

The American Colonization Society founded Liberia in 1821 as a colony for free African Americans. More than 10,000 people emigrated across the Atlantic.



Mozambique is the only country with a one-word name that includes all five vowels.

Habari

Fashion Love Story

Senegalese dancer Baay Sooley and French photographer Laure Tarot fell in love in Dakar seven years ago. Shortly afterwards, they created fashion label Bull Doff, which fuses traditional African art forms with punk and rock influences. The new collection features the geometric patterns and colours of Imigongo art from Rwanda. ~ bulldoff.com



Lake Tanganyika is one of the African Great Lakes. It is estimated to be the second largest and second deepest freshwater lake in the world.



Nairobi

The Chambo fish, one of Malawi's favourite delicacies, is actually an endangered species.



Online wine Cellar 254

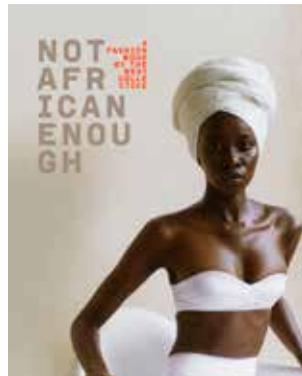
Who wants to go out to a shop looking for wine when you can go online? This portal features over 67 varieties of wine from 7 countries. You can shop according to your taste in style, region, type, grape and price. Oh, and they deliver right to your doorstep, so you don't have to rush out and leave the party.

~ cellar254.com

Book Not African Enough

A book about emerging Kenyan designers, yes, but also a book that challenges the narrow expectations of what African design should look like. This 368-page hardcover book comes in two cover editions.

~ thisisthenest.com



Art scene

Where is Art?

Art in the Den

Every last Saturday of the month, Charles Murito, a lover of art (and Google Kenya Country Manager) and Adrian Nduma bring together artists at dusitD2 Hotel in Nairobi's Riverside Drive to showcase art outside the typical gallery space. The show is sponsored by Capital FM and the hotel is premised on three principles: access, business and mentorship. It's a great event at which to mingle with artists, find a bargain and commission art. It's also a great Saturday plan and, even better, the perfect way to support local talent.

~ Twitter: #ArtInTheDen



Go down there

The GoDown Art Center was formerly a car repair workshop before it was turned into a place for artists from different disciplines. With plans to build a new cultural centre, the GoDown Art Center is at the cusp of a new era.

~ thegtdownartscentre.com



"I don't want to say 'African art' because art is art"

– Laolu Senbanjo, Nigerian Artist –

Nairobi page text: Jackson Biko



What's On

At 12,000 sq km, the Makgadikgadi Pan in Botswana is one of the largest salt pan areas in the world.

Kenyan environmentalist professor Wangari Maathai (1940–2011) was the first African woman to win the Nobel Peace Prize in 2004.



Athletics

Running with the Kenyans

Kenyan runners are among the world's best, so it's no surprise that a growing number of training camps are eager to build upon this legacy. Iten, Kenya, also known as the "Home of Champions" attracts hundreds of runners from all over the globe. Athletes push their limits training on the high-altitude trails of the Great Rift Valley. The Kenya Experience is one of Iten's many spectacular training camps that welcomes international runners.

~ traininkenya.com

"We need to show girls that they can develop their skills too"

– DJ Rachael –



Q&A

Turntable Queen

DJ Rachael, Uganda's leading female spinner, recently launched "Femme Electronic", an initiative that aims to tackle the gender imbalance in East Africa's electronic music industry. She tells Msafiri about her work.

How would you describe your music?

"It's very diverse. It blends styles such as rap, hip-hop and deep house, usually leaning more towards Afro-Electronic. I love electronic music. It's full of energy that brings you to life."

What is "Femme Electronic"?

"I started this project with a push from the German Goethe-Institut in Kampala and Santuri Safari to help mentor girls who want to become DJs and produce electronic music."

Why is it necessary to equip more women with DJ and producer skills in East Africa?

"Ladies have long been absent from the DJ and production scene in East Africa, and we need to show girls that they can develop their skills too. It's time for more women to explore this funky science. DJing can be a wonderful alternative job for strong, talented African women."



Festival

Kilifi New Year

The tranquil banks of Kilifi Creek in Southern Kenya provide a breath-taking setting for the Kilifi New Year, a two-day creative explosion of music, camping, wild costumes, beach bonfires and tropical cocktails. This magical start of the new year takes place from 31 December to 2 January at Distant Relatives Eco-Lodge & Backpackers in Kilifi.

~ kilifinewyear.com

Habari text: Eva de Vries

Shutterstock

Designer: Nanyak Oduoyi, Photographer: Sarah Waiswa, Model: Laura Anjili

Madagascar has been an isolated island for around 70 million years. It first broke away from Africa and then from India nearly 100 million years later.



Arts & Culture

Namibia is home to the world's largest population of free-roaming cheetahs. Experts estimate that the country has 3,000 of these wild cats.

Music

Blues du Fleuve Festival

This (almost) annual music festival was founded in 2006 by the wildly popular Senegalese singer, Baaba Maal, who hopes to make it Africa's version of Glastonbury. The 2017 edition of this delightful dusty West-African music experience is scheduled for 1 to 3 December in Senegal's northernmost town of Podor, alongside the Senegal River bordering Mauritania.

~ festivalbluesdufleuve.com



Sci-fi art

MaaSci in Space

A young boy carrying a spear and a black-and-white lamb walk above the clouds. A girl decked in traditional Masai bead jewellery is surrounded by planets and a purple Milky Way. And three men dressed in Masai blankets float through space. This intriguing series, known as MaaSci, is produced by Kenyan digital artist Jacque Njeri. Her work imagines the Masai people from southern Kenya and northern Tanzania in space. "I have great interest and enthusiasm for 'Afrofuturism' and science fiction, and I wanted to explore it through the aesthetics of our own Masai people," says Njeri. Njeri's photos come at a time when many African artists are experimenting with science fiction and virtual reality. This cultural movement, known as "Afrofuturism", uses creative work to envision a future beyond the history of oppression, combining elements of science fiction and fantasy to create unique worlds.

~ Instagram: @fruit_junkie

Visual art

Kenya Art Fair

From 17 to 19 November, one of the most celebrated visual arts events in East Africa takes place at the Sarit Expo Centre in Nairobi: the Kenya Art Fair. It presents a dynamic selection of galleries, art collections, talks, live drawings and established and upcoming artists from Kenya and beyond. The theme for this year's fair is "Cohesion", complementing Kenya's General Elections.

~ Twitter: @KenyaArtFair



“Everything about my culture inspires my work”

– Nigerian/British designer Yinka Ilori –

The islands along Africa's west coast were under Portuguese rule from 1462 to 1975. Portuguese is still spoken in Cape Verde today.

People

The Elmina Castle in Ghana, built by the Portuguese in 1482, is the oldest European building in Sub-Saharan Africa.

List of African people

African Cinema

African cinema is gaining more international recognition every year. Msafiri tips five must-see African movies, each one offering a unique perspective of our vibrant continent.



Kalushi: The Story of Solomon Mahlangu (South Africa, Mandla Dube, 2017)
Solomon Mahlangu is a schoolboy-hawker from Mamelodi township who joins the military wing of the ANC after the Soweto uprising on 16 June, 1976 to fight against the brutal oppression of Apartheid.

Timbuktu (Mauritania, Abderrahmane Sissako, 2014)
Not far from the ancient Malian city of Timbuktu (now ruled by religious fundamentalists), a proud cattle herder lives peacefully in the dunes with his wife and children until local Jihadists abruptly disturb them.



From a Whisper (Kenya, Wanuri Kahiu, 2008)
When an intelligence officer and a rebellious artist discover that they both lost someone in the US Embassy bombing, they learn to confront their fears and forgive. (Based on a true story.)

Kati Kati (Kenya, Mbithi Masya, 2016)
When Kaleche, an amnesiac, wakes up in the middle of the wilderness, she has no idea how she got there. She finds her way to Kati Kati, a mysterious lodge, where a ghost helps her assimilate into the afterlife.



The Gods Must Be Crazy (South Africa, Jamie Uys, 1980)
This comedy about the clash of modern civilisation and old African traditions is hilarious from start to finish. When a bushman discovers a coke bottle dropped by a passing plane, his village takes it for a gift from the gods.



Jackson Biko

Security Screen SPF 0

The bad man takes my lotion. A bad dreadful man with a neat beard. And no heart. "Look, I'm not a terrorist," I plead with him. "Do I look like someone who can blow up a bloody plane? I'm black for crying out loud! Black! Look!" I show him my arm, as if he can't see from my face that I'm black. He just chuckles and nonchalantly throws away my lotion in a bucket containing other doomed lotions whose only crimes are being in tubes over 100ml. I hate him (but just enough not to earn a place in hell). I stare at my poor lotion that I will have to leave behind.

People behind me in the queue stare at me with eyes like fish in a bowl. Righteous people who imagine they have made the best decisions in their lives by checking in their over 100ml liquids and gels and sprays. Nobody lifts a finger to offer character witness. Nobody steps forward and says, "Now, hang on a second, Mr. Lotion Police. This man here pays his taxes and loves animals. Do not separate him from his lotion." I'm alone. Nobody defends me from this man with a neat beard. The world is a cruel place for a man with the wrong lotion.

I think about my lotion as I wait at the gate, in the plane. (Crew member, "Would you like chicken or beef sandwich, sir?" Me (sulking), "No, I don't want your stupid sandwich, I just want my lotion.") I think about it as the immigration officer with caterpillars for eyebrows stamps my passport.

As I sit in the taxi on my way to the hotel, I stare at the back of the driver's head, wondering how that security agent lives with himself after separating many people from their lotions. What values does he teach his children? Will he be accepted in heaven? When I finally buy a new lotion it doesn't even feel the same. I smell like someone I wouldn't have a drink with.

~ bikoZulu.co.ke

Illustration: Hannah Wieslander

Mauritius' main island is of volcanic origin. Forty-five km wide and sixty-four km long, it's surrounded by coral reef.

Gadgets

The Third Mainland Bridge in Lagos is Nigeria's longest bridge at 11.8 km long.

Travel gadgets

Buy Some Time



Tech talk

Bluesmart Series 2

About-to-launch smart suitcase that you can track and use to charge your mobile device.

The ultimate smart carry-on. Conceived to enhance your journey by connecting to your phone to lock, track – via an imbedded 3G and GPS location tracker – it's location, get notifications and even charge your devices on the move.

The suitcase is available in cabin and check-in sizes. A laptop bag and passport pouch are also part of the collection. Pre-order a Series 2 product now and get a reduction of up to 40 percent.

~ bluesmart.com



1 Sekonda Ladies Watch

This fashion ladies watch features a round, gold-plated case, a white-stone dial and a stainless-steel-mesh bracelet. Two-year manufacturer's guarantee. ~ Karibu US\$90

2 Sekonda Gents Watch

This chronograph watch features a rose-gold-plated and gunmetal two-tone case and bracelet with stainless-steel case. Water-resistant to 50 m. Two-year manufacturer's guarantee. ~ Karibu US\$160

3 Hugo Boss – Ambassador

Designed in a modern palette for the modern man. The dial, in silver with a date display, forms a stylish contrast to the rich croc-embossed leather strap. Water-resistant to 30 m. ~ Karibu US\$220

4 Anne Klein – Ceramic Diamond

Features a black ceramic bracelet with gold-toned case and end links with a black metallised ring and dial. Genuine diamond at 12 o'clock. Two-year warranty. ~ Karibu US\$130



Inspired to buy? See our shopping magazine Karibu.