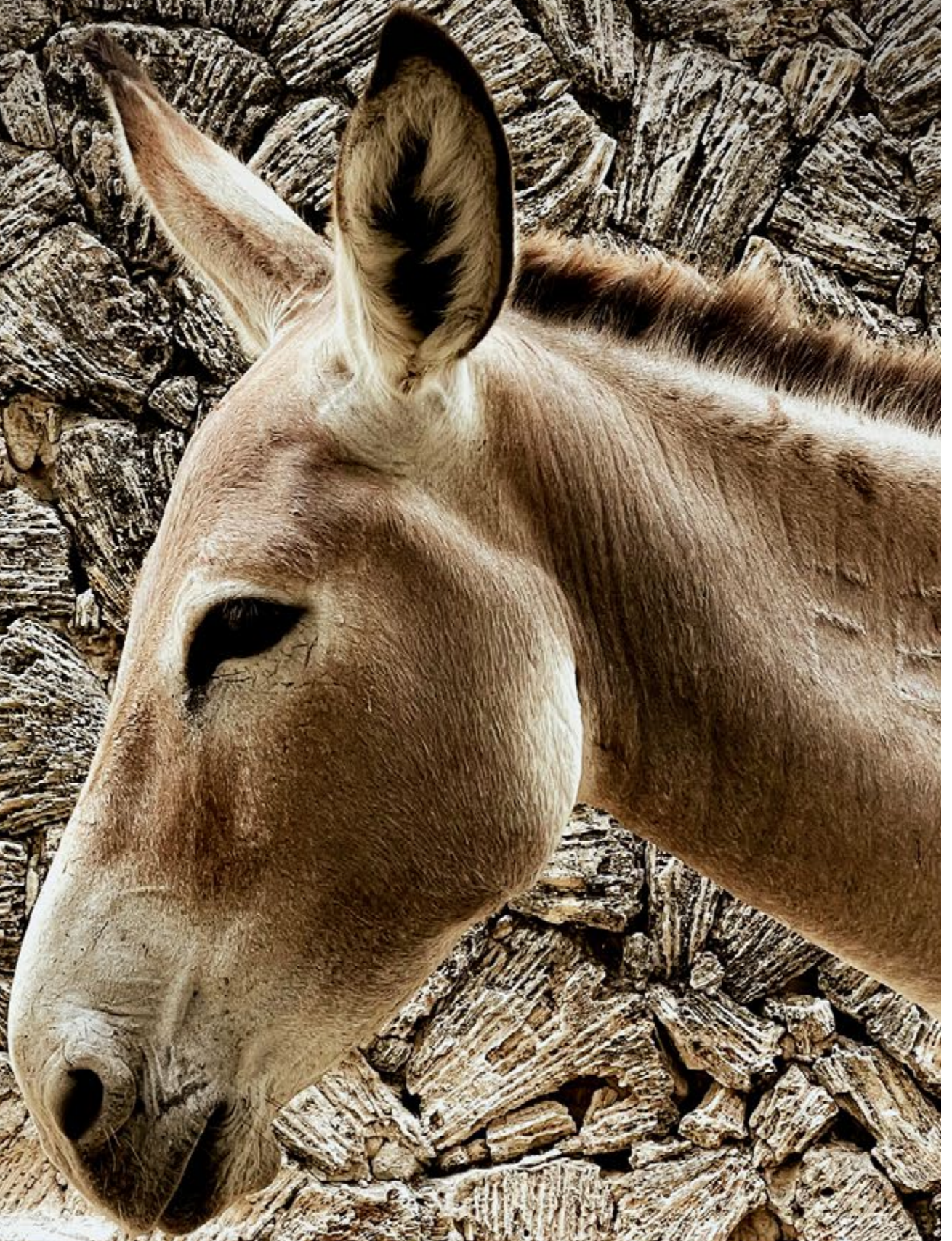


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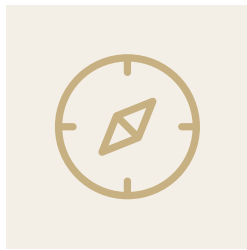
LAMU



Safarilink



DESTINATION
INTRO



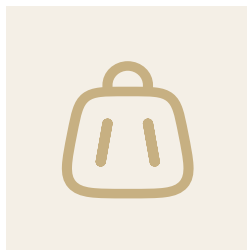
GETTING
TO LAMU



THINGS
TO DO



CONSERVATION
WORK



SHOPPING IN
LAMU



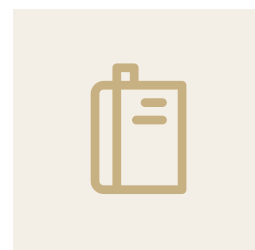
WHERE TO
EAT



PLACES TO
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EVENTS



GOOD TO
KNOW

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

LAMU INTRO

Arguably the most unique place on the Kenyan coast, and affectionately referred to as 'Lamu Tamu' (sweet Lamu), this island is full of old-world charm with pristine white beaches, narrow alleyways, and historic buildings that date back centuries. If you're looking for a peaceful getaway, Lamu is the perfect place.

Arriving on Lamu Island is like stepping back in time. Cars aren't allowed on the island, making donkeys the main form of transportation, along with boats and motorbikes. Dating back to the 14th Century, Lamu town is a UNESCO World Heritage protected site, making it one of the best preserved Swahili settlements in Africa. Visitors can experience a unique lens into the 700-year-old inhabited island that was once a bustling economic and cultural hub and still maintains its traditions and culture today.



GETTING TO LAMU

The easiest way of getting to Lamu is by plane. You can fly to Lamu Airport from Nairobi, or Malindi. A short flight later, you'll be landing at the Manda Airstrip. From there a 5-minute walk takes you to the jetty where you'll hop onto a small boat to Lamu Town, Manda, or Shela - the main destinations on the island.

We'd recommend you pre-book your boat and 'Captain'.



THINGS TO DO IN LAMU



DHOW CRUISE

Taking a dhow cruise in Lamu is a must-do activity for anyone visiting the island. A dhow is a traditional sailing vessel that has been used for centuries along the East African coast.

You can choose to go on a sunset cruise or a full-day excursion that includes a stop at one of the nearby islands. As you sail along the coast, you'll have the opportunity to see the island from a different perspective, with stunning views of the ocean and the surrounding landscape.

TOUR OF LAMU OLD TOWN

Lamu Old Town (a UNESCO World Heritage site) is the oldest settlement on the East African coast and maintains much of its culture and heritage. To walk through its narrow, winding streets is to step back centuries in time. Behind high coral stone walls and elaborately carved wooden doors are houses built in the traditional style with inner courtyards and rooftop lounges.



LAMU MUSEUM AND LAMU FORT

The Lamu Museum and Lamu Fort are close together and worth visiting at the same time to get a better understanding of Lamu town. The museum hosts several exhibits about the history and culture of the people. The fort is a three-minute walk from the museum and an iconic landmark with a rich history.

DONKEY SANCTUARY

An affiliate of Donkey Sanctuary UK, Donkey Sanctuary Kenya is a charity specializing in the welfare of donkeys. The Sanctuary works with many partners including donkey owners, communities, and the government to ensure the well-being of donkeys.



TAKWA RUINS

Lovers of history and culture will enjoy the Takwa Ruins on the southeast side of Manda Island. This old abandoned trading town dates back to the 15th century and is accessed by a 30-minute boat ride from Lamu town, passing through mangrove-line waterways. Now a monument under the National Museums of Kenya, it is open to visitors. A guided tour gives you insight into the history, culture, and architecture of ancient East African coastal settlements.



BEACH WALKS

Going for a beach walk in Lamu, especially in Shela, is an excellent way to explore the island's coastline. Walking along the beach is a peaceful and tranquil experience where you can see the fishermen at work, and interact with the friendly locals. If you're lucky, Ali will be walking the beach at the same time offering you his delicious homemade samosas - a must-have!

YOGA

The island's natural beauty and tranquil atmosphere make it the perfect place to practice yoga and meditation. Banana House is a popular yoga spot as they have their own studio with 3 classes a day. But if you're a true yogi fan - make sure to plan your trip around the Lamu Yoga Festival!



WATER SPORTS

Directly on the beach of Shela, you can easily enjoy all the water-based activities available during your holiday: swimming, sailing, diving, water skiing, windsurfing, wakeboarding, kite surfing, and fishing... Speak to us at Nomad, or to your accommodation hosts to organize what you'd like to do.

MATONDONI VILLAGE

Located 30 minutes away by boat, this traditional dhow building site is an incredible place to visit and watch how these magnificent boats are constructed. Whilst there, watch the local traditional weavers who make unique straw mats from palm leaves and ropes from coconut.



CONSERVATION WORK

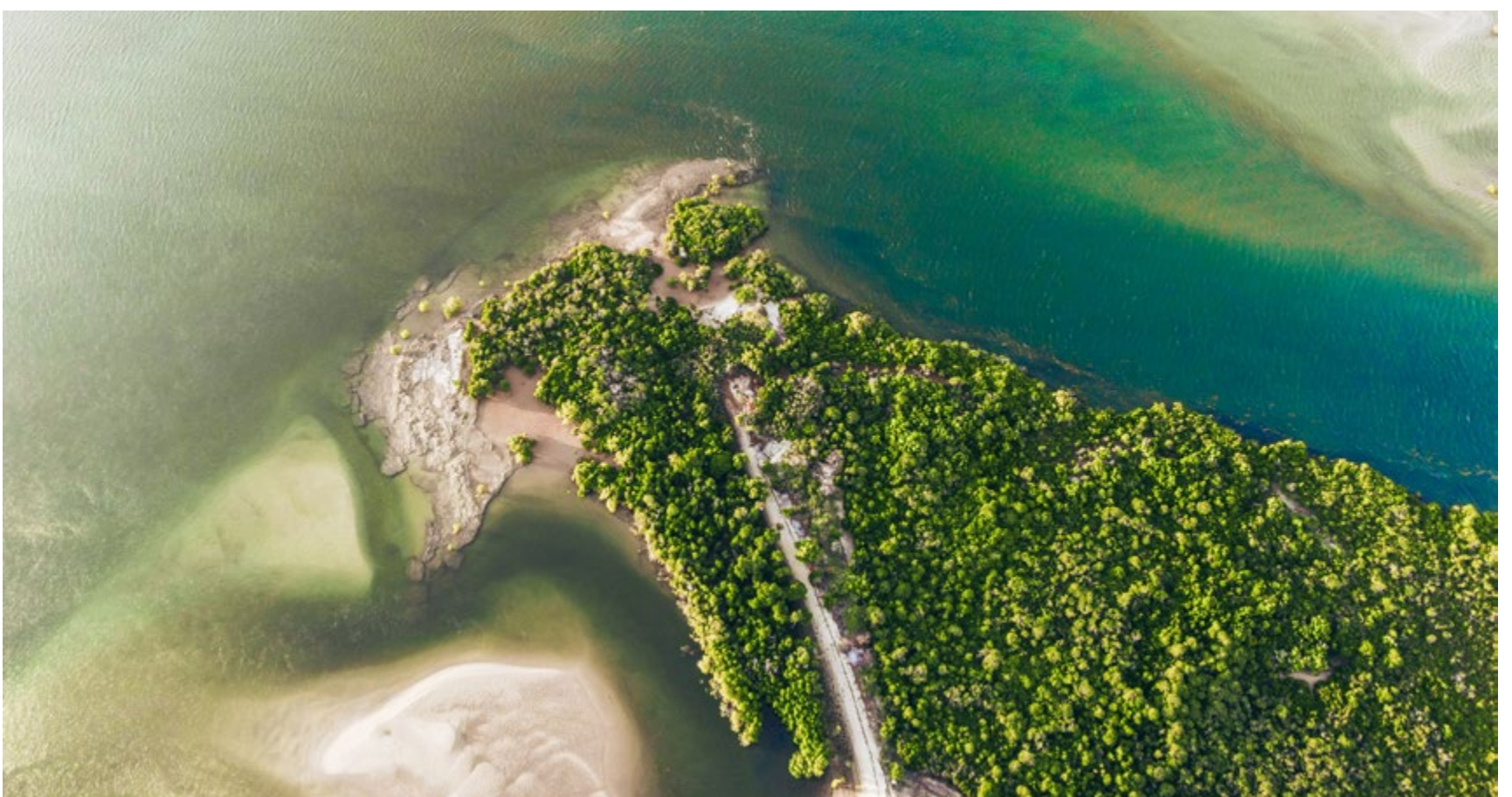
LAMU MARINE CONSERVATION TRUST

The Lamu Marine Conservation Trust (set up in 1992 due to rapid declines in sea turtle numbers) is a community-run organisation that protects marine life and habitats in Lamu - with a particular focus on turtles. If your time in Lamu coincides with the hatching of a nest of turtle eggs, you should definitely make some time to go and witness the baby turtles making their way toward the ocean.

You can further support them by purchasing Jua Kai swimsuits, as proceeds from the swimsuit you buy go toward sponsoring a turtle that will be tagged and then released back into the ocean.

THE FLIPFLOPI PROJECT

Plastic pollution is one of the biggest environmental problems we are facing today, and FlipFlopi is tackling this problem head-on. Flipflopi founder Ben Morison decided to use the excess plastic he saw on the beaches of Lamu to build a traditional Lamu dhow made entirely from waste plastic – with the aim to create a positive example of how single-use plastic could have a second life.



SHOPPING IN LAMU

ALI LAMU

Ali Lamu is an accessory and homeware store, originally founded by the love between Ali, a local fisherman looking for employment, and Daniella, a Swiss photographer visiting Kenya. Together they started creating bags and art from old Dhow sailcloth locally known as “tanga”.

They use old and also new sailcloths to create beautiful bags and art.



AMAN & IKENO

A small carefully considered collection of womenswear and menswear, made from hand-loomed fabrics and printed silk inspired by African textiles.



SLIM SILVER SMITH

Slim Silver Smith creates one-of-a-kind silver jewellery. His signature pieces are pendants made from remnants of Chinese porcelain, and ancient cuttings of floor tiles.



NATURAL LAMU

If you love natural products for skincare, supplements, and cooking, Natural Lamu is on the way to Slim Silver Smith and worth stopping in. Natural Lamu uses ingredients that are indigenous to the area to create natural products that serve your well-being while respecting the environment.



VISIT THE FURNITURE MAKERS

Lamu is known for intricate furniture (Lamu beds are a particular favourite) and door woodwork that's handcrafted in Lamu Town. It's mesmerizing to watch the artisans work on several corners and alleyways. Check out the wooden planks that make up the bows of the dhows in particular - beautiful craftsmanship that is characteristic of Lamu!





WHERE TO EAT

In addition to its rich history and culture, Lamu is also known for its delicious food. You can try traditional Swahili dishes such as pilau rice and coconut-based curries, or sample fresh seafood straight from the ocean.

PEPONI HOTEL RESTAURANT

Peponi Hotel, one of the oldest establishments in Lamu, has a reputation as being one of the best restaurants on the island. The menu is a mix of Swahili meals, seafood, and Asian and European cuisine. The veranda seating under a big awning overlooking the bay and docked boats is a particularly romantic spot for a meal.

Must try: camembert samosa, crab claws, and their fish curry!

FLOATING BAR AND RESTAURANT

A truly original place and a must-try spot. This thatched-roof restaurant in the middle of the ocean has multiple seating areas and is open daily from morning to evening. The menu on board includes a range of freshly caught fish and seafood as well as local dishes, accompanied by a DJ playing music in the evenings. Born and raised in Lamu, proprietor Frida adds to the vibrancy of this seaborne eatery with her warm and lively personality.

SEAFRONT CAFE

For authentic local food, try Seafront Cafe in Old Town Lamu. Located along the harbourside, this is a no-frills, family-run eatery that specializes in Swahili meals prepared from scratch. The food is tasty, the prices are pocket-friendly, and vegetarian and vegan dishes are available. No alcohol is served here because it is not part of a hotel.

KIJANI ROOFTOP

The rooftop restaurant of the Kijani Hotel, situated on the oceanfront, is a lovely spot to enjoy Swahili and international dishes. An open ambience allows the sea breeze to waft over you, with views of the activities down in the harbour and a lush garden on the other side. The Kijani curries are renowned and the beverage menu includes alcoholic drinks.

MAJLIS RESORT

The luxury Majlis Resort on Manda Island has unique architecture, an amazing art collection, and a great restaurant. The menu offers Swahili, Indian, and international dishes, with seafood purchased every day from the local fishermen. Pro tip: go to the Majlis for cocktails while you watch the sunset.

DIAMOND BEACH VILLAGE

Diamond Beach Village on Manda Island is a barefoot luxury eco-lodge also renowned for its laid-back restaurant right on the beach. Tables are laid out under thatched bandas with views of the ocean. Their tasty meals include local fresh seafood, pizzas made in a wood-fired oven, cocktails, and more. If you're there on a Thursday, join their pizza and movie night!

AL HUSSEIN HALUA CENTER

This sweet, semi-salty, gooey, snack made from sesame paste/tahini and sugar/honey is a must-try. The Halua Center makes halwa fresh so you can get a warm portion in a small cup or larger to take home.



WHERE TO STAY



Dhow House



Full Moon House



Betty's Suite



Beach House



Forodhani House



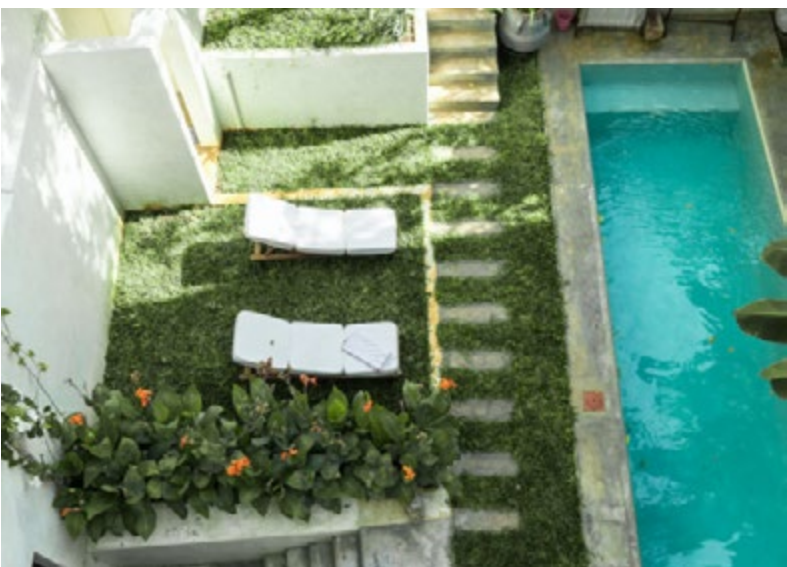
Garden House



Jahazi House



Kilamawingu



Kinooni House



Kiwandani



Mama Daktari



The Cabanas



Tusitiri Dhow

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EVENTS



LAMU YOGA FESTIVAL

Retreat, relax, and rejuvenate at the annual Lamu Yoga Festival. Held every October, this multi-day event has various yoga and meditation workshops at different locations and is open to everyone, from beginners to seasoned yoga practitioners.



LAMU CULTURAL FESTIVAL

Every November, the peaceful island comes alive during the Lamu Cultural Festival. Swahili music, poetry readings, cultural dances, boating competitions, and donkey races are some exciting activities that are featured. The festival ends with a Swahili wedding celebration and traditional dishes.



SHELA HAT CONTEST

The competition (usually held in February) aims to give locals a fun opportunity to express their ingenuity and creativity – and be rewarded for it. Since its inception, scores of enthusiastic participants have paraded on Peponi Beach to show off their extraordinary makeshift headwear.



DHOW RACES

Lamu is renowned for its dhow races that happen frequently throughout the year. During these events, the top captains and their teams gather on the shores of Shela, preparing their ship for race day and garnering support from other locals. On race day, the waters off the coast are quickly overtaken by up to 15 racing dhows, and island residents and tourists gather on the shoreline to cheer them on. Special races occur on New Year's Day, Easter Sunday, the Maulidi holiday, Eid ul-Fitr (Ramadan), and during the Lamu Cultural Festival in November.

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GOOD TO KNOW

Lamu is ideal for visiting at any time of the year. Some properties will close in May and June, so check with your Nomad concierge on availability in advance and plan accordingly.

Weather - Lamu experiences warm, balmy weather throughout most of the year, with some seasonal changes. Daytime highs range from 26C to 32C. The months of January to March are the warmest and are followed by the rainiest months from April to June which see scattered showers. December is usually very busy due to the festive season

Kenyan shillings is the main currency used in Lamu. Larger hotels and a few shops in town accept major foreign currencies, however, it is better to have some local currency on hand - the easiest being through M-PESA (a mobile phone-based money transfer service). Your Nomad Concierge can help organize a Kenyan SIM card with M-PESA for you.



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.

CONTACT US TO PLAN YOUR
TRIP OF A LIFETIME



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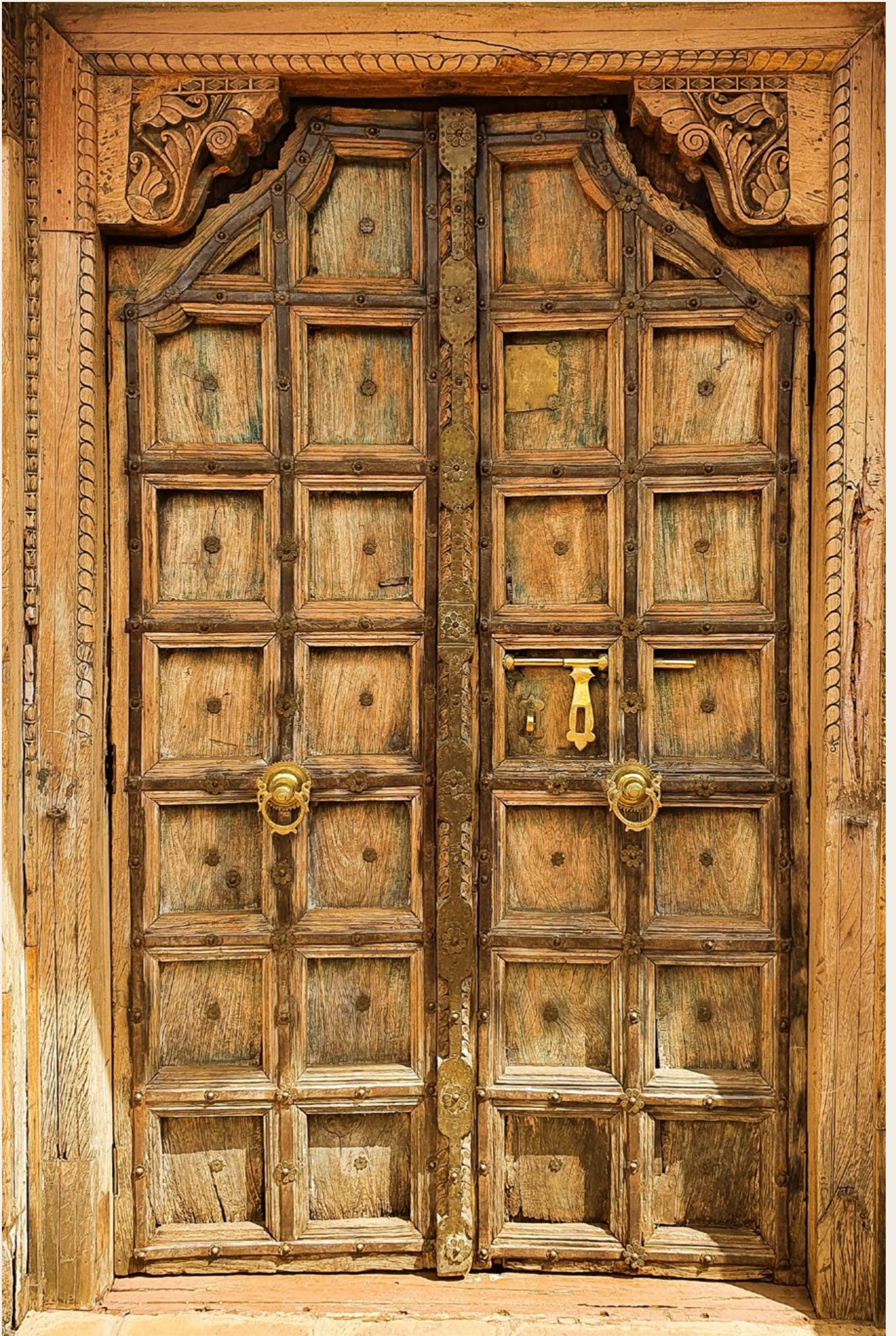


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