat desserts such as caramelised pineapple. It'll go anywhere – all you need is access to a plug socket. **US\$299 • NINJA.COM**

COSORI PRO III DUAL BLAZE

Air fryers – the modern alternative to deep-fat fryers – have given rise to a new era of 'healthy' junk food. This deluxe model, which boasts a non-stick basket and digital touchscreen, promises calorie-conscious chefs the chance to cook everything from crispy french fries to gooey chocolate cakes with 75% less fat than conventional frying methods. You can even monitor the progress via a smartphone app. **US\$200 • COSORI.COM**



BREVILLE SOUS CHEF 16

Chopping, mixing, shredding – this next-gen food processor does it all, making it the perfect addition to any healthy kitchen. Whether you want to puree almonds to whip up some homemade nut butter, or slice up some sweet potato for low-fat fries, this all-in-one machine has you covered. Features include a 24-size adjustable slicer and an extra-large 5.5-inch feed chute. **US\$500 • BREVILLE.COM**



CLICK & GROW INDOOR HERB GARDEN

Fancy growing your own herbs year-round? This high-tech herb garden features a unique hydroponic system that provides the perfect amount of water and nutrients, allowing you to grow rosemary, thyme et al year-round. Furthermore, its compact design makes it perfect for small kitchens or apartments. **US\$100 • CLICKANDGROW.COM**





Fabenix

FABENIX FRUIT AND VEGETABLE CLEANING MACHINE

Fruit and vegetables can command insanely high prices in Asia, where Japanese foodies have been known to pay up to US\$6000 for the freshest watermelons. If you want to enjoy fruit and veg at peak freshness, you'll want to equip yourself with this ultrasonic sanitiser. Simply dunk it in some water with your produce for 10 minutes and a flood of OH-ions will wash away any residue and dirt from the foods.

US\$30 • AMAZON.COM

INSTANT POT DUO PLUS

This pressure cooker is your passport to fuss-free meals. Its advanced pressure technology enables anyone to cook healthy meals up to 70% faster and with minimal effort. There are no fewer than nine cooking programs tailored to various food types (rice, yogurt, x.), plus functions such as slow cook, sauté and sous vide. The WhisperQuiet steam release is as safe as it gets while the digital 'cooking progress bar' keeps you in the loop. US\$150 • INSTANTPOT.COM



INFIZZ FUSION

Worried you're drinking too much cola? This carbonated beverage maker will help you swap sugary drinks for homemade, fruit-infused soda. A healthier take on the 1970s SodaStream, the InFizz Fusion uses a simple 'twist-and-lock' mechanism to fizz up anything from coconut water to green tea. Best of all, it keeps your drink perfectly fizzy until you're ready to take the first sip. US\$250 • SURLTABLE.COM



HEXCLAD 12IN HYBRID PAN

The best way to eat healthier?

Cook from scratch. And for that, you'll need to invest in a good set of pans. Enter HexClad – endorsed by Michelin-starred chef Gordon Ramsay and featuring a laser-etched hexagonal non-stick design that delivers a stunning sear (thus sealing in extra nutrients).

Best of all, these pans can take a serious beating – you can use them with metal tools and even scrub them with wire wool!

US\$179 • HEXCLAD.COM



TAKE A LEAP OF FAITH...

SO YOU WANT TO BE A BUNGEE JUMPING INSTRUCTOR...?

In the Tsitsikamma region in South Africa's Eastern Cape, you'll find Bloukrans Bridge where Face Adrenalin operates one of the highest commercial bridge bungee jumps in the world at 216m. Visitors come from all over the globe to leap off a platform with an elastic rope tied around their feet. We caught up with one of the instructors – **Siyabonga Pati** – who has been in the business for almost two decades, and says he lost count after his 100th jump...

Q HOW DID YOU BECOME A BUNGEE JUMPING INSTRUCTOR?

The Bloukrans Bridge is just a few kilometres from where I grew up in Coldstream. On weekends, my friends and I would walk there to see people jumping off the bridge. I studied tourism at college, but didn't actually finish my studies. So, I went to Face Adrenalin looking for a job and the boss liked me during the interview. I had never actually jumped before, and on my very first day on the job at 19 years old, they asked if I was keen to give it a try or was too scared. I had been watching for so long so I was really excited for that first jump. I started working in 2006 and have been there ever since. I lost count after my 100th jump! Depending on how busy we are, sometimes we'll do stunts five times a week or even in a day. Even after all these years, we still train daily on the basics since you always have to be on it and be prepared for all sorts of scenarios.

Q WHAT ARE THE ESSENTIAL ATTRIBUTES THAT A YOUNG ASPIRING BUNGEE INSTRUCTOR NEEDS?

You can't learn to bungee jump in school – it has to be taught on-site. I started off as a bungee operator learning the basics, then rose through

the ranks to become an instructor. You have to be really good at your work to be an instructor since you're dealing with people's lives. Everyone is scared to do it, so you also have to know how to convince people. Put yourself in their mind: one might have signed up for it and even paid, but many people get there and want to turn around, so you have to reassure them that they're safe. It takes a lot of patience. We have about two out of ten clients who completely refuse to jump. The lekker thing about us is that we want people to only come do the fun part, and we'll handle the rest; safety is always on us.

Q WHAT HAPPENS IF A CLIENT COMPLETELY CHICKENS OUT OF JUMPING?

Unfortunately, there's no refund. There are other options, though, like a skywalk tour where you don't jump. You're either connected to the bridge or can just hang over the edge in a harness.

Q IS YOUR MOTHER SUPPORTIVE OF YOUR CAREER?

I was always a bit of an adventurous kid. We did things like finding the highest cliff or tree to

Right:
Facing your fears:
"Everyone should try jumping at least once in their lifetime"

Below:
Bungee instructor
Siyabonga Pati





WORDS: WENDY WATTA





Freefalling at 120km per hour is such an exhilarating feeling that I can't even put into words. But it's all about facing your fears. I think everyone should try jumping at least once in their lifetime

dive from. But even to-date my mom doesn't like that I jump off a bridge for work. She's more supportive now because she can see that I like it. I have three sons myself and would encourage them to pursue this career if they ever chose to.

Q AFTER OVER 100 JUMPS, DO YOU STILL GET NERVOUS?

Yes, I absolutely do! You can't get used to it. In fact, my first jump was the most fun and memorable. You still don't know how it feels, so there's a kind of naive excitement. From the second one onwards, knowing what to expect makes it scarier, and that feeling never leaves. I'm not

afraid of heights anymore, so I never chicken out. That would be such an embarrassment. It's been five months since I last jumped because of an accident I had at home, so I think I'll be scared when I return. But you have to be scared to jump off a bridge; it's against human nature. In fact, if you're not scared, there's something wrong.

Q WHAT'S THE BIGGEST THING THAT BUNGEE JUMPING HAS TAUGHT YOU?

Freefalling at 120km per hour is such an exhilarating feeling that I can't even put into words. But it's all about facing your fears. I think everyone should try jumping at least once in their lifetime – you'll realise that there's nothing you

can't do. You just have to face that which you think you can't.

Q DO YOU PREFER TO JUMP TIED AROUND THE WAIST OR ANKLES?

I believe that to get the full experience, you should jump tied around the ankles, where you can't even touch the rope since you're upside down. Your mind will tell you that your feet are slipping, but they're actually not. If you have problems with your ankles or knees, then go with the body harness, in a seated position. It feels more secure. Usually, once you get to the bridge it's like a party, and we play music to calm your nerves. A jumpmaster checks your

Above:
"You have to be scared to jump off a bridge. In fact, if you're not scared, there's something wrong"

Right:
3-2-1... Bungee! This is as close as many of us will get to flying!

weight, which determines who goes first. We have different ropes for different weight categories, from the smallest yellow one which takes 35-60kg, to the thickest one, blue, which is 90-110kg. If you're heavier, you can jump using two ropes. Once you jump and the rope comes to a standstill, we send someone down on an electric winch to get you and bring you back up to the platform.

Q HOW DO YOU RELAX?
There's a lot to do in this region, like quad biking, zip lining, hiking or walking the Storms River Suspension Bridge. I mostly like to chill with the boys, though, have a braai, have a lekker chat, or a potjiekos, which we prepare outside by basically throwing all leftovers like pork, chicken and potatoes into one pot to slow cook. I actually haven't done much bungee jumping in other locations, but would love to check out the one in Soweto Towers.



Africa's top five bungee jumps

01

SOWETO TOWERS JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA

Initially built as a coal-fired power station that has long been decommissioned, the 33-storey Orlando Towers are covered in bright murals and have become a distinctive landmark in the historic Soweto township which most visitors explore on walking tours. Bookings aren't taken here, so it's first come, first served, and weight range is 35-110kg.



GLK / SHUTTERSTOCK.COM

02

JINJA EASTERN UGANDA

With thundering rapids, forested islands and a bustling town centre this small city, said to be the source of the Nile River, is East Africa's home of adventure.

The bungee platform allows you to jump 44m into the longest river in the world; you can actually choose to touch the water or stop short during your jump. Thereafter, rescue is via a raft that takes you back to land. It was founded by Rob Davis, a staple in the adventure community, who sadly passed away just a few months ago from illness.

03

SAGANA KENYA

Take the 220 steps up the steel ladder, each step offering the chance to change your mind, although it's more tiring than scary. Once you make it to the jump cage 60m up, Tana River, the longest in Kenya, will be beneath your feet. It's operated by Bungee in Kenya and can be accessed via Rapids Camp or Savage Wilderness Camp.

04

VICTORIA FALLS BRIDGE ZIMBABWE/ZAMBIA

As far as scenery goes, this spot on the border of Zambia and Zimbabwe with the falls as a backdrop takes the cake. Jump into a rainbow, with a 110m drop into the Zambezi River, and you can jump alone or tandem. The minimum age is 14 with parental consent, but generally, you have to be above 18 and between 40kg and 140kg to jump here. If you're not ready to jump just yet, you can zip line with the slide taking you from Zambia into Zimbabwe.

05

BLOUKRANS BRIDGE SOUTH AFRICA

It's operated by Face Adrenalin and is located in the Garden Route's Tsitsikamma area, along the N2 Highway. Visitors jump while overlooking a verdant gorge. You can jump here year-round, but the best time is in summer, between November and March.

FIVE OF THE BEST

HISTORICAL SITES IN KENYA

Coastal fort, quirky castle... Kenya has no shortage of fascinating historical sites to explore. Here are five for starters...





01

FORT JESUS

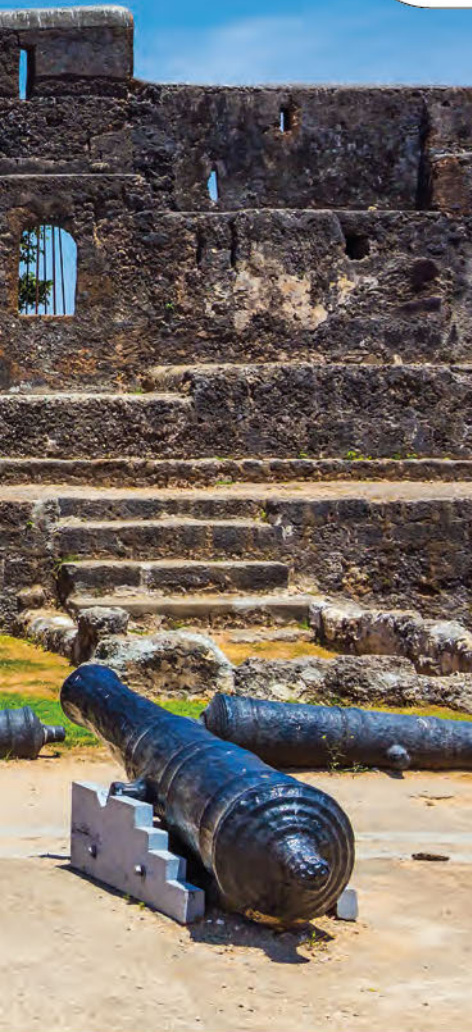
A trip to Kenya is not complete without a visit to the coast with its sandy beaches, sunshine and hospitable Swahili people. In Kenya's second city, on Nkrumah Road, lies a site that is testament to Mombasa's strategic importance. Between 1593 and 1596, Fort Jesus was constructed at the behest of the King of Portugal to protect his interests on the East African coast's trade routes.

On the night of 15 August 1631, deep in the bowels of Fort Jesus, in the captain's quarters, Yusuf bin Hasan, also known as Don Jeronimo Chingulia who was the King of Mombasa at the time, drove a sword through the heart of Captain Pedro Leitao Gamboa, sparking

events that would lead to the end of Portuguese rule in Mombasa. Chingulia's father had been killed, with Portuguese complicity, decades earlier and he was determined not to have the same fate befall him. For more than a year, Chingulia, a Kenyan, ruled over Fort Jesus and Mombasa before retiring to a life of piracy.

Since then, Fort Jesus saw a *Game of Thrones* style battle for its control, falling under Omani and then British rule, when it served as a prison, before finally being gazetted as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The fort, which maintains many of its original features, is a must-see when in Kenya.

Guided trips of Old Town Mombasa, which lies adjacent to the Fort, can also be secured with tour guides at Fort Jesus's entrance for a nominal fee.



02

THE NAIROBI GALLERY

In an earlier time, this culturally significant building was referred to as Hatches, Matches and Dispatches. Constructed in 1913, it is where births, marriages and deaths were recorded. Today, it is home to the Joseph and Sheila Murumbi collection. Murumbi was Kenya's second Vice President. He was one of the most prolific private collectors of art on the continent. The building is now a place to interact with some of Kenya's best contemporary artists and their work. This is, of course, on top of feasting your eyes on the comprehensive Murumbi collection, including his Pan-African postage stamp collection. ➔

03

ARADONAW, ZIMMERGEN/
ALAMY STOCK PHOTO

KARIANDUSI PREHISTORIC SITE

The A104 stretches from Kenya's capital to the Pearl of Africa – Uganda. As you make your way along the road, be sure to stop at View Point, Limuru for spectacular vistas of the Great Rift Valley. The Kariandusi Prehistoric Site lies 2km from Lake Elementaita where, if you're in luck, the pink flamingos are a sight for sore eyes. Kariandusi is famed as a cradle of human origins and was one of the archaeological sites to be discovered in East Africa by Dr Louis Leakey on his 1928 expedition. Here lies, in situ, and in Dr Leakey's words, "a collection of over two thousand specimens, excavated from an area barely ten square feet!" With a backdrop of the Rift Valley, *Homo erectus* tools – up to a million years old – lie at the site exactly as they were discovered close to a century ago.



DOWNTOWN NAIROBI

04

A seasoned visitor to Nairobi wouldn't describe the city centre as one of the many attractions in Kenya. There is, however, quite a bit to see and, with a good guide, learn about Kenya's history. Point Zero is marked by a globe in the centre of town on Kenyatta Avenue and is the marker for any distance to and from Nairobi. A few hundred metres up the road is Freedom Corner, the site where Professor Wangari Maathai and a group of women stood up to tyranny. A walk around downtown Nairobi will also take you to the Houses of Parliament, the Mausoleum where the remains of Kenya's first president Jomo Kenyatta lie, as well as the imposing statues of Kenya's freedom heroes Dedan Kimathi and Tom Mboya. Mboya's likeness stands only a few paces away from where an assassin's bullet felled the most promising of statesmen.

IMAGES OF AFRICA PHOTOBANK/
ALAMY STOCK PHOTO

05

LORD EGERTON'S CASTLE

Stories of unrequited love abound the world over. Deep in Kenya's Rift Valley, 14km from Nakuru, lies the site of one such love story: a must-visit edifice, if not for its beauty, then for the torrid story that lies in its halls.

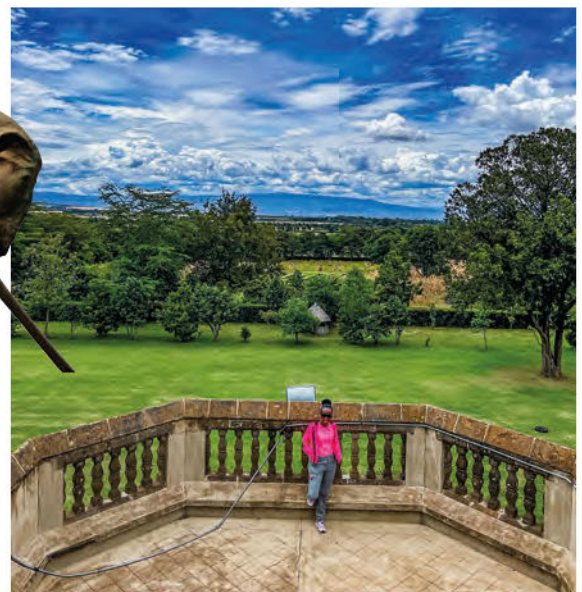
In 1938, Lord Maurice Egerton, on a trip to his ancestral home, met an English maiden named Victoria and fell in love with her. He asked her to come back to Kenya with him. She was, however, repulsed by Lord Egerton's dwelling on his expansive estate. She referred to his house as a chicken coop or a dog kennel and would not step foot in it.

To appease his soon-to-be-betrothed, Lord Egerton brought in 100 American workers who built a 52-room behemoth of a castle, a testament to his love. There were escalators, hot piped water and detailed carvings of

his family crest in many rooms and on the castle's facade. He even had a sound system wired to stream music to the rooms from his piano downstairs.

For the house warming, he threw a banquet that had guests flying in from all over the world. Sadly, the most important guest, for a second time, wouldn't step foot in the house. She said she had since given her heart to another. Dejected, Lord Egerton fell into a loner's life, vowing that no woman would ever set foot in his home. None did until his death in 1958. Unless on the dinner table, no chickens were allowed on the estate. Dogs suffered the same fate.

With his demise, the Egerton lineage came to an end as his siblings had died before him. Egerton Castle, however, still stands, a statement to the power of love.





EGERTON CASTLE IS A MUST-VISIT EDIFICE,
IF NOT FOR ITS BEAUTY, THEN FOR THE
TORRID STORY THAT LIES IN ITS HALLS



CAPE TOWN ESCAPE

EXPLORING THE WINELANDS

The Winelands are one of the highlights of a visit to South Africa's Cape, but there's more to this region of verdant mountains and vineyards than simply wine tasting. It has become a centre for a smorgasbord of outdoor activities. Here's our round-up of what to do and where...





On your bike:
A network of hiking and mountain biking trails weaves through the Winelands

It might be my puritan upbringing but I always enjoy a glass of wine and a good meal more if I've done something to earn it. So, if I'm heading for the hedonistic pleasures of the Cape Winelands, I work up an appetite with a spot of exercise then feel justified in settling in for a long decadent lunch.

Fortunately, an extensive network of hiking and mountain bike trails on the wine farms and in nearby nature reserves means you're spoilt for choice should you wish to explore on foot or on two wheels. Several wine farms have guided tours of their estates and there are many easy rambles on which you can link wineries and take in the historic and picturesque settings.

Many of the Wineland venues are multi-activity, accommodating hikers, trail runners and mountain bikers. The Banhoek Conservancy, between Stellenbosch and Franschhoek, has the most diverse and extensive network of trails with top-notch restaurants and an array of wine experiences to boot.

While they can't compete with the variety of adventures in Stellenbosch and Franschhoek, the easily accessible Elgin, Robertson and Walker Bay regions each have their own attractions and unique adventures, as does Cape Town's Constantia Valley. The Constantia Wine Walk is an intriguing journey through South Africa's pioneering wine farms on which you'll taste iconic wines and learn about the terroir and history of the Cape. Groot Constantia, established in 1685, has wonderful self-guided hiking, trail running and mountain biking trails, while Hiking Tours Cape Town offer guided hikes and other wine experiences in the Valley.

If you really want to immerse yourself in the Cape Winelands, Stellenbosch's Helderberg Heritage Trail, Walker Bay's Diversity Trail, Elgin's Blue Mountain Trail and the Excelsior Wine Walk in Robertson are luxury slackpacking trails that traverse various wine farms, with top-notch guiding, tastings, gourmet meals and other spoils integral to the package.

Stellenbosch Mountain, Franschhoek's Mont Rochelle Nature Reserve and the Helderberg Nature Reserve have some challenging day hikes, including strenuous ascents of their iconic peaks, while the trails in Stellenbosch's Jonkershoek Nature Reserve range from easy meanders to the demanding circuit of its mountain ridges and peaks.

Jonkershoek has an extensive network of graded, single-track mountain bike trails to suit all levels of riders, with post-ride refreshment at Lanzerac Estate almost freewheeling distance away! If grinding your gears sounds hard work, heli-biking in the reserve is an option, the chopper taking you on a scenic flight to the mountain top before some serious downhill. ↻







Way to go in the Winelands:
Take your pick of horse riding treks, 'Big Five Wine' safaris, Segway tours and ATV adventures. You can even get hands-on with grape picking during harvest time, and have a go at treading the grapes (below)

Elgin, the Hemel en Aarde and the lesser-known Tulbagh Valleys are also renowned for their well-crafted mountain bike trails.

You can rent bikes to ride the trails at Boschendal, and at the Dirtopia Trail Centre on Muratie Wine Farm near Stellenbosch. Dirtopia also deliver bikes to other areas of the Winelands.

Electric bikes take the sweat out of cycling, and make it a family friendly activity. Bikes 'n Wines have a selection of e-bike tours of the Stellenbosch, Franschhoek and Constantia Winelands (as well as guided mountain bike and hiking tours) on which you journey through several boutique wineries, stopping off for food pairings and other spoils en route.

Horse riding is popular, particularly in the Franschhoek Valley. Paradise Stables, Boschendal and Wine Valley Horse Trails offer outrides and wine tastings. The latter can customise horseback tours to include olive tastings and meals and also offer tours in horse-drawn carriages and on eco-friendly quad bikes.

Less arduous adventures include family-friendly Segway tours of Spier Wine Estate, and Warwick Wine Estate's Big Five Wine Safari – a steep and exhilarating drive in an open safari-style vehicle through the vineyards to a mountain-top tasting venue on which you'll learn about the Big Five wine varieties, Cabernet Sauvignon, Sauvignon Blanc, Pinotage, Merlot and Cabernet Franc.

And thank goodness for the Helderberg's hop-on, hop-off wine tractor and the Franschhoek wine tram, which enable you to curate your own wine tours and tasting experiences – and avoid designating a non-drinking driver to look after you on the adventure!



Harvest festivals

If you're after hands-on experiences, visit the Winelands during harvest time (between mid-January and March) for grape-picking, foot stomping and other festivities.

Benjamin Loloju, STE's
Corridors Manager, in
Samburu National Reserve

JANE WYNYARD/SAVE THE ELEPHANTS



A life transformed through education and **ELEPHANTS**

IN THE THIRD PART OF OUR SERIES ON ELEPHANT CONSERVATION IN ASSOCIATION WITH **SAVE THE ELEPHANTS**, NANCY ODWEYO EXPLAINS THE IMPORTANCE OF EDUCATION AND HOW IT CHANGED ONE MAN'S LIFE...

OUR FUTURE ON THIS PLANET DEPENDS ON GAINING A BALANCE BETWEEN HUMANS AND THE NATURAL WORLD. FOR CONSERVATION ORGANISATIONS LIKE MINE, THIS MEANS FINDING A WAY FOR PEOPLE AND WILDLIFE TO COEXIST IN HARMONY. CENTRAL TO THIS MISSION IS GIVING THE COMMUNITIES THAT LIVE ALONGSIDE WILDLIFE THE TOOLS THAT THEY NEED IN ORDER TO CONTINUE BEING THE STEWARDS OF THEIR NATURAL HERITAGE IN A MODERN WORLD.

In northern Kenya, one educational success story stands out like no other. Benjamin Loloju, from Samburu, has carved out an extraordinary life for himself through his passion for study. Today, he holds a Masters of Science (MSc) university degree and dedicates his life to studying and protecting wild African elephants.

Growing up in a remote village in northern Kenya, Benjamin could never have imagined the life he leads now. Raised in a herder family in Isiolo County, his expected path was to remain in Oldonyiro where he was born and tend to the livestock – the family's most valuable asset. However, Benjamin had bigger dreams. Determined to get an education, he convinced his father to sell two cows to fund his first term of secondary school.

"By the end of the term, I was the top student," he recalls. "I had no idea that my life was about to take off!"

In 2006, Benjamin's exceptional grades and passion for learning caught the attention of Save the Elephants (STE), a research and conservation organisation. They selected him as an elephant scholar through their education programme, which has helped 359 students from financially struggling communities attend high school and college since its inception in 2001.

Benjamin's scholarship with STE was just the beginning. He became the first-ever elephant scholar to get straight A's in his final exams, appearing among Kenya's top 100 students, after which he graduated from the University of Nairobi with First Class Honours in geospatial engineering. In 2016, Save

the Elephants offered him a job as a geospatial specialist, and in 2020 he completed his MSc in geographical information management at Cranfield University in the UK.

Studying in the UK was a dream come true for this Samburu herder's son, but it was bittersweet. Benjamin's father was killed in a tribal battle while Benjamin was halfway through his second term at secondary school, never getting the chance to see his son's meteoric rise.

Today Benjamin manages a crucial project for Save the Elephants, protecting migratory routes for elephants. Over 20 years of data from 200 elephant tracking collars have enabled STE to identify vital but endangered wildlife corridors in northern Kenya. Save the Elephants is working with local communities →



FRANK AF PETERSEN/SAVE THE ELEPHANTS

Left and below: Elephant Scholars on a game drive with David Daballen, STE's director of Field Operations, in Samburu National Reserve

Below, top: Students at Daaba Primary School line up for lunch. This is one of 21 schools supported by STE's School Feeding Programme

Below, bottom: Elephant Scholars at a holiday tuition session for high school students at STE's research camp in Samburu



and the Wyss Academy for Nature to ensure these corridors are discussed, defined, monitored and legally protected.

One key route, an ancient elephant corridor linking Samburu National Reserve to Laikipia, passes through Benjamin's hometown of Oldonyiro. Urban development has put enormous pressure on the elephants using this passage through an otherwise steep escarpment. As a child, Benjamin was fascinated by the footprints of elephants using this corridor near his home. Now, 20 years later, he analyses those very movements.

"It's amazing to be doing this work," says Benjamin. "I hope our efforts will result in the gazettement of the Oldonyiro/Kipsing corridor and other crucial migratory routes across Kenya, keeping the landscape connected so that elephants can move freely."

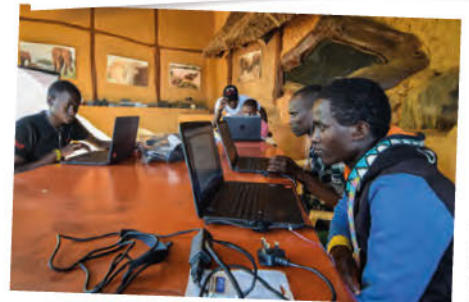
Save the Elephants' scholarship programme has transformed many lives like Benjamin's, creating future ambassadors for elephants and fostering coexistence between elephants and communities. Over the past 30 years, more than 20,000 children in 27 schools

have participated in STE's educational activities in northern Kenya. Since 2016, STE has also provided meals to over 5000 children in regions close to critical elephant corridors. The programme has lifted class attendance, academic performance and community attitudes towards elephants.

Benjamin hopes his powerful story will inspire other Kenyan students to follow in his footsteps and follow their dreams. "If you really believe in yourself, there is nothing you cannot achieve. You've got what it takes, believe in yourself, stay disciplined, you will get to the top. I made it despite the challenges, and you can do it too. Education and elephants have been the catalysts for my success." 🐘

NANCY ODWEYO IS THE HEAD OF PROJECTS AND EDUCATION AT SAVE THE ELEPHANTS

Opposite: A Livestock and Wildlife Corridor marker in northern Kenya. STE works with communities to identify, mark and monitor corridors to allow for elephant migration between ecosystems



JANE WYNWARD/SAVE THE ELEPHANTS



For more information...

OR TO MAKE A
DONATION TO SAVE
THE ELEPHANTS, GO TO
SAVETHEELEPHANTS.ORG
OR SCAN THE QR CODE

LIVESTOCK
+ WILDLIFE
CORRIDOR

driving for change

MEET LISA CHRISTOFFERSEN, A WOMAN OF INDOMITABLE SPIRIT AND UNWAVERING STRENGTH. A TOUGH, HARD-AS-NAILS INDIVIDUAL WHO HAS FACED LIFE'S MOST CHALLENGING BATTLES AND EMERGED VICTORIOUS. LISA IS NOT JUST A SURVIVOR, SHE'S A TESTAMENT TO RESILIENCE AND THE POWER OF THE HUMAN SPIRIT...





Lisa Christoffersen

is known by her Kenyan name, Makena, bestowed upon her by Kikuyu ladies during a safari; she embodies its meaning – the happy one. She is an author, entrepreneur, rally driver and reality television star, best known for her role on the TV series *The Real Housewives of Nairobi*. Lisa is the founder of Africa's first ever all-women Safari Rally – the Lioness Rally – and is a keen rally driver who has driven in the WRC Kenya and 4x4 challenges driving a Range Rover and a Mobius. She is passionate about empowering women to take charge of their lives by 'driving for change', steering your life in the direction you want it to take you. Lisa is also the author of one of Kenya's leading guidebooks, *Bush Friendly Tips*, as well as the children's story book, *A Monkey's Wedding*. As a cancer survivor who was only given 10 days to live, she demonstrates that life is what you make it. She is passionate about the environment, a conservationist at heart and safari lover, always seeking the next adventure.

WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO FOUND KENYA'S FIRST ALL-WOMEN TEAM FOR THE SAFARI RALLY?

Founding Kenya's first all-women team for the Safari Rally was inspired by a combination of observation, opportunity, and a desire for inclusivity in a traditionally male-dominated sport.

Attending the World Rally Championships (WRC) in Kenya in 2021 provided the initial spark. Witnessing the absence of female rally drivers at such a prestigious event led to a moment of realisation and determination. The invitation from the then Minister of Sports, Amb. Amina Mohammed, to witness the final day of the rally in Hell's Gate, Naivasha, provided the platform for this revelation.

Observing the lack of female representation, particularly in a sport so deeply ingrained in Kenyan culture, prompted the decision to take action. In that moment, the idea of starting the first-ever all-women safari rally, named the Lioness Rally, was born. The determination to challenge stereotypes and break barriers led to swift action.

The speed of execution was remarkable, with the vision evolving into reality in just nine months. This rapid turnaround reflects the commitment and passion behind the initiative. The inaugural rally in March 2022 marked a historic moment, not only for Kenya but for the African continent. By launching the Super Cub and assembling an all-women team, the initiative shattered biases and paved the way for greater inclusivity in the sport.

WHAT DO YOU HOPE IT WILL ACHIEVE? Empowering women to navigate their lives metaphorically and literally, steering towards their aspirations and dreams with passion, is a powerful mission. By encouraging and supporting women to pursue roles as rally drivers, navigators, mechanical engineers and officials in rallying and 4x4 challenges, you're not only breaking down barriers but also opening up a world of opportunities.

By providing a platform for women to participate in traditionally male-dominated roles within the rally community, you're sending a message of inclusivity, equality and empowerment. Through mentorship, training programmes and support networks, you can help women develop the skills, confidence and expertise needed to succeed in these fields.

Moreover, by showcasing the achievements and successes of women in these roles, you're inspiring future generations of women to pursue their passions fearlessly and unapologetically. Each woman who takes on these roles becomes a beacon of possibility, showing others that they too can pursue their dreams, regardless of gender or societal expectations.

By fostering a culture of empowerment and inclusivity within the rally community, you're not only enriching the sport but also contributing to the broader movement towards gender equality and female empowerment.

WHAT WAS INVOLVED IN PREPARING FOR THE RALLY?

Building a team and establishing roles and responsibilities was a crucial first step in bringing



Left:
Chao was Lisa's navigator in the 2024 WRC Safari Rally



Right:
Women's podium at this year's Safari Rally

the vision of the Lioness Rally to life. By appointing Chao Sio as chairlady and assembling a committee of dedicated women, each with their unique skills and contributions, I laid the foundation for success. Collaboration and diversity of perspectives were key elements in ensuring that all aspects of the initiative were addressed effectively.

Fundraising and securing sponsorships were undoubtedly challenging tasks, given the innovative and unprecedented nature of the endeavour. Convincing corporations to support a venture that had not been done before required persistence, passion and a compelling vision. My role as the primary advocate for the cause, seeking sponsorships and partnerships, demonstrated my commitment and leadership.

Engaging experienced individuals like George Njoroge, chairman of Kenya Racing Team (KRT), as the rally instructor provided invaluable expertise and mentorship to the team. Training sessions at the Kasarani rally track were essential in honing skills, from navigation to technical aspects like reading tyre signs and changing tyres efficiently.

Partnerships with organisations like Kingsway Tyres and the recycling factory TR3 showcased a commitment to sustainability and community involvement. Cleaning up the rally track and recycling plastic waste not only contributed to environmental conservation but also fostered a sense of collective responsibility and engagement.

Sponsorships, such as the support from SHELL Vivo for AVGAS, were instrumental in overcoming logistical challenges, ensuring that the rally cars had the necessary fuel for the inaugural event. Such partnerships underscored the importance of collaboration and support from the corporate sector in realising the goals of the Lioness Rally. ➔

Through teamwork, dedication and a shared vision, we demonstrated the power of collective action in empowering women and breaking barriers in the world of rallying.

My motto – “The only thing we leave behind is our tyre tracks” – reflects a deep commitment to environmental stewardship and sustainability. The initiative to plant 1000 trees the day before the inaugural rally not only beautified the surroundings but also contributed to reforestation efforts and biodiversity conservation.

It’s a tangible example of how sports and community events can be leveraged to promote environmental awareness and conservation.

By incorporating environmental initiatives into the Lioness Rally, we also set a precedent for future events to follow. Our actions align with a broader movement towards sustainability in

and served as a testament to the power of determination and collective action in achieving extraordinary feats.

Q WHAT WAS IT LIKE COMPETING IN A MALE-DOMINATED SPORT? My response to the scepticism from certain men in the rally community reflects a resilient and determined attitude. By humorously dismissing their doubts with the playful retort, “I can’t hear you,” I demonstrated a refusal to be deterred by negativity or traditional gender norms. Instead, I remained focused on my vision and confident in our joint ability to bring it to fruition.

The overwhelming support from the rest of the rally community, including the willingness of male rally drivers to lend their cars and offer encouragement, speaks volumes about the inclusivity and camaraderie within the sport. It’s a

A fighter at heart, Lisa's passion extends beyond her personal triumphs. She channels her energy into the adrenaline-fuelled world of race car rallying, where the thrill of the track mirrors the resilience that defines her. The pursuit of speed and competition becomes a cathartic release, an adrenaline craving met by the challenges of the race.

sports and events, demonstrating that even high-energy activities like rallying can coexist harmoniously with nature.

Q WHAT WAS THE RALLY ITSELF LIKE? The excitement and adrenaline of the inaugural Lioness Rally was truly electrifying, especially considering the unique nature of the event and the absence of any rehearsal. The anticipation leading up to the flag-off at Kasarani was palpable, with a sense of history and achievement in the making.

Despite the lack of challenges, the unexpected incident of one of the rally drivers crashing into a tunnel serves as a reminder of the risks involved in motorsport. Fortunately, the fact that neither the driver nor her navigator were injured speaks to the importance of safety measures and preparedness.

Following the rally, the celebration was incredibly gratifying, marking the culmination of months of hard work, dedication and teamwork. The sense of achievement and gratitude towards everyone involved in making the historic moment a reality was overwhelming.

It’s particularly noteworthy that the entire team on the ground, including officials, CROs, timekeepers, fuellers, security personnel, police, doctors, ambulance crew, and even the fire engine team from Nairobi City Council were comprised solely of women. This demonstrates the incredible capabilities, professionalism and dedication of women in various roles within the rallying community, breaking stereotypes and inspiring future generations.

Overall, the inaugural Lioness Rally was not just a sporting event but a celebration of empowerment, inclusivity and female excellence. It set a precedent for gender equality in motorsport

and the recognition of the importance of diversity and representation within the rally community.

By igniting the flame of enthusiasm and breaking new ground with the all-women safari rally, we not only challenged stereotypes but also inspired others to embrace inclusivity and support opportunities for women in motorsport. Our leadership and determination have paved the way for greater diversity and empowerment within the rally world, leaving a lasting impact on the sport and its community.

Q WHY RALLY DRIVING? Motorsport has historically been a male-dominated arena, making it a particularly significant platform for breaking gender barriers and proving oneself in patriarchal societies. The adrenaline-fuelled, high-speed nature of motorsport presents a unique opportunity for women to showcase their skills.

By excelling in motorsport, women challenge entrenched stereotypes and demonstrate that gender is not a determinant of talent or passion. Their achievements serve as powerful symbols of empowerment and inspiration for



Left: Lisa Christoffersen with fellow female rally driver Pauline Sheghu

others, showing that women can compete and thrive in any field, regardless of societal expectations or gender norms.

The inherent competitiveness and technical complexity of motorsport require skill, strategy and mental fortitude, qualities that are not bound by gender. By participating and succeeding in motorsport, women assert their presence and legitimacy in a realm where they may have been marginalised or underestimated in the past.

Furthermore, the visibility and prestige associated with motorsport provide a platform for women to amplify their voices and advocate for greater gender equality and inclusion in all areas of society. Their success in motorsport serves as a catalyst for broader social change, challenging perceptions and paving the way for future generations of female athletes and leaders.

In essence, motorsport represents more than just a sport; it's a vehicle for empowerment, representation and societal transformation, offering women a powerful means to prove themselves and shatter gender barriers in patriarchal societies.

Q HAVE YOU ALWAYS LOVED DRIVING? I am blessed to have had a rich and fascinating background, deeply connected to motorsport and the thrill of driving. Growing up in Tanzania, surrounded by the majestic Kilimanjaro and immersed in the world of rallying through my father's passion, was an exhilarating experience. My Danish heritage, combined with my upbringing in Tanzania, likely provided me with a unique perspective and appreciation for both nature and adventure.

My love for driving stems from my upbringing and experiences, from learning to drive in the snow-covered streets of Copenhagen to the rugged terrains of East Africa where rallying was a way of life. The sense of control and freedom that driving provides can be incredibly empowering and fulfilling.

With my background and passion for motorsport, I am gaining knowledge and experiences that could greatly contribute to initiatives aimed at promoting and developing motorsport in Kenya and beyond.

My journey from the foothills of Kilimanjaro to the streets of Copenhagen is truly inspiring, and it's evident that my love for driving runs deep in my veins.

Q IS THERE A RALLY IN THE WORLD THAT YOU WOULD LOVE TO COMPETE IN? Last year in October 2023 I drove in the first ever OneLife Rally, which happened in Kenya for the very first time, and I was the only female driver participating in the week-long rally through Kenya alongside Lamborghinis, Ferraris and Porsches brought in from Europe. Breaking another barrier.

Events like the Rebelle Rally in the US, which is an all-female 4x4 rally, and the Gazelle Rally in Morocco can indeed be exciting opportunities to showcase my skills and passion for rallying on an international stage. Securing sponsorship is crucial for covering the expenses associated with such ventures, especially when travelling outside of Africa for rallies.



The mindset of considering yourself a 'billboard on wheels' is spot on – it's essential to leverage one's participation in these events as a platform for brand visibility and awareness for potential sponsors.

Q WHAT'S THE NEXT CHALLENGE? I drove in this year's WRC Safari Rally in an all-women's crew – a team of four drivers and four navigators under the Talanta Hela Ministry of Sports, with so much gratitude to our Minister of Sports CS Ababu Namwamba. All eight ladies were part of our inaugural Lioness Rally. It's just great that the Ministry of Sports acknowledges and supports women in motorsport.

I would love to organise all-women rallies in Kenya, particularly in Nakuru where rallying has deep roots, and along the coastal areas. It would not only celebrate the rich heritage of motorsport in these regions, but also provide a platform for women to showcase their talent and passion for rallying.

Expanding our participation to rallies across Africa, including Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda, Zimbabwe, South Sudan and beyond, would further promote gender diversity and inclusivity in motorsport on the continent. These rallies could serve as empowering events for women from diverse backgrounds to come together, share experiences, and inspire each other to pursue their passion for driving and rallying.

In addition to the competitive aspect, these rallies could also incorporate elements of community engagement, such as promoting road safety awareness, supporting local charities or advocating for environmental conservation.

Collaborating with local racing associations, government bodies and sponsors would be essential for the success of these initiatives. By fostering partnerships and building networks across borders, you can help create a vibrant and supportive community of women in motorsport, driving positive change and opportunities for future generations of female racers. 🏎️

EAZI DOES IT

OLUWATOSIN OLUWOLE AJIBADE, KNOWN GLOBALLY AS MR EAZI, HAS BECOME A GLOBAL SENSATION, PIONEERING SOUNDS THAT BLEND GHANAIAN HIGHLIFE WITH NIGERIAN CHORD PROGRESSIONS



MR EAZI, WHO GAINED FAME WITH HIS SONGS *SKIN TIGHT* AND *LEG OVER* HAS REVOLUTIONISED AFROBEATS AND OPENED DOORS FOR AFRICAN ARTISTS WORLDWIDE. THE VISIONARY ENTREPRENEUR IS ALSO RENOWNED FOR PIONEERING BANKU MUSIC AND DRIVING INITIATIVES SUCH AS HIS EMPAWA AFRICA PLATFORM AND HIS LATEST INVESTMENT, A SPORTS-BETTING PLATFORM, CHOPLIFE.INC. IN THIS EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH VIVIANNE WANDERA, WE DELVE INTO HIS CREATIVE PROCESS, HIS MISSION TO RESHAPE THE FUTURE OF AFRICAN MUSIC AND THE FUTURE OF HIS WILDLY SUCCESSFUL FESTIVAL DETTY RAVE

PHOTOGRAPHS: MICHAEL OLIVER LOVE



Q HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOURSELF? IS THERE A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN WHO OLUWATOSIN AJIBADE IS AND WHO MR EAZI IS?

I consider myself a creative, passionate and driven individual. There's little difference between Oluwatosin Ajibade and Mr Eazi. Oluwatosin is the everyday man, while Mr Eazi is the music persona channelling the creativity. However, they're essentially the same person, just with different personas depending on the time of day you meet me.

HOW HAS YOUR MUSIC EVOLVED SINCE YOU FIRST STARTED, AND WHAT ARE SOME KEY INFLUENCES THAT HAVE SHAPED YOUR SOUND OVER THE YEARS?

Music has evolved from a hobby to a full-time career for me, and my mission and goals for it have also developed. My influences include Jay-Z, Dr Alban, Bob Marley, and my own life experiences.

YOU'VE HAD QUITE A JOURNEY IN MUSIC. WHEN WOULD YOU SAY YOU GOT YOUR BIG BREAK AND WHICH SONG, ACCORDING TO YOU, PUT YOU ON THE GLOBAL MAP?

My big break came with the song *Skin Tight* in late 2015/early 2016. It put me on the global map.

WHAT MOMENTS OR EXPERIENCES HAVE SIGNIFICANTLY INSPIRED YOUR MUSIC AND LYRICS?

My life experiences, travels and interactions with different cultures have greatly influenced my music. For instance, in my new album *The Evil Genius*, I discuss a plethora of topics drawn from my experiences and thoughts.

TELL ME ABOUT EMPAWA AFRICA AND HOW IT IS IMPACTING THE MUSIC INDUSTRY IN THE CONTINENT.

Empawa Africa is a music services company that originated as a pioneering talent incubator. Over the years, it has made significant strides in the music industry, unearthing and nurturing exceptional talents like Joeboy, Camidoh and Nikita Kering, amongst others. At the heart of our operations, our primary mission is to discover and nurture not just new artists but also budding labels. We provide these teams with unique opportunities and the much-needed platforms to kickstart and scale their careers as well as their businesses.

Empawa Africa's innovative approach to talent development has positioned us as a significant player in the industry, playing a remarkable role in the rise and success of many of today's leading artists. Our relentless commitment to excellence and growth continues to fuel our drive as we expand our reach, creating more opportunities and paving

the way for the next generation of music stars.

WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO CREATE THE DETTY RAVE FESTIVAL? DID YOU THINK IT WOULD BE THIS BIG? WILL WE SEE THE FESTIVAL EXPAND INTO KENYA AND OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE CONTINENT? HOW DO YOU THINK THIS FESTIVAL HAS INFLUENCED THE ENTERTAINMENT SCENE IN AFRICA?

Detty Rave is more than just a festival; it's a symbol of my deep-rooted passion for music and my enduring desire to bring people together and celebrate our lives. I call it Afro-enjoyment. As it stands today, Detty Rave is a one-day immersive experience that welcomes a diverse array of DJs and hosts an incredible light show, creating a vibrant atmosphere that attendees won't soon forget. From the very beginning, my belief was that it would be successful. I had a keen understanding of my audience and knew that they were eager for a fresh, engaging musical experience.

Looking ahead, there are ambitious plans for Detty Rave. In the coming months, the festival may broaden its horizons and expand to other countries. There's a particular focus on East Africa, a region with a rich musical heritage and a ready audience. The influence of Detty Rave is already making waves in the African entertainment

FAVOURITE CITY IN AFRICA?

Tough one...Can I say 3? Accra, Cotonou and Kampala. Bonus is Lagos.



IF YOU COULD PARTNER WITH
AN ARTIST - ALIVE OR DEAD -
WHO WOULD IT BE?

*I don't have a specific
artist in mind. I'm
excited to meet and
collaborate with all the
young talents I have
yet to encounter.*

**BEING NIGERIAN
TO ME MEANS
BEING RESILIENT,
INNOVATIVE
AND PROUD OF
MY HERITAGE.**

WHAT MUSIC WILL
ALWAYS MAKE YOU
REACH FOR THE 'OFF'
SWITCH?

*I don't really have
music that makes
me reach for
the 'off' switch. I
appreciate all genres.*

scene, sparking positivity and growth. It's encouraging to see more music festivals budding during the same detty December period, contributing to a flourishing music scene. This is a testament to the power of music and its ability to unite people, regardless of borders.

WHAT IS THE INSPIRATION BEHIND BANKU MUSIC? HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE ITS UNIQUE SOUND AND ITS CULTURAL INFLUENCES?

Banku music is a musical genre that is deeply rooted and inspired by my unique heritage that combines both Nigerian and Ghanaian cultures. This type of music is a distinctive fusion of two popular musical styles. On one hand, you have the lively and melodious nature of Ghanaian highlife, a genre known for its enchanting rhythms and soulful melodies. On the other hand, it also embraces Nigerian chord progressions, which add complex and rich layers of sound to the music.

HOW HAS BANKU MUSIC BEEN RECEIVED BOTH WITHIN AFRICA AND INTERNATIONALLY?

It has been well received both

within Africa and internationally. It's gratifying to see people from different cultures enjoy it.

WHAT MOTIVATED YOU TO VENTURE INTO TECH AND GAMING?

My entry into the tech and gaming sectors was motivated by my fascination with these fields and their potential opportunities. Before achieving popularity in music, I owned and operated a startup in Nigeria. This startup, funded by a venture capital partner, pioneered phone exchanges, swaps and sales.

IN WHAT WAYS DO YOU SEE TECHNOLOGY IMPACTING THE FUTURE OF AFROBEATS, BANKU AND THE WIDER AFRICAN MUSIC INDUSTRY?

Technology is playing a pivotal role in moulding the future of Afrobeats and the broader African music industry. It is reshaping the landscape by providing innovative platforms and methodologies for music distribution and fan engagement. These technological advancements are not only revolutionising the way music is distributed but also how audiences interact with their favourite artists. By embracing

THE ONE DESTINATION YOU'D CHOOSE TO GO ON HOLIDAY ABOVE ALL OTHERS?

Iceland

these changes, the Afrobeats scene, along with the wider African music industry, is gaining unprecedented global exposure and recognition.


YOU ARE ENGAGED TO ONE OF THE MOST FAMOUS, BEAUTIFUL YOUNG LADIES ON THE CONTINENT. TELL US HOW YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH MS TEMI OTEDOLA HAS INFLUENCED YOUR MUSIC AND CREATIVE PROCESS.

My relationship with Temi has positively influenced my music. She's my biggest cheerleader and gives me incredible support. She is my absolute muse.

ARE THERE ANY BUSINESS OR PHILANTHROPIC VENTURES THAT YOU AND TEMI ARE WORKING ON TOGETHER OR PLANNING TO IN THE FUTURE?

Temi and I are working on several business ventures. We will make these public when the time is right.

A LOT OF YOUNG PEOPLE LOOK UP TO YOU AND WANT TO FOLLOW IN YOUR FOOTSTEPS. WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE THEM?

My advice for young people is to be authentic, stay true to themselves and never stop learning. 

FAVOURITE MEAL?

Choosing a favourite is difficult because I view food as an experience and enjoy a variety of dishes. However, there's a local dish called Amala from Nigeria that is a winner.



WHICH MUSICIAN DO YOU MOST ADMIRE?

Definitely Jay-Z

WHAT MUSIC DO YOU LIKE TO RELAX TO?

I'm starting to listen to some jazz music, but I also listen to Andrea Bocelli to calm my nerves.

HOW WOULD YOU SUM UP YOUR MUSIC IN THREE WORDS?

*Vibely,
authentic,
& African.*

MAASAI

A herd of wildebeest is shown in a savanna setting. The animals are in various poses, some facing forward and others in profile. The background is a soft-focus landscape with more wildebeest grazing. The word 'MAASAI' is written in large, bold, white, sans-serif capital letters across the top of the image, partially overlapping the animals.

MARA



WORDS:
WILLIAM GRAY
PHOTOGRAPHS:
AWL IMAGES

THE HUNTERS AND THE HUNTED

AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER ARE PRIME MONTHS FOR WITNESSING THE GREAT MIGRATION IN KENYA'S MAASAI MARA. TO CELEBRATE THE NATURAL SPECTACLE, WE PRESENT A STUNNING PORTFOLIO OF IMAGES CAPTURING THE RAW BEAUTY OF ONE OF THE WORLD'S GREATEST WILDLIFE EVENTS



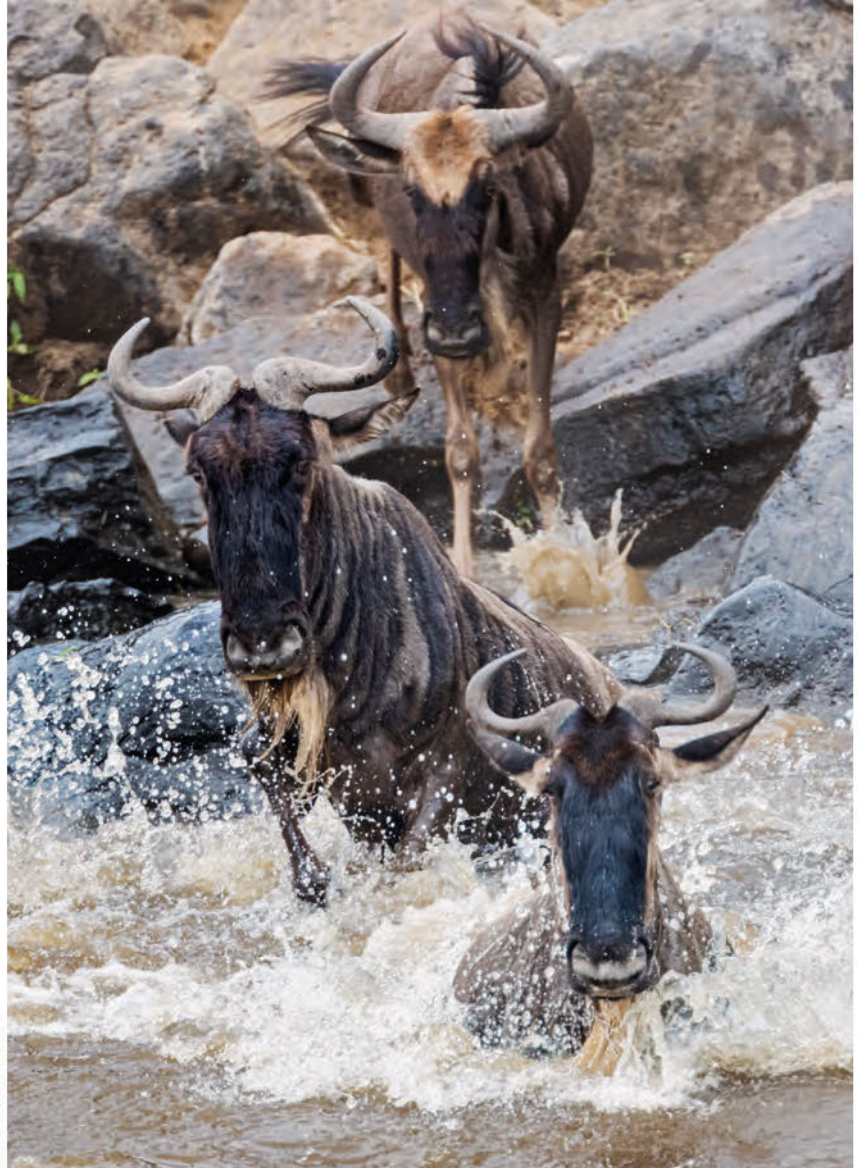
JONATHAN AND ANGELA SCOTT/AWL-IMAGES.COM

The Great Migration is an endless search for food. The grazers move to where the grass is freshest – and that depends on where the rains have fallen. It's the weather that controls the herds, spinning them in a giant clockwise rotation through the Serengeti-Mara ecosystem. Red tape is trampled under some

eight million hooves as the ungulate legions cross back and forth between Tanzania and Kenya.

In a typical year, you can expect the migration to have reached the Maasai Mara by early August. River crossings often reach their frenzied climax this month as large herds take a leap of faith into the Mara River, sometimes doubling back on themselves a few days later – much to the delight of waiting crocs and lions. Don't be surprised to find dozens of safari vehicles parked at popular river crossing points in the Maasai Mara. It's the summer holidays and the reserve is at its busiest. In addition to those that fall victim to predators, thousands of wildebeest drown during river crossings, their corpses clogging the shallows. Riverbanks become thick with vultures and marabou storks, squatting hunch-shouldered and fat-bellied. Elsewhere in the Mara, you'll see less macabre scenes of wildebeest and zebra filing through long, golden grasslands.

Kenya's finest wildlife sanctuary has plenty of superb camps and lodges, both in the national reserve itself and in neighbouring conservancies. If you're here specifically to witness the migration, Serena Lodge, Mara Intrepids, Rekeru Camp and the Governor's Camps are located in the western half of the Maasai Mara National Reserve, within easy reach of river crossing points. That's not to say you should rule out other options. All camps and lodges in the wider Mara area can organise full-day excursions into the national reserve, enabling you to witness the migration and then retreat to the more intimate, less trammelled realm of a conservancy (often with added benefits like walking safaris, which aren't permitted in the national reserve).



NIGEL RIVITT/AVI-IMAGES.COM

JONATHAN AND ANGELA SCOTT/AVI-IMAGES.COM

The Great Migration in numbers

1.5 MILLION WILDEBEEST | **500,000 THOMSON'S GAZELLE**
200,000 PLAINS ZEBRA | **30,000km** THE DISTANCE A SINGLE
WILDEBEEST WALKS IN A LIFETIME **03** THE NUMBER OF MINUTES
IT TAKES A NEWBORN WILDEBEEST TO STAND AND WALK

During September, the focus of the migration remains firmly in Kenya where the wildebeest edge slowly eastwards through the Maasai Mara. They'll wander wherever there is fresh green grass, so you can also expect to encounter large herds in the conservancies surrounding the reserve. River crossings continue throughout the month. Lion, cheetah and hyena are never short of prey. ➔

Above:
White-bearded gnus, or wildebeest, leap into the Mara River during their annual migration

Top right:
Zebras gather in large herds as they migrate through the Maasai Mara feeding on red oat grass

Right:
A male cheetah catching a wildebeest calf using its sharp dew claw to help pull it to a halt

JONATHAN AND ANGELA SCOTT/AVI-IMAGES.COM



MAASAI MARA

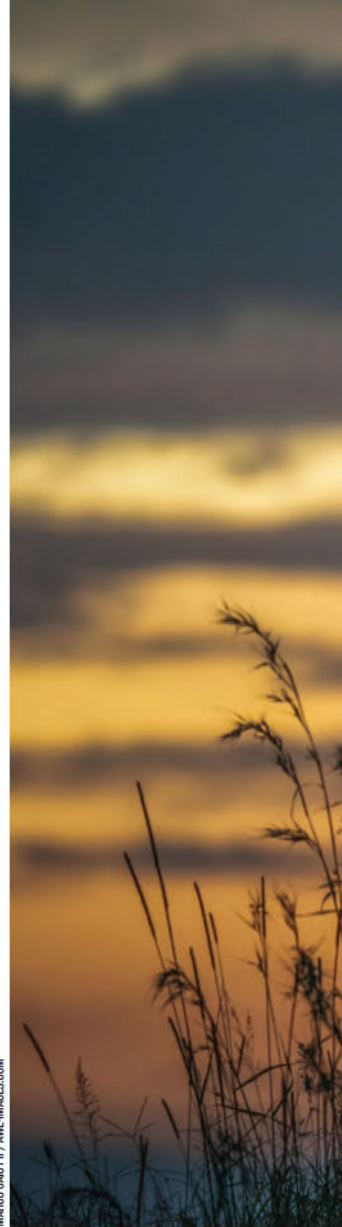
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MARCO GAOTTI/ANL-IMAGES.COM



DANITA DELMONTE/STOCK/ANL-IMAGES.COM



Top:
A cheetah climbs a termite mound to get a better view across the plains of the Mara

Above:
A lone zebra mingles with the wildebeest masses

Right:
A leopard effortlessly runs down a tree

Opposite, top:
Lion cubs on the lookout

Top right:
Hot air balloons floating over the wildebeest migration 



JONATHAN AND ANGELA SCOTT/AM-IMAGES.COM

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bright SPARK

A solar-powered tool using AI and machine learning-enabled cameras to swiftly detect and identify agricultural pests and diseases has won Africa's largest prize for engineering innovation. Meet **Esther Kimani**, the Kenyan woman behind the idea...



THE AFRICA PRIZE FOR ENGINEERING INNOVATION

Founded by the UK's Royal Academy of Engineering in 2014, this is Africa's biggest prize dedicated to developing African innovators and helping them to maximise their impact. It gives commercialisation support to ambitious African innovators developing scalable engineering solutions to address local challenges, demonstrating the importance of engineering as an enabler of improved quality of life and economic development.

Find out more at raeng.org.uk/africaprize



**FARMERLIFELINE
TECHNOLOGIES**

Esther Kimani was named the winner of Africa's biggest engineering prize, the Royal Academy of Engineering's Africa Prize for Engineering Innovation, in Nairobi on 13 June 2024. Her early crop pest and disease detection device was selected as the winning innovation for its ability to swiftly detect and identify agricultural pests and diseases, reducing crop losses for smallholder farmers by up to 30%, while increasing yields by as much as 40%.

Five million smallholder farmers in Kenya lose on average 33% of their crops to pests and diseases. Kimani's innovation not only provides real-time alerts within five seconds of an infestation, offering tailored intervention suggestions, but also alerts government agricultural officers to the presence of diseases or pests, contributing to broader agricultural management efforts.

The solar-powered tool uses computer vision algorithms and advanced machine learning to detect and identify crop pests, pathogens or diseases, as well as the nature of the infection or infestation. The device then notifies the farmer via SMS. This affordable alternative to traditional detection methods leases for just US\$3 per month, significantly cheaper than hiring drones or agricultural inspectors.

Right: The device can be operated in rural locations using solar power



Left: Using AI algorithms to analyse the pests and diseases detected on a farm



Above: Kimani's new crop pest and disease detection device is a lifeline to farmers

"My parents would lose up to 40% of their crops each farming season, which affected our standard of living," says Kimani. "We are empowering smallholder farmers, many of whom are women, to increase their income. We aim to scale to one million farmers in the next five years."

The annual Africa Prize was founded by the Royal Academy of Engineering in 2014 to support innovators developing sustainable and scalable engineering solutions to local challenges in Africa. This year has seen the Africa Prize alumni community grow to almost 150 entrepreneurs from 23 countries, who together have generated more than 28,000 jobs and benefitted more than 10 million people through their innovative products and services.

To celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Prize, the Royal Academy of Engineering hosted the Africa Prize Alumni Reunion, bringing together 100 innovators from the past decade for a three-day programme ahead of the final ceremony.

Chair of the judges Malcolm Brinded said: "These awards form part of the Royal Academy of Engineering's investment of over £1 million to African innovators through grants, prizes and accelerator programmes during the 10th anniversary year of the Africa Prize."

Esther received KSh8.3 million (US\$64,000) to further develop the device. This is the largest amount awarded to a winner, in honour of the 10th Anniversary of the Prize. The four finalists delivered their final business pitch to the Academy judges and an in-person audience of approximately 700.

Esther Kimani is the third woman and the second Kenyan innovator to win the Africa Prize.

The runners up...

Each were awarded KSh2.5 million to develop their ideas

1 LA RUCHE HEALTH
RORY ASSANDEY, CÔTE D'IVOIRE
 La Ruche Health connects communities to vital health information, advice and services through "Kiko", an AI chatbot tool available on WhatsApp and mobile apps, and a digital backend solution to streamline documentation, billing and data sharing for practitioners. By May

2024, the AI has facilitated over 150,000 user interactions and 189 in-home and teleconsultation appointments, processing over US\$18,000 in medical billings.

2 ECO TILES
KEVIN MAINA, KENYA
 An environmentally friendly roofing material made from recycled plastic. Stronger and

lighter than clay or concrete tiles, it's a solution to plastic pollution and high building costs. The manufacturing process involves a custom-made extrusion machine that blends different plastics at varying temperatures, eliminating the need for energy-intensive processes like kiln-burning and reducing carbon emissions. The tiles are enhanced with UV stabilisation chemicals and construction sand to improve durability and sturdiness.

3 YO-WASTE
MARTIN TUMUSHIIME, UGANDA
 Addressing Uganda's mounting waste crisis, Yo-Waste is a location-based mobile application that connects homes and businesses to independent agents for efficient on-demand rubbish collection and disposal. Yo-Waste currently serves over 1500 customers including homes, businesses and waste collection agents, with a goal to reach 20,000 users by 2026. 



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48 HOURS IN ADDIS ABABA

FIND OUT HOW TO SPEND TWO DAYS IN THE ETHIOPIAN CAPITAL, EXPLORING ITS HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL HIGHLIGHTS

WORDS: JAMES ROGOI



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ST GEORGE CATHEDRAL AND MUSEUM

In 1917, inside these very walls, Empress Zewditu was crowned as the first female head of an internationally recognised country in Africa in the 19th and 20th centuries. Upon her death in 1930, amid much pomp and ceremony, the coronation of Emperor Haile Selassie I took place here. In addition to depictions and paintings of Biblical events, photos of Ethiopia's politically significant events adorn the high walls.

St George's Cathedral is smack in the middle of the Ethiopian capital. You're required to take your shoes off at the entrance due to the religious significance Ethiopians place on this site. Inside is the 'holy of holies', where a replica of the Ark of the Covenant is on display. This →

DAY 1: COFFEE CEREMONIES AND CATHEDRALS

FIRST STEPS

Up bright and early, a packed day of sights and sounds of Addis Ababa starts at the Hilton. At this famed hotel on Menelik II Avenue, you gain an instant insight into Ethiopian culture. Here, in days gone by, visitors endured a precarious welcome dance with Emperor Haile Selassie I's tame lions, a scary prospect immortalised in black-and-white photographs at the hotel's entrance. Richard Roundtree who played John Shaft in the eponymous film franchise was one of those who had the pleasure of spending time with the lions.

Located near the reception, the Kikundi Store has artefacts for sale, while at the hotel's entrance, coffee ceremonies are conducted. A cup of the

HOLY TRINITY CATHEDRAL

For followers of the Ethiopian Orthodoxy Church, who practise the longest fast in any religion (almost 50 days), this is their holiest site.

High in its façade, the cathedral is lined with stained glass windows illustrating Biblical stories. Behind a towering set of wooden doors lies the granite tomb of Emperor Haile Selassie I. 'Sleeping alongside him', as the locals say, is his queen, Menen Asfaw. At these hallowed grounds you will also find the Selassie Museum, which traces the majesty of Ethiopian royalty through the ages. In addition to

Above:
Addis at sunrise

Left:
Brewing coffee the traditional way

Below:
Holy Trinity Cathedral

Bottom:
A yellow-robed monk rests on the cathedral steps



Coffee... The beans are ground using a mortar and pestle before being added to a specially selected vessel to steep in hot water. The aroma is just what you need to start the day

MUST TRY...

national drink is offered by a traditionally dressed barista. The ceremony itself is meticulously performed, mostly by women in the community. A bed of loose grass is laid on the ground, followed by roasting of the coffee beans in a pan. The beans are then ground using a mortar and pestle before being added to a specially selected vessel to steep in hot water. The aroma is just what you need to get the day up and running.

Stepping outside the Hilton's entrance, a short walk leads down a steep descent and a left turn brings you to the gates of the Prime Minister's palace with its high fences and perfectly manicured lawns. This is a lush, green part of the city, and with minimal traffic early in the morning, a walk is more than therapeutic and very much recommended.

the bounty of scriptures, bronze and gold crowns of past royals, the must-see artefacts are the thrones of Emperor Menelik II and his wife.

The rich tapestry of history lingers in the mind long after you've walked out of the gates. Of everywhere I have been in this city, the Holy Trinity Cathedral brought, for me, the clearest sense of how much life, triumphs and failures lay embalmed here for those that came, those that are here and those yet to make an appearance.



particular room, characterised by three entrances (to represent the holy trinity), is only accessible to consecrated priests. The cathedral is also a pilgrimage site for Rastafarians.

LION OF JUDAH MONUMENT

This monument is testament to Ethiopia and in particular Emperor Haile Selassie I's claim to have descended from King Solomon, son of King David. In the 1930s, this monument was forcibly relocated to Rome by Mussolini's Fascist regime. On 4 December 1971, Selassie I oversaw an emotional ceremony that saw the restoration of the golden lion to its former site.

YEKATIT 12 MONUMENT

There are a myriad of statues and monuments in Addis Ababa, depicting events and figures that have shaped Ethiopia's history. The Yekatit 12 martyrs' monument is one of them. It was erected in 1955 in memory of those who lost their lives in the reprisal attacks for the attempted killing of the Italian Fascist government's representative in Ethiopia. It displays the victims in sculpture and had narrations of the events all those years ago on its face before they were stolen by vandals.

LOCAL FOOD

At the front of the Commercial Bank of Ethiopia Headquarters, the tallest building in East Africa at 327m, stands a flaming lady sculpted in gold. She represents, for me, the dawn and blazing trail the African continent is on.

Down the road is Girgero, a gem of a restaurant, where meals are served as they have been in these parts for generations – under a sheet of injera, Ethiopia's staple. You can sample delicious raw beef fillet dipped in a myriad of sauces and spices. Ethiopia's spice base is a mix known as berbere containing, in varied quantities, chilli peppers, coriander, garlic and ginger among other tongue-tingling ingredients. Any form of cutlery is prohibited – here you eat with your hands. Absolutely delicious!

JAZZ NIGHT

Earlier, someone had suggested an evening of jazz. The venue for this mellow night, Wings Restaurant, happens to be opposite the Holy Trinity Cathedral. Wings is a very intimate space; it can barely hold 30 people. The food is great and more oriented towards other cultures. I nod my head and slowly sway to the entrancing music.



DEREJE BELACHEW/ALAMY STOCK PHOTO



HALU WIDMERT TSEBAKE/SHUTTERSTOCK.COM

Top: African Union Hall
Above: Yekatit 12 Monument
Below: Traditional coffee ceremony
Opposite page: Injera basket
Opposite page, below: Beef tibs



GRANT ROONEY/FREEMAN/ALAMY STOCK PHOTO



DAY 2: MARKETS AND MUSEUMS

After a traditional Ethiopian breakfast of tibs, with the options of pan-fried beef, goat or chicken, we're fuelled up for a day of what I've been promised is going to be a cacophony of experiences.

MERKATO MARKET

We're told this is the biggest open-air market on the African continent, employing an estimated 13,000 people and spanning several square kilometres. I'm on the hunt for several items, including authentic Ethiopian coffee and gabbis – Ethiopia's female traditional dress, white and sometimes intricately adorned



The Lion of Judah



HRENANPAPA/SHUTTERSTOCK.COM





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Left:
Shopping
in Merkato

This pic:
Colourful goods
on offer



with the green, gold and red of the Ethiopian flag.

A trip to Merkato needs to be undertaken in the company of a knowledgeable local, otherwise you could easily get lost in the maze of shops. You also risk getting floored by an unseen oncoming porter with a load heavier than them on their back. A guide can also help you haggle over prices and act as a translator – most Ethiopians only communicate in Amharic.

After the stimulating visit to Merkato, we visited the National Museum of Ethiopia, which houses some of the world's most significant human fossils, as well as the first car ever driven in the country – by Emperor Haile Selassie I, of course.

ETHNOLOGICAL MUSEUM

In 1960, a group of mutineers plotted a coup against Haile Selassie I's government while he was away on official duty in Brazil. The intention was to depose him

and place his eldest son on the throne. After four days, the plot was crushed. The Emperor, in his anger, decided against living in the palace ever again. He donated it to the University of Addis Ababa in whose stewardship it remains.

The Ethnological Museum brings visitors through a magnificent gate, Brandenburg-esque. Inside are the quarters of the Emperor, his military regalia displayed in glass cases. Under a layer of clear plastic, his bed is preserved, complete with teal-coloured bedding. His pet lion, embalmed in its roaring state, is also on view. The halls of the museum also display Ethiopia's rich historic culture, including relics dating as far back as the Kingdom of Aksum complete with ancient texts and weapons of war.

MARTYRS' MEMORIAL MUSEUM

A tall sculpture of three women deep in mourning at the entrance is a precursor to what one expects to see inside. The gold plaque at the monument's



feet is a vow by, and to, the Ethiopian people – NEVER, EVER AGAIN. In 1977, Mengistu Haile Mariam launched Qey Shibir, the Red Terror, a purge of those opposed to his government, including Ethiopia's sharpest minds and intellectuals.

Beyond the three women, a sombre mood engulfs visitors to this poignant site where Mengistu's reign of terror is vividly portrayed.

AFRICA HALL

This is the first ever conference facility built on the continent and has been the home of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa. In 1963, it became the home of the African Union, formerly the Organization of

African Unity. Designed by Arturo Mezzedimi and funded by the Ethiopian state, Africa Hall stands as a symbol of Africa's then defiance in the face of colonialism.

YOD ABYSSINIA RESTAURANT

On a bed of injera, lentil sauces rich in spice, as well as meat, are served at this excellent restaurant. You should also try the traditional brew, tej, whose potency I've been warned about. Cultural dances are also performed. At one point, a young woman takes to the stage, vigorously swinging to the beat of drums. As if in a trance, she whips her head round and round. I learn the dance is called the Shoa Oromo, performed by women of the Oromo community. The drums keep playing but it's time for me to leave...



Getting around

Unlike the rest of East Africa where two-wheeled motorised transport is prevalent, Addis has managed to stave off this trend, which leads to a tranquil metropolis. There are trains that cut through the city, high above on concrete 'stilts', and an equally orderly looking bus service. However, I'd recommend using a cab-hailing app for your to and fro in this dynamic capital. 📱







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Guess where...

Originating in the northeast of this destination country, Makonde art is known for its elaborate wood carvings. Those of women's heads (as above) represent the progenitor and are highly spiritual, offering protection through journeys, hardships, maternity and death. Makonde sculptures are also used to educate on important societal issues. But in which capital city on Kenya Airways' network are we?

 TURN TO PAGE 80 FOR THE ANSWER

KQ contents

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82 BUCKET LIST

Mumbai, India

FLIGHT SCHEDULE
NAIROBI TO MAPUTO

DAY	FLIGHT NO.	DEPART	ARRIVE
Wed, Fri, Sun	KQ740	0950hrs	1300hrs

MAPUTO TO NAIROBI

DAY	FLIGHT NO.	DEPART	ARRIVE
Wed, Fri, Sun	KQ741	1350hrs	1845hrs

ALL LOCAL TIMES



KIM HAUGHTON/ALAMY STOCK PHOTO

BACK TO MAPUTO

KQ RELAUNCHES SERVICE TO MOZAMBIQUE

Kenya Airways has resumed direct flights between Nairobi and Maputo flying three times weekly, on Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays.

The relaunch of flights to the Mozambique capital will enable the airline to enhance intra-Africa connectivity – a key driver of economic growth, trading



Below: KQ's executive leadership pose for a group photo alongside key guests ahead of the Maputo flight launch ceremony
Above: Skateboarding in front of the Cathedral of Nossa Senhora da Conceição, Maputo



opportunities and business expansions among local and intercontinental economies.

The new route complements KQ's existing service to Nampula, in northern Mozambique, further solidifying its regional presence.

"Today's launch is a tangible testament to KQ's remarkable progress and the exciting future ahead," said Allan Kilavuka, KQ's group managing director and CEO. "As we unveil our 45th destination, Maputo, we mark a major milestone in our network expansion journey."

The route forms part of KQ's broader network strategy for 2024, which also boasts increased frequencies to popular destinations, including New York, Paris, Lagos, Accra and Freetown.

"Aviation is critical to boosting national GDPs by creating jobs and fostering economic activity," Kilavuka added.

"The increased intra-African travel will act as a catalyst for economic development across the continent. Our passion lies in fostering connections across the continent, making trade and travel between our nations more accessible than ever before."

Also speaking at the launch event, Julius Thairu, KQ's chief commercial and customer officer, said: "The demand for air travel is soaring, and we're determined to meet it by expanding our reach and fostering connections between Africa's rich cultures and thriving economies. Adding Maputo to our network... opens doors for increased trade, tourism and cultural exchange."

As well as being a major trade hub for southern Africa, Maputo attracts visitors with its history and culture, vibrant markets, a flourishing art scene and pristine beaches.

KILAVUKA RECEIVES LEADERSHIP AWARD

AFRICAN AVIATION MAGAZINE HONOURS KQ'S CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Kenya Airways' group managing director and CEO Allan Kilavuka has been honoured with the 2024 African Aviation Leadership Award. Established by *African Aviation* magazine in 1999, this prestigious award recognises individuals, companies and organisations that have made significant contributions to the development of aviation in Africa. On presenting the award, Nick Fadugba FRAeS, CEO of African Aviation Services, said: "This award highlights Allan's exceptional leadership, visionary approach and dedication to advancing the aviation industry across the continent. His innovative strategies and commitment to excellence have set new benchmarks in the industry, inspiring peers and driving significant progress." Expressing his appreciation, Kilavuka said: "I am deeply honoured to receive the prestigious African Aviation Leadership Award.

This accolade reflects the dedication and passion of the entire Kenya Airways team. It highlights our commitment to excellence, innovation and enhancing connectivity across our continent."

Left: Kenya Airways group MD and CEO Allan Kilavuka was recognised for his 'visionary approach and dedication to advancing the aviation industry'



AWARDS SEASON

KQ ACCOLADES FOR SERVICE, SAFETY AND E-COMMERCE

Kenya Airways secured the Best Airline Staff Service in Africa trophy at the 2024 World Airline Awards. Hosted by Skytrax, the international air transport rating organisation, the World Airline Awards are known as the 'Oscars of the aviation industry'.

Allan Kilavuka, KQ's group MD and CEO, expressed his gratitude for the recognition, saying: "This achievement is a testament to the unwavering dedication and exceptional service demonstrated by our team members each day.

"Receiving the Best Airline Staff Service in Africa award serves as significant motivation for us to continue striving for excellence in service delivery and passenger satisfaction."

The airline also received recognition at the Kenya eCommerce Awards, which recognise excellence in online retail industries across the country, where KQ scooped both the Best Air Ticketing Platform – Gold Award and the Best Travel & Hospitality eCommerce Website – Silver Award.

Meanwhile, KQ's Mombasa station picked up the service award at the recent National Safety Awards; a testament to the airline's unwavering commitment to safety.



Above: Ruth Mayaka, regional manager, Domestic (left), and Joan Bisonga, quality manager AOC, Operations, receive the National Safety Award
 Left: Sales manager Tom Reeves, along with flight crew Beatrice Chepkorir and Francisca Kibulo, collect the Best Airline Staff Service in Africa award
 Below: KQ's digital team picks up the coveted Kenya eCommerce trophy



AGM REVIEW

LAST YEAR MARKED A 'PIVOTAL MOMENT' FOR KENYA AIRWAYS, SAYS CHAIR

At Kenya Airways' recent annual general meeting, chair Michael Joseph said the company had made significant strides in its business operations throughout the year, reflected by a much improved financial performance. Joseph noted 2023 marked a pivotal moment for the airline.

"The ongoing recovery and strategic turnaround initiatives have resulted in KQ achieving an operating profit of Ksh10.5bn (US\$81m)," he said. "This milestone is particularly significant as it marks the first time in over seven years that the airline has attained such a level of financial success, signalling

a positive trajectory for Kenya Airways' future."

Allan Kilavuka, group MD and CEO, emphasised the airline's commitment to building upon the achievements of its turnaround strategy, Project Kifaru, with a primary focus on completing the capital restructuring plan. The plan's objectives include reducing the company's financial leverage and enhancing liquidity to ensure normalised operations.

"Through the retirement of legacy debts, strengthening of financial foundations and pursuit of operational excellence, recapitalisation will position Kenya Airways to thrive in a

"The ongoing recovery and strategic turnaround initiatives have resulted in KQ achieving an operating profit of Ksh10.5bn (US\$81m)... a positive trajectory for KQ's future"

competitive and dynamic aviation landscape," he said.

"Our key priorities also include enhancing customer experience and operational excellence, particularly improving our on-time performance. We aim to drive revenue growth by expanding operations, passenger charters and partnerships, while remaining steadfast in fostering innovation, forging partnerships and nurturing a culture of excellence for KQ's sustainable success."



Above left to right: Hellen Mathuka, CFO; Michael Joseph, chair; Allan Kilavuka, group MD and CEO; and Habil Waswani, company secretary

NEW CARGO ROUTE

Eldoret International Airport has roared back to life with cargo transport after an eight-month hiatus. The timing was perfect for the entry into service of KQ's second Boeing 737-800 freighter. KQ Cargo now operates twice-weekly between Sharjah and Eldoret, providing a weekly 40-ton capacity, with a plan to introduce a third frequency in September. KQ's head of Cargo Commercial Peter Musola said the expansion was part of its broader strategy to increase its footprint by connecting key e-commerce hubs in Asia and the Middle East with Africa. The move will also benefit the automotive, health and electronics segments.





Right and below:
Asante Rewards' 100,000th member Navalayo Osembo and her family with the KQ Team at Nairobi's Jomo Kenyatta International Airport

Asante Rewards: rewarding loyalty

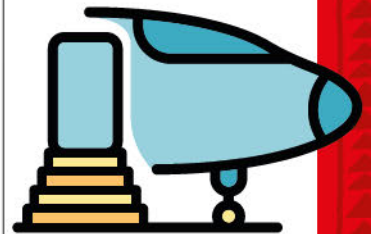
In June, Kenya Airways celebrated its 100,000th Asante Rewards member, Navalayo Osembo, who was flying with her family from New York to Nairobi, where she was given a warm Karibu Service reception, led by our head of Passenger Services, John Nalinya. In recognition of this milestone and to celebrate the loyalty programme's first anniversary, KQ is waiving service booking fees for Asante members until 30 November. If you are not already a member, you can enroll at asante.kenya-airways.com.



DID YOU KNOW?

AIRCRAFT DOORS CAN'T BE OPENED DURING A FLIGHT

The high cabin pressure creates a significant force against the door, making it physically impossible to open. Additionally, they are designed as 'plug-type' doors that fit tightly into the frame, and safety mechanisms and regulations ensure they remain securely shut while the plane is airborne.



CELEBRATING WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

On 5 June, KQ celebrated World Environment Day with a series of activities. The celebrations kicked off with a tree-planting event at CITAM Kiserian, supporting the goal of planting 2 billion trees across Africa by 2030. Additionally, the Fahari Aviation team demonstrated the use of drones for environmental monitoring. The team also visited Olteyani, Kajiado

County, where they donated beehives to the local school and community to promote biodiversity and support sustainable livelihoods. The day ended with a treasure hunt and a Reclaim the Forest ceremony, underscoring KQ's commitment to environmental stewardship and sustainability. For more on how KQ is promoting sustainability, turn to p72.

SUSTAINABILITY: TRASH TO TREASURE

In the dynamic landscape of African aviation, Kenya Airways stands tall as a beacon of sustainable innovation and progress. At the forefront of this pioneering spirit is the KQ Upcycling Studio, highlighting the airline's commitment to sustainability and its forward-looking vision.

By upcycling industrial waste, the airline is tackling two critical issues: reducing environmental impact and addressing social inequalities. Through this initiative, it is not only diverting waste from landfills but also creating opportunities for local communities who make the



products – particularly women, youth and the underprivileged.

The vision of the KQ Upcycling Studio is clear: to transform waste into valuable resources. By upcycling, it is not just giving materials a second life, it is breathing new life into communities. This isn't just about sustainability, though, it is about resilience and adaptation to a changing climate.

Instead of following a linear model of take-make-dispose, Kenya Airways is embracing a circular approach. Materials are continuously reused, repurposed and recycled, closing the loop on waste and maximising resource efficiency.

When it comes to waste management, the importance of responsible stewardship cannot be overstated. As Grace Vihenda, who heads Innovation and Sustainability at Kenya Airways, puts it: "Waste is not just a problem to be solved, it's an opportunity for innovation."








LET YOUR
DREAMS
BE YOUR
WINGS

These words encapsulate the ethos of the upcycling studio, where waste is seen as a potential resource waiting to be unlocked.

The list of what is being upcycled is as diverse as it is impressive. From old aircraft parts transformed into furniture to discarded uniforms repurposed into stylish accessories, nothing goes to waste, demonstrating the power of creativity and innovation. The eclectic range of finished items includes lighting fixtures, bags, vases, art, laptop stands, chairs and clocks, among others.

Led by Sinaida Azina, the KQ Upcycling Studio is more than just a creative endeavour – it's a symbol of hope and progress. By upcycling waste, the studio is not just transforming materials, it is transforming lives and shaping a better tomorrow.



PLANE SIGHT		No. OF PLANES	SEATS	SEAT PITCH	CRUISING SPEED	RANGE	MAX. TAKE-OFF WEIGHT
	Boeing 787 Dreamliner	9	Premier: 30 Economy: 204	Premier: 75" Economy: 32"	Mach 0.85 (1050kmh)	14,500km	227,930kg
	Boeing 737-800	8	Premier: 16 Economy: 129	Premier: 47" Economy: 32"	Mach 0.78 (963kmh)	5665km	79,015kg
	Embraer 190	13	Premier: 12 Economy: 84	Premier: 38" Economy: 31"	Mach 0.82 (1013kmh)	2935km	51,800kg
	Boeing 737-300F	2	N/A	N/A	Mach 0.745 (920kmh)	2200km	62,822kg
	Boeing 737-800F	2	N/A	N/A	Mach 0.789 (974kmh)	3695km	79,000



Above: Sinaida Azina, sustainable designer leading the KQ Upcycling Studio


Left: Vases and decorations made from wine bottles sourced from Kenya Airways lounges

Right: Wall hangings crafted from cargo pallets and metal parts repurposed from old aircraft

FUEL CAPACITY (LITRES)	THRUST PER ENGINE	WING SPAN	LENGTH	HEIGHT
126,903	69,800lb	60.1m	56.7m	16.9m
26,020	26,300lb	34.3m	39.5m	12.5m
16,153	18,820lb	28.72m	36.24m	10.57m
20,124	22,000lb	28.9m	32.2m	11.1m
26,025	24,000-27,000lb	35.8m	38m	12.54m

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Kenya Airways
routes



JOURNEY TIME FROM NAIROBI TO:

Abidjan	5hrs 54min	Kinshasa	3hrs 20min
Accra	5hrs 26min	Kisumu	49min
Addis Ababa	1hr 51min	Lagos	5hrs 0min
Amsterdam	8hrs 20min	Lilongwe	2hrs 10min
Antananarivo	3hrs 8min	Livingstone	3hrs 4min
Bangui	3hrs 1min	London	8hrs 31min
Bangkok	8hrs 59min	Lubumbashi	2hrs 18min
Bujumbura	1hr 31min	Lusaka	2hrs 37min
Cape Town	5hrs 18min	Maputo	3hrs 54min
Dakar	7hrs 47min	Mauritius	4hrs 8min
Dar es Salaam	1hr 16min	Mogadishu	1hr 41mins
Douala	4hrs 7min	Mombasa	59min
Dubai	4hrs 40min	Monrovia	6hrs 45min
Dzaoudzi	2hrs 20min	Moroni	2hrs 4min
Eldoret	48min	Mumbai	5hrs 49min
Entebbe	1hr 6min	Nampula	2hrs 19min
Freetown	7hrs 10min	Ndola	2hrs 21min
Guangzhou	10hrs 43min	New York	14hrs 26min
Harare	2hrs 47min	Paris	8hrs 7min
Johannesburg	3hrs 54min	Seychelles	2hrs 58min
Juba	1hr 33min	Victoria Falls	3hrs 6min
Kigali	1hr 23min	Zanzibar	1hr 12min
Kilimanjaro	46min		

SOURCE: AIRMILES CALCULATOR.COM; DESTINATIONS AS AT 15 JULY 2024

Three places to visit

Celebrating the destinations that Kenya Airways flies to...



FRANTICO/Shutterstock.com

DUBAI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

The City of Gold, so called for its gold souks – one of the busiest such markets in the world – has changed beyond recognition over recent years. Its place at the forefront of modernity is perhaps epitomised by its, well, futuristic-looking Museum of the Future, which takes visitors on a journey to what's possible.

IR STONE/Shutterstock.com



THE HIGH POINT

At 828m high, Dubai's Burj Khalifa is the world's tallest building. But did you know its design is inspired by the Spider Lily, a regional desert flower?



International routes

Domestic routes

Regional routes



HARARE, ZIMBABWE

Declared a national monument in 1994, the Chiremba balancing rocks, in Epworth, a few kilometres from Harare city centre, are a geological phenomenon. The gravity-defying rocks also feature on Zimbabwe's bank notes.

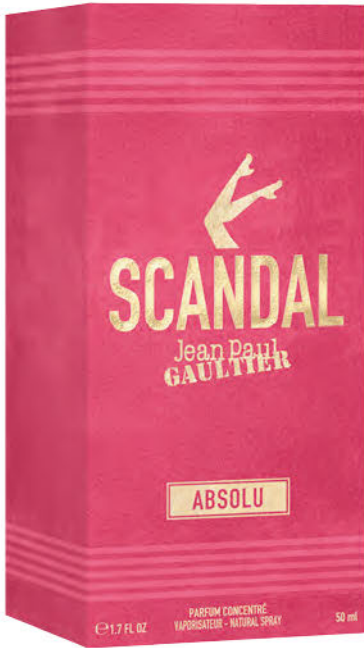


KIGALI, RWANDA

Travel 100km west of Kigali to Lake Kivu. Here, you'll find Nyamunini Island – also known as Napoleon's Hat – home to thousands of fruit bats. Rent a kayak or small boat to reach the island, then hike 30 minutes to its peak for incredible views and a closer look at its flying foxes.



THE BOLD AND THE BEAUTIFUL
FRAGRANCES, WATCHES, MAKE-UP AND MORE



FRAGRANCES

JEAN PAUL GAULTIER SCANDAL ABSOLU

Eau de Parfum 50ml

A scandal absolu is setting Parisian nights aflame. Bare legs send a shiver of scandalous anticipation rippling across the dance floor. Its intense, ambery chypre fragrance teases and titillates the senses. Oh, so decadent. Oh, so daring!

FRAGRANCE NOTES:

Amber chypre



\$105



BUY HIS & HERS SCANDAL ABSOLU, SAVE \$15

JEAN PAUL GAULTIER SCANDAL ABSOLU POUR HOMME

Eau de Parfum 50ml

Meet the new king of the night: magnetic Scandal Absolu Pour Homme and its wildly free, sensual spirit. Its lacquered golden bottle encloses a bold elixir in which intense gourmand woody accords fill the air with indecent opulence. It is even said that its woody scent is one you will never tire of. The scandal is only getting started.

FRAGRANCE NOTES:

Woody gourmand

TRAVEL EXCLUSIVE:

L'ORÉAL MAKE-UP SET

Get that bold Parisian, chic red look from L'Oréal Paris. Mega Volume 24H collagen mascara achieves 15 times more impact. Enriched with collagen biospheres and black booster pigments, it gives you breathtaking, individual, lash-by-lash extreme volume with no clumping. Create a simple or dramatic liner with Paradise Le Khol in black. The easy application eyeliner glides over the eyelid and is formulated with 100% natural-origin ingredients for long-lasting results. Dress lips with

Colour Riche Satin Lipstick Red Passion 297. Packed with pure pigments for vivid colour and enriched with oils for hydration and comfort, it will leave your lips soft, smooth and hydrated.



\$99

WATCHES

SEKONDA HIS AND HERS TWO-TONE WATCH SET

It's a power match! The men's watch fastens with a two-tone gold- and silver-coloured stainless-steel bracelet and features a round two-tone alloy case with a black sunray dial. The ladies' watch has an elegant, silver-coloured sunray dial with a black outer minute track and gold-coloured UPMR batons at all positions. Both watches feature a date display and are water-resistant to 50m.

TWO-YEAR GUARANTEE

RRP \$189
SAVE \$90



\$45

FOR THE SPORTS FANS

REFLEX ACTIVE SPORT PLUS WIRELESS EARBUDS

Your ultimate companion for immersive sound, uninterrupted calls and seamless connectivity. Reflex Active Sport earbuds provide audio clarity, shielding you from the hustle and bustle of the world while you stay focused on your music or calls. Along with an impressive five-hour calling time, they boast an innovative auto-connect feature that effortlessly pairs the earbuds with your device as soon as you remove them from the charging case. This means you can transition from your daily routine to musical euphoria or productive calls without missing a beat. Whether you're hitting the gym, commuting or just unwinding, they blend impeccable sound quality, seamless connectivity and comfortable design to elevate your audio experience to new heights.



FOR THE KIDS

DISNEY BARBIE LED WATCH

Treat your Barbie fan with this fun and fashionable LED watch with light-up display, date feature and fun printed strap design. Packaged in official branded packaging.

\$15



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HOLLYWOOD NEW RELEASES



GODZILLA x KONG: THE NEW EMPIRE

Action-adventure

Directed by Adam Wingard, the latest installment in the MonsterVerse franchise – a sequel to 2021's *Godzilla vs. Kong* – features an epic battle between the reptilian monster and the colossal ape, while humans uncover their interconnected origins and their link to the mysteries of Skull Island. Kong and Godzilla face their most dangerous threat yet, emerging from the treacherous Hollow Earth. This peril not only tests their existence but also poses a grave danger to humanity.



CHALLENGERS

Comedy-drama

Two professional tennis players, who were once best friends, become estranged when a woman comes between them. Years later, they meet on the court again. One is now a grand slam winner nearing retirement, while the other is washed-up and has been just looking to make ends meet. With its captivating love triangle and intriguing tennis twist, *Challengers* brings three lifelong acquaintances together, culminating in a high-stakes pro tennis match. The stellar performances of Zendaya, Mike Faist and Josh O'Connor add to the allure of this cinematic masterpiece.



THE MINISTRY OF UNGENTLEMANLY WARFARE

Action-drama

Inspired by true events, the movie tells the story of the first-ever special forces organisation formed during World War II by UK Prime Minister Winston Churchill and a small group of military officials, including James Bond author Ian Fleming. Co-written and directed by Guy Ritchie, it features a stellar cast led by Henry Cavill, Eiza González and Alan Ritchson, ensuring a thrilling cinematic experience for history buffs and action enthusiasts alike.





INTERNATIONAL MOVIES



DRISHYAM 2 (Bollywood)
Directed by Abhishek Pathak, *Drishyam 2* is the gripping story of Vijay, patriarch of the Salgaonkar family, who must save his loved ones from the horrors of the traumatic events that shook them seven years ago. Just like the original, it unfolds extraordinary, thrilling events throughout, keeping viewers on the edge of their seats. The remarkable cast includes Ajay Devgn, Tabu, Akshaye Khanna, Shriya Saran, Saurabh Shukla and Ishita Dutta.



FOUR DAUGHTERS (French)
This documentary, directed by Kaouther Ben Hania, follows the story of a Tunisian mum of four daughters, who tragically loses her two eldest to ISIS. Centring around the real-life horror and tragedy of the mother, the film also scored Hania her second Oscar nomination – the first Arab woman to achieve this feat.



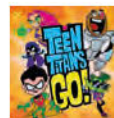
BOB HEARTS ABISHOLA

Created by Chuck Lorre (*The Big Bang Theory*), *Bob Hearts Abishola* follows Bob, a successful businessman, who falls for his Nigerian nurse, Abishola, after suffering a mild heart attack. The comedy is openly cultured with hilarious shots and looks to break down the prejudice barrier. With five seasons under its belt, the CBS sitcom is a perfect watch on stressful days.



EAST NEW YORK

This US procedural series encompasses the daily lives of police officers and detectives in the Brooklyn neighbourhood of East New York. The precinct is led by Regina Haywood, who finds it difficult to work with colleagues who do not want to follow her atypical rules. The show deals with everyday problems, giving a more realistic approach to the storyline.



TEEN TITANS GO!

Residing in Jump City, the animated TV series follows a group of teen titans – Beast Boy, Robin, Cyborg, Raven and Starfire – who like to fight crime in the city. But when they decide to stop, things don't go to plan. Despite the crime-fighting plot, the show is more parodic and filled with jokes suitable for children.



PLANET EARTH - SEASON 3

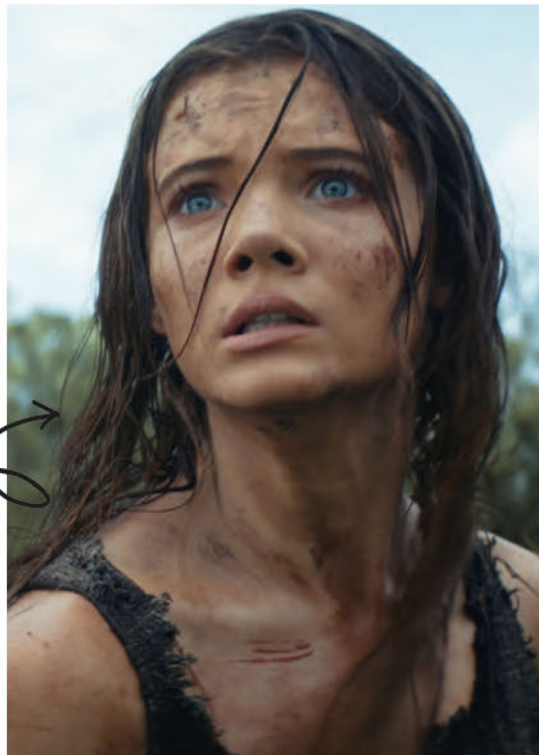
The third chapter of the BBC documentary nature series covers how volcanoes, mountains and other natural phenomena are interconnected. Filmed over five years, it takes Sir David Attenborough on an exciting journey of discovering the ever-changing habitats of the world.



KINGDOM OF THE PLANET OF THE APES

Action-

adventure-drama
Directed by Wes Ball, *Kingdom of the Planet of the Apes* is a captivating addition to the rebooted franchise. Set 300 years after Caesar's demise, the story follows a young ape who undertakes a journey that challenges his beliefs about the past and leads him to make decisions that will shape the future for both apes and humans. Meanwhile, a new tyrannical ape leader is determined to access human technology to consolidate his power, and the young ape's journey becomes a crucial moment in the struggle between the two species.





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Guess where answer (from page 67): **Maputo, Mozambique**

There is much to enjoy in Kenya Airways' newest destination, including the Iron House designed in the style of Gustave Eiffel (he of the tower in Paris fame), Central Market (where you'll find Makonde art among many other items), Heroes Square, museums aplenty, numerous pristine beaches and some lively nightlife. ➔ For more information about flights to Maputo, go to www.kenya-airways.com

COMBATING HUMAN TRAFFICKING

PRIOR TO THE WORLD DAY AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS (TIP) ON 30 JULY, *MSAFIRI* CHATTED WITH ADELAIDE AMARO, KQ'S CHAMPION OF THE STAND AGAINST TIP

Tell us about Kenya Airways' commitment to combating human trafficking.

KQ has zero-tolerance for human trafficking and smuggling of migrants and has in place a fully endorsed TIP policy. It embodies our unwavering commitment to ethical business practices and protecting human rights.

On 6 March 2023, in collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, KQ officially launched its TIP policy to outline our stand and action plan against human trafficking. The public launch of the policy stands as a testament to our collective determination as an airline to help eradicate this nefarious trade.

Through stringent standards, enhanced screening procedures and rigorous training Kenya Airways has become a crucial ally to the government of Kenya to disrupt the operations of traffickers and safeguard the victims of this heinous crime.

What prompted KQ to become a leader in this fight?

Beyond the moral imperative, the decision was driven by our commitment to corporate social responsibility, work ethics in all our business dealings and the recognition of the airline industry's unique position in this global issue. We recognise



the considerable moral and economic harm of human trafficking in our communities and nation, and that bringing a greater awareness to this problem will help victims.

I am proud to state that Kenya Airways has been recognised by esteemed bodies such as the International Organization for Migration, International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and the International Air Transport Association (IATA) for its exemplary leadership in combating human trafficking.

What training do staff receive?

Aviation is a regulated sector with an intricate legal framework. To align with IATA and ICAO recommended practices on combating human trafficking, our training programme equips pilots, cabin crew, ground personnel and

customer service agents with the knowledge and tools to identify and report suspected cases of human trafficking.

The training includes recognising physical and behavioural indicators, understanding the response protocols and knowing how to collaborate with law enforcement agencies. This training is mandatory for all staff and is regularly updated.

What protocols are in place to report suspected human trafficking cases?

Reporting cases involves specific protocols that staff need to follow to ensure proper handling and legal compliance.

These are designed to protect the victim, maintain confidentiality and ensure the authorities are notified.

For example, cabin crew are trained to report to the pilot-in-command, who in turn relays the information to the station manager, ground staff or agency responsible for assistance. Upon arrival, the responsibility is transferred to the authorities in the destination state.

How can passengers help?

Passengers can significantly contribute to the fight by being vigilant, informed and proactive. If they suspect anyone on their flight might be a trafficker and victim, report it to the cabin crew discreetly.

We also run awareness campaigns through *msafiri* magazine, deliver educative on-board announcements and will provide informational materials during flights. Also, look out for a mini-documentary featuring KQ's CEO on our socials.

This collective vigilance significantly enhances our efforts to detect and prevent trafficking.



EXPLORE THE KANHERI CAVES

Mumbai has plenty of must-see sights, from the fairy-tale landmark hotel of the Taj Mahal Palace to the exuberant Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj train station. But once you've finished delving into the city, escape north to Sanjay Gandhi National Park – a peaceful forest reserve that's home to deer, monkeys and the occasional leopard.

Here you'll also find the Kanheri Caves – a Buddhist complex of over 100 caves dating from as far back as 2000 years ago. Hewn from basalt, they shelter giant, serene Buddhist statues and huge halls lined by pillars and carved with intricate reliefs and inscriptions.



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