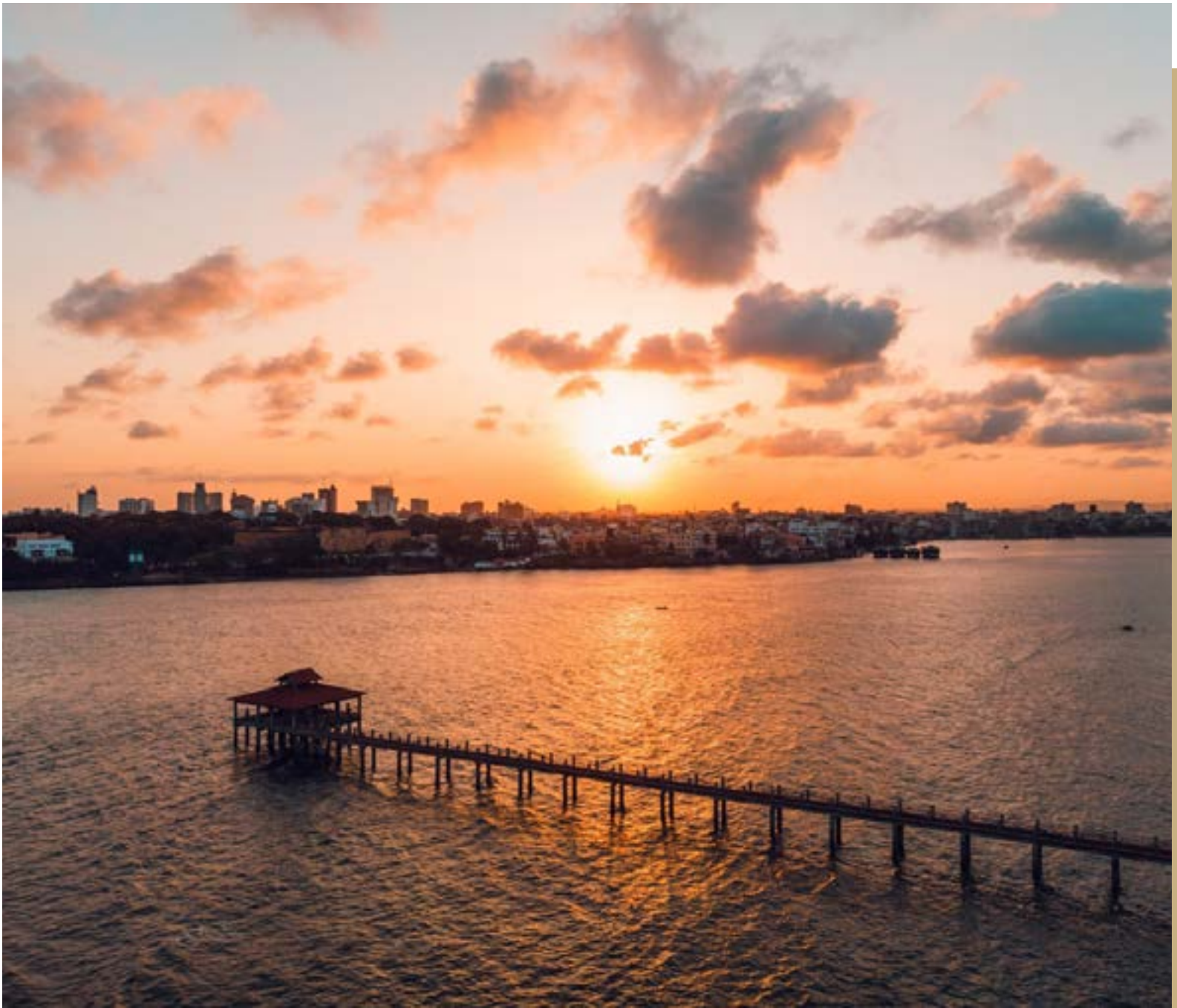


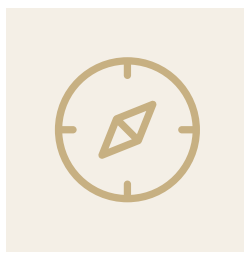
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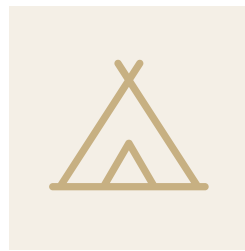
GETTING TO
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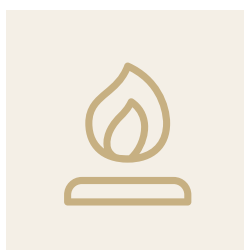
CONSERVATION
WORK



WHERE TO
STAY



GOOD TO
KNOW



EVENTS

A NOTE FROM THE CEO



This message shares exciting news about a partnership between Safarilink and Nomad Africa – a collaboration that promises to be a remarkable opportunity to showcase our unique destinations and provide an enriching experience for our valued customers.

The content Nomad Africa features will be focused on Safarilink's destinations, presenting captivating stories, insider tips, and breath-taking visuals that truly capture the essence of each location. This will undoubtedly serve as a valuable resource for our customers, inspiring them to explore new horizons and make unforgettable memories.

This partnership signifies a significant step forward for Safarilink, aligning our brand with a prestigious publication like Nomad Africa. It offers us a platform to strengthen our presence in the industry, reach a wider audience, and elevate the perception of our brand as a trusted provider of exceptional travel experiences.

I am confident that this partnership with Nomad Africa will open new avenues for growth, increase brand awareness, and inspire countless travelers to embark on incredible journeys with Safarilink.

Thank you once again for your unyielding support.

ALEX AVEDI

Chief Executive Officer, Safarilink

WHY MOMBASA

The oldest city in Kenya is a delightful fusion of traditional charm and modern allure, fondly referred to as “Mombasa Raha” (literally meaning Mombasa Joy), the city is truly a “place of bliss”. From the ancient ruins steeped in history to the bustling markets filled with the aroma of exotic spices, Mombasa is a city filled with rich histories.

Its original Arabic name is Manbasa, while in Swahili it is called Kisiwa Cha Mvita (or Mvita for short), meaning “Island of War”, due to the many wars for ownership by invaders. The city is a mixture of African, Persian, Arab, Portuguese and British influences, shown largely by the architecture of the town’s grand houses, monuments and mosques.

Mombasa is separated from the mainland by two creeks – Tudor Creek and Kilindini Harbour. It is connected to the mainland to the north by the Nyali Bridge, to the south by the Likoni Ferry and to the west by the Makupa Causeway.



GETTING TO MOMBASA

Air

Moi International Airport is the second busiest and biggest in Kenya after Jomo Kenyatta International Airport, serving both local and international flights. It is set in Port Reitz, built during the Second World War by the Engineer Corps of the South African Army.

Train

The Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) connects Mombasa to Nairobi, and takes about 5 and half hours. They currently have 3 running train schedules:

- 8am - 2pm (this is an intercounty train and will drop off passengers at all the train stops)
- 3pm - 8pm (this is an express train and does not make any stops)
- 10pm - 3:30am (this is also an express train and does not make any stops)



Road

Using Mombasa Road from Nairobi, driving to Mombasa is approximately 440 km or 270 miles from the capital. It will take you roughly 8 to 9 hours depending on the traffic at the Mariakani weighbridge, and the number of trucks on the predominantly single-lane carriageway!

Kenya Ferry Services

There is no bridge between Mombasa Island and Kenya's south coast so for this reason, the distance is served by ferries from Kilindini and Mtongwe to Likoni. Those who have taken this ferry before will be pleased to hear that the government of Kenya is making plans to buy new ferries to replace the old ones currently in operation, likewise, the move is to cater for the increased population that has been recorded in Likoni and the south coast in general.



THINGS TO DO IN MOMBASA



TOUR MOMBASA OLD TOWN

Mombasa Old Town is reminiscent of the days when the Arabs and Asians exerted a heavy influence on the town and its culture, especially in the architecture and the Kiswahili language. In fact, in most of Kenya, Kiswahili has been “butchered” with English, but on the coast, and in Mombasa Old Town especially, Kiswahili is still spoken in its truest form.

Ancient buildings, extravagant art designs, and antique shops characterise the town, particularly the walk through the alleys from the Mackinnon Road Market to Fort Jesus takes you through many wooden carved doors, a testament to the city’s Persian and Omani influence.

FORT JESUS

Still in Old Town, pop into Fort Jesus, a historic landmark built by the Portuguese in 1593 and designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The fort was held at different points by the Portuguese, the Omanis and the British, and given the travails it suffered, remains remarkably well preserved. Wander along the battlements or head towards the building housing the drawings of Portuguese sailors in the early 17th Century.



In the central exhibit hall, salvaged items from the Santo Antonio de Tanna shipwreck, sunk in 1697 during the siege of Portuguese-held Fort Jesus by Omani Arabs, are on display, ranging from ornate crockery to belt buckles and a fish-shaped pin case.

If you happen to be in Mombasa from Thursday to Sunday then you must experience the Fort Jesus Sound and Light Show where they tell the history of Mombasa and Fort Jesus. These 60-minute shows usually end with a display of fireworks.

BAMBURI NATURE TRAILS- HALLER PARK

This is the largest animal sanctuary in Mombasa. This thriving coastal forest was once a barren limestone quarry from years of mining and its success is largely due to Rene Haller, an agro forester who since the 1970s has been the force behind its transformation.



The Forest/Nature Trails began as a “one million tree project” in 1986 and has four routes for cycling, jogging, walking and general fitness. A 3.6 km leisurely walk takes you through the lush forest, tiny lakes and streams, palm grooves and plantations of indigenous trees. The integrated wetland system is an interesting feature and animals such as giraffes, antelopes, herds of eland and oryx can be seen.

MAMBA VILLAGE



This is East Africa’s largest crocodile farm and a visit starts with a film on the life cycle and behaviour of crocodiles followed by a tour of the crocodile-ville and ending with the highlight of the day: a spectacular scene of blood-thirsty crocodiles in a frenzy during feeding time.

BOMBOLULU WORKSHOP AND CULTURAL CENTRE

This is a project of the Association for the Physically Disabled in Kenya (APDK). Bombolulu has a cultural centre with eight traditional homesteads which run a traditional restaurant and entertain guests with traditional dances during their visit. The centre serves as an educational space where visitors can learn about the cultures of indigenous communities in Kenya with a showcase of how communities used to live here. It is also used as a venue for different art and cultural events. Bombulu workshop is open to donations, with proceeds helping facilitate various activities such as the production of wheelchairs that usually goes on at the centre. Other than that, you can get beautiful pieces made by the artisans such as jewellery, bags and wood carvings.



MOMBASA RABAI MUSEUM

Established in 1846 by Dr Ludwig Krapf as the first church edifice in Kenya, Rabai is where Christianity and modern learning in Kenya started. A phenomenal linguist, Ludwig (a German) learned Kiswahili within weeks of landing in Mombasa and translated the first bible into Kiswahili. He then set up a base for freed slaves in Rabai. Take a walk in time and learn about the interesting museum that chronicles the history of Rabai and Dr Krapf. The tour also includes a walk in the sacred Kaya forest of the Mijikenda people and a stop at the church.



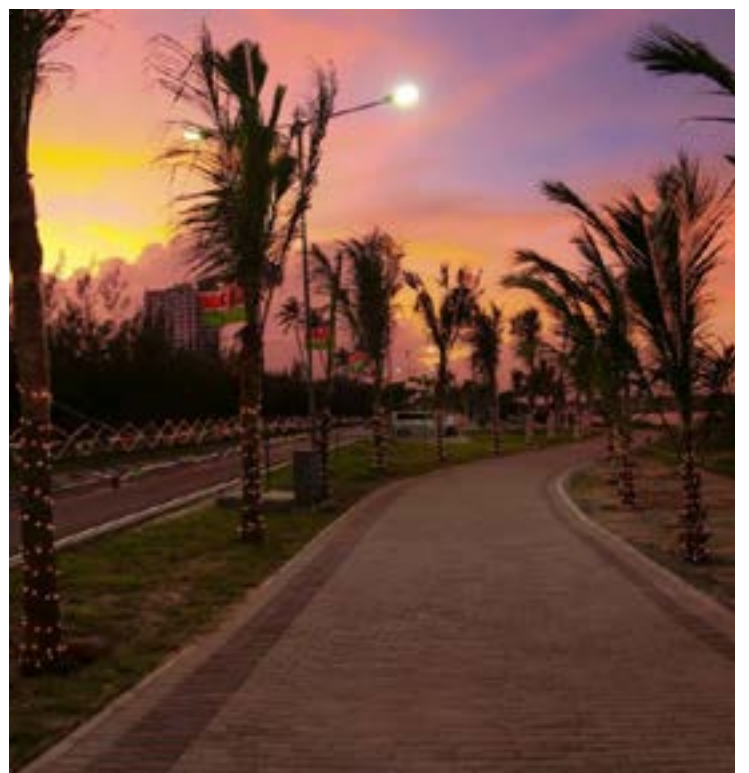
JUMBA LA MTWANA



This 13th-century abandoned Swahili settlement 20 km north of Mombasa town is like all early coastal settlements... it's on the seashore. Besides a picnic site and a beautiful, private beach perfect for swimming, it boasts magnificent ruins of ancient homes and a mosque with carved niches and arched doorways.

MAMA NGINA WATERFRONT

A hub of relaxation by the sea, there are various things to try out at Mama Ngina Waterfront. Enjoy a taste of muhogo (cassava) as well as cassava crisps. Get Ethiopian coffee by the sea and enjoy coconut water that is sold in abundance. There's also a Chinese restaurant further down the street as well as various ice cream trucks that are there. There's face painting and horse riding for children as well.



STUDIO BELABELA

Located in Bamburi, this community studio and art space offers itself to the community by hosting various cultural happenings in Mombasa. On the first Saturday of every month, they invite Sanaa Kivulini which translates into “Art under a shade” which is a monthly get-together for anyone up for a paint and sip session, and sometimes live acoustic sessions as well as art lessons for kids.



CYCLING AT BUTTERFLY PAVILLION



Located in Bamburi, Butterfly Pavilion, also known as Forest Trails, features a 10km trail in the forest where you get to ride bicycles, surrounded by various species of butterflies. You can also spot wild animals grazing or drinking from the various scenic ponds.

WILD WATERS

With a variety of water slides, every visitor in Mombasa makes a stop at Wild Waters. The rides are built for all ages ranging from short rides to long thrilling rides. The water park is great for a day out as a family. They are usually open from Tuesday to Sunday from 10am to 6pm.



CONSERVATION WORK

MARINE CONSERVATION

One of the most critical aspects of conservation work in Mombasa revolves around protecting its marine ecosystems. With the Indian Ocean as its lifeblood, the city hosts a diverse array of marine life, including coral reefs, seagrass beds, and vibrant fish species. Organisations such as the Mombasa Marine National Park and the Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute (KMFRI) work tirelessly to preserve these vital habitats through coral reef monitoring, marine patrols, and public awareness campaigns. By advocating sustainable fishing practices and combating illegal fishing activities, these efforts aim to restore and maintain the health of Mombasa's marine ecosystems.

MANGROVE REFORESTATION

Mangroves serve as natural barriers against coastal erosion, storm surges, and rising sea levels, making them an indispensable component of Mombasa's ecological resilience. To counteract the rapid decline of mangroves due to deforestation and human impact, conservationists have embarked on mangrove reforestation initiatives. Collaborating with local communities, organisations like WWF Kenya, Nature Kenya and the Mombasa Coastal Wildlife Trust have successfully planted thousands of mangrove saplings along the coastline, helping to restore these critical ecosystems and safeguarding the habitats of various marine species.

WASTE MANAGEMENT

Geocycle Kenya operates as the waste management division of Bamburi Cement, the largest manufacturer of cement in Eastern Africa, with its cement plant in Mombasa being the second largest cement plant in sub-Saharan Africa. This partnership empowers Bamburi to deliver eco-conscious waste management solutions to both industries and municipalities. The disposal of waste is efficiently managed using co-processing technology within Bamburi Cement's kilns. This acclaimed and environmentally friendly technology ensures sustainable waste management, earning global recognition for its positive impact on the environment.

BEACH CLEANUPS

Beach cleanups are another way to combat the growing problem of marine pollution and safeguard our coastal ecosystems. As plastic waste, debris, and other pollutants continue to plague our oceans, many beach clean-ups in Mombasa are volunteer-driven initiatives. Some environmental organisations, local communities, and concerned individuals, often organise regular cleanups such as at Mombasa Beach and the Jomo Kenyatta Public Beach, also known as Pirate's Beach.

SHOPPING IN MOMBASA

OLD TOWN MARKETS

The charm of Mombasa's Old Town lies in the bustling markets that beckon you with an array of treasures. Meander through the narrow streets lined with age-old buildings and discover an assortment of age-old antiques, colourful textiles, intricately designed jewellery, and aromatic spices. The Marikiti Market overflows with a huge variety of spices such as saffron, clothing such as deras (loosely fitting kaftans), fresh produce, seafood, and exotic fruits. Embrace the rich Swahili culture as you haggle with friendly vendors for unique souvenirs and local delicacies.

CITY MALL

For a modern shopping experience, head to the City Mall, Mombasa's premier shopping centre. The mall houses an extensive range of retail outlets, featuring renowned international brands, fashion boutiques, and electronic stores. The mall also offers entertainment options such as a cinema and a variety of restaurants to satisfy your cravings.

BIASHARA STREET/MWEMBE TAYARI

Located in the heart of Mombasa's bustling commercial district, Biashara Street is a haven for bargain hunters and street shoppers. Here, you'll find an assortment of budget-friendly goods, from clothing and accessories to household items and electronics. The street is always abuzz with activity, and skilled vendors entice visitors with a wide range of products at competitive prices. Be prepared to embrace your negotiating skills and uncover fantastic deals on every corner.

DIGO ROAD SHOPPING CENTER

Stroll through this shopping centre's vibrant stalls, brimming with vibrant fabrics, traditional handicrafts, and spices that exemplify the coastal culture. This market is known for its friendly atmosphere and warm hospitality, making it an excellent place to pick up unique mementoes.





WHERE TO EAT

LOCAL KIBANDA/STREET FOOD EXPERIENCE

For an authentic experience, try out the street food! You will find many vibandas serving local swahili cuisine such as Viazzi karai, bhajia, bhajia za kihindi, matobosha, vitumbua, kaimati, mbaazi ya nazi na mahamri. It is never a Mombasa trip without trying the signature pilau and biriani as well as wali wa nazi na samaki wa kupaka, shawarma and chapati kima.

FORODHANI RESTAURANT

A quaint waterfront spot that is ideal for a leisurely lunch. The dining terrace overlooks Mombasa's northern channel – with trade ships from Zanzibar moored at the Old Port just a few metres away. It's one of the more pocket-friendly places to eat especially if you are craving seafood!

THE 19TH: GOLF RANGE AND BAR

If you're looking for somewhere to spend an afternoon in Mombasa, visit The 19th, an outdoor bar and golf range. They have a rustic aesthetic complete with a golf driving range as well as garden and table games. The 19th is a family-friendly establishment and offers you stunning sea views, especially of the sunset and a breathtaking view of Mombasa Old Town. They occasionally host events including a Meet and Grill (Koroga) and stand-up comedy.

If you want to, you can bring your own clubs or hire (the balls are on hire by the bucket). You can also enjoy the paint and sip sessions which are every Saturday and Sunday as well as tabletop barbeque where you can self-cook.

TAMARIND DHOW AND RESTAURANT

Have lunch on a dhow while taking a cruise around Mombasa Old Town. The lunchtime cruise departs from the Tamambo Jetty at 1pm, and cruises serenely up the Tudor Creek to a secluded spot where the dhow moors. Lunch consists of a delicious Tamarind seafood platter or a prime Kenyan fillet steak followed by a fresh tropical fruit salad and rounded off with Kenyan Coffee and halwa. The dhow returns to the jetty at 3pm.

KIJANI BEACH BISTRO

The sound of the sea waves will first welcome you to Kijani Beach Bistro, a seafront restaurant in Nyali. Kijani offers a lovely place to work, unwind or hang out with friends and the menu is quite diverse. The entrance is quite beautiful and there is a mini playground area for kids. Take a walk along the private beach or enjoy your meal by the lounge beds on the beach shore.

ROBERTO'S ITALIAN RESTAURANT

Craving pizza, pasta or gelato? Roberto's Italian Restaurant will hit just the spot! Roberto's offers the finest Italian cuisine in Mombasa and is a must-try when you're in Nyali.

JHAZI COFFEE HOUSE

Serving up some authentic Swahili cuisine, Jahazi Coffee House is a nice place to unwind when you're in Mombasa's Old Town. Don't miss the chance to savour their spiced, Turkish, or Swahili coffee, a perfect companion to your culinary journey. Beyond the culinary delights, Jahazi showcases the beauty of Swahili architecture, adding to the overall ambience and making your experience even more enchanting.

BLUE ROOM

It is Mombasa town's most famous restaurant, having been in existence since 1952. Having started as a bistro serving exceptional tea, bhajias and their signature ice cream, Blue Room has evolved into a popular all dining café.

KURRY KINGDOM

Kurry Kingdom is a culinary haven nestled in the heart of Nyali, where you can embark on a delectable journey through Mughlai, Punjabi, and Indian cuisine. Step into an inviting ambience, complete with elegant decor and warm hospitality. Pro-tip: You can call for a reservation as the restaurant gets a bit full during the evening.



WHERE TO STAY

If you're in Mombasa, then stay at English Point Marina.
Or, for just a short ride away, go to Diani beach and stay at:



Lala Galu



Sands At Nomad



Lazy Days




Dzumbe



Kinondo Kwetu

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GOOD TO KNOW

Mombasa is ideal for visiting at any time of the year.

Weather - Mombasa experiences warm weather throughout most of the year, with some seasonal changes. December to February features hot and humid weather with March to May signalling rainy weather. June to August sees cooler temperatures with scattered showers while September through November is typically windy yet warm and sunny.



EVENTS

MOMBASA TRIATHLON



Locals and foreigners alike participate in this exciting sporting event. Held in September, the triathlon includes swimming, cycling and running. The 1.5km swim in the Indian Ocean is the first leg, followed by a 40km cycling route, and finished off with running through the streets of Mombasa.

MOMBASA CARNIVAL

This annual festival takes place every November. It is the biggest and most engaging festival in Kenya and is organised by the Ministry of Tourism. Crowds gather to witness local Kenyan dances and musicals. Local bands perform open concerts, and many stalls offer crafts, foods, and various items to fully express the Kenyan culture. Different cultural characters and influences float on parades and offer their Kenyan interpretations into their art. The carnival revolves around two parades that converge on Moi Avenue. One can also buy various local crafts at the festival venue.



EID CELEBRATIONS



Eid Ul Fitr; the Festival of Fast Breaking is celebrated by Muslims worldwide, and in Mombasa, it's a field day in Markiti (marketplace) and in the streets of Old Town during the night. Families go on a night spree shopping for Eid, the streets are filled with lights, and eager shop vendors have bargains of the year for the Abayas (the black dress for women) and the Kanzu (white robes for men). Old Town is filled with an aroma of barbecued mishkakis and chicken tikka as the street food market comes alive with so many coastal cuisines lined up to fulfil your taste buds. Kids go on a Trick or Treat mission as it's customary to keep a pack of sweets or change in coins for the kids who come visiting. The men pay their respect to the dead by visiting the graveyards and the women go on a social catching up chat as they get ready for lunch, which in most households would be either Biryani or Pilau.

WORLD KISWAHILI LANGUAGE DAY

Often taking place at Fort Jesus and at the Swahili Cultural Center, the event involves various cultural celebrations spread out over a three-day period in July. Visitors get to sample various Swahili cuisine and get Henna paintings.



NOMAD

A F R I C A

Nomad Africa is a premier travel company committed to a more respectful, conscious, and uplifting way of travel. Blending luxury and adventure, we specialize in crafting unique journeys that provide unmatched access to East Africa.

Led by a passionate group of intrepid female explorers on a mission to find unique hidden gems and create lasting impact through travel, our team shares a common vision of showcasing the wonders of East Africa, providing customers with exceptional service, personalized attention, and a passion for travel that is unparalleled.

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