

VOYAGES **AFRIQ**

Issue 004| Sept - Oct 2018

Travel and Tourism Magazine



Mount Kenya *Live the Magic*

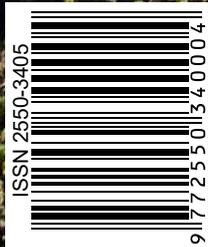
Dangote Appointed Responsible Tourism Amb.



UNWTO Eulogizes Kofi Annan



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From the Editor

EMPOWERING YOUTH AND WOMEN THROUGH TOURISM

To diversify economies, tourism holds the key. To bail out the vulnerable in society, tourism is the surest and reliable tool to employ.

In a report on Africa and its future development, the consensus was that the continent will need a definite demographic turn around if it is to realise its full potential. This is because the rate of population growth from the current 1.2 billion to the expected 2.7 billion by the middle of the current millennium i.e. 2050 will see over 50% of Africa's population below 35years. This is frightening.

This then requires drastic interventions to address youth and women unemployment and sustenance.

The current influx of migrants from Africa through dangerous adventures on the Mediterranean Sea tells it all. Both Africa and the European Union are struggling to find a solution. From the look of things, this phenomenon is not going to abate now.

A critical look at the migrant situation paints a picture of young African women and men who are frustrated by the hopeless situations in their respective countries and are defying all the odds to embark on these dangerous forays and damn the consequences.

VOYAGESAFRIQ

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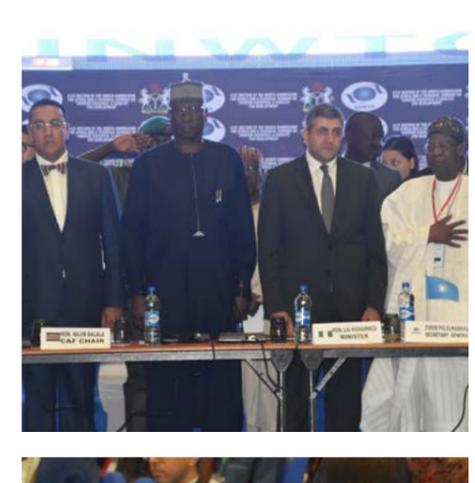


After a thrilling pre event cocktail the 61st UNWTO-CAF Session officially opened with a call on stakeholders of African tourism to commit to improving the industry in their respective countries. Ministers of Tourism from over 36 African countries and other key players in the industry converged on the Transcorp Hilton Hotel in Abuja to discuss and formulate policies aimed at primarily putting their countries at the forefront, as far as tourism is concerned. Nigeria's Minister of Information and Culture, Alhaji Lai Mohammed, who was the first to deliver his address, highlighted the crucial role of tourism in Nigeria, saying it has become an integral part of the economy of many member states. He said the government of Nigeria had also dusted up and updated the Nigerian Tourism Development Master Plan which is currently being implemented.

The UNWTO Secretary General, Zurab Pololikashvili in his address emphasized the need for strong political will to achieve the objectives and goals of tourism for respective countries. This, he believes will become a reality if combined with what he calls tourism education and financial support. Nigeria's Secretary to the Federation, Mr. Boss Gida Mustapha officially opened the event on behalf of President, Muhammadu Buhari. After successfully opening the event, Mr. Mustapha said Nigeria's government had committed about \$9 million to strengthening tourism.

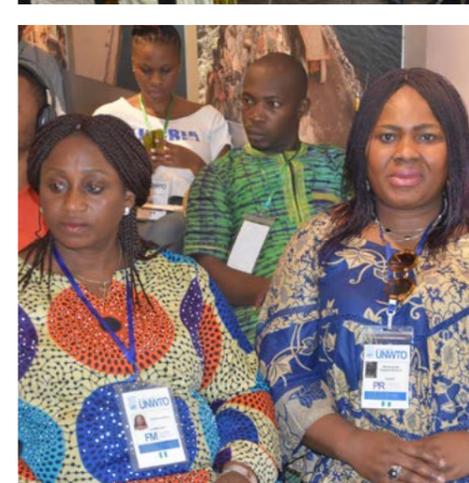
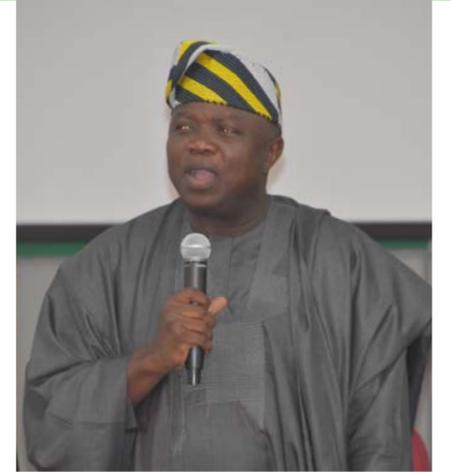
He indicated that his government will continue to support the tourism industry by investing in social programmes.

The Award for UNWTO Special Ambassador for Responsible Tourism was conferred on Alhaji Aliko Dangote by Mr. Pololikashvili for his contribution to boosting tourism in Nigeria. A special representative who received the award on behalf of Mr. Dangote expressed his appreciation and was hopeful the private sector will partner with governments in various countries to deepen tourism. The 61st UNWTO-CAF Session was held under the theme "Tourism Statistics: A Catalyst for Development"



UNWTO CAF GALA NIGHT IN PICTURES

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— UNWTO EULOGIZES KOFI ANNAN —

The United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) has commiserated with the family of Former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan who passed away in the early hours of Saturday 18th August 2018 in Switzerland.

In a message broadcast via the online platforms of the UN Tourism Agency, it acknowledged the role of Mr Annan's leadership role during the admission of UNWTO as an agency of the United Nations in 2003.

The Tweet read " We are deeply saddened to hear about the passing of former @UN SG @KofiAnnan, a great humanitarian who was instrumental in making #UNWTO a part of the UN family. Our condolences to his family and friends."

At the fifteenth General Assembly in 2003, the then World Tourism Organization (WTO) General Council and the UN agreed to establish the WTO as a specialized agency of the UN.

Tourism from then was considered on equal footing with other major activities of human society"

The UNWTO Secretary General Ambassador Zurab Pololikashvili also tweeted hours after the Agency's tweet commiserating with the family.

" With immense sadness, today we have to say goodbye to KofiAnnan , a leader who actively decided to work for the peace of our nations and a more egalitarian world. My solidarity to @Kofi Annan Foundation and his family! #RIPKofiAnnan"

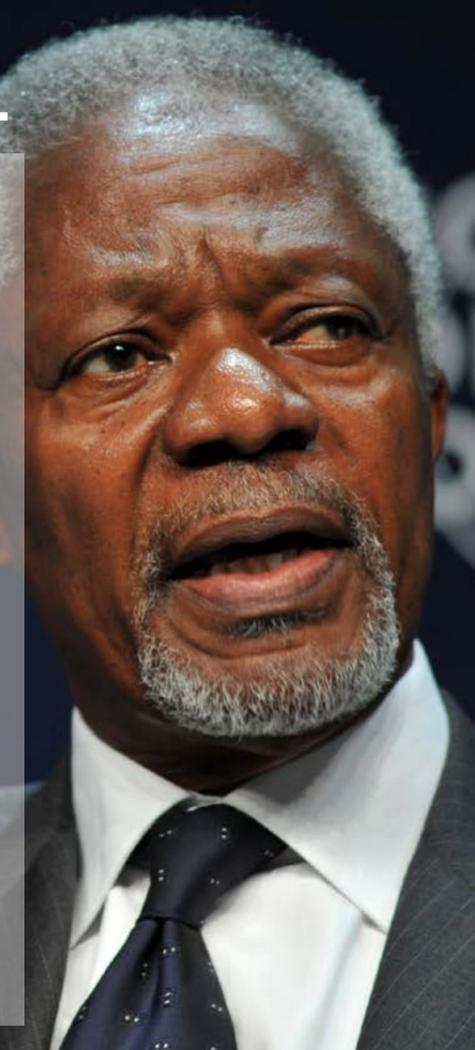
Kofi Annan was the only black African to become UN secretary-general.

The 80-year-old "passed away peacefully after a short illness", the foundation named after him said.

His home country, Ghana, declared a week of national mourning. Annan served two terms as UN chief from 1997 to 2006, and was awarded a Nobel Peace Prize for his humanitarian work.

He later served as the UN special envoy for Syria, leading efforts to find a solution to the conflict.

World leaders after the announcement of his death have taken to social media to express their condolences to the family and friends of the former UN Secretary General.



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Aliko Dangote appointed Ambassador for Responsible Tourism



(Aliko Dangote (Left) and UNWTO SG Amb Zurab Pololikashvili (Right))

UNWTO's Secretary-General, Zurab Pololikashvili, named Aliko Dangote an Ambassador for Responsible Tourism in the framework of the 61st Regional Commission meeting for Africa, celebrated in Abuja, Nigeria.

As the most successful businessmen in Africa, Aliko Dangote founded the Dangote Group 30 years ago and turned his enterprise into the largest business conglomerate in West Africa and Africa's richest man.

Mr. Dangote also set up the largest Foundation in Africa, the Dangote Foundation, devoted to providing nutrition, health and education to the continent's most vulnerable people.

"With this appointment, Mr. Dangote is added to the list of personalities named by UNWTO as Ambassadors for Responsible Tourism, whom we hope will act as messengers of our legacy and vision across the globe", said Secretary-General Pololikashvili.

SEC.GEN's Ten Priorities for Africa

AGENDA FOR AFRICA Our 10 focus areas

<p>1 NO POVERTY</p>	<p>2 ZERO HUNGER</p>	<p>3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING</p>
<p>4 QUALITY EDUCATION</p>	<p>5 GENDER EQUALITY</p>	<p>6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION</p>
<p>7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY</p>	<p>8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH</p>	<p>9 INDUSTRY INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE</p>
<p>13 CLIMATE ACTION</p>	<p>14 LIFE BELOW WATER</p>	<p>15 LIFE ON LAND</p>
<p>16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS</p>	<p>17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS</p>	<p>SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS</p>

1. Advocating the Brand Africa SDGs 8, 10, 11, 14, 15
2. Promoting Travel Facilitation (Connectivity / Visa) SDGs 8, 9
3. Strengthening Tourism Statistics Systems SDGs 8, 15, 17
4. Expanding of Capacity Building incl. Training Facilities SDGs 4, 8, 10, 17
5. Promoting Innovation and Technology SDGs 8, 9, 17
6. Fostering Resilience (Safety + Security, Crisis Communication) SDGs 8, 12, 13, 16,
7. Unlocking Growth through Investment Promotion by Public Private Partnerships SDGs 8, 9, 11, 12, 14, 15, 17
8. Empowering Youth and Women through Tourism SDGs 5, 8, 10
9. Advancing the Sustainability Agenda (esp. Biodiversity) SDGs 13, 12, 14, 15
10. Promoting Cultural Heritage SDGs 8, 16



“Accra good for Business”

- Kenneth Shore



Kenneth Shore
GM-Accra Marriott Hotel

Ghana's capital Accra, presents a lot of opportunities for businesses to thrive. The relative ease of doing business makes it a haven for investment, no matter the size.

With an ever-rising skyline and burgeoning mid-income spenders, Accra is gradually rubbing shoulders with likes Lagos, New York and Dubai.

For Kenneth Shore, the General Manager of the newly opened Accra Marriott Hotel, the city has the right mix and atmosphere for their brand to flourish.

At the time of their opening in April, President and Managing Director, Middle East and Africa, Marriott International, Alex Kyriakidis, had said "Accra is the heartbeat of Ghana, a dynamic city bustling with energy. A commercial, manufacturing, and communications center with great shopping and excellent nightlife, it makes an interesting travel destination both for business and for leisure.

The Accra Marriott Hotel will add to the city's maturing hospitality scene, inspiring guests with more forward-thinking experiences and aesthetically inspiring spaces that speak to their inventive nature."

Shore, who was speaking with VoyagesAfriq Travel Magazine, adds that prospects are enormous and Marriott will capitalize on their highly proven record as top of the range hospitality brand to meet expectations of consumers in Ghana. "I think we have a great product; our

brand is second to none in the world and Marriott stands on its merit. We've been in business for 91 years so we leverage all that brand integrity with training and human resource support and we just are going to deliver the quality that is expected of us.

The customers here have very high expectations and we want to ensure that we exceed everybody's expectation," he said.

Located right across the Kotoka International Airport, the Accra Marriott Hotel boasts of 208 rooms, 3 dining areas, a pool, 800sqm of meeting space and a state-of-the-art fitness centre. The hotel "is the number one premium business hotel in the Airport City and the wider Accra Area, providing state-of-the-art business facilities and innovative spaces, such as The Great room, allowing guests to seamlessly blend work and play.

Accra Marriott Hotel provides sophisticated spaces and experiences that keep the mind balanced, sharp and inspired, making it the ideal "Gateway to West Africa" whether on business or on leisure."

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SAROVA HOTELS TO IMMORTALISE AFRICAN HEROES OF WORLD WAR I



Willie Mwadilo-GM Sarova Salt Lick & Taita Lodge

Kenya's leading hotel chain, Sarova Hotels Group will in November this year unveil a special project aimed at immortalising African Heroes of World War I. This is in the area of Battlefield tourism which involves cemeteries, memorials and related historic sites around the world. It essentially focuses on historic battlefields strongly linked to heritage and commemoration of war veterans. Sarova is in this light advancing moves to inaugurate the historic Mwashoti Forte World War I site situated on its 28,000 hectare reserve - the same location of its Whitesands resort and other properties.

The Mwashoti Forte was built by the British Royal North Lancashire Regiment in 1915 - almost 1 year after the World War I broke out. It served as a temporary encampment with food, water and basic medical facilities for the frontline troops who were mainly Africans.

Aside from launching the site as a monument and tourist attraction facility, a wreath-laying ceremony will also be held in commemoration of the departed heroes. In an interview with VoyagesAfric Travel Magazine the General Manager of Sarova Salt Lick and Sarova Taita, Willie Mwadilo, this has become necessary because little is known about the involvement of African troops deployed during the war between 1914 and 1918, especially, within the East African area. Mr. Mwadilo also noted his outfit thus deemed it expedient enough to change this with the initiative.

"The monument will serve as a concrete reminder of the brave sons of Africa whose contribution to the great war remains unknown. We're talking about the Africans who fell during the war, some of them dying because of their encounter with animals but are not mentioned anywhere" he explained. Sarova Hotels, Kenya has taken the lead in East Africa by telling the story of such historical journey in pictures and artefacts at the museum located at Sarova Taita Hills Game Lodge. The museum has artifacts and rare documents giving historical accounts of events of the war as well as Africans and their respective roles. The museum dedicated to the war could thus be described as the starting point of Sarova's World War Battlefield tours.



Forte Mwashoti Site

Mr. Mwadilo believes that more ought to be done to remember and celebrate the African heroes of World War I. He said: "We want to tell our own story about the war which hasn't been well told. The war is unique to this area because it happened here only between Voi and Taveta and we want to highlight exactly what happened in this part of the war" "What I have been trying to emphasise is, we've not celebrated our own and we have not even talked about own story; I am talking about the African heroes, the porters and the soldiers involved in the war. And as you go everywhere, you will find war graves remembering Europeans and Indians whereas the Africans' story is not told. We don't know about them at all" he concluded.





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Pierre-Frédéric Roulot
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UNWTO SG pays working visit to Cote D'Ivoire

The United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) Secretary General Zurab Pololikashvili along with Executive Director Shangzong ZHU and Director of Africa Program Elsia Grandcourt paid a working visit to the Ivorian capital Abidjan, Cote D'Ivoire.

The 3-day working visit took the UN Tourism Boss and his team to the Mohammed Training Institute in Yopougan, Ecole Management Tourism School in Grand Bassam and also engagement with the Ivorian travel and tourism stakeholders.

The visit afforded the host Minister Siandou Fofana and his Ministry to engage the delegation on the ongoing Sublime Cote D'Ivoire tourism project and also avenues for enhancing tourism education.

The Delegation visited Vice President of the Republic of Cote D'Ivoire, Daniel Kablan Duncan and the Prime Minister, Amadou Gon Coulibaly. The two leaders of Government pledged their commitment to the development of tourism in the country.

Ambassdor Zurab Pololikashvili and his team also visited the African Development Bank and the UN resident office.

The delegation also included the Director General of CASA Africa Luis Padron.






Ethiopian Airlines Lands in Asmara after 20 years

Ethiopian Airlines, the largest Aviation Group in Africa and SKYTRAX certified Four Star Global Airline, is pleased to announce that it finalized preparations to resume daily flights to Asmara, with the most technologically advanced commercial aircraft, the Boeing 787. This follows agreements reached in Asmara between H.E. Dr. Abiy Ahmed, Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and President H.E. Isaias Afewerki of the State of Eritrea.

or and joy to resume scheduled flights to Asmara after 20 years, following the visit to Eritrea by H.E. Dr. Abiy Ahmed, Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia. With the opening of a new chapter of peace and friendship between the two sisterly countries, we look forward to starting flights to Asmara with the B787, the most technologically advanced commercial aircraft, which gives customers unparalleled on-board comfort.

The resumption of air links will play a critical role in boosting the overall political, economic, trade and people-to-people ties between the two sisterly countries.

Regarding the resumption of flights to Eritrea's capital, Group CEO, Ethiopian Airlines, Tewolde GebreMariam said: "We at Ethiopian feel an immense hon-

"Thanks to Ethiopian extensive network of more than 114 international destinations in 5 continents, our flights to Asmara will avail best connectivity options to the vast Eritrean Diaspora Community across the world and will boost the flow of investment, trade and tourism into Eritrea" the CEO added



Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (L) and Eritrean President Isaias Afwerki (R)




Abidjan to host West Africa's LARGEST AMUSEMENT PARK



Cote Divoire has initiated moves to construct West Africa's largest amusement park in its capital Abidjan.

The facility expected to open in 2022 will at its initial stages see the construction of a 3 and 4 star hotel complexes. The country's Minister for Tourism, Siandou Fofana has cut the sod for the start of the project to be sited at Port-Bouët, the south of Abidjan. Speaking at the sod-cutting ceremony, Mr Fofana revealed the park will cost 80 billion CFA Franc to be financed through Public Private Partnership. He added that the facility will cover an area of 100 hectares between coast of Port-Bouët and the city of Grand-Bassam.

United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) Secretary-General, Zurab Pololikashvili who was the Special Guest for the event hailed the initiative as one with the potential to transform Côte d'Ivoire through tourism. Mr. Pololikashvili who was on a working visit to Côte d'Ivoire from 1st to 4th July, in a bid to strengthen cooperation between the UN Tourism body and Ivory Coast also pledged his outfit's support for the project. "You can count on us," he said.

UNWTO's delegation included the Executive Director Zhu Shanzhong and Elcia Grandcourt the Director of Africa Program

For the Environment women may be our greatest Asset – Carmen Nibigira



A special report compiled by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change to be released later this year is expected to show that the global average temperature increase will exceed 1.5 degrees Celsius by 2040. The impacts of such a rise would devastate people, planet and our shared prosperity. It is yet another reminder of the peril we have placed ourselves in and is an urgent call to action.

In responding to the challenge, our first priority must be those most vulnerable. We know that our mothers and daughters are disproportionately affected by the impacts of a warming world. According to UN figures, women account for 80 percent of people displaced by climate change.

If we are to successfully address the climate and other environmental challenges, we must not see women as victims, but rather as part of the solution. Women must be provided opportunities to be involved in and lead environmental protection initiatives - from grassroots conservation to scientific research and international climate negotiations. Indeed, women may be our greatest asset in this effort.

In Rwanda, 30 percent of applications for the most recent intake with the Safari Guides Association were women. Just a few years ago, you would have been hard-pressed to find even one. As a mentor of young women in the industry, I'm pleased to see this progress. We now need men to get on board to create more inclusive and professional working

conditions for women. This is true for all environment-related fields, especially science and politics.

Given that the challenge disproportionately affects women, we need female scientists developing research to help us understand and respond to the problem. Sadly, only one quarter of the authors of the upcoming Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Report are women.

It's a similar story around the negotiation table. The average representation of women in climate negotiating bodies currently sits below 30 percent - despite research showing women in government positions are more likely to sign on to international treaties on climate action.

Even with these sobering figures, there are those blazing a trail for others. Judy Kepher-Gona, Founder of the Sustainable Travel and Tourism Agenda, is revolutionizing tourism through her work with women around protected areas in Kenya. Thanks to the leadership of Helen Lubowa from the Uganda Community Tourism Association, women are now accessing their land rights and creating meaningful jobs in rural communities. The President of the Marshall Islands, Dr Hilda Heine, is steering the global push for greater ambition on climate action. The environment ministers of Canada, Germany, South Africa, Sweden and Japan - all women - are doing the same.

These passionate environmental champions are advancing the climate agenda so that the world moves further and faster to address climate change. If we are to solve the greatest challenge humanity has faced, and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, we must build on this progress so that women take their rightful seat at the table. Experience shows us it's an investment worth making.

Carmen Nibigira is a Tourism Policy Analyst & Former Head of the East Africa Tourism Platform

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Agenda 2030

take stage at 2nd Youth in Tourism Conference in Ghana



The second edition of the Youth in Tourism Conference was held at the Labadi Beach Hotel in Accra with speakers and participants discussing the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with emphasis on the goals that have bearings on tourism and travel.

The forum, which was under the theme "Realizing the 2030 Agenda: Youth, Tourism and Innovation brought young people together to discuss ideas aimed at making the tourism industry more vibrant.

Stressing the relevance of the event in her opening remarks, Zimbabwe's Ambassador to Ghana, who was also Chairperson for the event, Mrs. Pavelyn Tenclai Musaka said "our vision is to draw attention of the youth to tourism and why they should participate in tourism related activities."

A representative from UNESCO, Tisir

Dos Santos delivered the keynote address under the theme; "The implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals."

Mr. Santos indicated that the achievement of the SDGs is key to boosting tourism in Ghana and beyond. He further challenged the youth to take up initiatives aimed at preserving the environment and rendering it more useful for tourism related activities.

The Colombian Ambassador to Ghana, Mrs. Claudia Turbay Quintero, in her address pointed out the need for tourism industry players to identify the needs of tourists and meet them.

The Youth in Tourism Conference is an initiative of the Miss Tourism Ghana Organisation which is aimed at harnessing the potentials of the youth in advancing tourism through effective stakeholder engagements and dialogue.



SEVERIN
SEA LODGE'S COASTAL
— ODESSEY —



We are a beautiful four star beach hotel located along Bamburi Beach, in the North Coast of Mombasa. Our accommodation has been designed with luxury in mind and tastefully furnished with beautiful rounded bungalows, amidst the swaying coconut palms. All rooms are refined and fitted with modern amenities offering a variety of spectacular ocean, pool and garden views. Large inter-connecting rooms are available which are ideal for families. The Severin Sea Lodge offers a multitude of activities to satisfy all needs. Enjoy our two swimming pools, various water activities/sports and the golden beach stretching as far as the eye can see. The KENBALI Wellness and fitness centre is a true oasis of tranquillity in a sublime tropical setting.

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Emirates announces A380 aircraft to Accra, Ghana for new terminal opening



The Departure Hall of the newly constructed Terminal 3

The one-off A380 flight EK787 from Dubai, will arrive at 11:35 hours and be on ground for more than six hours before it returns to Dubai as flight EK788 departing at 17:50 hours.

"We have enjoyed a close relationship with Ghana as a strategic hub to West Africa for over a decade, and are honoured to bring our flagship A380 to this vibrant city. The launch of Terminal 3 is a milestone in Ghana's aviation history and we support every effort to facilitate greater trade links, grow tourism and boost cargo to the region. Our customers are at the heart of everything we do, and our trademark A380 experience is very popular with our customers including Ghanaians who have flown on it to popular destinations like London, Beijing and Guangzhou. We take great pride in showcasing our unique products and services on this aircraft such as the Onboard Lounge and Shower Spa, to travellers between Dubai and Ghana for the first time," said Orhan Abbas, Emirates' Senior Vice President, Commercial Operations - Africa.

Emirates A380 aircraft will operate a one-off flight to Kotoka International Airport (ACC), Accra, Ghana in October as the global airline joins local authorities in celebrating the opening of the airport's new Terminal 3. The airline's flagship double-decker will become the first-ever scheduled A380 service to Ghana, with Emirates partnering with the airport to test its operations and infrastructure to accommodate an A380 service.



Derek Hanekom- Minister of Tourism-South Africa

South Africa is planning to pilot the introduction of electronic visa applications by the end of the 2018/19 financial year - in a bid to grow its tourism sector.

This implies, tourists holding visas of approved countries can electronically acquire their entry-permits to South Africa prior to their visit. This represents a paradigm shift from

South Africa to introduce E-visas

the current system where they apply at the South African High Commissions in their home countries.

The Tourism Ministry is already collaborating with the home office to accept visas from certain countries such as Schengen, USA, Canada, the UK and Australia as valid for entry into South Africa. This is because, the South African authorities believe the regulations for visa acquisition in these countries are stringent enough to satisfy their demands. The Tourism Minister, Derek Hanekom revealed these on the sidelines of the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) 61st Commission for Africa meeting in Abuja-Nigeria. He added that African countries are not excluded from taking advantage of the new e-visa regime.

Mr. Hanekom also revealed that plans are far advanced to bring visa requirements for minor travelers to South Africa in line with international best practice

He also charged his colleague ministers to work together in delivering the brand Africa project championed by the UNWTO under the leadership of Amb Zurab Pololikashvili.



RwandAir to fly to United States

RwandAir passengers can now fly to the United States after the airline received a nod by Washington that allows it to operate through a code-share agreement.

This is a significant step as the Rwanda national carrier awaits approval for direct flights between Kigali and the US. The foreign air carrier permit allows RwandAir to "only operate through a code-share and/or wet-lease arrangement with a duly authorised and properly supervised US or foreign air carrier."

The order however restricts the airline from "physically operating the flight to and from the United States." According to the order issued by the US Department of Transportation, the permit became effective on May 29, 2018.

For direct flights, the US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is expected to conduct an audit in September before Washington can give a green light.

The FAA's audit is a mandatory procedure for airlines seeking a permit to operate direct flights to the US. The airline applied for the permit in March 2017.

Credit: The East African



Jaime Alberto Cabal Sanclemente



Manuel Butler



Zhu Shanzhong



Secretary General names Management Team

The Secretary General of the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) Zurab Pololikashvili has appointed Colombian Mr. Jaime Alberto Cabal Sanclemente as his deputy.

The appointment of Mr Sanclemente and Manuel Butler as Deputy Secretary General and Executive Director respectively along with the continuity of Zhu Shanzhong has been tabled before the Executive Council of UNWTO at its 108th session held in San Sebastain, Spain.

The latest appointments forms part of Mr Pololikashvili's revision of the top level management of his Secretariat. Mr Zurab Pololishavili as stipulated by the statues of the organization submitted the above appointments to the Executive Council held in San Sebastian in Spain and was approved by the council.



The 8th Magical KENYA TRAVEL EXPO



The Kenya Tourism Board (KTB) is preparing feverishly for this year's Magical Kenya Travel Expo.

The Expo, which is the region's leading travel exhibition, is scheduled to come off from 3rd to 5th October 2018 at the Kenyatta International Conference Centre in Nairobi.

The expo is expected to bring together over one eighty (180) exhibitors and hosted buyers from twenty-five (25) countries who were selected through a stringent evaluation.

The 1500 pre-scheduled business to business (B2B) meetings between Kenyan tourism trade and travel agents from key source markets is likely to surpass the figures anticipated.

Last year's important feature was the avenue created by organizers to give participants the opportunity to patronize the beautifully made handicrafts which aimed at boosting the local economy and making Kenya part of their "take home".

Extend the charter license program to low cost and full service airlines –Jimi Kariuki



Jimi Kariuki

Tourism is Kenya's second largest source of foreign exchange after agriculture. In 2017, the industry contributed Ksh.120 billion in foreign exchange income, a 20% growth over 2016. The sector directly supports an estimated 250,000 jobs and an additional 350,000 jobs indirectly.

Kenya is a long-haul tourism destination. What this means is that the direct flight time from our main international tourism source markets to Kenya is over 6 hours. Mid-haul tourism destinations are those that are over 4 hours and up to 6 hours' direct flight time from the source market/s, and short haul tourism destinations are those that are anything less than 4 hours' direct flight time from the source market/s.

In January 2016, the Government of Kenya commenced the implementation of a Ksh.1.2 billion Charter Incentive Program (CIP). The objective for rolling out the CIP was

to support the recovery of international tourism to the Kenyan coast which has over the years been highly dependent on tourist arrivals by tourist charter flights, mainly from the United Kingdom (UK) and Europe. A tourist charter flight is an unscheduled flight that is not part of a regular airline routing. The operator/s rents the entire aircraft and can determine the departure/arrival locations and times. The focus is on holiday destinations and seats are usually booked through tour operators as part of a package. In 2014, the coast region suffered a major blow with the withdrawal of charter flights from the UK following a travel advisory imposed by the Country's Government on several resort locations including the region's main airport, Moi International Airport in Mombasa.

The CIP offers incentives to tourist charter airline operators who make a long-term commitment to bringing tourists to the Kenya coast. To qualify, the aircraft must land at Moi International Airport, Mombasa, or at Malindi Airport, as well as disembark 80% of the passengers at one of the two airports. Under the CIP, qualifying charter airlines will enjoy a waiver on landing fees, and a passenger subsidy of US\$30.00 per seat filled, both valid for a period of two-and-a-half years.

An increase in tourists would not only boost hotel occupancies and safaris tours, but also support the trickle-down effects in the region's

economies. A charter airline that operates once per week brings an average of 290 passengers and contributes approximately Ksh.1.65 billion in tourist spend. Since the launch of the Charter Incentive Program in January 2016, to-date, five charter airlines have qualified for the same.

However, tourism travel trends reveal that the tourist charter flight model is rapidly on the decline. In 2007, the segment's share of all flights was 6%. Ten years later, this share has dropped to about 3%. The scheduled airlines and low-cost airlines segments have absorbed a substantial part of the charter airlines segment market share in recent years as more people rely less on tourism agencies and plan their holidays on their own mainly through online booking channels. In response, many former charter operators have started selling individual seats as part of their transition to operating as low-cost and scheduled flights.

The CIP came to an end in June this year, but I would urge both the National Treasury and Planning, and the Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure to review the program so as to include current and potential scheduled and low-cost flights as well. The program should not be charter-centric but rather one that supports an airline growth strategy. It needs to be an Airline Incentive Program (AIP). Our national carrier, Kenya Airways (KQ), should also be

eligible to benefit from the program if they commit to meeting the AIP criteria.

I propose that the new AIP is broadened to incorporate a destination marketing support commitment with the Kenya Tourism Board (KTB), rather than only the waiver and the pay-back model. This would strengthen our destination's brand visibility as a whole in the source market, unlike the current waiver and pay-back model that is more focused on the charter flight. The joint marketing initiatives would involve KTB, the airline operator and the tour operator or travel agents' consortia. The goal would be to, through the use of digital

and other direct consumer marketing initiatives, create a buzz in the source market around our destination that drives demand which ultimately converts to sales.

The revised programme should also be expanded to cover the other two international airports in Kisumu and Eldoret. This way, the destination's tourism will be stimulated by encouraging a combination of safari, beach and adventure holiday packages. Airports in other destinations such as Malindi and Isiolo should also be equipped for growth given their close proximity to tourist attractions.

According to United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO),

55% of tourists travel to a destination by air. Over 70% of travellers to Kenya come by air. This is expected to increase in the next five to ten years as demand for travel increases and Kenya continues to become more accessible, efficient and affordable to both regional Africa and international travellers.

The Kenya Tourism Board is prepared to provide aggressive marketing support for an all-inclusive and broader airline growth program that would stimulate demand for MagicalKenya.

The Author, Jimi Kariuki is the Managing Director of Sarova Hotels in Kenya and the Board Chairman of the Kenya Tourism Board

Ghana celebrates women's contribution to Tourism



Women's contribution to the development of tourism in Ghana and Africa has been recognized and celebrated at the maiden Women in Tourism Summit in Accra, Ghana



According to the Minister of Tourism Arts and Culture, Catherine Afeku, the theme dovetails into the national agenda of empowering Ghanaian women to take up challenging tasks in all sectors of the economy, especially tourism.

Speaking at the opening session of the summit, Mrs Afeku said, "The goal of the summit aims to promote women's economic empowerment in tourism through partnerships with key stakeholders across the entire travel, tourism and hospitality value chain."

The summit which brought together distinguished female personalities also emphasized the significance of women empowerment in the fight against inequality and unequal access to opportunities that are geared towards financial independence and wealth creation.

The event also created a platform for women, who form majority of persons engaged in tourism related activities and trade, to network and meet forerunners in the industry to share their experiences and ideas.

The summit was held under the theme, "Driving Women Empowerment Through Tourism Development," and ac-



Country Feature



SAFARI

Kenya is the land of diversity and home of Safaris. From the great wildebeest migration, to spectacular landscapes to amazing flora and fauna, Kenya has it all.

It is no wonder that since 2013, Kenya has been voted the world's best safari destination four times. This is a true affirmation that Kenya is truly the original home of safari and that it offers a collection of authentic and inspiring experiences to discover and enjoy: diversity of wildlife in breath-taking landscapes, enriching cultural encounters, exhilarating activities inland and at the coast, vibrant cities and a beautiful coastline



that offers diverse magical experiences.

Kenya is a wildlife haven famous for her Big 5 - Elephant, Rhino, Buffalo, Lion and Leopard, her Small 5 - the Rhinoceros beetle, the Buffalo weaver, Elephant shrew, Leopard tortoise, and the ant lion, her special 5 - the Gerenuk, the Blue Ostrich,

the Reticulated Giraffe, the Grevy's Zebra and the Fringe eared Oryx.

Kenya enjoys good weather throughout the year, which makes the country an ideal year-round safari destination. National Parks, National Reserves, Conservancies and Marine Parks provide options for close interaction with the wild and can be accessed by road or air. Kenya is especially privileged to host the world's only wildlife park located within the capital city limits, Nairobi National Park. Here, one can watch lions, rhinos, zebras, giraffe, buffaloes and other big game out in the wild with the skyscrapers of Nairobi in full view.

Kenya is also host to Africa's leading national park, the Maasai Mara National Reserve. It is home to spectacular annual wildebeest migration which runs from July to October every year. Dubbed one of the eight new wonders of the world, over 1.3 million wildebeest migrate into the Maasai Mara making it a season of plenty for carnivores - from crocodiles that lie in wait along Mara River to the big cats. The Mara also has lots of luxury tented camps for couples seeking a romantic safari experience.

For bird lovers, Kenya boasts over 1,100 recorded species of birds. It is one of Africa's most outstanding bird-watching destinations. Nairobi is also the birding capital of the world with 600 species recorded in Nairobi City limits and Nairobi National Park. Kenya is good for a

birding safari all year round because of the varied habitats from tropical savannahs to snow-capped mountains, good viewing conditions, an extensive transport and communication network as well as skilled bird guides. Birds to watch range from the world's biggest bird - the Ostrich, to the Superb Sterling - known for its brilliance, and the Clarke's weaver, found only in one coastal county and nowhere else in the world.

If you're looking for relaxation, Lake Victoria is the preferred destination



Madaraka Standard Gauge Rail

as it hosts beautiful islands such as Rusinga and Mfangano where one can observe diverse birdlife and beautiful scenery.

Whatever your interest, there are lots of places to see that certainly make Kenya the home of Safari.



BEACH

Kenya's 536 kilometres coastline has some of the world's top beaches with exciting water activities for your exploration and enjoyment. The activities include kite surfing, stand up paddle boarding (SUP), scuba diving, deep sea fishing, whale shark diving among others.

The coastline North of Mombasa - Kenya's second largest city, is a world of enthralling history and natural beauty. The coast is lined with pristine palm fringed beaches, and the calm inviting waters of the Indian Ocean. The beaches are broken by the wide mouth of Kilifi Creek, whose azure waters are a popular port of call on the international yachting circuit. The beaches of Nyali, Vipingo, Kikambala and Shanzu are home to a wide range of World Class resorts with fine cuisine and services.

But if the seaside is your perfect love nest, head to Diani Beach, Africa's best beach destination and one of the world's 50 best beaches. Discover Diani's romantic allure as you walk on its fine sand along the azure ocean waters. Diani Beach, which is located just 30 kilometres south of the Port City of Mombasa, is also one of the few places on earth where you



can spot the world's largest fish: the whale shark.

Towards the end of every year, Diani Beach hosts the Annual Diani Beach Festival, an extreme sports and entertainment festival that runs through the festive season. The festival attracts over 10,000 people drawn from 32 countries who participate in various adventure activities; key highlights being skydiving and kite surfing.

If you are touring Kenya's Coast, the Wasini Coral Gardens, located in Wasini Island about 100 kilometres south of Mombasa, offers a beautiful landscape that is surrounded by mangrove forest.

Also consider Mida Creek, located 18 kilometres from Malindi town in Kilifi County. The creek is a renowned world biosphere reserve and one of the major tourist sites in the North Coast region. It is a popular bird viewing site that normally attract all

kind of tourists who are in love with nature.

If you love snorkelling, Kisite Mpunguti Marine National Park



in Kwale and Kiunga Marine National Reserve in Lamu are here for you. Or sail away to Watamu Marine National Park where you can undertake an extraordinary dive experience with your sweetheart and while at it, surprise her with a marriage proposal under water.

For those who love to interact with the underwater life, Watamu beach is the place to be. The beaches of Watamu are a favourite nesting place for green, hawksbill, olive ridley and leatherback turtles. Watamu is famous for its dolphins. Returning year after year to the sanctuary of Watamu, mothers arrive with their calves and males arrive to mate. Watamu is also home to a unique migration - the humpback whale migration. Migratory pods of humpback whales pass by from Southern Africa between July and September.

Kenya's coastline is however not all about beach and water. Between Mombasa and Malindi lies the Arabuko Sokoke Forest Reserve - the largest and most intact coastal forest in East Africa. Arabuko Sokoke forest has 20 percent of Kenya's bird species, 30 percent of butterfly species and at least 24 rare and endemic bird, mammal and butterfly species. The forest hosts 230 species of birds, 263 species of butterflies and such rare species as the Sokoke Scops owl, Sokoke bush-tailed mongoose, the Ader's duiker, the blotched genet cat and the caracal.

Dhow safaris can take you beyond Lamu into the surrounding archipelago, where isolated villages, ancient ruins and a few luxurious and exclusive resorts lie hidden among the islands of Manda, Siyu, Pate and Kiwayu. This idyllic island speaks to the heart and soul, and a trip to Lamu is a romantic experience that can become a lifelong affair.

ADVENTURE AND SPORTS

Come and soak in the magic of Kenya's enchanted beaches, islands and holiday resorts.

Are you looking for an opportunity to challenge yourself to the top of Mount Kenya or trek through dense forest, cycle through wild game or better yet, skydive over the Indian Ocean? Look no further than Kenya. Kenya is a land of adventure and excitement. Kenya is ideal for adventure trips with high levels of nature and culture, beach holidays, special interest niches such as bird-watching, athletics, golf, water sports and special celebrations.

If water sports is your kind of adventure, you can raft down the River Tana taking on the rapids or dive the depths of the Indian Ocean and swim with whales and dolphins.

For those aiming high, Kenya offers plenty of challenges, the ultimate challenge being Mt Kenya. At 5,199 metres, Africa's second highest mountain is considered the most challenging technical climb in Africa, and attracts experienced climbers from all over the world. Making the summit requires both expert guiding and equipment. In general, the climbing season is from July to early October.

Kenya has some excellent potential areas for off road mountain biking. Hell's Gate National Park, which is located near the shores of Lake Naivasha, is excellent biking country, and allows the cyclist to ride through herds of plains game such as zebras and gazelles.

Kenya is filled with colourful, exhilarating, and exciting festivals that celebrate the cultural, natural, and historical diversity of the country. Take the Maralal Camel Derby. It is Africa's best known and most prestigious camel race, attracting both local and international competitors. The derby, which is an annual event that began in 1990, is held in August just outside of Maralal town in Samburu. The Maralal Camel derby is more than just a race. It is an entertaining festival of fun and local competition that brings this small desert town to life. If you are visiting Kenya during the race period, don't miss the Maralal Camel Derby.

Kenya offers a variety of sports and sporting facilities that meet international standards. Tour Kenya's high-altitude training camps in the Great Rift Valley that attract many international athletes yearning to discover the magic behind Kenya's super performance in athletics.

Come find out why Kenya is a fan favourite in the Rugby 7s circuit.

You can enjoy a round of golf in the wild, city or by the beach. Kenya has over 40 golf courses located in picturesque locations all over the country. Take the Mount Kenya Safari Club's 9-hole golf course, for example. It not only sits in the shadows of Africa's second highest mountain - Mt. Kenya but also right along the equator where one can tee off in the northern hemisphere and putt out in the southern hemisphere. Kenya is indeed the only country in East Africa that hosts the only PGA approved golf course - Vipingo Ridge' Baobab Course. With long days, consistent sunshine and temperate weather to nourish its courses, Kenya offers the perfect golfing escape from the northern hemisphere.

So when you are planning your safari to Kenya, look beyond the usual, and enjoy the many magical experiences Kenya has to offer.



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Lifestyle

BOLANLE AUSTEN-PETERS AND THE KALAKUTA QUEENS

Bolanle Austen-Peters is a Nigerian lawyer and businesswoman. Her love and passion for arts has seen her become one of the change makers in Nigeria's arts and cultural scene. She is currently a Theatre Producer and Artistic Director of Terra Kulture, a four hundred seat Arts culture and educational centre in Lagos which she founded.

She spoke to VoyagesAfriq about her vision for the project on the sidelines of the recent UNWTO's 61st CAF Meeting held in Abuja, Nigeria.

VA: Please tell us a brief about yourself (who is Bolanle Austen-Peters)

BAP: Bolanle Austen-Peters has a Master's degree in International Law from the London School of Economics and Political Science. She holds a Law degree from the University of Lagos and qualified to practice at the Nigerian Bar by passing exams at the Nigerian Law School. In addition to legal practice in Nigeria, she has worked as a lawyer with the United Nations in Geneva, Ethiopia and Namibia.

VA: How did you get into the creative arts scene with your background as a lawyer?

BAP: I had travelled round the world and noticed every country I've been to have a cultural centre except for Nigeria, so I thought of the need to have a cultural centre in Nigeria so I set up Terra Kulture - The Nigerian Cultural Centre in 2003. I realized when I was younger I liked the arts, I liked dancing, literature and fashion. As I grew older I realized this was my passion so I simply followed my passion.



VA: What informed your decision to recreate/tell the story on Nigeria and African music icon Fela Kuti?

BAP: I noticed in Nigeria we usually wait for foreigners to tell our story, so when I saw Fela on Broadway I thought to myself we can do better. We should be the ones to tell the story of our heroes, but in telling the Fela story I knew I had to do something different. There are so many untold stories about Fela, so I decided to tell the story of the powerful women in his life and how he married 27 women in one day, not too many people knew this about Fela and it is a story worth telling.

VA: What do you want to achieve with this initiative and play Fela and the Kalakuta Queens?

BAP: What I plan to achieve is a very high quality stage musical production to prove to the world that as Nigerians we are excellent and better at telling our stories. I felt the need to change the narrative about us as a people and show it to the world.

VA: You recently inaugurated a new 400 seats art theatre in Lagos.

BAP: Well, after years of staging musical productions at different locations, we realized we needed a permanent purpose built space. We needed an arena that is built with facilities especially for theatre and stage production. Back then we had a small hall at Terra Kulture which we used for Theatre at Terra every Sunday so we

rebuilt the space into an ultra-modern purpose built theatre arena which is also the first privately owned modern theatre in Nigeria.

VA: Can you take us through how you illuminated the just ended 61st UNWTO Commission for Africa in Abuja?

BAP: Well, for the UNWTO event in Abuja we staged an abridged version of Waka the Musical and Fela and the Kalakuta Queens. We simply brought glamour, allure, elegance, style, fashion and panache to the event. We showed the foreign guests a glimpse of our cultural excellence.

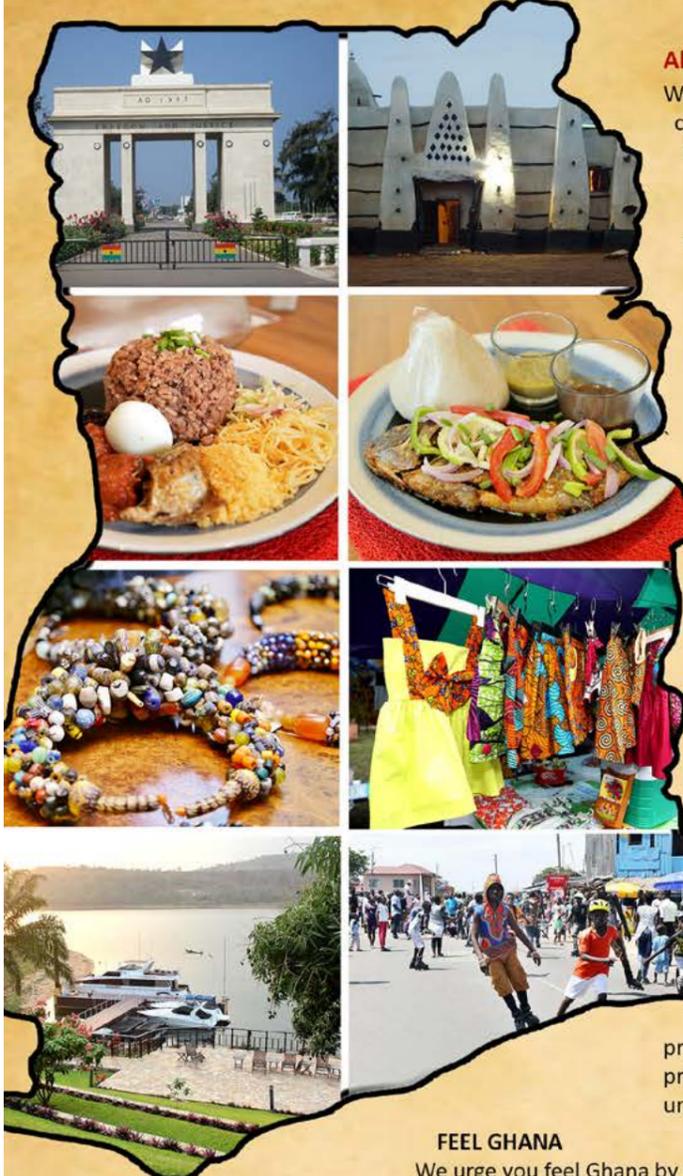
VA: What will you say have been the highest points and the challenges you face in your quest to create a burgeoning cultural scene in Nigeria.

BAP: Our biggest challenge is usually financing our productions, but we are grateful God has been on our side and we have been able to put funds together, but we believe it won't be a challenge if the government can do more by providing infrastructure for the creative minds to thrive.

VA: Finally, what unique trait do you bring to Nigeria's art?

BAP: Excellence, I believe anything worth doing at all is worth doing brilliantly well and this mindset is what we use to deliver all our projects. Today, BAP Productions have been able to produce globally accepted Hollywood class movie - 93 Days and also all our Musical productions have been recognized globally.





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SEE GHANA

Never a weekend passes without a colourful traditional festival in one village or the other. Each festival climaxes in a grand durbar. Chiefs and Queen Mothers ride in beautifully decorated palanquins amidst drumming and dancing and receive homage from their people. This fosters unity among people at the community level and it is the basis of the stability Ghana enjoys today.

Are you a bird watcher, an ecotourism enthusiast, or interested in authentic history and unique culture? Look no further for Ghana is your destination of choice as you visit the Xavi Bird Watching Sanctuary.

EAT GHANA

You will be spoiled for choice when it comes to gastronomy in Ghana. From Tuo-Zaafi (TZ) in Northern Ghana to Fufu in the middle belt and Banku or Kenkey along the coast, your taste buds will be stimulated beyond measure. You can not be in Ghana and not taste kelewele - spicy, fried, riped plantain that is normally eaten with peanuts.

WEAR GHANA

Step into a durbar ground for a festival or a national gathering and you will be amazed by the statement. Ghanaians and visitors will make with their Made in Ghana attire. From the many colourful Kente designs to the imposing presence of the fugu or smock, coupled with the sleek designs from local prints, one cannot help but fall in love with made in Ghana clothes. We urge you to wear Ghana at your next visit to Ghana.

FEEL GHANA

We urge you feel Ghana by enjoying our rhythms. From the fontonfrom beat to kete, Kpanlogo to Bɔ́ɔ́ɔ́ɔ́, Damba to Bamaya and the local highlife tunes are not to be missed. Immerse yourself in the night life in the capital and feel Ghana in a special unforgettable way.

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Association of Uganda Tour Operators elects New Leadership

The Association of Uganda Tour Operators (AUTO), the largest association of tour companies in Uganda elected its new executive board for the period 2018- 2020.

AUTO brings together registered and professional tour companies dealing in tourism related activities in Uganda. Everest Kayondo of Ever Based Tours and Travel was elected the new Board Chair of the association.

Kayondo beat Civy Tumusiime in a hotly contested race during the association's AGM in Kampala; polling 87 votes while Ms. Tumusiime, who also served on the outgoing Board as a Committee member got 80 votes.

"We will strengthen the disciplinary procedures of the association in line with the code of conduct, lobby Government to regulate the sector and further improve professionalism in the sector", Kayondo promised.

He pledged to work with his new team to advance the interests of tour operators and to improve the image and the recognition of AUTO by the Government of Uganda. The AUTO constitution requires change of leadership after every two years.

Kayondo will be deputized by Benedict Ntale of Ape Treks Ltd. while Farouk Busuulwa was voted Board Secretary and Charlotte Kamugisha of Bunyonyi Safaris will serve as treasurer.

Other newly appointed committee members include Mohit Advani of Global Interlink Travel Services Ltd,

Brian Mugume of Adventure Consults Uganda and Robert Ntale of Cheetah Safaris Uganda.

The outgoing Board Chair, Babra A. Vanhelleputte of Asyanut Safaris and Incentives congratulated the newly appointed Executive Committee and requested them to continue working devotedly with the interests of the association's members at the forefront.

"We leave AUTO with better structures, systems and staffing than what we found at the beginning of our tenure and I request you to build upon those to improve service delivery to the membership and grow tourism in Uganda at large" Vanhelleputte said.

Speaking at the General Meeting, the UTB boss, Stephen Asiimwe promised to work closely with the newly appointed AUTO leadership to promote tourism in Uganda.

Tourism in Uganda is one of the fastest growing and largest sectors, creating employment especially for the youth and women, contributing the biggest percentage to foreign exchange and spurring economic growth in areas where tourism activities take place.

Tour operators play a very vital and central role along the tourism value chain as they market the destination and convince tourists to visit Uganda; they book different services in advance for the tourists and guide them around the country's tourism activities.

Madagascar adopts new crisis communications strategy

Seventy (70) government officers from ministries such as Tourism, Transport and Environment from the Republic of Madagascar have attended a 5-day workshop conducted by the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) in Antananarivo, the capital city. The World Bank-funded initiative is part of the development of a Crisis Communications Strategy aimed at decreasing the impact of negative events in the country, ranking from natural disasters, pandemics and security-related issues among others.



The workshop served to present the Crisis Communications Strategy developed in the last months and to train the relevant partners who will be responsible for the implementation on the related tools. The stages of Crisis Communications (before, during and after), the structure of the Crisis Communications Strategy, ICT-based tools and applications and media relations were some of the topics examined during the training.

The sessions were facilitated by Sandra Carvao and Ruth Gómez Sobrino, from UNWTO accompanied by Seamus Kearney, former journalist at Euronews, who introduced the participants to media relations strategies.

The project implemented in Madagascar is aligned with the expertise developed by UNWTO and UNWTO Themis Foundation in the last years through the Practicum in Crisis Communications. Thanks to this initiative involving Member States and Affiliate Members more than 200 government officers from around 60 countries have been trained in Crisis Communications.

International tourism to Africa up by 6%

International tourist arrivals to sub-Saharan Africa grew by 6% in the first quarter of 2018 compared with the same period last year.

This represents an increase of 1% over the 5% growth rate recorded at the end of 2017.

According to the latest barometer released by the United Nation's World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO), but for limited information from the continent, the growth could be higher.

According to the UN tourism body, International tourism in general also grew 6% not only continuing the strong 2017 trend, but exceeding its 2018 forecast of between 4 and 5%.

Between January and April 2018, international arrivals increased in all regions, led by Asia and the Pacific (+8%), followed by Europe (+7%), Africa (+6%), the Middle East (+4%) and the Americas (+3%).

The UNWTO Secretary General Ambassador Zurab Pololikashvili noted "International tourism continues to show significant growth worldwide, and this translates into job creation in many economies. This growth reminds us of the need to increase our capacity to develop and manage tourism in a sustainable way, building smart destinations and making the most of technology and innovation",



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Extension, Opposite Afrikiko.

ACCRA'S BURGEONING NIGHT LIFE

Accra is mostly known as the home of many creative talents, many tourist attractions and for its ChaleWote annual festival. The latter is said to be one of the biggest gathering of artistes and rated amongst the top five art festivals in Africa. It is made up of a frenzy of other colourful activities as well.

But even if your trip doesn't coincide with these exciting festivals and events, Accra has enough nightlife to easily keep you occupied and rejuvenated.



The nightlife culture of Accra shines bright with Osu Oxford Street, Lagos Avenue in East legon, Spintex Road all looping into enticing beach bars, vibrant nightclubs and laidback lounges.

Ghana's capital is the best place to be anytime, any day with friendliness and the warmth of the people. The safety, the ease of getting around, and particularly the cost offers glitzy and diverse city life.

The other part is also an invigorating underground night life with amazing concepts. You will find your regular budget spots or bars (pubs) in every small neighbourhood where locals relax, drink, dance to their favourite tunes and genres and take a chance on a pool table.

The best pubs and bars stay abuzz with live music, grooving crowd with exotic drinks and an array of cocktails. Many high-end bars or lounges are located in affluent districts of the city with lovely interior design and artworks of various inspirations.

You cannot leave out the engaging casinos, unique restaurants and the street bars.

Notable amongst them are Rockstone's Office, AftaWerk, Shisha lounge, Bloom Bar, Carbon, Plot7, Skybar 25, Vienna City, Kiki-Bees, Firefly, Kona Cafe, Nhyiraba and Kojo City.

Others are the Oasis, Sandbox, Badu Lounge, Sai, One2One Bar, Coco Vanilla,

Fizzles, Champs Sports Bar, Purple Pub, Republic, Abrefi, Crisberry, Twist Club and lounge.

The rest include Jokers, Club Onyx, Level 8 lounge, Soho, Afrikiko, The Room, Honey-suckle, Akuma Village, La Pleasure Beach, Tawala and more.



The city has developed its vibrancy and has become more cosmopolitan with different attractions gradually monopolizing each day or night of the week.

Ghanaians love their music and also welcome music from diverse backgrounds. Be it hip hop, highlife, Afro beat, Jazz or a cocktail of these, no trip to Accra will be boring for any discerning visitor. Music is the spinal cord to connect Accra to the rest of the world.



+233 Jazz and Grill is an amazing Jazz club that has live bands six days a week. but with the introduction of Just Music by Accra Unplugged (organizers of Live at the Terrace at Villa Monticello and Flow at Krystal Night Club). Just Music at Rockstone's Office is definitely the place you ought to be on Tuesday nights where young talented musicians perform their magic on the live music set

Conveniently located in a lively suburb of Osu is Republic Bar, one of Accra's most popular place. Wednesday live performance events at Republic bar and grill with some of Ghana's best alternative bands and top musicians attracts a high blend of expatriates, tourists and also locals with great taste for music.

Firefly Night Club is your preferred place on a midweek calendar, you can also pass time at the Shisha Lounge before heading to fly in the Fire

Carbon live with the Characters Band and Kueiqu Afro is currently the default-to-go night activity in Accra on a Thursday. Carbon night club heralds the arrival of London-style nightlife setting with a magical blend of live music and DJs.

Other party lovers can join the crowd at Bloom Bar, Purple Pub, Kona Cafe, Celsbridge, The Place, Abrefis etc. Soho for their corporate hangouts, Alisa Hotel for their Old school jams. Catch the best DJs at places like Plot 7, One2One bar inside Mövenpick, Twist Club and Lounge, Club Onyx, Carbon Night Club, Shisha Lounge, Hot Gossip, Jokers, Vienna City, Firefly, with Labadi Beach Hotel adding a twist with their introduction of the FunkyNFresh event quartely. Art lovers can also enjoy great concerts and theme event at the Alliance Française and the Goethe Institute, Karaoke Fridays at Champs Sports bar or a boxing night at the Bukom Boxing Arena.

Saturdays come with an array of entertainment activities at various locations including beach nights at Bojo Beach, (Krokrobite) La Pleasure beach and the titanic beach stretch along the marine drive to Tema. There's always something unique going on at The Shop, Accra, Lokko Street, Jamestown Cafe, Studio 7 (Spintex Rd) and more.

From the live music nights to the DJ sets, themed evenings to Kizomba and Salsa dance sessions, Accra is the place to be... Climb to the top of the city at Skybar 25, swings your hips at Afrikiko, get cultured at Alliance, taste some tea at Tea Bar feel the street vibes at Purple pub or sing along to great tunes at Champs then catch a live performance at Carbon and +233 ..Accra certainly has more to offer than being the seat of government.



Radisson BLU HOTELS & RESORTS NAMED AFRICA'S FASTEST GROWING HOTEL BRAND

Radisson Blu, part of the Radisson Hotel Group, has taken over as the fastest growing hotel brand in Africa with the largest number of hotels under construction on the continent, according to this year's W Hospitality Pipeline Report.

"With 111 hotel brands active in Africa today, we are delighted that Radisson Blu leads the way with more hotels under development than any other hotel brand. Our strong growth is set to continue with the execution of our ambitious five-year development plan that will focus on scaled growth in 23 of the 60 larger cities in Africa, to create operational synergies," says Elie Younes, Executive Vice President and Chief Development Officer for the Radisson Hotel Group.

The group has doubled its African portfolio within the last four years, opening a new hotel every 60 days and signing a new hotel deal every 40 days. This growth has spiked the group's portfolio in Africa to 86 hotels, translating to 17 800 rooms in operation and under development across 30 countries.

Andrew McLachlan, Senior Vice President, Business Development: Sub-Saharan Africa for Radisson Hotel Group, says: "We aim to add a further 50 hotels to sub-Saharan Africa, of which 65% of our future hotel supply will come from our newer brands, specifically Radisson, which is positioned in the full-service upscale segment, perfectly positioned between Radisson Blu in the upper upscale segment, and Park Inn by Radisson in the upper midscale segments."

"This strategy will reinforce our presence in South Africa, Nigeria, Kenya and Ethiopia. It will also develop a robust portfolio across the cities within Africa's three largest economic communities. We will continue to focus on delivering on our expanding pipeline, by opening these hotels and strategically using the financial support from AfriNord Hotel Investments along with key D&B contractors," concludes McLachlan.



WTM London's Africa Region Hosts almost 45,000 meetings



The WTM London Africa Region experiences almost 45,000 on-stand meetings from 4,671 industry professionals interested in the region.

The Africa region at WTM London saw a total of 44,413 on-stand meetings take place, meaning each of the 337 African exhibitors had an average of almost 132 (131.8) on-stand meetings.

Of the 10,500 buyers at WTM London from the WTM Buyers' Club more than 2,200 (2,221) were looking to purchase African products, including almost 1,500 for South Africa, 1,000 for Kenya, 631 for Egypt and 400 for Tunisia.

The continent received 62 million international arrivals in

2017 - up 5% on 2016, according to the UNWTO. WTM London 2018 will see the introduction of Regional Inspiration Zones. These Regional Inspiration Zones will be the centre point of the regions and will act as an ideas hotbed for debate, research and analysis of the regions tourism industry. The Regional Hub will host content sessions, networking events and festivals.

Some of the confirmed sessions on the African Regional Inspiration Zones include a dedicated Responsible Tourism water session following concerns over water shortages in Cape Town, and research by Euromonitor International on the African market.

In total, WTM London 2017 experienced 935,129 on-stand meetings helping the event generate more than £3.1 billion in industry deals.

WTM London, Senior Director, Simon Press, said: "WTM London is effectively eight shows under one roof. WTM attracts 50,000 delegates from 182 countries and regions generating £3.1 billion in industry deals. The African show at WTM facilitates almost 45,000 meetings with almost 5,000 delegates interested in African countries.



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MOMBASA TO WELCOME OVER 1000 SKALLEAGUES FOR 79TH SKAL CONGRESS



Kenya's coastal city of Mombasa is set to welcome over a thousand members of Skal club members (skalleagues) to its 79th world congress.

Kenya won the bid to host this prestigious membership conference last year when Cabinet Secretary for Tourism and Wildlife Najib Balala and the team beat other bidders to take the conference to the East African nation.

Speaking to VoyagesAfric Travel and Tourism Magazine weeks ahead of the conference, the President of Skal Club, Kenya Victor Shitakha revealed that over one thousand skalleagues are expected in Kenya for the 5-day conference.

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Governor to transform Lagos to Tourism Powerhouse

The State Government of Lagos is embarking on ambitious projects to make the city a tourism hotbed in Africa and the world.



The State Government of Lagos is embarking on ambitious projects to make the city a tourism hotbed in Africa and the world.

The man leading the charge is the State Governor Akwunmi Ambode who believes the city of Lagos has everything it takes to become one of the most preferred destinations among travellers globally. To this end, the governor has made it his mission to develop tourism through the provision of the necessary infrastructure and facilities to make Lagos one of the welcoming places to tourists and foreigners.

"We need to increase the avenues to showcase our distinct and diverse Lagos culture and traditions through the establishment of museums and heritage centres," Ambode said.

He was addressing an entourage of delegates of African Tourism Ministers and the UNWTO Secretary General, his team and the media when they paid a technical visit to Lagos as part of activities of the 61st UNWTO-CAF Meeting which was recently held in Abuja, Nigeria.

Gov. Ambode said with close to 24 million people and as one of the most visited cities in the world, Lagos will position itself to leverage the numbers to create a vibrant tourism economy. "According to a United Nations report, as at 2016, 86 people enter Lagos every hour and most likely not wanting to go back," he added.

The ambition to transform the city has led to the construction and commissioning of projects across the length and breadth of Lagos. For example, the state government recently constructed new monuments simultaneously in different areas to further boost the aesthetic landscape of the state. Lagos is technically a construction site as various tourism infrastructures continue to spring up.

The Governor urged the African Tourism Ministers to work collaboratively to reverse the fact that the continent remains the least travelled in the world.

The least travelled continent is Africa, but unfortunately the best places and destinations are in Africa. So we need a sense of synergy and collaboration," Gov Ambode stressed.

The technical visit took the delegates through some major streets of Lagos, the Freedom Park and the audacious Eko Atlantic City in Victoria Island.



UNWTO REITERATES COMMITMENT TO PROMOTE AFRICA'S TOURISM



The Secretary General of the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) has expressed his readiness to work with African Tourism Ministers and industry players to enhance and project the Africa brand and its tourism offerings to the rest of the world.

He said although Africa has a unique selling proposition when it comes to its tourism, not much has been done to

market them to the outside world. Ambassador Zurab Pololikashvili made this known at a press conference held on the sidelines of the 61st UNWTO-CAF Meeting in Abuja, Nigeria.

positioned itself in the areas of aggressive marketing and promotion. To this end, Amb. Pololikashvili said the UNWTO will closely work with African Tourism Ministers and practitioners on a number of interventions that will help enhance the brand image of Africa. The press conference was jointly addressed by Nigeria's Minister of Information and Culture Alhaji Lai Mohammed who said that his government was prioritizing tourism as the country seeks to diversify its economy which currently is oil dependent.

He noted with concern the lack of promotional materials that highlight the various tourism products on the continent which in his view hinders Africa's tourism competitiveness with the global players. Africa, a continent of almost a billion people contributes a little over 8% to the world travel and tourism trade, a figure the Secretary General believes could be improved if the continent

According to him, Nigeria is on the right path to develop tourism adding for example that the Nigerian government had spent over 2.7 trillion Naira in the last two years on various projects such as roads, railways and other infrastructure that had direct or indirect linkages with tourism.

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Fiona Jeffery OBE appointed new Chair of Atta

Leading responsible tourism campaigner and industry expert Fiona Jeffery OBE has been appointed new Chair of the African Travel & Tourism Association (Atta), succeeding former chair Julian Edmunds.

Fiona has served on the Atta board for four years as Industry Relations Director, and has had a long and accomplished career in the travel and tourism industry. Responsible for World Travel Market (WTM) from 1986-2013, both as Managing Director and ultimately as Chairman, Fiona brings a wide breadth of knowledge to the role across all aspects of the industry, from government, national tourist boards and destinations to private sector and international trade bodies and organisations.

Founder of international water development charity "Just a Drop", Fiona's work has taken her to destinations across Africa undertaking projects to provide clean water and sanitation to remote communities. She also created and launched World Responsible Tourism Day, a responsible tourism drive across the industry globally, in association with the UN World Tourism Organization (UNWTO).

In 2012, Fiona was awarded an OBE by Her Majesty the Queen for services to travel and tourism, and in 2013 received the TTG Contribution to Industry Award.

"My love for Africa began on an honeymoon with my husband Nigel, exploring Kenya by four-wheel drive vehicle, and I am keen to tackle the issues and opportunities of the industry across the continent. These include sustainability, the dangers of overtourism, wildlife conservation and wider issues around poaching, gender equality and the opportunities of tourism to support socio-economic empowerment and development. It will be important to play our part supporting and furthering the agenda in many of these areas to ensure joined up thinking and increased impact across our industry."

The African Travel & Tourism Association is Pan-Africa's largest network of tourism product, promoting tourism to the continent from all corners of the world. Recognised as the voice of African Tourism, Atta will continue to serve and support businesses involved in African tourism, representing buyers and suppliers of tourism product with 590 members in 42 countries, 22 of which are on the African continent. Under Fiona's direction, the trade association will aim to showcase the strength of sustainable business practices exemplified within the African continent, with a focus on sharing best practices and advocacy.



WILDLIFE PROTECTION, BOTH AN ETHICAL RESPONSIBILITY AND A BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

By Rut Gomez Sobrino



Rut Gomez Sobrino

More than 30,000 elephants are killed annually and the price of ivory has tripled in the last years. These worrying figures are just part of the big picture that shows that nearly 60% of wildlife has declined worldwide in recent decades. The good news is that the number of initiatives aimed to protect wildlife together with the visitors to wildlife reserves and parks are increasing in an unprecedented manner. Do we have the possibility to reverse the process?

Wildlife, an essential component of biodiversity and part of our World Heritage has been under an increasing risk due to human action since the 19th century. Poaching, illegal trade and demand are the major menaces for preserving wildlife globally that a number of NGOs and international organizations are trying to control. The pangolin, the most trafficked animal in the world, is the first in a ranking of more than 100 species at risk of becoming extinct, an initiative that is coordinated by IUCN.

Unfortunately species are not the only menaced when speaking about biodiversity loss. The so-called environmental defenders are also under threat and as stated by John Knox, UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and the Environment, "Murder is not the only way environmental defend-

ers are persecuted; for every 1 killed, there are 20 to 100 others harassed; unlawfully and lawfully arrested and sued for defamation amongst other intimidations." According to UN Environment, an environmental defender is "anyone who is defending environmental rights, including constitutional rights to a clean and healthy environment, when the exercise of those rights is being threatened."

As the International Rangers Federation states, rangers should be considered as "front-line guardians of the world's natural and cultural resources" as they are "the first on the scene of illegal and unsustainable exploitation of these resources, often at great personal risk."

On 31st July every year, the World Rangers Day commemorates Rangers killed or injured and celebrate the work of these individuals to protect the Planet's natural treasures and cultural heritage. According to Thin Green Line Foundation that addresses this issue, "It is estimated that over 1,000 park rangers have been killed in the line of duty over the past 10 years - a large percentage of these are due to commercial poachers and armed militia groups. Park Rangers are generally under-equipped, underpaid, and often under-appreciated. We think they are heroes. And we work tirelessly to provide them with the support they need to continue to protect threatened species around the world."

But not everything is bad news when addressing wildlife. This theme has been positioned at the core of the Agenda 2030 and has been included in Goal 15 of the Sustainable Development Goals. Awareness raising in the recent past has started to make an impact and a list of governments is also increasing their commitment on pro-

tection and conservation measures. The proliferation of national parks and conservation areas together with capacity building programmes to create networks of rangers and biodiversity protectionists has been definitely the best investment of many national administrations that have decided to position wildlife as a heritage value.

The value of wildlife in the continent is defined by the fact that about half of all wildlife watching tourism trips booked worldwide happens in Africa. The global market size of wildlife tourism has been estimated at 12 million trips annually and is growing at a rate of about 10% a year. Portraying the economic benefits of wildlife protection has been key for the defenders of this global cause. According to the World Tourism Organization Brief Paper Towards Measuring the Economic Value of Wildlife Watching Tourism in Africa - Briefing Paper, wildlife observation is the major tourism product in the African continent. The Report assures that "safari is the most popular kind of wildlife watching and is being offered by 96% of the participating tour operators (in the research paper). This is followed by bird watching, which is offered by 80% of the participating tour operators and seems to be combined frequently with other activities. In countries that are not considered classic safari destinations, the observation of great apes, marine wildlife and tracking of particular species are particularly important."

Now that East African and Southern African countries have become traditional destinations in this type of tourism, Central and West African tourism authorities are starting to advance in this direction.

International efforts towards wildlife conservation

Serious concern shared by the international community and relevant stakeholders such as national administrations and civil society groups have resulted in successful initiatives tackling wildlife conservation. Major ones are the Monitoring the Illegal Killing of Elephants (MIKE) and the Elephant Trade Information System (ETIS); the commitments made at Rio+20 (June 2012), CITES COP 16 (March 2013) and the G8 Summit (June 2013); the discussions held during the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA, September 2013), the African Elephant Summit (December 2013) and the London Conference on Illegal Wildlife Trade (February 2014); the side event held at the First United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) of UNEP (June 2014); and the launch of the Strategic Mission of the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (IC-CWC) at CITES SC 65 (July 2014), among others.

Mapping wildlife treasures on the African continent

A good example of prioritizing wildlife protection as a major source of income is Botswana, home of around 150,000 elephants, equivalent to 2/3 of specimens found on the African continent. The country prohibited hunting and has portrayed wildlife watching tourism as the second economic activity after the diamond industry.

Botswana, where Chobe National Park and the Kalahari, home of the San Bushmen for the last 30,000 years, remains as the ideal destination to enjoy wildlife in its purest essence. In line with the previous, the Okavango Delta, with 16,000 square kilometers, is one of Africa's last remaining great wildlife habitats. 60 camps are established in the Okavango Delta, a privileged area in the border of Namibia, Zimbabwe and Botswana. According to the indications of local staff in some of those premises, each camp provides jobs to around 20-30 workers so one can estimate that around 3,000 families are making a living out of wildlife watching tourism in that area.

Uganda and Rwanda are the two spots where the last remaining 700 mountain gorillas on Earth can be visited. Most of them live in Virunga Mountains, between these two countries and the Democratic Republic of Congo. However, the number of gorilla groups in Rwanda, where according to the World Travel and Tourism Council the contribution of tourism is reaching 13% of GDP, is more than twice those in Uganda.

Contiguous to the Serengeti, the Masai Mara which is simply known as 'The Mara' is probably one of the major safari destinations in the continent.

South Africa is not only well-known as a major wildlife destination in Africa. It shows also how wildlife and biodiversity can help to brand a country. The Kruger Park is often described as the most accessible and best equipped of Africa's great parks and a perfect venue for self-drive safaris and other attractions such as mountain-biking tours.

A good example of prioritizing wildlife protection as a major source of income is Botswana, home of around 150,000 elephants, equivalent to 2/3 of specimens found on the African continent

TRAVEL & TOURISM'S DIRECT CONTRIBUTION TO GDP		2017 (US\$bn)
	World Average	21.5
39	South Africa	10.2
68	Kenya	2.8
84	Tanzania	2.0
	Sub-Saharan Africa Average	1.0
119	Uganda	0.7
121	Senegal	0.7
135	Rwanda	0.5
138	Namibia	0.4
151	Democratic Republic of Congo	0.2
165	Swaziland	0.1
170	Gambia	0.09



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Etihad to end Dar Salaam Service

Etihad Airways, the national carrier and second-largest airline of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), will be suspending flights between Abu Dhabi and Dar es Salaam in Tanzania.

The airline responded to a question by The Citizen through its twitter account on June 19, saying: "As part of an ongoing review of network performance, Etihad Airways will suspend flights from Abu Dhabi to Dar es Salaam, effective October 1 2018."

Etihad currently operates this route once a day, serviced by an Airbus A320 aircraft. As at October 1, travellers from Dar es Salaam will be re-routed through Kenya Airways to Nairobi, and then connect through

Etihad to Abu Dhabi. The airline launched its first flights to Tanzania in December 2015, with Dar es Salaam being the airline's third gateway into East Africa, along with Entebbe in Uganda and Nairobi in Kenya.

Source: Tourismupdate

Nigeria announces name of new national air carrier

The Federal Government of Nigeria has announced that the name of the proposed new National Carrier is 'Nigeria Air'.

The Minister of State for Aviation, Hadi Sirika, disclosed this while unveiling the airline to investors at the ongoing Farnborough International Air Show in UK. The colour is green white green.

Mr. Sirika had on July 8 said the proposed national airline would be unveiled before the end of the year. The former pilot gave the assurance while receiving the Outline Business Case Certificate of Compliance for the establishment of the airline from Chidi Izuwah, the Director General, Infrastructure Concession Regulatory Commission (ICRC).

The Minister said that the presentation of the certificate was a testament on how far the project had gone. The proposed airline will gulp \$8.8 million preliminary cost and \$300 million as take-off cost.

Source: Premium Times - Nigeria

Uganda signs new deal with Bombardier for 4

Hot on the heels of the announcement yesterday by Airbus and Uganda of the sale of two Airbus A330-800neo's has Bombardier now issued a statement at their corporate headoffice in Montreal that Uganda has also struck a deal to buy 4 CRJ900 regional jets.

The jets, when delivered, will be among the first to showcase Bombardiers brand new cabin interior named 'Atmosphere' and will be configured with both a business and economy class cabin.

The new cabin features offer passengers larger overhead compartments which, unlike the original cabin interior, will allow for the stowage of regular sized hand baggage.

The overall order of both wide body and single aisle aircraft is thought to be in the region of 700 plus million US Dollars at current prices.

No announcements have been made as to the delivery time frame of any of the ordered aircraft nor has all clear indication been given when the startup will likely launch operations.

Source: ATC News

ZTA appoints VFS Global to promote Destination Zimbabwe to GCC Market



In a move to enhance destination awareness and foster market visibility, the Zimbabwe Tourism Authority (ZTA) has appointed VFS Global to promote Zimbabwe as a preferred tourism destination in both India and GCC region, through a collaborative relationship. The agreement was officially signed by Dr. Karikoga Kaseke, Chief Executive of the Zimbabwe Tourism Authority on 14 June 2018 at the Zimbabwe Tourism Authority Office Boardroom, Harare in the presence of other eminent dignitaries from VFS Global, travel and trade fraternity along with the members of the press.

A world of wonders, Zimbabwe prides itself to being home of the Majestic Victoria Falls; one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World and a World Heritage Site that is the biggest curtain of water in the world in the Zambezi River. In fact, the ten reasons for any tourist to visit Zimbabwe are Peace and Tranquility, Safety and Security, Wonderful People and Culture, The Majestic Victoria Falls, Rich History and Heritage, Great Zimbabwe the Grand Medieval Palace, The Mystique of the Eastern Highlands, Pristine Wildlife and Nature, The Mythical Kariba and Mighty Zambezi and the Beautiful Weather.

Commenting on the new partnership, Dr Karikoga Kaseke, Chief Executive of the Zimbabwe Tourism Authority, said "We have not been active in the GCC region and our absence has created room for negative perceptions to prevail. However, we are now ready for this market because Zimbabwe is now open for business. Through the appointment of VFS Global as market representatives for Zimbabwe in the GCC region we aim for increased awareness of Zimbabwe and establish destination presence and visibility. We anticipate a rise in arrivals from GCC region to 13500 by 2021 as VFS Global embarks on aggressively marketing the country.

Egypt launches New E-Visa



The Egyptian government has introduced a new e-visa service, whereby citizens from foreign countries, including the UK, can now easily obtain an entry visa online.

The new service offers an alternative to applications upon arrival, or through the Egyptian consulates prior to travel.

Simplifying travel to the country and speeding up the process at border control, residents from 46 countries across Europe, Asia and Australasia can now apply for a visa through a simple online application form.

A single-entry tourist visa is priced at \$25, while a multiple entry tourist visa is priced at \$60, with payment required on a credit or debit card.

Tourist visas granted using the e-visa system are valid for a maximum of three months.

Amr El Ezabi, director UK & Ireland for the Egyptian Tourist Authority, said: "We want travel to Egypt to be as seamless as possible and in the digital age this new e-visa system is an important step towards simplifying the process.

Amr El Ezabi, director UK & Ireland for the Egyptian Tourist Authority, said: "We want travel to Egypt to be as seamless as possible and in the digital age this new e-visa system is an important step towards simplifying the process.

Source: Breakingtravelnews.com

KTB engages Counties in the Lake Region



Kenya Tourism Board (KTB) Chief Executive Kenya Tourism Board (KTB) Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Betty Radier has said work is already ongoing to identify tourism products in the region that either have previously not been showcased as well as those that require to be transformed into top travel experiences.

Dr. Radier said, "We are actively working with the counties to help them understand how to package, position and sell their tourism products as export-ready products in order to enable them to attract visitors that will experience the products as top experiences that are at a world class standard."

The KTB CEO is upbeat that the Lake Region is well positioned to attract more tourist numbers in the near term.

KTB recently held a stakeholder forum in Kisumu City that brought together private sector players in the hospitality as well as tours and travel sector in the Lake Victoria region to identify the region's diversity of experiences that need to be showcased to the domestic, regional and international markets.

Ethiopian Airlines takes delivery of Boeing B78



Ethiopian Airlines, the largest aviation group in Africa has announced that it has taken delivery of their first B737MAX. The B737 MAX 8 features the new Boeing sky interior

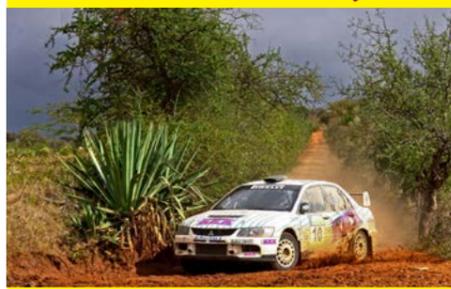
and LED lighting that enhances the sense of spaciousness ultimately boosting customers' experience. The environmentally friendly aircraft has a greatly reduced carbon emission and consumes 15% less fuel than the 737NG series.

Ethiopian Airlines Group CEO Mr. Tewolde GebreMariam, said "It is an immense honor for all of us at Ethiopian to reach this milestone a few days after we colorfully marked our 100 fleet milestone and the latest acquisition is an affirmation of our continuing pioneering role in African aviation and the successful implementation of our fast, profitable and sustainable growth plan, Vision 2025. Today, We are glad to include the B737 MAX 8, the latest in Boeing's single aisle series, in our young and modern fleet family with an average age of less than 5 years. As a customer-centric airline with a high adaptability to emerging technologies, we have been pioneering Africa's aviation with latest-technology fleet throughout our 72 years history. In line with our growth targets under Vision 2025, we will keep on investing in further expansion of our fleet in acquiring the latest aircraft the industry has to offer."

With this delivery of the new ultra-modern aircraft, Ethiopian's fleet of Boeing airplanes grows to 73 jets, including the 787 Dreamliner, the B777, 737NG's, the B757 and B767.

"Ethiopian Airlines continues to fly at the forefront of Africa's commercial aviation industry by operating the most advanced airplanes," said Marty Bentrott, Boeing Sales vice president for Middle East, Turkey, Russia, Central Asia & Africa before adding: "We are honored by Ethiopian's continuing confidence in Boeing airplanes and we look forward to growing our five-decade long partnership".

World Rally Championship set to return to Kenya



The African Safari Rally could regain its world status after an agreement was signed by race organisers and management of the World Rally Championship (WRC).

The Safari – as it has become known – was part of the WRC annual calendar until 2002 when Kenya was stripped of its world status by the governing body International Automobile Federation (FIA). Under the new agreement, the race will be run as a 'candidate event' in 2019, for observation by the FIA and WRC. Thereafter, it could be included as a permanent fixture for three years, beginning in 2020, provided the candidate event meets the requirements for safety and efficient management.

Speaking at the signing in Paris on June 21, WRC Managing Director, Oliver Todt said: "It has long been a key part of the calendar development strategy to take the WRC back to Africa and fulfil the dreams of our fans to restore this event." He said the event was like a modern-era safari, with the route taking drivers and spectators through private estates and conservancies, offering a unique way to see the country.

His sentiments were echoed by Kenya's Principal Secretary of the Ministry of Sport and Heritage, Kirimi Peter Kaberia who was also present at the signing: "The government is committed to the Safari Rally and we'll do everything in our power to make sure this great event is brought back to the WRC."

Source: Tourismupdate.co.za

Emaar Hospitality enters Sub Saharan Africa with property in Togo



Emaar Hospitality Group in partnership with the Kalyan Group, marked its expansion to Sub-Saharan Africa to operate Address Hotel 2 Février Lomé Togo in the

heart of Lomé. The 30-storey landmark property is to be managed by premium lifestyle hotel and serviced residences brand, Address Hotels and Resorts. It will be a 256-room hotel and 64 serviced apartments in the tallest building in West Africa with a wide choice of restaurants and meeting facilities.

A team of Togolese Ministers from the Republic of Togo and media attended the event at the Address Boulevard. The Minister of Industry and Tourism, Yaovi Attigbe Ihou thanked Kalyan Group and Emaar Hospitality for their strategic vision of partnership which will reap many benefits in the tourism and hospitality sector in the country. He reiterated that Togo is the main portal to enter Africa. "Emaar Hospitality will revolutionise the hospitality sector beginning with Togo in West Africa".

Source: Tourismbreakingnews.ae

Radisson signs its second hotel in Abidjan



Radisson Hotel Group subsidiary Radisson Hotel Group subsidiary Radisson Hospitality signed a deal with Morocco's Palmeraie Development Group to open a new Radisson hotel in Abidjan, Ivory Coast. The 152-room new-build Radisson Hotel & Apartments Abidjan Plateau is scheduled to open in 2021. The hotel includes 122 guestrooms, 24 one-bedroom apartments and six two-bedroom apartments. The Radisson property will be on the Boulevard de la République in the center of the Plateau central business district.

"Through the development of the Radisson Hotel & Apartments Abidjan Plateau, we are bringing our bold vision for Africa to life," Mohamed Ben Ouda, MD of Palmeraie Development Group, said in a statement. "We're proud to be partnering with Radisson Hotel Group and look forward to a longstanding relationship with an industry leader."

The new Radisson Hotel & Apartments Abidjan Plateau will bring the total number of Radisson hotels in Africa to 86 with approximately 18,000 guestrooms in operation and under construction. The new hotel will be the second Radisson in Africa, following the Radisson Hotel Dakar Diamniadio. This will also be the latest addition to the hotel group's portfolio in Abidjan, after the Radisson Blu Hotel, Abidjan Airport.

Nigeria Travel Week (23-24 November 2018 in Lagos, Nigeria)



Nigeria Travel Week (NTW) is a tourism event platform to drive the tourism sector by bringing together buyers, consumers, travel techs, tourism/travel service providers and the media to network, review and discuss the development of tourism in Nigeria and Africa.

Nigeria Travel Week will promote increased networking and partnerships between the different stakeholders in the tourism industry. It will create awareness about the opportunities and potentials in domestic and inbound tourism in Nigeria as well as intra-Africa travel. Nigeria Travel Week will stoke the yearning for travel to Nigeria from the domestic and African source markets and vice-versa. It will nurture a culture of travelling, both domestic and outbound, in Nigerians.

Events that make up Nigeria Travel Week include the Travel Roundtable, tourism expo, The Balearica Awards (Nigeria Tourism Awards), Village Square and familiarization tours around Nigeria for international trade and media.

Airbus threatens to pull business from Britain in event of 'no-deal' Brexit



Aerospace firm Airbus has warned it could pull out of the UK with the loss of thousands of jobs in the event of a "no-deal" Brexit.

The firm, which employs 14,000 people at 25 sites across the country, said it would "reconsider its investments in the UK, and its long-term footprint in the country". Its move would be made if Britain crashed out of the single market and customs union without a transition agreement the company has said.

Publishing a Brexit "risk assessment", the firm also called on the Government to extend the planned transition period due to run until December 2020 if a deal is agreed.

Source: London Evening Standard

Air Tanzania Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner lands in D'Salaam



The much awaited Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner has landed in Tanzania at the Julius Nyerere International Airport (JNIA) for the first time.

The plane touched down at the country's major international gate way from the United States of America (USA).

President John Magufuli was the guest of

honor who graced the event to receive the plane that will be leased to Air Tanzania Corporation Limited (ATCL).The new aircraft becomes the fourth among seven aircrafts that have been bought by the government that took office in November 2015.

After it touched down, the plane received a water salute from two firefighting engines that were spraying arcs of water over it, as a sign of respect, honour and gratitude.

The Dreamliner that is valued at \$224.6 million has a seating capacity of 262 passengers that can be accommodated in a three-class configuration.

Source: TheCitizen

Zambia announces dates for ZATEX 2019



2nd – 4th May 2019

The Zambia Tourism Agency has set the dates for the country's main international tourism trade show, ZATEX. The 2019 dates will be from the 2nd of May to the 4th of May, again to be held in Lusaka's Mulungushi International Conference Centre.

Interested parties can already review details, more information will be uploaded on the website over the coming weeks, via www.zambiatravelexpo.com. Applications for hosted buyers and media will again need to be filed with the ZATEX organizers to benefit from invitations for what has over the past years become one of Southern Africa's key tourism trade platforms.

Source : ATC News

Air France to increase flights to Kenya next year



Air France will increase flights to Nairobi's Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA) next year to five times a week. The airline

currently flies between Paris-Charles de Gaulle and Nairobi three times a week. Beginning on March 31, 2019, flights will operate every day except Tuesdays and Saturdays. The route will be serviced by a Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner, with 30 seats in business class, 21 in premium economy and 225 in economy. The flight schedule will be as follows:

Flight AF814 – depart Paris at 20h50, arriving in Nairobi at 06h00 the next day.

Flight AF815 – depart Nairobi at 08h20, arriving in Paris at 15h50

Source: *TourismUpdate*

HOTCATT reopens with a renewed commitment to training industry professionals



Ghana's Minister of Tourism, Arts and Culture, Mrs Catherine Afeku has reopened the revamped Hotel, Catering and Tourism Training Institute, (HOTCATT).

The facility which was established some 27 years ago went into hibernation a few years back, creating a huge gap in the training of hospitality professionals to feed Ghana's burgeoning hospitality and tourism industry.

The reopening of the institute is envisioned to become the chosen leading professional skills training Institute on the African continent. The institution will provide students with the capacity building experience which will in turn equip them with the necessary skills within the tourism, hospitality and catering industries.

At the reopening in ceremony, Tourism Minister Catherine Afeku said HOTCATT has been refurbished to bring it up to standard with what exists elsewhere.

Chief Executive Officer of HOTCATT, Jenny Adade praised the Tourism Minister for her

dedication and unwavering support to the reconstruction of the institute.

The renovated hospitality training institute features a career development facility, industry recruitment office and training rooms for practice. In the coming months, will undergo a rebranding process which will see changed.

Kenya's Mohammed Hersi joins the ARP Travel Group as Operations Director



Kenya Tourism Federation Chairman Mohammed Hersi has joined the ARP Travel Group as Operations Director with immediate effect.

The ARP Travel Group includes such brand names like Pollmans' Tours and Safaris in Kenya and Ranger Safaris in Tanzania but also has hotel interests through the Baobab Beach Resort and Spa, Kole Kole and Maridadi besides also owning the Taita Hills and Salt Lick Lodges which are managed by Sarova Hotels on their behalf.

Mohammed can look back at his illustrious career over decades now, including his position as General Manager of the Whitesands Hotel before he moved as CEO to Heritage Hotels. More recently was Mohammed then CEO of Sun Africa Hotels.

Mohammed is an Utalii graduate and holds an MBA from the Regent Business School in Durban. Before being elected as KTF Chair was Mohammed, also known as MH was a long serving Head of the Mombasa and Coast Tourism Association which later became the Kenya Coast Tourist Association. He was also National Chairman of Skal Kenya. Last but not the least Mohammed is a certified corporate governance trainer accredited by the Centre for Corporate Governance in Kenya.

Fastjet Begins Harare-Bulawayo Flights



Low cost airliner, Fastjet has landed at the Joshua Mqabuko Nkomo International Airport on the aviation firm's inaugural flight on the Harare-Bulawayo route.

The move is in connection with a Government decision to embark on the "managed liberalisation" of the air transport sector to promote destination connectivity for the benefit of travellers.

Only local airlines such as Fastjet and Fly-Africa Zimbabwe have been allowed to ply local routes.

In the past, domestic routes were preserved for national airline, Air Zimbabwe. Fastjet has a special launch fare that begins from \$59 including taxes. The airline's CEO Nico Bezuidenhout recently said they have been "pursuing this route designation for several years".

Mr Bezuidenhout said they are now delighted to see that "positive changes" in the country's political and economic environment has allowed fastjet to ply the route.

Source: *Herald.co.zw*

Uganda Tourism Board undergoes restructuring



The Uganda Tourism Board (UTB) has begun a restructuring drive to fill in what the management says are gaps needed to drive the country's tourism to greater positions and make the Pearl of Africa a global destination.

At least 25 vacancies have been advertised by the board. Among them are the Marketing Manager, Manager legal and corporate affairs, quality assurance manager, finance, planning manager, human resources and administration manager.

Others were senior internal auditor, senior public relations officer, procurement, marketing officers, senior accountant, executive assistant to the CEO, legal office, product development and investment officer, marketing officers, planning officer and many areas.

The Executive Director of the Uganda Tourism Board Stephen Asimwe said the restructuring was as a result of a massive restriction exercise the board sanctioned a few months ago and that they first started with internal recruitment which ended in July.

Airbus partners with Government of Côte D'Ivoire



Airbus and the government of Côte d'Ivoire signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to establish a framework of collaboration to support the development of the country's aerospace industry which has been identified as strategic for its economic development.

The MoU was signed by Hon Amadou Koné, Minister of Transport of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire and Mikail Houari, President Airbus Africa Middle East in the presence of his Excellency Daniel Kablan Duncan, Vice President of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire and Guillaume Faury, President Airbus Commercial Aircraft.

Under the terms of the MoU, Airbus and the government of Cote Divoire will explore channels of cooperation in developing the aerospace sector in Côte d'Ivoire in various areas.

Source: *E-Turbo News*

Cameroon: AFCON 2019-Stakeholders target one Million Tourists



Actors in the leisure and tourism sector grouped under the Hotel Industries and Tourism Employer's Federation (SPIHT) are aiming to entertain some one million internal and foreign tourists as Cameroon hosts the Africa Cup of Nations, AFCON, next year.

The members of the committee held a meeting in Yaounde, to brainstorm on ways of giving the soccer jamboree a unique Cameroonian perspective, while making economic gains from it. The meeting was chaired by Eitel Akame, Permanent Secretary of the National Tourism Council.

The meeting was also an occasion for the stakeholders to be sensitised on the project to draw up a charter for hotel reception of guests during the AFCON. The Prime Minister and Head of Government Philemon Yang had in June this year, ordered for the putting in place of a plan of action to receive and host foreign guests.

Source: *Cameroon Tribune*

KQ Becomes First African Carrier To Use Boeing's Consumable & Expendable Services



Kenya Airways (KQ) has signed an agreement with Boeing that will make it the first carrier in Africa to use Boeing's Consumable & Expendable Services offering which will help the airline improve airplane reliability and turnaround times.

Under the deal, Boeing will deliver materials,

offer innovative services and understand the needs to keep maintenance operations running at optimum efficiency.

"This program will provide unparalleled support for our fleet of 737s and 787-8s and we expect to continue to grow our operations with increased reliability and quicker turnaround times," said Jan de Vegt, Chief Operating Officer of Kenya Airways.

H Resort Vallon Beach in Seychelles recognised for green initiatives



The H Resort Vallon Beach has been awarded the Seychelles Sustainable Tourism Label certificate for integrating sustainability practices in its business operations.

In his address at an award ceremony, the Minister for Tourism, Civil Aviation, Ports and Marine, Didier Dogley said he was pleased with the increasing number of hotels displaying their commitment towards the sustainable tourism initiative.

"We live in an era where people have become very conscious about the environment. Travellers are on the lookout to associate themselves with sustainable service providers," he said.

The H Resort Beau Vallon Beach in the north of the main island Mahe has 55 percent of green cover which is taken care of by an expert team of gardeners and landscapers. A natural lagoon that flows through the property is also maintained and monitored by the resort team in collaboration with local agencies.

Source: *Seychelles News Agency*

Lake Victoria Serena Golf Resort & Spa set to launch a Full 18 Hole Golf Course in October



Lake Victoria Serena Golf Resort & Spa, Uganda is set to complete the second 9 holes to make it an 18-hole golf course by October this year. This golf course in Uganda has been designed by Golf Plan USA under the guidance of the Principal Architect - Kevin Ramsey and boasts of sweeping views of Lake Victoria. Its unique features include a finishing hole with an Island green that is rare in many courses around the world and is the first golf course in Uganda to have bent grass. The Lake Victoria Serena Golf Club is a private club offering a challenging layout for the ever-evolving golfer looking for an enjoyable golfing experience. The course also has a Golf Academy with 780m of putting green which acts as both a teaching and practise facility designed to replicate various shot areas such as short game area, a practice bunker and chipping green.

GTA builds capacity for women in Tourism



The Ghana Tourism Authority (GTA) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Evolvin' Women, a talent sourcing platform for women in hospitality based in the United Arab Emirates.

Evolvin' Women is a social enterprise that connects hospitality businesses to women from developing countries who lack access to quality hospitality training and employment opportunities due to personal, political or cultural circumstances. Women join the Evolvin' Women Pop Up Academy and together with educational partners, prepare to secure international entry-level employment with a view to returning to a job in their home country where they become contributors to their families, communities and national economic growth.

The Pop Up Academy is a 15 month programme that includes 3 months of interviews, face to face and online training and 12 months work experience in the United Arab Emirates.

Tanzania Tourist Board in New Drive to Boost Sector



The Tanzania Tourist Board (TTB) has called for technical and financial proposals for the provision of non-consultancy services for providing public relations and marketing services in China and India.

The move is meant to try and attract more tourists to visit Tanzania as part of a strategy to send its tourist arrival figures from the 1.3 million in 2017 upwards.

A firm will be selected under international competitive tendering methods, according to an advertisement published and signed by the TTB managing director Devota Mdachi.

"The bids must be accompanied by a tender securing declaration," reads the advert in part, detailing that proposals will be opened promptly thereafter in public and in the presence of service providers representatives.

Ms Mdachi said, the government has set aside funds for implementation of the said deal. Portion of the funds will be used to cover eligible payments under the contract for which this request for proposals has been issued.

Source: Alex Malanga Amalanga, -*(The Citizen)*

Zambia and Turkey sign agreement to encourage tourism



Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan has announced plans to partner Zambia for economic development. The announcement was made on an official visit to Zambia, following Erdoğan's visit to Johannesburg for the annual BRICS summit.

Erdoğan met his Zambian counterpart, Pres-

ident Edgar Lungu, in Lusaka where the two signed 12 agreements covering a number of sectors of the economy, including tourism. This was the first time a Turkish President has visited Zambia.

Turkish Airlines' Chairman, Iker Ayc, was working towards resuming direct flights to Zambia by December. This news was welcomed by President Lungu who said direct flights would boost relations between the two nations and was a positive outcome of Zambia's extensive work on its airports. Zambia's Ambassador in Turkey, Joseph Chilengi, reiterated this sentiment when he called for the implementation of a Bilateral Air Service Agreement between the two countries, saying direct flights would open up Zambia as a destination for travel.

Credit: TourismUpdate

Namibia waives visas for Jamaicans



Jamaicans travelling to Namibia for business or tourism will no longer be required to obtain a visa, the governments of Jamaica and Namibia have agreed to a visa waiver programme.

Prime Minister of Jamaica Andrew Holness said: "We need to encourage travel between our two countries for tourism. I've welcomed the announcement by the [Namibian] President of the waiver of visa requirements for Jamaicans; Jamaica have long abolished visa requirements for Namibians."

Prime Minister Holness, who was on an official visit to Namibia, said this was the first of several agreements between two the countries, as he began a full day of discussions with the Namibian President Hage Geingob. Previously, Jamaica unilaterally waived visa requirements for Namibians entering the country as an expression of solidarity and support during Namibia's liberation struggle. Namibia reciprocated with this action.

The two leaders discussed co-operation in the areas of sports, logistics, tourism, culture and international affairs.

Story by Gaongalelwe Dinal, TourismUpdate.co.za



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What's up? Africa?



The Lagos Beer Festival-

To boost commerce and showcase different brands of beer and adult drinks available in the state @ Eko Atlantic City, Lagos-Nigeria



Annual Reed Dance / Umlanga

The ceremony is a centuries-old tradition where the Kingdom's unmarried and child-less females present their newly cut reed to the Queen Mother to protect her residence. Date: September 3, 2018 @ Eswatini/Swaziland



Art X Lagos

Venue: Civic Centre, Victoria Island, Lagos
Lake of Stars Music Festival
Faaji Agba- (Evergreen Night) Date: Sunday, September 30
Music Concert for the elderly to celebrate World Elder's Day

Kwita Izina

Kwita Izina is a Rwandan ceremony of giving a name to a newborn baby gorilla. It is named after the ancestral baby naming ceremony that happened after the birth of a newborn. 7th September 2018 @ Kigali, Rwanda

Nyege Nyege Festival 2018

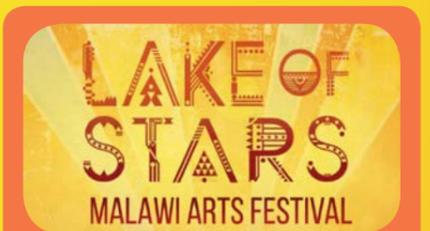
Nyege Nyege stands for peace, respect and abundant joy, it stands for Africa and Africans, for underground music and musicians, it stands for fun and curiosity and strives towards inclusivity and wonder, something of a perfect world you might say, but it's only 4 days after all. Date: 6th -9th September 2018 @ Kalakala Safaris

The festival celebrates street food from all cultures that make up the melting pot that is SA. Street food from foreign cities will also be represented at the festival, along with food trucks creating the fare.



FunkyNFresh @ Labadi Beach Hotel, Accra-Ghana

Friday, 28th September 2018 7pm
FunkyNFresh is a quarterly dance party organized by Labadi Beach Hotel in partnership with Citi FM & VoyagesAfric Media



The Lake of Stars Festival

The Lake of Stars Festival is returning to the central region for our 15th anniversary! The festival will take place 28 – 30 September at the newly built Kabumba Hotel in Leopards Bay, Salima. Malawi



Oguaa Fetu Afahye Festival

(Cape Coast-Ghana) It is an annual festival celebrated by the Fanti people of Cape Coast and the grand durbar is held during the first weekend of September. 1st-2nd September 2018



5th South Africa Street Food Festival

The fifth South African Street Food Festival will take place this year from September 1 -9 in Cape Town and Johannesburg, South Africa

Olokun Festival

- Annual festival scheduled to come off at Badagry-Lagos State

Muson Festival

- A night of classical and contemporary music at Muson Centre

Oktoberfest

Oktoberfest @ Labadi Beach Hotel
Oktoberfest is the world's largest funfair held annually in Munich, Bavaria, Germany. It is basically a beer drinking festival with German food and music serving as an accompaniment. Labadi Beach Hotel dedicates two days to celebrate this festival in Ghana. 5-6 October 2018



Lagos Fashion & Design Week

in Lagos, 24-27 October 2018
Lagos Urban Musical Festival- An avenue to propagate the awareness of music @ Freedom Park



Lights, Camera, Africa Film Festival

- One of the most intimate Film Festivals in West Africa, providing opportunities to young Filmmakers and students. Lagos



Felabration

- Days earmarked to celebrate Africa's Iconic Music and originator of Aprobats Fela Kuti at the New Afrika Shrine Ikeja and Freedom Park, Lagos

Taste of Lagos Food & Drinks Fair

- It's a culinary exhibition of all kinds of foods that can be gotten in Lagos involving small businesses in the food industry. Venue- Eko Atlantic, Lagos

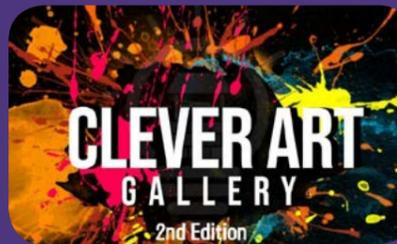
Festival Kreol (Victoria, Seychelles)

21-29th October 2018
Festival Kreol is held in the last week of October, the people of the Republic of Seychelles pay homage to their island's Creole heritage.



Artfest

- Art In The Wild
ArtFest' is a vibrant celebration of the whole artistic spectrum, a day of artistic bliss showcasing; Music, Visual Arts, Fashion, Crafts, Photography, Literature, Digital Arts, Performing Art and so much more @ Kenya Wildlife Service Headquarter, Nairobi 20-21 October 2018



Clever Art Gallery

Clever Art Gallery Is an event that brings together all kind of creative artist from photography ceramics, drawing, painting, pottery, sculpture, printmaking, design, crafts, photography, architecture etc in Meet & Greets kind of social setting. With a blend of good music and drinks. Sat 6th October @Lavington Mall-Kenya

UPCOMING TRAVEL EXHIBITIONS

Sanganai World Tourism Expo

Sanganai World Tourism Expo highlights the widest variety of Africa's best tourism products and attracts international visitors and media from across the world. It is held at the Zimbabwe International Trade Fair in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe. 6-8 September 2018

Akwaaba Travel Market-

It's West Africa's leading annual travel and tourism exhibition held in Lagos, Nigeria. This year's edition is slated for 9-11 September @ Eko Hotel & Suites, Victoria Island-Lagos

Magical Kenya Travel Expo (MKTE)

- MKTE is the largest travel expo in East Africa, offering the ideal platform for B2B meetings between leading African products and top-producing global buyers. MKTE is the flagship of Kenya's Tourism Week. Attendees come from key tourism source markets in North America, UK, Europe, Asia, Middle East, Australia and Africa. Date: 3-5 October 2018 @ Kenyatta International Convention Centre, Nairobi

Swahili International Tourism Expo

Swahili International Tourism Expo (SITE) is a 3-day event being held from 12-14 October 2018 at the Julius Nyerere International Conference Center in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. The Expo focuses on inbound and outbound travel business to and within Africa.

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