

KENYA MUSEUM SOCIETY



# TRACKER

February 2019



Elephants at Mpala Ranch – photo by Kari Mutu  
(see p. 10)

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## Kenya Museum Society News

### Trips and events

#### *Longer Trips (more than 2 nights)*

#### **Calving Season in Serengeti, Tanzania**

23-28 February, 2019

The wildebeest migration moves out of Kenya into Tanzania in late October. This migration is exclusively dependent on the rainfall pattern. The big wildebeest herds move into the Ndutu Plains, arriving here in November/December. In February the calving season begins and an average of 8,000 calves are born daily. A lot of predators also roam the plains at the same time.

#### **Western Kenya- Sunday – Friday, 17-22 March 2019**

Experience Kenya's "best kept secrets" and see the treasures of western Kenya. We'll visit historical and archaeological sites and travel to the out-of-the-way islands of Mfangano and Mbasha in Lake Victoria on boat trips.

#### **The tentative itinerary-**

**Day 1-** Travel from Nairobi to Migori and stay at the Sunaton Hotel. Bring a picnic lunch to eat on the way. The hotel includes bed and breakfast with additional dinner meals at modest prices.

**Day 2-** Guided tour of the World Heritage Site of Thimlich Ohinga and visit to Gogo Waterfalls. Thimlich Ohinga was made a world heritage site in June 2018 as a site of "Outstanding Universal Value." The dry stone walled fort is one typical of 16th century communities in the Lake Victoria region and shows the inventiveness of the inhabitants of the Lake Victoria region. The site has some good birding too! Tour a sugar plantation and factory in the afternoon. Picnic lunch. Stay at Sunaton Hotel in Migori.

[Note: you may have read a somewhat negative report on the facilities at Thimlich Ohinga (see p. 18 below). We are working on ensuring your trip is a pleasant one! And NMK tell us that provision of facilities is a high priority for them.]

**Day 3-** Drive to Rusinga Island for a three night stay at the Rusinga Island Lodge with full board.\* Visit the Badilisha Ecovillage on Rusinga Island the afternoon.

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\* For Trip Advisor comments see <https://tinyurl.com/TARusinga>.

Badilisha is a community based permaculture project whose goal is to restore the ecology of the Lake Victoria region and bring a change to the lives of people on Rusinga Island.

**Day 4-** Spend the day on a guided trip to Mfangano Island to see rock paintings sites and visit the Abasuba Community Peace Museum. The paintings are thought to have been made by the Twa hunter-gatherers between 2,000 and 4,000 years ago. This is an all day boat trip to Mfangano Island. Packed lunch.

**Day 5-** Guided boat trip to the Mbasha Islands to see the amazing bird life in the morning. A guided visit to Rusinga Island's fossil site and a stop at the Tom Mboya Mausoleum are planned for the afternoon.

**Day 6-** Return to Nairobi with stop on the way for lunch.

**Cost:** 65,000 Ksh pp sharing, Single supplement is 8,000 Ksh.

**Deadline for registration and payment is March 4.**

**Included-** Lodging for 5 days, bed and breakfast for 2 days in Migori, lunch on Day 2, FB for 3 days at Rusinga Island Lodge, guide fees, boat rentals, tips

**Not included** - dinners in Migori, lunch on Day 6, coffee/snack stops, transport, entrance fees for Peace Museum and Tom Mboya Mausoleum

**Please indicate transportation status or dietary requirements when you sign up.**

**Payment Options:**

**Safaricom:** M-Pesa Paybill, Business no - 400800, Account No- 6571570019

**Airtel Money** – 0780 755 231

**Direct Bank Transfer**

Bank: Commercial Bank of Africa

Account Name: Kenya Museum Society

Bank Account: 657 157 0019

**Bookings:** 0724 255299or [info@kenyamuseumsociety.org](mailto:info@kenyamuseumsociety.org)

***By participating in KMS safaris, you are helping to support projects of the National Museums of Kenya.***

## Marich Pass and Turkwell Gorge

19-22 April, 2019

The Easter trip is to this incredibly beautiful part of West Pokot. We shall visit Kapenguria museum en route. At Marich we have a long walk along the Maruny River, visit the Wei Wei Irrigation Scheme, and the local market in Tot or Ortum. We shall also have a full day's visit to the Turkwell Gorge and the very dramatic power plant.

We shall stay at the simple but charming Marich Pass Field Studies Centre. \*It is strung along the Maruny River, and surrounded by bush full of birds. In the distance you see Mt Sekerr and Mt Koh.

**Cost: Ksh 22,300**

**Included:** FB for 3 full days, guide fees, tips.

**Not Included:** transport, picnic lunch on day 1 and 4, entry fee to Kapenguria Museum (if any†).

**Bookings:** 0724 255299 or [info@kenyamuseumsociety.org](mailto:info@kenyamuseumsociety.org)

### Payment Options:

1. M-PESA PayBill Business no: 400800, Account no: 6571570019
2. A cheque payable to Kenya Museum Society
3. **Direct Bank Transfer;**

Bank: Commercial Bank of Africa

Account Name: Kenya Museum Society

Bank Account: 657 157 0019

Bank Code: 07

Branch: Westlands

Branch Code: 004

Bank Swift code: CBAFKENX

## The Tugen and Cherangani Hills

May 1-5 (4 nights)

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\* See Trip Advisor at <https://preview.tinyurl.com/TAMarich>.

† It is an NMK museum so your KMS membership card should cover it – ed.

This is one of the most fascinating, but lesser known, parts of Kenya. On this 3-night trip we head beyond Nakuru towards the Tugen Hills. Parts of the hills are heavily forested. The road then plunges towards Kerio Valley, giving magnificent views. The valley includes Lake Kamnarok, Rimoi Park, Chebloch Gorge and Torok Falls. The dramatic Elgeyo Escarpment is on our left as we climb into the Cherangani Hills, home of many of Kenya's marathon and middle distance runners. Kerio Valley may not have much game but it has a superb birdlife.

More details to follow.

**Bookings: 0724 255299 or [info@kenyamuseumsociety.org](mailto:info@kenyamuseumsociety.org)**

### **Turkana 8 – 16 June**

The KMS annual trip to Turkana will be in June. The exact date to be posted later. For a report by a participant in 2018 see "Our Turkana trip" by Saryoo Shah, p. 7 in the September 2018 *Tracker*.

#### ***Day Outings***

#### **Saturday 16 February, 10.30am – 1.30 pm Kiambethu Tea Farm Tour, Tigoni**

Escape the hustle and bustle of the city with this fantastic day outing not too far away from Nairobi. Kiambethu Farm is a stunning tea plantation with the most beautiful gardens situated near Limuru area on sloping hills. The drive through tea and coffee plantations as you get closer to the farm & the surrounding countryside while on the farm offers many great photo opportunities.

#### **Included:**

- A tour of the tea farm & 1-acre indigenous forest (where you will get to hear about the various flora and their medicinal use.)
- A brief talk on the history of tea in Kenya, (how it is grown, processed and sold), by the granddaughter of the original farmer
- Complimentary tea, coffee and soft drinks
- An excellent 3 course lunch, which is a fantastic array of different healthy foods made from vegetables grown in their garden.

After lunch you are at leisure to visit the extraordinary garden, full of lush vegetation, extravagant flowers, and colourful birds.

All around, a delightful way to spend a Saturday.

**Cost**

KMS member Ksh 3,600 Member Child Ksh 1,800

Guest Ksh 4,000, Guest Child Ksh 2,000

Excluded: Transport

Limited spaces available, so book and pay by Wed 13 Feb

Contact: 0724 255 299 or [info@kenyamuseumsociety.org](mailto:info@kenyamuseumsociety.org)

**Saturday 23 February 2019, 8.30am – 12.30 pm Tour to 'Kantis', Kenya's new Palaeontological site near Nairobi**

Eastern Africa is known for its abundant early human sites that are scattered on the floor of the Rift Valley system. These have yielded many palaeontological items documenting the evolutionary pathways of mammals on the African continent.

Dated to 3.5 million years ago, this new site has yielded plenty of palaeontological remains comprising close to 29 fauna species.

Led by **Dr Emma Mbua**, the lead senior research scientist in the discovery of the *Kantis* fossil site and her team will guide us through the site, where we shall get a rare opportunity to see where and how the fossils were discovered and the processes involved.\*

**Included:**

- A tour of the fossil site by Dr Emma Mbua & Team
- Transport (From Museum to the site and back)
- Drinking water

**Cost**

KMS member Ksh 1,650 Member Child Ksh 1,350

Guest Ksh 1,850, Guest Child Ksh 1,550

**Excluded:** Picnic Lunch

Please book and pay by **Mon 17th Feb.**

**Mpesa Paybill, Business no:** 400800, **Account no:** 6571570019

**RSVP:** 0724 255299, 0780 755231, 2339158 or [info@kenyamuseumsociety.org](mailto:info@kenyamuseumsociety.org)

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\* For a bit more detail see <https://leakeyfoundation.org/grantee-spotlight-emma-mbua/>.

## **Hells Gate National Park – Gorge Walk Saturday 9th March 2019**

*Do you have strong legs, arms ... strong heart and most importantly a will to conquer... its hot its sweaty and its great fun!*

Come join us on this walking expedition and enjoy the experience.

Hells Gate National Park in Naivasha is a UNESCO world heritage site. It is situated on the south of Lake Naivasha, North West of Nairobi. Approximately a 2 hour drive from Nairobi.

“ A walk on the Wild side “ – named for the intense geothermal activity within its boundaries, the national park has specular scenery, including volcanic towers, hot springs, geysers and towering cliffs. The park has historically been the home to the endangered Lammergeyer vultures. A wonderful opportunity to see Hyrax, Klipspringer antelope and Chandlers mountain Reed buck to mention but a few of the magnificent animals that make the park their home.

The gorge that runs through the heart of the park is a wide deep valley hemmed in by sheer rusty – hued rock walls. The climb into and out of the gorge is a challenge and not for the faint hearted, promising an experience of enriching wonderful magical secrets. It is an approximate 3 hour walk from one end to the other. This walk is tough, meandering through rocks, cliffs, climbing over boulders, it promises to thrill, and a challenge is beckoning!

Note: We leave from the Museum office at 6.30 am and plan on leaving Naivasha by 2 PM to arrive back in Nairobi around 4 PM. We will travel in a 16 seater comfortable bus.

Not suitable for children under 10.

Charges:-

KMS Members: Ksh 2,200 per person

Guests: Ksh 2,500 per person

Included: transport and KWS Rangers

Excluding park entry fee, payable at the gate on arrival.

### **Park Entry charges:-**

|                        |                         |                              |
|------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| Citizen Adult Kshs 300 | Resident Adult Kshs 600 | Non- Resident Adult S \$ 26  |
| Citizen Child Ksh 250  | Resident Child Kshs 300 | Non- Resident Child US \$ 17 |

## **YOU NEED TO:**

1. Carry your personal identification card/document.
2. Wear good comfortable walking shoes.
3. Carry lots of drinking water.
4. Bring your picnic lunch and snacks.
5. Bring a camera.
6. Bring sun block and a hat.

**Other 2019 events: – *Details in later Trackers and emails***

### **Day Outings:**

Archaeological site tour in Rongai - Sat 23 March 2019

Jain Temple Tour - Sat, 30 March 2019

### **Kids Outings at the Nairobi National Museum:**

Art Session - Sat 9 March 2019

Origami Session - Sat 13 April 2019

**Note:** other activities we are working on, but are not firmed up are:

- Organic Farming Demonstration
- Scavenger Hunt at Ornithology
- Behind the Scenes tour of Cultural Heritage
- Behind the Scenes tour of Archaeology & Palaeontology Sections
- Guided City tour
- Behind the Scenes tour of Entomology Section
- Behind the Scenes tour of Herbarium Department & Botanic Gardens

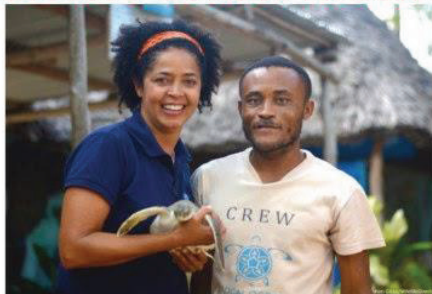
Talks Muthaiga Country Club, February 9th



*Kenya Museum Society and Muthaiga Country Club*



# Wildlife Warriors Conservation Movement



This will be an interactive discussion on the emerging threats to Kenya's spectacular wildlife and why these challenges are far more serious than poaching.

Dr. Kahumbu will also share Wildlife Direct's main strategy to enlist all Kenyans to support efforts to turn things around.

**Dr. Paula Kahumbu**

**OGW, Conservationist and CEO WildlifeDirect**

**Saturday, 9 February 2019**

**Muthaiga Country Club**

**Bitings & Bar 6:30pm, Lecture 7:00 pm**

**Cost: Ksh 3,300 Canapes, Lecture and Dinner, Child (7-12 yrs) Ksh 2,600**

**Ksh 1,500 Canapes and Lecture only, Child (7-12 yrs) Ksh 900**

**Note: Prices do not include drinks**

**Bookings: 0724 255299 or [info@kenyamuseumsociety.org](mailto:info@kenyamuseumsociety.org)**

**M-PESA PayBill Business no: 400800, Account no: 6571570019**

Muthaiga Country Club, March 2<sup>nd</sup>



*Kenya Museum Society and Muthaiga Country Club*



## ***Empowering Local Communities in Northern Kenya to Conserve Lions***



By Dr. Shivani Bhalla, Founder and Executive Director of the Ewaso Lions Project.  
*Winner of the 2014 Whitley Award, and named an Emerging Explorer  
by National Geographic.*

Ewaso Lions Project conserves Kenya's lions and other large carnivores by promoting co-existence between people and wildlife.

In this lecture, Dr. Shivani will discuss the decline in the lion population across Kenya before focusing on unique conservation and research methods used by the Ewaso Lions Project to promote human-carnivore coexistence, reduce human-lion conflict and ensure a future for Kenya's lions.

*Plan to join this engaging and pertinent talk, on 2 March and learn how, as a result of engaging local people, lions have started to make a comeback in the community areas where Ewaso Lions operates.*

**Saturday, 2 March 2019 | 7PM | Muthaiga Country Club**

Bitings & Bar 6:30pm, Lecture 7:00 pm

Cost: Ksh 3,300 Canapes, Lecture and Dinner, Child (7-12 yrs) Ksh 2,600

Ksh 1,500 Canapes and Lecture only, Child (7-12 yrs) Ksh 900

Note: Prices do not include drinks.

Bookings: 0724 255299, 2339158 or [info@kenyamuseumsociety.org](mailto:info@kenyamuseumsociety.org)

M-PESA PayBill Business no: 400800, Account no: 6571570019

**Advance notice: April 13<sup>th</sup> at Muthaiga Country Club: Dr. Mary Gikungu on beekeeping and culture in Kenya (title to be confirmed)**

## **Accounts of past KMS trips by an msafiri**

### **Relaxing at a wildlife research centre in Laikipia**

by Kari Mutu (photos by the author)



A weekend visit to the Mpala Research Centre and Wildlife Foundation\* turned out to be an educative holiday experience. The 49,000 acre estate is in the Ol Jobi Wildlife Conservancy northwest of Mt Kenya, in Laikipia County. An internationally renowned research facility, Mpala also focuses on conservation and promoting human-wildlife co-existence.

The drive from Nairobi to Mpala took about 5 hours along on good tarmac road with a stop at Nanyuki town for a coffee break. We arrived at Mpala in time for lunch, served at an outdoor dining area under roof shading.

Mpala ranch was purchased by British settler Sam Small in the 1950s. He later bequeathed it to his brother George who dedicated the estate for wildlife conservation and research.

After lunch our host took us on a tour of the centre, the library and greenhouses. In the computer room we watched a live video feed from cameras placed at different spots within the conservancy. It captures scenes such as hippos wallowing the river and animals browsing in the grassland.

The cottages and bandas are spread out in the grounds of the centre. I stayed in one of the thatch-roof stone bandas, a comfortable room with two beds and en-suite



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\* <http://www.mpala.org/>

bathroom. Slightly further away is the Mpala Ranch House, an old colonial-style home overlooking the river. Rates start at \$80 per day, with daily housekeeping and laundry service upon request.

A self-catering campsite about 2km from the main research centre is ideal for groups of camping travellers. Located along the banks of river, the campsite has canvas sleeping tents with beds, a tented mess area with furniture and an ablution block.

The meals at Mpala simple but wonderful such as lentil stew, pasta with Bolognese sauce, curries and garden salads. Breakfast was eggs, sausage, cereals, toast and sliced fruit. The banana bread served with mid-morning tea each day was fluffy and delicious. You can bring your own soft drinks, wine or beer to take with meals as the beverage options are limited. A corner bookshelf in the lounge is for guests to enjoy and sometimes there are evening movies. But our group preferred to sit in the outdoors and chat after meals.

The days are quite hot, although a sudden rainstorm one the mid-afternoon brought a refreshing relief to the warm day, but the evenings are cool.

Early mornings are a good time for bird-watching in the grounds of the centre. After breakfast we went on a game drive. Mpala also doubles as a livestock ranch and we passed herds of cattle on our travels around the conservancy. The landscape is a mixture of thorn-tree bushland, dry savannah and rocky plains. Along the banks of the Ewaso Nyiro River the riverine habitat is lush with doum palms and sandy beaches.



On the game drive we saw elephants, antelopes, hippos, dik diks and the endangered Grevy's zebras. A hyena ran across the road in front of us and occasionally wild dogs are spotted in the ranch. A highlight was a small herd of greater kudu, the male carrying an impressive set of twisted horns.

We stopped by the hippo pools and also visited a historic cave site

situated down the side of a valley. The cave was used as a ceremonial site by local communities and as a hideout by Mau Mau freedom fighters in the 1950s. On the walls of the cave are white rock paintings dating back several hundred years.

On a regular basis Mpala is visited by university students, scientists and international researchers who use the conservancy as a 'living laboratory' to conduct field experiments. A graduate botany student showed us a greenhouse where she is

researching African queen butterflies. A Kenyan zoologist called explained his studies on resident and migrant elephant herds in the conservancy.

Other scientists are studying *Opuntia stricta*, an invasive cactus that is native to South America. We drove by many clumps of the opuntia which can overrun other plants if not controlled. Grevy zebras and cheetahs are some of the other ongoing research programmes here. Prominent visitors over the years include Kenyan palaeontologists Richard and Meave Leakey and the world-famous primatologist Dr Jane Goodall.

Our stay coincided with the annual Lakipia Rabies Vaccination Campaign to eradicate rabies which started in 2014. Each year over six weekends, a team of vets and volunteers visit local villages to vaccinate the dogs and cats of people who cannot afford veterinary care. Rabies kills an estimated 2,000 people in Kenya a year and also fatally impacts wildlife. The team vaccinated over 14,000 dogs and cats this year.



## Stepping back into pre-history at Olorgesailie

by Kari Mutu (photos by the author)

The Olorgesailie prehistoric site and museum in the Great Rift Valley is one of the best places in the world to view early human technology. Hundreds of artefacts dating back millions of years have been unearthed in this semi-arid basin.



We arrived in the mid-morning after a 2-hour drive from Nairobi. The museum attendant began by explaining how this region has been subject to volcanic upheavals. Over the centuries, sediment deposits and falling ash from volcanic eruptions helped to preserve the ancient tools and bones from weather elements.

As far back as 1919, scientists were digging for fossils here. But it was palaeontologists Louis and Mary Leakey who brought recognition to this Olorgesailie. Starting in 1942 they found evidence of prehistoric humans living during the Acheulean period or the hand axe era which lasted between 1.5 million to 200,000 years. The Leakeys and their team of Kenyan researchers discovered collections of stone-age tools carved by our ancestors from 14 types of locally available rocks. Stone tools making started in Africa then spread to Europe and Asia.

Olorgesailie has four or five excavated beds containing an amazing array of hand axes crafted by our prehistoric ancestors. Paintings around the museum walls showed how there was once a lake and a river flowing through the area, creating an environment that attracted many types of animals



Earth upheavals then exposed thousands of buried relics and bone fragments from extinct pigs, elephants, baboons, hippos, antelopes and zebras. Studies of the relics and sediment deposits have helped scientist to understand the evolution of habitat, wildlife and humans over the millennia. Researchers have recreate a historical calendar of Olorgesailie going back almost 1 million years ago.

Olorgesailie was a kind of primitive campsite for early humans which accounts for the huge number of hand axes that have been found. We saw flat stones and leaf-shaped stones that were used for skinning animals or cutting flesh. There were also big round stones probably used for crushing bones to extract marrow. We were shown piles of small stone flakes struck off larger rocks. These lie at several 'butchery sites' where the early humans cut up the animals to eat.



The partial skull of the hominid *Homo erectus* was excavated in Olorgesailie in 2003 and is stored in the Nairobi National Museum. *Homo erectus* lived between 970,000-900,000 years ago and the stone tools are attributed to them.

From the main building we walked about half a kilometre away to the location of Olorgesailie's mammal fossils. The surrounding landscape was dotted with small

conical hills with clearly visible layers of sediments. The air rang with bird calls. Fortunately we had a bird expert in our group who helped us identify Namaqua doves, emerald spotted wood doves, hornbills, brilliant red-and-yellow barbets, and grey-capped social weavers which create impressive nests.



Coming to the big mammal sites, we found a humerus bone from the excavated skeleton of a 992,000-year-old elephant called *Elephas recki*. It is extinct in Africa and is related to the present day Asian elephant. The humerus bone lay next a much smaller sample from a modern elephant, showing just how enormousness of the prehistoric animals were. Moving onto another enclosure we came across

bones from ancient hippos, testament to the vanished wetlands that once occurred in this area.

Afterwards we walked down to a seasonal river through grass that was knee-high following good rains this year. In the distance you could see the Mt Olorgesailie, supposedly named after important Maasai elder who use to hold gatherings on the mountain.

Mt Olorgesailie is an ideal place for a day hike, if you start very early in the morning as it gets incredibly hot. By midday we were glad to seek shelter in a shaded boma, open on all sides. There was more bird-watching as we sat down to eat our packed lunches.

Olorgesailie is 8:00am – 6:00pm easy day outing for longer visits in the camping of the self-less than Ksh



open daily from and makes for an from Nairobi. But you can pitch a tent ground or book one catering banda for 2,000.

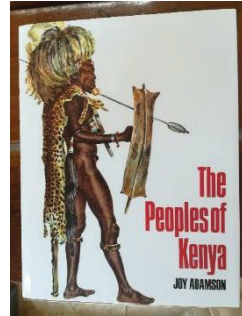
## KMS Gift Shop

Open daily 9.00am to 5.30pm

### *The Peoples of Kenya*

*Only available at the KMS Bookshop*

*@Ksh 3,500*



*\*NEW\* Sweetunda: Your favourite Kenyan dried but juicy fruit. Now available in the KMS shop for the first time.*

*Flavours include Mango, Strawberry, Mixed fruits.*

*Small packet @ Ksh 150*

*Large packet @ Ksh 600*



*Born Free by Joy Adamson*

*@ Ksh 2,100*

*5 copies available*



*Kenyan flag shorts*

*Available in different sizes (S M L XL)*

*@ Ksh 1,950*



*Kenya Arts Diary 2019*

*@ Ksh 1,600*

Payment can be made via M-Pesa;  
Paybill No. 400800 Account No.  
657 157 0019.

# About or at the National Museums of Kenya

## Events and Exhibitions

### Fundamentals of Ornithology

Creating effective birders and bird guides

**\*Upto 6 scholarships (50% of fees) available for Kenyans from less advanced areas, in support of Kenya Bird Map**

Course dates: 28 March — 5 April 2019

Centre for Education in Sustainability, Elsamere, Kenya

Birding and bird-watching is a growing hobby globally. To enjoy birds, and share your experience requires skills and knowledge that goes beyond species identification. Set on the bird-rich shores of Lake Naivasha, FoO exposes participants to a wide range of species while building their understanding of birds. This immersive experience is an inspiration for learning more independently, afterwards, and has generated most of Kenya's leading birdguides and birders.

Participants will strengthen skills and knowledge in • bird identification techniques • birding fieldcraft and ethics • the ecology and distribution of birds • bird migration • conservation of birds and habitats, and • ringing and mapping birds. Field outings will take participants to learn about wetland, forest and grassland birds as well as cliff-nesting birds, and birds of prey.

| Who can attend?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Fees*                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Contact details                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Individuals wishing to improve their knowledge of birds, and field birding skills especially: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• professional and amateur bird guides</li><li>• birdwatchers and bird enthusiasts</li><li>• Bird conservationists and champions</li></ul> Participants must have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Form IV level of education</li><li>• Basic experience in bird-watching</li><li>• Good command of English (both written and oral)</li></ul> | <b>Fees:</b> KSh 56,000/= for Kenyans; US\$ 680* for non-Kenyans (*equiv. to KSh 70,000)<br><b>Payable by:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cheque to 'Nature Kenya'</li><li>• M-Pesa, business no. 100300, a/c name 'Foo'</li><li>• Cash at Nature Kenya offices</li></ul> <b>Fees cover:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Tuition and course materials</li><li>• 8 nights, full board costs</li><li>• Transfers to, and from Naivasha town</li><li>• Transport on field outings</li></ul> <b>Fees will not cover trainees' personal and medical expenses.</b> | <b>For inquiries, scholarship application &amp; registration contact:</b><br><br>The Course Coordinator<br>Fundamentals of Ornithology<br>P O Box 44486,<br>00100-Nairobi, Kenya<br><br>Tel.:<br>+254 (0)20 353 7568<br>+254 (0)750 149 200<br>+254 (0)771 343 138<br><br>E-mail:<br>foo@naturekenya.org |

#### For reservation

Send:

- completed registration form available at Nature Kenya or upon request through email
- 25% of the course fees (non-refundable deposit).

Fees balance must be paid by 8<sup>th</sup> March 2019.

Only 20 places available

**Successful participants will receive a Certificate in Ornithology**



*Fundamentals of Ornithology is a joint, annual course organized by the • Tropical Biology Association • Ornithology Section of the National Museums of Kenya • Nature Kenya and • A Rocha Kenya*



## Glad Tidings Exhibition (ends February – it is still on!)

This is an exhibition that has a collection of beautiful paintings by *Deng Chol, Ruth Nyakundi and Anwar Sadat*. The art used to describe *Glad Tidings*, brings out the meaning of the Christmas message in our daily lives.

## Kenya's Underwater Cultural Heritage Exhibition Temporary Gallery, Nairobi National Museum

*Discover, Experience, Learn*

This beautiful photographic exhibition showcases the amazing wonders of Kenya's Underwater Cultural Heritage. It's expected to create awareness on existence and viability of the submerged heritage for economic development.



The National Museums of Kenya has, over the years, undertaken underwater archaeological surveys in the Kenyan Coast to identify and understand the underwater Cultural Heritage therein. These surveys have documented a lot of sites indicating this Coast is home to many ancient shipwrecks with the highest concentrations found in Mombasa, Malindi and Lamu.

### *What you will learn at this exhibition;*

- The importance of Underwater Cultural Heritage
- History of the Kenyan Coast
- Trade across the East African Coast
- Ancient Settlements in Lamu Archipelago – important landmarks in the history of the Swahili Coast.
- How underwater Archaeologists find what is under the sea.



- UNESCO World Heritage Sites – Kenya is home to **seven** UNESCO World Heritage Sites;
  - Lake Turkana National Parks (1997)
  - Mount Kenya National Park/Natural Forest (1997)
  - Lamu Old Town (2001)
  - Sacred Mijikenda Kaya Forests (2008)
  - Fort Jesus, Mombasa (2011)
  - Kenya Lake System in the Great Rift Valley (2011)
  - Thimlich Ohinga Cultural Landscape (2018)

### **Now the not-so-good news - from the media**

#### *Hitch at Fort Jesus?*

The *Standard* newspaper of December 17th 2018, in an item about the construction of the sea wall around Fort Jesus (see *Tracker* of Jan-Feb 2018 p. 19) said that it had “confirmed that contractor on site is complaining over delayed payments despite civil works having reached at 90 per cent. The wall was engineered to protect Fort Jesus from erosion and the effects of rising seas.”

#### *Slow progress at Thimlich Ohinga?\**

The *Standard* of January 22<sup>nd</sup> 2019 reported that, while visitor numbers to this new heritage site had improved, the lack of facilities was an obstacle to full enjoyment of the site by visitors. Notably there is little in the way of sanitary facilities, and no eating place.

The site curator said that the site’s natural indigenous forest is still under threat following an invasion by encroachers who cut the tree branches to be used for drying coffee. The 10 employees at the site are stretched thin as they do the administrative work, act as tour guides and provide security.

“Saitoti said they had been granted a 10-year window by Unesco to ensure that the missing infrastructure was put in place in accordance with the required standards.”

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\* <https://tinyurl.com/Thimlichloo>.

And, added the Standard, “And even with rising interest from stakeholders, Saitoti said inadequate funding remained the biggest challenge in developing the site as well as exploiting other leisure activities.

“This place has the potential to host a campsite, film production, weddings and other leisure parties. But with lack of power, water and sanitation we are not able to fully exploit it” he said.”

[All these issues are addressed in the NMK Management Plan for Thimlich Ohinga]

### **And now the better news**

The Daily Nation (Feb 6 2019) reports that Bidii na Kazi women’s group at Mida Creek (Kilifi) will implement a project with the NMK on marine cultural heritage called “Rising from the depth”. It will involve mangrove protection, fish and butterfly farming and tourism projects also.

### **NMK Announcement: call for involvement**

#### **HELP MONITOR MAMMALS IN KENYA!**

#### **Mammalogy Section-National Museums of Kenya**

The Mammals Atlas for Kenya (MAKE) project gives you a chance to contribute to science. The distribution of different mammal species in Kenya is not well known. Information about the existence of different species in many places in and outside protected areas is scattered in different publications, online databases and personal field notebooks. Hence there is need to consolidate this data into a single database and produce up to date distribution maps for different species of mammals. To do this, the Mammalogy Section staff and other members of the Mammal Committee of Nature Kenya would like you to assist in the citizen science mapping of the distribution of mammal species in Kenya. You can do this by contributing the following information:

1. List of identified wild mammals of all species in places you visit (in and outside protected areas) while on a game drive or while birding anywhere
2. Provide names of the places where you recorded the mammal species
3. Provide GPS coordinates, if you have them, for the places where you recorded the mammals. If you have no GPS go to Google play on your phone and download the Handy GPS (12MB) free location app and install it in your phone for coordinates of places you visit (<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details...>)
4. If you cannot identify a particular mammal but have a photo, send the photo

**MAKE Project Opportunities:** We are also looking for volunteers to assist in compiling mammal species information from all protected areas in Kenya managed by Kenya Wildlife Service and Kenya Forest Service, as well as all private and

community ranches. Volunteers are also needed to compile mammal species information scattered in existing publications on mammals from Kenya, either from online publications or in library journals and reports. More volunteers are needed to fundraise for the establishment of a mobile based online volunteer mammal sightings reporting tool for MAKE.

For enquiries about MAKE project volunteer opportunities or on how to send mammal observations, or to get an electronic version of the Annotated Checklist of the Mammals of Kenya, kindly contact:

**Simon Musila** - [surnbirds@gmail.com](mailto:surnbirds@gmail.com) or [smusila@museums.or.ke](mailto:smusila@museums.or.ke)

**Mobile:** 0727-093737 or 0788-349227

### ***TRACKER ADVERTISING RATES***

|                         | <b>BLACK AND WHITE</b> |                    | <b>COLOURED</b> |                    |
|-------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| <b>SIZE</b>             | <b>MEMBERS</b>         | <b>NON MEMBERS</b> | <b>MEMBERS</b>  | <b>NON MEMBERS</b> |
| <b>Back page</b>        | Ksh 3,500              | Ksh 4,000          | Ksh 9,000       | KSh 9,500          |
| <b>Inside full page</b> | Ksh 2,500              | Ksh 3,000          | Ksh 9,000       | Ksh 9,000          |
| <b>Half page</b>        | Ksh 1,000              | Ksh 1,500          | Ksh 5,000       | Ksh 5,500          |
| <b>Quarter page</b>     | Ksh 700                | Ksh 800            | Ksh 3,000       | Ksh 3,500          |

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|-------------------------|------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|----------------|--------------------|
| <b>SIZE</b>             | <b>MEMBERS</b>   | <b>NON-MEMBERS</b> | <b>WORDS</b>               | <b>MEMBERS</b> | <b>NON-MEMBERS</b> |
| <b>Back page</b>        | <b>Ksh 4,000</b> | <b>Ksh4,500</b>    | <b>Up to 25</b>            | <b>Ksh 250</b> | <b>Ksh 350</b>     |
| <b>Inside full page</b> | <b>Ksh 3,000</b> | <b>Ksh 3,500</b>   | <b>25 to 50</b>            | <b>Ksh 500</b> | <b>Ksh 550</b>     |
| <b>Half page</b>        | <b>Ksh 2,000</b> | <b>Ksh 2,500</b>   |                            |                |                    |
| <b>Quarter page</b>     | <b>Ksh 1,000</b> | <b>Ksh 1,500</b>   |                            |                |                    |

**CONDITIONS:**

1. This service is available to ALL.
2. No advertisements will be taken over the phone. They must be emailed to or dropped at the KMS office during office hours with payment.
3. All adverts should be in PDF format
4. Deadline for the following month's Tracker is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the current month.
5. All responses to an advert should be made directly to the person advertising. KMS is unable to serve as a go between concerning any transactions.
6. KMS does not take responsibility for the accuracy of description of advertised goods and services.

KMS: Tel: 0724 255299/2339158 OR [info@kenyamuseumsociety.org](mailto:info@kenyamuseumsociety.org)

**OVERALL CALENDAR OF KMS/NMK ACTIVITIES FOR 2019 (# means full details in this issue)**

|                  |                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>January</b>   | <p><b>February</b></p> <p>9<sup>th</sup> Talk Paula Kahumba @ Muthaiga CC#</p> <p>16<sup>th</sup> Day trip Kiambethu#</p> <p>23<sup>rd</sup> Tour to 'Kantis' Palaeontological site#</p> | <p><b>March</b></p> <p>2<sup>nd</sup> Talk Shivani Bhalla @ MCC#</p> <p>9<sup>th</sup> Hells Gate trip#</p> <p>9<sup>th</sup> Art @ Museum for Kids</p> <p>17-22<sup>nd</sup> Western Kenya trip#</p> <p>23<sup>rd</sup> Archaeological site, Rongai</p> <p>30<sup>th</sup> Jain Temple Tour</p> <p>28 - April 5<sup>th</sup> Ornithology course @ Elsamere#</p> | <p><b>April</b></p> <p>13<sup>th</sup> Talk by Dr. Mary Gikungu @Muthaiga Country Club</p> <p>13<sup>th</sup> Origami @ Museum (Kids)</p> <p>10<sup>th</sup> or 17<sup>th</sup> provisional dates for AGM of KMS</p> |
| <b>May</b>       | <p>1-5<sup>th</sup> Tugen and Cherangani Hills trip</p>                                                                                                                                  | <p><b>June</b></p> <p>8-16<sup>th</sup> Turkana trip</p> <p>Affordable Art Show</p> <p>committee meetings begin</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <p><b>August</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>September</b> |                                                                                                                                                                                          | <p><b>October</b></p> <p>25-7<sup>th</sup> KMS Affordable Art Show</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | <p><b>December</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|                  |                                                                                                                                                                                          | <p><b>November</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |

## **Kenya Museum Society's Mission, Benefits & Annual Rates**

Kenya Museum Society is a non-profit members' organization founded in 1970. Our mission is to support and promote the National Museums of Kenya, the custodian of Kenya's natural and cultural heritage that manages six World Heritage Sites, twenty-two museums and over a hundred sites and monuments across the country.

### **Membership**

By supporting KMS with your membership, you are helping to preserve and promote Kenyan history, culture and artifacts. At the same time you'll have fun learning about Kenya in the company of people who enjoy the same interests as you.

#### **Become a KMS member and enjoy;**

- Free entry to all National and regional Museums, prehistoric sites and monuments in Kenya
- Bird walks with Nature Kenya (Ksh 200 admin fee, payable to Nature Kenya), reduced rates on tree walks with FoNA, day and weekend outings, evening lectures, films and other programs for members
- Entry to the Ololua Nature Trail, at half price
- Monthly newsletter ***Tracker*** to keep you abreast of KMS and Museum activities
- Email updates on KMS and Museum activities
- Annual magazine ***Kenya Past and Present***
- 5% discount on books in the KMS Shop at Nairobi National Museum
- Free borrowing privileges at KMS library (excluding students and visitors)
- Free reading privileges at the National Museums of Kenya library
- Reduced advertising rates in the Tracker & Kenya Past and Present

|                                     |           |                                 |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|---------------------------------|
| Single resident                     | KSH 1,750 | One membership card             |
| Family resident                     | Ksh 2,500 | Including children below 18 Yrs |
| Students (Kenyan Resident)          | Ksh 300   | One membership card             |
| Up Country (New Category)           | Ksh 1,200 | One membership card             |
| Non Resident                        | USD 50    | One card                        |
| Visitors (valid for one month only) | Ksh 800   | One membership card             |
| Business Membership (Kenya)         | Ksh 6,000 | Eight membership cards          |

**Contacts:** [info@kenyamuseumsociety.org](mailto:info@kenyamuseumsociety.org) **OR** 0724 255 299  
[www.kenyamuseumsociety.org](http://www.kenyamuseumsociety.org)

### **KMS Membership Registration Form**

Please use **BLOCK** letters

*Mr/Mrs/Ms/Dr/Prof (please circle)*

Family Name \_\_\_\_\_

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse \_\_\_\_\_

Names of Children (under 18): \_\_\_\_\_

P.O.Box \_\_\_\_\_ Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel: Home \_\_\_\_\_ Office: \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ **NEW**

**MEMBER/RENEWING MEMBER (please circle)**

**Please send *Tracker* by EMAIL/POST (please circle)**

**(Below for Office Use Only)**

*Receipt No:* \_\_\_\_\_ *Date* \_\_\_\_\_

*Membership Nos:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Amount Paid* \_\_\_\_\_ *Cash/Mpesa/Visa/Cheque* \_\_\_\_\_

*Cheque No:* \_\_\_\_\_ *Bank:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Processed by* \_\_\_\_\_ *Added to Database by* \_\_\_\_\_

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# The Peoples of Kenya

**JOY ADAMSON**