

With about

21 million people Lagos, Nigeria, is now the biggest city in Africa after overtaking Cairo, Egypt.



The traditional blankets of Lesotho are called Basotho blankets. They're known for their characteristic pinstripes.

Habari

Art Mixed Media

Front Room is a stunning collection of mixed-media paintings on paper by the talented Nigerian-born visual artist Njideka Akunyili Crosby. Inspired by the artist's experience of moving from Nigeria to the US, the paintings are currently on display at the Baltimore Museum of Art until March 2018. @njidekaakunyilicrosby



Africa's largest airport is named after one of South Africa's most important founding fathers, Oliver Reginald Tambo.



Nairobi

From Ghana to Tanzania, Christmas is celebrated with carols, meat roasting and exchanging of gifts. People travel far and wide to visit friends and family.



Cuisine

Mama Ashanti

Saturdays are for chilling in gardens with a band, and if you have children, letting them jump in the bouncy castle. If the sun is out, you will sit under a parasol with a sangria after some sumptuous West African cuisine at Mama Ashanti. They have a lounge, but why would you want to sit inside when the sun is out? There's a tailor adjacent, who makes African clothes. You can check that out (if you're into African fashion). You could say that Mama Ashanti is about hot West African food (mostly Ghanaian) and fashion. You could. Nobody will stop you.

~ Mama Ashanti, Muthangari Road

Restaurant Kiza in Africa

Once upon a time, a Nigerian and a Nigerien (from Niger) got together and started KIZA Restaurant and Lounge in Dubai. When that flourished, they dipped their toes into Africa with a branch in Nairobi. When that coasted along well, they opened Kiza Restaurant, a pan-African, fine-dining eatery with an African-chic ambiance. Great place to host clients from overseas, and an even better place to eat if you're new in town and want something African with a modern twist. Try out dishes like: okra stew from West Africa; lamb tagine from Morocco; *yassa* chicken from Senegal; and *mukimo* from Kenya. You might see one of the owners, Ali. He'll be the charming one.

~ kizalounge.co.ke



Karaoke Sing at Budhaa Bar

Can you sing? No? Okay, do you love to watch people sing badly? If so, and you have a Thursday open, head to Budhaa Bar at Delta Tower, Westlands for Karaoke night. The energy is insane. The crowd is slightly youthful (meaning early 30s), but nobody will make you feel out of place. It gets full to the rafters, so go early by 7 p.m. and get a seat. Oh, and please sing, no matter how bad you are at it. You'll fit right in.

~ Budhaa Bar & Lounge, Delta Tower, Chiromo Road, Westlands



Fine dining The Lord Erroll



Sometimes you need to roll up your sleeves and indulge in a feast; the sort you need napkins for. The Lord Erroll gourmet restaurant, which is surrounded by lush green lawns in the upmarket suburbs of Runda, is just the place. Serving award-winning French cuisine, The Lord Erroll is spread across several dining rooms, all with their own charm. You'll probably be too busy eating to notice the unique decor, however.

~ The Lord Erroll, 89 Ruaka Rd, Nairobi

“Surround yourself with people and ideas you admire”

– Wangari Nyanjui –
Peperuka founder

Nairobi page text: Jackson Biko



What's On

On Christmas Day in Malawi, children go door-to-door, dancing, singing and playing homemade instruments.

San Antonio de Ureca, a village on Bioko Island, Equatorial Guinea, is the wettest place in Africa. Its average annual rainfall is 11,400 mm.

Music East Africa Soul Train

The East Africa Soul Train (EAST) is an annual travelling residency that brings together artists, dancers, musicians, creatives and passengers from different countries to explore East Africa's historic railways. The diverse group of people on board share perspectives, engage in deep conversations and develop interdisciplinary collaborations. The 2018 edition will take place in January or February.

~ @eastsoultrain



Festival Timkat Feast of Epiphany

Timkat, meaning “baptism” in Amharic, is the Ethiopian Orthodox Church's celebration of Epiphany, a Christian holiday honouring Jesus' baptism in the Jordan River. Once the ceremonies and processions are over, there's a feast followed by dancing. The celebration, in Gondar on 19 January, is considered to be the most vibrant festival of the year. Visitors are advised to book a tour.

Habari text: Eva de Vries



Q&A

Creator of Africa's Netflix

Tonjé Bakang is the Cameroonian entrepreneur behind Africa's Netflix, Afrostream, which launched in 2015. Disappointed with the lack of black representation on other streaming sites, Bakang founded Afrostream with a black audience in mind.

Today, Afrostream aims to become a top contender in the African audio-visual market. “Watch your favourite black films and series in unlimited access anytime, anywhere,” states the website's homepage. Films such as the *Last Flight to Abuja* and *Obsessed* can be watched on computers, tablets and smartphones. Afrostream partners with major movie studios to distribute entertainment content. In the future, the company aims to produce its own independent films. Originally launched in French-speaking European countries, the service is now available in more than 20 African nations as well, and Bakang has plans to expand to many more.

~ afrostream.tv and Twitter: @Tonjebakang

“A man doesn't go far from where his corn is roasting”

– Nigerian proverb –

Located in the middle of the Sahara, Kufra (Libya) is the driest place in Africa.



Coptic Christians in Ethiopia and Egypt follow a different calendar, and celebrate Christmas on 7 January.

Arts & Culture

“People are the basis of every piece of work”

— Francis Kéré —
Architect from Burkina Faso



Not African Enough presents a collection of inspiring words and images from a selection of emerging Kenyan designers, all exploring the diversity of Kenya's fashion landscape. The Nest Collective, “a small army of thinkers, makers and believers living and working in Nairobi”, publishes the book. **Order your copy at thisisthenest.com for US\$48.**

Photography

Bamako Encounters

Rencontres de Bamako – or Bamako Encounters – is the first international platform in Africa dedicated to contemporary photography and new images. The photography biennale serves as a meeting place for African photographers and other art professionals from across the globe. The 11th edition of the event will take place from 2 December 2017 to 31 January 2018 in Mali's capital (Bamako).

~ rencontres-bamako.com



Q&A

Wangari Nyanjui



With its bright “Me I love Nairobi” T-shirts, and postcards inscribed with inspirational African quotes, the Peperuka brand has developed a loyal following in Kenya, its home. Founder Wangari Nyanjui tells Msafiri how she built this successful business.

Why did you start Peperuka?

I started it in 2010 as a side hustle, and I've been running it full time for a year now. Peperuka began out of a selfish desire to make T-shirts bearing references that resonated with me.

How would you describe the brand?

Peperuka weaves African stories and connects African cultures through unique products using powerful iconography and language. Our products include apparel, accessories, home décor and gift items with a contemporary, urban flair. The quotes and images are inspired by everyday life and will hopefully spark conversations and the sharing of new ideas.

How does Peperuka differ from other brands?

We're committed to the community we're in. For example, a percentage of our profit goes to the Peperuka Foundation, which trains and mentors young girls in the fashion industry.

What is your advice to aspiring entrepreneurs?

Surround yourself with people and ideas you admire, find your voice and explore. The rest will fall into place.

~ peperuka.co.ke

There are many ways to say “Merry Christmas” across the continent. They include: *Muve nekisimusi* in Shona; *Kuwa na Krismasi njema* in Kiswahili; and *E ku odun, e hu iye’ dun* in Yoruba.



People

Lesotho, a high-altitude, landlocked kingdom, is entirely surrounded by South Africa.



Jackson Biko

Hipandnotamused

I went camping with a grizzly beard (attached to a man). I’d seen enough of the BBC’s *Planet Earth* programme to imagine that the outdoors was adventurous and romantic. When you’re in the presence of a man with a grizzly beard in the bush, you assume that you’re relatively safe, that he knows what he’s doing. I’m not a camping kind of guy; I’m a city boy. I like hot showers. And floss. I especially like not being bitten by snakes. I only agreed because I was writing a story, and I’m a whore for a good story.

He pitched two dome tents (no way am I sharing my tent with a bearded man) at the shores of Lake Elementaita, an hour from Nairobi. Think acacia trees – some dead in the water – their gaunt dry branches grasping towards the sky, like a plea for help. Birds with long, curved beaks peered at us. In the evening, he made a fire (using a match, unfortunately, not by rubbing two sticks together). I cracked open a bottle of single malt whisky. Darkness fell upon us. Have you ever been in darkness so black you can smell it? Strange animal eyes peered at us from that darkness. The night moaned.

Unprompted, he told me about the time a hippopotamus almost mauled his foot. I didn’t ask for details. I was thinking, “I need to take a leak, how far into the bush do I have to go before I step on something soft and poisonous?” Grizzly Beard snored in his tent as if he was sleeping under 1,000-thread-count sheets, while I expected a hippo to eat our tents and then eat us as dessert. Nature made me feel weak, unmanly and paranoid. I didn’t feel “connected to nature” as people who love the outdoors say. Camping isn’t something I’d do to “relax” and “think”. I can think in traffic, just before the lights turn green. Plus the idea that a hippo could have been out there smelling our fireplace, and the prospect of the previously discussed hippo returning for another go at Grizzly Beard’s foot, didn’t exactly fill me with peace.

The night was cold and long. When I crept out of my tent at dawn, I found Grizzly Beard brushing his teeth with a twig. There were personal lessons: you can hold in urine for as long as your fear lasts. And camping isn’t for everyone; you need a “beard”.

Illustration: Hannah Wieslander

The modern office Co-working Spaces

Co-working communities are spreading like wildfire across Africa as young professionals claim more space on the international digital market. Over the last decade, 250 co-working spaces have appeared across Africa. Here are our favourites.



Impact Hub

This co-working spot in the quiet neighbourhood of Kiyovu (in Kigali, Rwanda) is a “community incubator”. Impact Hub attracts much of the city’s start-up culture and organises many events.

~ impacthub.rw

Nairobi Garage

Nairobi Garage has several locations across Africa, and the one in Nairobi (Kenya) offers 24/7 access for most colleagues. Users even enjoy the freedom to brand their workspace and make it their own. ~ nairobigarage.com



iSpace Foundation

iSpace Foundation provides entrepreneurs with virtual-office facilities and rental space for training sessions and other activities in Accra, Ghana. They also support Ghanaian entrepreneurs developing technologies for the global market.

~ ispacegh.com



Hive Colab

Hive Colab is a co-working place in Kampala, Uganda. While preference is given to its incubator entrepreneurs, freelancers in Kampala are also welcome to register.

~ hivecolab.org

IceAddis

IceAddis, which is centrally located in Ethiopia’s capital, Addis Ababa, hosts local start-ups and events. The offices are located in several containers, and offer access to a lounge area overlooking the city. ~ iceaddis.com



Gadgets

Yamoussoukro, Côte d’Ivoire, is home to the largest church in the world: Basilica of Our Lady of Peace.

The island of Zanzibar is home to the endangered Zanzibar red colobus monkey and the Zanzibar servaline genet.

Travel gadgets

Say Cheese!



Tech talk Thumbs Up

Thumbs up! Never miss those active moments with this high definition action camera.

Perfect for skiing, surfing, snowboarding or biking. Features a 1.77 inch TFT LCD screen, 1.3 MP CMOS image sensor, 720/640P image quality. Comes with a water-resistant case, USB cable and an 8GB micro-SD card.

~ Karibu



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

1 Olloclip Filmer’s Kit

A creative collaboration with Incase that gives you the ultimate essentials for mobile filming, live streaming and photography with your iPhone 7 or 7 Plus. It includes the Core Lens Set (fisheye, super-wide and macro 15x lenses), Active Lens Set (telephoto 2x and ultra-wide lenses), and Pivot: a 225-degree articulating mobile video grip. ~ apple.com

2 ExoLens With Optics by Zeiss

This Mutar 2.0x Asph T* Telephoto version of the ExoLens is designed to be the first truly professional telephoto lens for iPhone. Its shallow depth of field focuses attention on your subject and the 2.0x magnification brings you closer while allowing the contours of the face to appear natural. ~ apple.com

3 Black Eye HD Wide Angle

Whether you are capturing breathtaking landscapes in all their beauty, or exaggerating objects close to you, the HD Wide Angle offers you multiple options for every shot. It’s the perfect lens for getting more out of your photos and videos. ~ blackeyelens.com

4 Beastgrip Pro + DOF Adapter

A great package for those who want to start using SLR lenses with their camera phone. The Beastgrip Pro is compatible with any smartphone. With the included Beastgrip DOF adapter you can mount SLR lenses to achieve a shallow depth-of-field. ~ beastgrip.com



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