

One of Africa's best
rail journeys is
the Pride of Africa
from Cape Town
to Pretoria.



In three years' time, Africa's tallest building
will be Nairobi's The Pinnacle. This 70-floor
building is currently under construction.

Habari

Icon

Exploring Identity

Posing with a supermarket trolley, with a mannequin or in an ordinary living room. The Nigerian Aniebiet Ekong (21) creates absurd but intriguing self-portraits that explore his identity with a mix of 2D and 3D media. "When editing, I use colours that mirror my poses and outfits," he explains. Instagram: @baddieani.



A must-see in Ghana is the whitewashed Cape Coast Castle that overlooks the ocean.



Nairobi

Among Africa's most famous contemporary writers are Chinua Achebe, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, and Ayi Kwei Armah.



Motoring Simba Corp Aspire Centre

The dealers of BMW, Renault and Mitsubishi have opened a state-of-the-art showroom and service centre that combines hospitality and motoring. Check it out. It's rad.

~ simbacorp.com

Stay Best Western's New Thing

The hotel chain has gone into the leafier, woodier part of Nairobi with these smart one-bedroom apartments. This property on Riverside Drive comes with the usual bells and whistles: 24-hr concierge services, express check-out, daily housekeeping, laundry services and your own private working office complete with fast wifi. Upstairs is a fantastic bar with an excellent view of the treetops. Great for cocktails.

~ bwexecutiveresidencynairobi.co.ke



“Start by building the why”

– Muthoni Ndonga –
creative entrepreneur



Eat

Ankole Grill

What's a good steak? Isn't that the question carnivorous men chugging beers and wine around tables under low lighting ask? Luckily it's upon this question that Ankole Grill, the new steakhouse at the junction of Lenana and Galana Roads, was founded. The steakhouse is a broody and modern *kraal* (enclosure) made from steel and wood. The tables are made from palm wood. Decor is “smoky” and tasteful. Eclectic music – a mix of African music, acoustics, jazz and some pop – streams overhead. The menu features burgers like the Ankole, the big bad bacon cheeseburgers, as well as top sirloin steak – all great food based on great science of beef. This grill would make the grandfathers of cows – the Ankole-Watusi – quite chuffed.

~ ankolegrill.co.ke

Nairobi Text: Jackson Biko

The Bazaruto Archipelago in Mozambique consists of five idyllic islands: Bazaruto, Benguerra, Magaruque, Santa Carolina and Bangué.



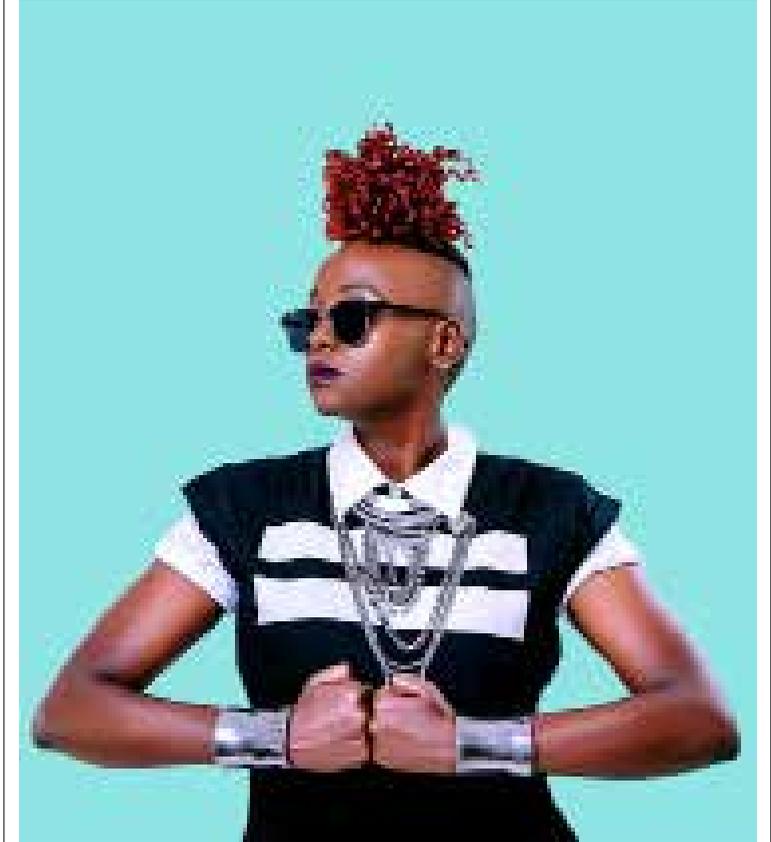
What's On

The three African destinations most popular with Chinese tourists are: South Africa, Egypt and Kenya.

African spotlight LagosPhoto Festival

LagosPhoto, launched in 2010, has established a community for contemporary photography that unites local and international artists. This month-long event takes place across the city and includes activities such as a summer school, exhibitions and talks. The eighth edition of this annual festival is themed “Regimes of Truth” and will be held in Lagos from 21 October to 20 November.

~ lagosphotofestival.com



Entrepreneur

Muthoni Ndonga

Kenyan wonder woman Muthoni Ndonga is multi-talented. She is a singer/rapper widely known as “Muthoni the Drummer Queen”, a creative entrepreneur and founder of the successful *Blankets & Wine* events in Nairobi.

Blankets & Wine started back in 2008, when music lover Muthoni Ndonga decided to host picnic-styled events on Sundays in Nairobi, with the goal of promoting local artistic talent. “People bring a bottle of wine, a picnic basket and a blanket. And they can sit back, relax and listen to the music,” she explains.

The event is one of the most popular music festivals in East Africa and has attracted top performers in music, art, literature and fashion. Blankets & Wine has already made the move to Kampala, but this year it will also debut in Rwanda's capital Kigali – showing its enormous popularity in the region.

Managing both her life as an artist as well as an entrepreneur, Ndonga is the right person to share some inspiring advice for those with creative business aspirations, “It's a tough business, so have back-up plans just in case. If you get shut down, get right back up and become even better.”

~ blanketsandwine.com



Trending now

African Beats on Spotify

Online platform OkayAfrica has launched its own Spotify channel, which showcases the many diverse styles and sounds coming out of Africa. Playlists include the hottest afrobeat sounds, vintage African records, black punk bands, dedicated mixtapes and a weekly updated playlist to keep listeners informed about what's new and cool across Africa (and among its diaspora). Follow OkayAfrica on Spotify.

Habari Text: Eva de Vries

Romazava is considered the national dish of Madagascar and each family makes their own version.



Arts & Culture

You can find privately owned minibuses all over Africa. They are called *matatu* in Kenya, *tro tro* in Ghana, and *dala dala* in Tanzania.

Beer Windhoek Oktoberfest

For beer lovers who would like to experience a real Oktoberfest without going to Germany, the annual Windhoek Oktoberfest in Cape Town is the place to be. It offers a combination of food, games, music and Namibian beer. This year the festival takes place 20-22 October.

~ windhoekoktoberfest.com



Hermanus Whale Festival

Celebrating the migration of Southern Right Whales and other marine wildlife with ocean-themed activities and exhibitions. Takes place from 29 September – 1 October in Hermanus, South Africa.

~ hermanuswhalefestival.co.za



Cycling Tour de Machakos

The Tour de Machakos offers a perfect excuse to leave the city, train those muscles and see the hidden gems of Machakos County. Cycling professionals and amateur fanatics can join the four-day road race that consists of four stages. The event takes place from 19 to 22 October.

~ tourdemachakos.com

Art Young Creative

The young and talented Kenyan Edwin Wainaina is showing off his incredible artwork on Instagram and he already has more than 18,000 followers. His colourful pieces are inspired by portraits of beautiful people.

~ @ed_wainaina (Instagram)



“Time has
its own time”

– Edwin Wainaina –
Kenyan artist

The Comrades Marathon in South Africa is 89 km and the oldest ultramarathon in the world.

People

The primary exported commodities of African nations are oil, gold, diamonds, cacao, timber and precious metals. Botswana and South Africa are the two biggest exporting countries.

Insiders

African Travel Bloggers

Worldwide there are millions of so-called “travel bloggers”, but African writers are still scarce. Fortunately, we have found four great bloggers who share their travel stories, inspiring other Africans to pack their bags.



The Kenyan Camper, Kenya
This blogger doesn't reveal his full identity, as he likes to focus on his adventures. He shares the most amazing camping spots amid great Kenyan nature, varying from bush to beach.
thekenyancamper.com



Zuru Kenya, Kenya
Showcasing people, food, culture, wildlife and nature, Olive offers a high-quality travel and leisure website packed with information and beautiful photography. Apart from Kenya, she also features neighbouring countries.
zurukenya.com

The Incidental Tourist, South Africa
Based in Cape Town, Dawn is a traveller and photographer with a deep love for Africa. Her stories about hikes in Madagascar and malaria-free safaris make you want to hit the road immediately.
theincidentaltourist.com



Msanzi Girl, South Africa
The South African lady behind Msanzi Girl offers her readers a new perspective on South Africa. Meruschka writes about places many people know exist, but few have properly explored.
mzansigirl.com



Jackson Biko

The Iconoclast Barfly

There's a bar in Barcelona called Obama English Pub. It's on Gran Via de les Corts Catalanes. They serve burgers and (mostly) American music. It's also full of (mostly) American tourists. Seated at the entrance is a plastic statue of Obama. Passing tourists love to drape their hands around his shoulders and take selfies with him. I was there recently but I didn't take a picture with him because, well, I don't like plastic. You'll excuse me, I'm environmentally conscious. Anyway this one time, this guy from Greenland (upon realising I was Kenyan) asked me with so much sincerity if all of us Kenyans run as part of the school's extra-curricular activities. I said actually most Kenyans can't even climb stairs, let alone run. Most walk. To work. The middle classes drive everywhere. You won't step outside the house and find a horde of smiling runners going down the street. I said, "If you throw a pebble in a crowd it wouldn't hit a runner. It would most likely hit a smoker. Or, worse, someone who only wants to talk about *Game of Thrones*."

None of my friends run. Not even on a treadmill. In fact, most of my friends are like most of the Americans I saw at the Obama pub: big burly men, with beer guts. The tentacles of globalisation shouldn't be underplayed. I will admit that it's flattering to be thought of as an athletic and running nation. It's also old and deceptive and I can't be a party to that myth any longer. I suspect I ruined the "Kenyan experience" for that gentleman, which was his fault really, asking me questions while I was drinking.

I can see him back in Greenland with his mate, Akkiu, in a pub. "I met a Kenyan guy," he announces. "And he doesn't run. Nobody runs." Akkiu looks at him with astonishment. He adds bitterly, "They only watch *Game of Thrones*." Akkiu looks at him and says, "Are you sure he was a Kenyan guy?" He says he is sure, Akkiu asks how he can be sure. He says, "Because he didn't take a picture with Obama."

~ www.bikozulu.co.ke

Hannah Wieslander (Illustration Jackson Biko)

Gadgets

South Africa's favourite snack is biltong. These strips of cured and dried meat served in different sizes are an important part of the culture.

Travel gadgets

A Sound Choice

These award-winning wireless headphones tailor sound to your environment.

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Philips Noise Cancellation

More sound, less noise and a powerful bass. Be immersed in your music with innovative ActiveShield™ noise-cancelling technology. With 40 hours of playback time, you'll enjoy the comfort of the pressure-relieving cushions. Not to mention on-ear sealing, which provides precision sound, blocking out ambient noise.
~ philips.com

Inspired to buy? See our shopping magazine *Karibu*.



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Bose QuietComfort 35

Bose have re-engineered their noise-cancelling headphones to be wireless using Bluetooth® technology. At the flip of a switch the noise fades and your music soars. Bose Acoustic Noise Cancelling technology continuously measures, compares and reacts to outside noise then cancels it with the opposite signal.
~ bose.com



②

③

Samsung Level On Wireless Pro

Perfect for music lovers who want to couple outstanding audio quality with stylish design. An ergonomic shape and dazzling colours mean you can enjoy great sound while wearing a piece of great-looking gear. Incorporating Samsung's state-of-the-art UHQ audio support technology, these headphones offer top-quality sound.
~ samsung.com



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Sony MDR-1000X

These headphones lead the market in noise cancellation and sound quality. LDAC technology transmits approximately three times more data than conventional Bluetooth® wireless audio, which allows you to enjoy audio content that is close to high resolution. In addition, Sony's Sense Engine™ affords you control with touch gestures.

~ sony.com