



KENYA MUSEUM SOCIETY

TRACKER

May – June 2023



Lamu Fort (Photo by Patricia Alberth, copyright UNESCO) See p. 3.

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Courtesy of Gamewatchers,
Porini Camp

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From KMS

Upcoming Activities/Events August -December 2023	
Note these in your diary now!	
Fri-Sun, 27-29 October @Nairobi National Museum	The 15th Affordable Art Show See p. 7
SAFARIS	
Fri – Mon, 25 – 28 August	Mpala Ranch, Laikipia See p. 2
Sat – Sun, 16 -17 September	Mt Suswa Camping
Sat – Tue, 7 -10 October –	Lamu See p. 3
Thur – Sun, 16 – 19 November	Tsavo East & Taita Hills
Sun – Mon, 9 – 11 December	Castle Forest Lodge*Mount Kenya See p. 6
Wed – Mon, 27 Dec 2023 – 1 Jan 2024	New Year Safari – Shaba & Samburu
TALKS	
Saturday, 19 August	Muthaiga Country Club (Speaker will be confirmed soon)
Saturday, 23 September	Muthaiga Country Club, 5pm Jill Ghai
DAY OUTINGS	To be announced soon
Saturday, 2 December	KMS Christmas Market

* <https://www.castleforestlodge.com/the-lodge>

Register for any of the above activities here:

WhatsApp: 0724 255 299

info@kenyamuseumsociety.org

➤ By participating in the KMS outings/events you not only meet interesting people and visit interesting places, but you help support the National Museums of Kenya. #OurMuseumsOurHeritage

Forthcoming Events

Mpala Research Centre in Laikipia

August 25-28 (3 nights 4 days trip)

Mpala Research Centre is located on a 50,000 swath of savanna and woodland habitat in Laikipia. It is unfenced, biodiverse area defined by the catchment of 2 rivers. It has some of the most spectacular wildlife populations outside the gazetted national parks- over 6,000 elephants, Grevy's zebra, and large population of wild dogs, eland, and hippo among others.

As a living laboratory, Mpala Research Centre hosts hundreds of scientists, students and conservationist each year. The Centre also support various science based outreach programs. With conservation and management of wildlife and natural resources in unprotected areas and demonstrates that protecting wildlife does not require the exclusion of humans and the activities of their livelihoods.

During our visit, we'll have a chance to hear presentations from resident researchers, tour the lab facilities, visit the historic caves on the property, and go for games drives. The exact topics for the itinerary will be confirmed as we approach the travel date.

Deadline for payment is August 1 or until group size is reached.

Accommodation: We will stay in the main ranch buildings and some houses depending on the size of the group.

Cost: 63,000 Ksh pp sharing; 68,000 Ksh for single accommodation

Included: FB, lodging, transportation, and tips

Other: Indicate if you are a vegetarian or have food allergies when signing up.

This is an opportunity to visit Mpala Ranch as a special privilege extended to the Kenya Museum Society

Payments: Mpesa paybill, Business No: 400800, Account: 6571570019

Bookings: 0724 255 299, 2339158 or info@kenyamuseumsociety.org

Group size is 14.

Trip to Kenya's Indian Ocean Paradise - Lamu Island

7 – 10 October 2023 (3 nights 4 days trip)

Lamu Old Town is the oldest and best-preserved Swahili settlement in all of East Africa,*



having been a key settlement for trade since the 14th century. The principal inhabited part of the island, is one of the oldest and best-preserved [Swahili](#)[†] settlements in East Africa. Due to Lamu's history in trading gold, spices, and slaves, Lamu is truly a melting pot of different cultures and Arabic, Persian, Indian, European, and Swahili traditions that are evidently on display in Lamu's Architecture.

Most evident tradition in Lamu however is the Swahili. In falling characteristically with the Swahili culture, most of the town is built with coral stone and mangrove timber.

* See the UNESCO page on this World Heritage Site: <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1055>

† See Wikipedia account at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Swahili_people

The town is characterized by the simplicity of structural forms enriched by such features as inner courtyards, verandas, narrow winding streets and elaborately carved wooden doors.

Lamu Old Town has a wealth of beautiful, historic buildings, so a tour of this area is a good place to start your exploration.

Activities

- Tour the Lamu Museum - offers an introduction to the island's rich history and architecture.
- Tour the German Post Office Museum - learn about the past German activity on the island including a collection of German East Africa stamps and coins.
- Tour Lamu Fort - built by the Sultan of Paté between 1810 and 1823, during British Colonial rule, and was used as a prison – today it's a library.
- Explore Lamu *Old Stone Town*
- Sail a Dhow
- Visit Shela *Village*
- Visit Takwa Ruins*
- Enjoy the seafood and Swahili Cuisine
- Walk along the beaches and swimming



* See account in the *East African* <https://www.theeastafrican.co.ke/tea/magazine/echoes-from-the-past-at-the-takwa-ruins-in-lamu-3593580>

Accommodation

We will stay at Lamu House, an 18th century Swahili House, a luxury accommodation located on the seafront in the Lamu Old Stone Town, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Lamu House features: non-smoking rooms, a restaurant, free Wi-Fi, a bar, a swimming pool, Spa and wellness centre.

Important Note: Lamu is a Muslim town so visitors should bring some modest clothing items, especially for ladies, in order to be respectful and considerate towards the culture. Moreover, visitors should show respect to the locals at all times, and be tolerant towards religious, and cultural differences.

What to carry:

- Identification cards
- Valid KMS membership card (for free entry at Lamu Museum & Takwa)
- Sunscreen / hats
- Mosquito repellent & any important medication

Cost:

Ksh 65,500 per person sharing

Ksh 76,000 single

Included:

- 3 nights BB accommodation
- Return flight
- Return Museum/JKIA transfers
- Boat transfers in Lamu
- Lamu guides & hotel staff tips

Excluded:

Meals (lunch & dinner) - can be bought at the hotel or other local restaurants during our tours

Drinking water - 2 bottles are provided in the hotel room (carry a reusable water bottle)

Please book and pay a 50% deposit by Mon, 24 July 2023, to enable us reserve the house and purchase flight tickets.

Payment Options:

1. Safaricom - M-PESA Paybill Business no: 400800, **Account no:** 6571570019

2. Kenya Museum Society Bank Transfer Details:

Bank: NCBA Kenya PLC

Account Name: KENYA MUSEUM SOCIETY

Branch: Westlands Branch

Bank Account: 657 157 0019

Swift Code: CBAFKENX

Bank Code: 07

Branch Code: 004

Book: <https://www.kenyamuseumociety.org/contact-us/>

Contacts: 0724 255299 or info@kenyamuseumociety.org

Trip to the roof of Africa

Castle Lodge

Sat – Mon, 9 -11th December 2023

Castle Forest Lodge is located deep in the thick forest on the slopes to the south of Mount Kenya. It is set in a natural surroundings of rainforest, fresh water rivers with falls, and a fabulous view of the valley on one side of the lodge, and the impressive peaks of Mount Kenya on the other.

Attractions:

- **Nature walks**

The hiking possibilities for guided day trips or short walks around the lodge are in fact unlimited.

The guides can point out the animal footprints who have been there before you and tell all about the forest and its mysteries. The trail may prove to be difficult at times hence advisable for one to consider this activity.

- **Trout Fishing**

Crystal clear rivers on either side of the lodge provide endless opportunity for trout fishing. Hence with the help of guides one can get a chance to experience fishing.

- **Bird Watching**

There are about 175 species of birds have been identified that are partly specific for this altitude and forested areas, our experienced guides can lead you to them.

- **Horseback Riding**

Three beautiful horses, one for the guide, can take you riding on the trails in the forest where you may encounter wildlife or just enjoy the different colours of green or for a longer ride through the tea fields bordering the forest.

A detailed itinerary with activities for each day will be confirmed as we approach the travel date.

Accommodation: Castle Forest Lodge - Cottages

Cost: 31,500 Ksh pp sharing; 37,500 Ksh for single accommodation

Included: FB, lodging, transportation, Nature walk & guide fee, Kenya Forest Service & Lodge entry fees, and tips.

Excluded:

Horse riding - Ksh 1,200 pp per hour

Fishing with a guide - Ksh 500 pp

Payments: Mpesa paybill, Business No: 400800, Account: 6571570019

Bookings: 0724 255 299, 2339158 or info@kenyamuseumsociety.org

Deadline for payment is 10 November or until group size is reached.

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The 15th Affordable Art Show

27-29 October, 2023

@Nairobi National Museum



The Affordable Art Show is the largest visual arts event in East Africa. It showcases the talent of new and established contemporary artists from Kenya with participation from artists in Uganda, Tanzania, Sudan and further afield. Over 600 artworks will be displayed from over 300 artists, all priced at under Ksh 150,000. A sculpture section has been reintroduced IN this show, with some of Kenya's top sculptors exhibiting.

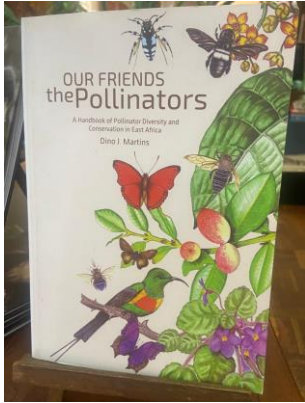
The event is organised by the Kenya Museum Society (KMS) which is a not-for-profit organisation set up in 1970 to support and promote the National Museums of Kenya. The Affordable Art Show is the principal fundraiser for the Society and a percentage of the sale price goes to KMS to fund projects at the National Museums.

Now in its 14th edition, the biannual Show is a calendar event in the visual art scene and the Friday opening night is highly recommended for keen art followers. Held over three days, the exhibition attracts a range of visitors from serious art buyers to amateur enthusiasts, professionals, students and first-time visitors to an art show.

2022 saw exponential growth in Show visitors, mainly Kenyans, and going forward we expect to see public interest in the arts continue to grow. The last art show in October 2022 sold 37% of more than 600 artworks, higher than most exhibition and gallery sales.

@ The KMS Shop at the Nairobi Museum

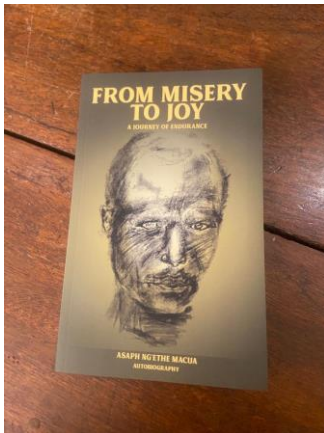
Books and Other Things



Our Friends the Pollinators - Dr. Dino J. Martins

A handbook of pollinator diversity and conservation in East Africa. Every day people are connected to nature by those activities of pollinators that contribute to producing food. This book's goal is to inspire excitement about pollinators and make the link with food and people's livelihoods.

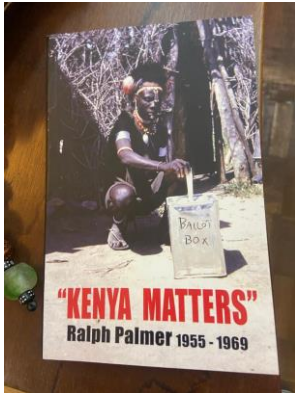
Selling @1600



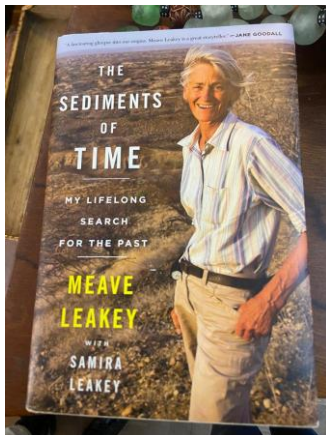
From Misery to Joy – Asaph Ng'ethe Machua

A story of faith and appreciation of life.

Asaph has lived with one lung since 1959 showing that being critically ill does not mean that you will not live a full life. The book follows his story of ill health and hospitalization throughout his schooling and work life. **Selling @1800**



Ralph Palmer regales us with an exciting journey into the past; you will witness momentous events that shaped Kenya's history; these were exhilarating times. You shall meet the pioneering personalities of a newly independent Kenya; those who helped to mould the country before and after independence. You will travel the path they took during the struggle from colonial rule to the raising of the Kenya flag. Districts mentioned in detail are Nyeri, Meru, Ukambani, Nakuru, Kitale, Turkana, Baringo, and Nairobi. **Selling @1800**



In *The Sediments of Time*, preeminent paleoanthropologist **Meave Leakey** brings us along on her remarkable journey to reveal the diversity of our early pre-human ancestors and how past climate change drove their evolution. She offers a fresh account of our past, as recent breakthroughs have allowed new analysis of her team's fossil findings and vastly expanded our understanding of our ancestors.

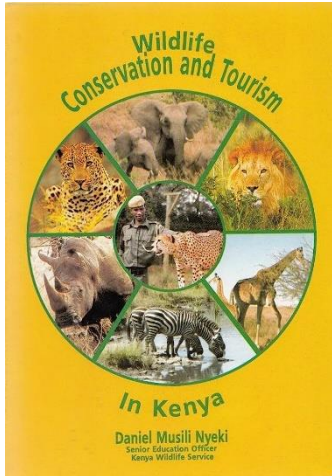
Meave Leakey's thrilling, high-stakes memoir—written with her daughter Samira—encapsulates her distinguished life and career on the front lines of the hunt for our human origins, a quest made all the more notable by her stature as a woman in a highly competitive, male-dominated field. **Selling @7500**

[Note for non-Swahili speakers: Did you know that what in the West would be called 7 a.m. is 1 o'clock for the Swahili?] This Swahili time clock has Swahili numbering and proverbs

Selling @4500



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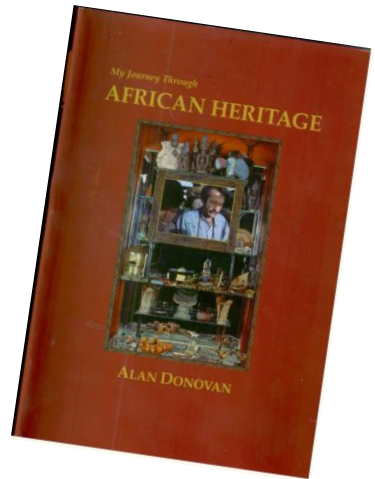


This book is aimed at helping Kenyans and our visitors to fully appreciate the work being done by the Kenya Wildlife Service for the present and future enjoyment of all.

Selling @600

My Journey through African Heritage – Alan Donovan

Alan's memoir = like his house, The African Heritage House, is a unique document you'll not forget about a people, a country, and a man who would not give up during his astonishing career as a promoter and catalyst of art and culture in Africa and throughout the world. He shares his unique experiences in Kenya and his involvement with the local fashion, art and culture of various African cultures.



Selling @7000

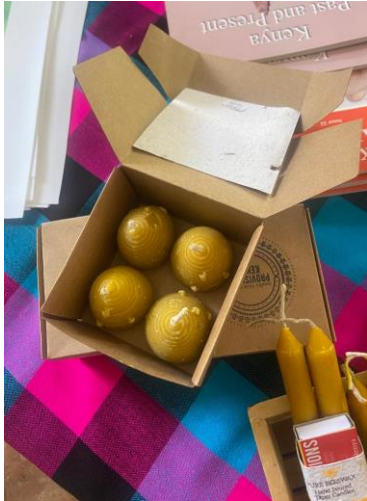


Kikoy cotton tunic

@2000

Pure beeswax hand poured natural candles.

Clean and free of synthetic fragrances.



**Selling @ 500 &
1600**

Selling @1600



Natural insect repellent

Selling @700



Wildlife photography prints on Canvas Selling @10,000



Muthaiga Tea Co. was founded to showcase the artistry of African tea making and to enable people to widen their horizons beyond traditional teas with their carefully crafted loose leaf teas.



Selling @1300



Selling @3000

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**Arty coasters Selling
@800**



Decorative gourds

Selling @300

From and about the National Museums of Kenya

WORLD KISWAHILI DAY

HENNA
Cultural Display

SWAHILI
Calligraphy

SWAHILI CUISINE
Food

Theme:

**KISWAHILI FOR PEACE,
COHESION & INTEGRATION.**

Day 1 - Procession
-Cultural Display
-Talk
-Cultural dances
-Youth activities

Day 2 - Mbeja Show
-Fashion show
-Women talk
-Competition
-Awards

Day 3 - Tales of the past
-Zamuni/poetry
-Public talk
-Dumna/Bao/karata

**7- 9
July 2023**

start from 9am - 6 pm

National Museums of Kenya
Heritage Training Institute
(NMKHTI)

NATIONAL MUSEUMS OF KENYA
WHERE HERITAGE LIVES ON

Pwani
UNIVERSITY

World of Museums

One of the sad themes in news about museums recently seems to have been about wars and other disasters and their impact on museums. At least we can begin with an item about the recovery of a museum about which the *Tracker* included an item after the Beirut port explosion in 2020.



From ashes and debris, iconic Beirut museum reopens 3 years after massive damage from port blast Kareem Chehayeb May 27, 2023*

Originally built as a private villa in 1912 on a hilltop overlooking the city's Achrafieh neighborhood, the opulent residence integrated Venetian and Ottoman styles. Its

owner, famed Lebanese art collector Nicolas Ibrahim Sursock, bequeathed his beloved home to his people, to be turned into a contemporary art museum upon his death in 1952.

The museum housed Lebanese art dating back from the late 1800s, including the work of distinguished painter Georges Corm and Fouad Debbas' library of 30,000 photographs — one of the largest private photo collections. The photos are from across the Levant, a region encompassing countries along the eastern Mediterranean, from Turkey to Egypt, from 1830 until the 1960s. In 2008, a seven-year project renovated and expanded the museum, relaunching it in 2015.



But the Aug. 4, 2020 blast in Beirut's port — only about 800 meters (875 yards) away — hit the museum fully front on. Its stained glass windows were shattered, doors were blown out, and almost half the artwork on display was damaged. The

* <https://apnews.com/article/beirut-museum-port-blast-sursock-580614f17cd46c8f12ae853243dc93ed>

explosion ripped through much of Beirut, killing more than 200 people and injuring over 6,000.

The destruction was unprecedented, said museum director Karina El Helou, a level unseen even during Lebanon's 1975-1990 civil war. Seventy percent of the building was badly damaged, as were 66 of the 132 art pieces on display, she said. Glass shards tore through Dutch artist Kees Von Dongen's portrait of Nicolas Sursock.

Two months after the explosion, then-museum director Zeina Arida launched a fundraising campaign, estimating the damages to be around \$3 million at the time. The museum eventually raised over \$2 million to restore the building and the artwork with support from Italy, France, UNESCO and various private organizations.

The restoration was long and painstaking work. Sursock's portrait was taken to Paris, along with two other art pieces, and restored there. Experts from Lebanon and abroad flocked to the museum to piece together damaged terracotta sculptures and fix tears and scratches that had marred the paintings. Dust and debris from the explosion were carefully removed to bring back the splendor of many items.

Dozens gathered in Sursock's large, tree-lined courtyard on Friday evening, serenaded by a choir and a band performing on the entrance stairs for the reopening. The museum, looking almost exactly as it did before the blast, drew sighs of appreciation. Others remembered how much Beirut has withered since then and how scores of artists have left the country.

At Friday's reopening, visitors could view five new exhibitions of both classical and modern art — a testament to Lebanon's artistic and cultural history and the perseverance of its people despite the country's troubled past.

One of the exhibits, titled "Ejecta," is set up in a darkened room where a video and an audio recording reflect on the port blast. Zad Moulataka, the artist behind the installation, said he hoped it would inspire people to turn their dark thoughts about that day into hope for the future.

"Throughout the days of the civil war, we always found a way to rise up," he said.

"But my initial feeling after the blast was doubt. I wondered if we will be able to persevere after what happened," Moulataka added. "It's important today to take this violence and transform it into something positive."

Sudan fighters take over Khartoum museum, director says Reuters June 3*

KHARTOUM, June 3 (Reuters) - Sudanese paramilitary fighters have taken over the national museum in Khartoum, its deputy director said on Saturday, urging them to protect precious artefacts from the nation's heritage that include ancient mummies.

Members of the Rapid Support Forces group that has been fighting the army since mid-April for control of Sudan entered the museum on Friday, said deputy director Ikhlas Abdellatif.

Museum staff do not know the situation inside the museum because they halted work there after the conflict suddenly erupted on April 15, forcing police guarding the facility to quit, Abdellatif said.

The RSF released a video filmed inside the museum grounds showing a soldier denying that they had done any harm to the museum or would do so, and inviting any individuals or organisations to visit the museum to check. The video also showed RSF fighters covering up exposed mummies with sheets and closing the plain white boxes in which they were contained. It was not clear when or why the mummies had been uncovered.

The museum is in a large building on the banks of the River Nile in central Khartoum, near the central bank in an area where some of the fiercest fighting has taken place. Among its thousands of priceless relics are embalmed mummies dating to 2,500 BC, making them among the oldest and archaeologically most important in the world. The museum also contains statues, pottery and ancient murals, with artefacts from the stone age through to the Christian and Islamic eras, said former director Hatim Alnour.

Ode to the Ancestors: Kenyan Archaeology – from the Horniman Museum, London†

Colonial-era archaeological excavations in Kenya drew on the expertise and skills of African Kenyan archaeologists. However, despite contributing knowledge to the understanding of Kenyan pasts, their names are absent. Instead white British and Kenyan names dominate the archaeological record.

* <https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/sudan-fighters-take-over-khartoum-museum-director-says-2023-06-03/>

† <https://www.horniman.ac.uk/project/ode-to-the-ancestors-kenyan-archaeology/> - grateful thanks to Sultan Somjee, former Head of Ethnography, National Museums of Kenya, who drew this to your editor's attention.

This includes Louis Leakey, the name associated with the Horniman's collection of Kenyan archaeology. Ode to the Ancestors seeks to uncover and celebrate those whose work remains unrecognised.

During 2022 we will be researching the names of Kenyan archaeologists, conservators and heritage professionals, in partnership with colleagues at National Museums of Kenya. This has culminated in an exhibition at the Horniman open until November 2023.

This project has been designed and led by Sherry Davis, a former Community Action Researcher at the Horniman. Sherry's grandad, Karisa Ndurya, was an African Kenyan archaeologist who played an important role excavating monuments in Kenya. Yet his name is nowhere to be found.

"In 2018, I went to Kenya to learn about the work of my late grandfather Karisa Ndurya, who was one of the first Africans to excavate ancient monuments in Kenya. He worked as a foreman during the colonial period, under a British archaeologist that denied the contributions of Africans to their own histories.

When I visited Fort Jesus in Mombasa, I noticed that the name of grandad's boss (James Kirkman) was acknowledged all over the Fort, but no Africans had their names written on the walls, although a few of grandad's elderly colleagues were able to give an oral account of their work in the 1950s and 60s.

As I continued in my research, I noticed that the lack of acknowledgement was not an isolated circumstance, but that there are a number of African Kenyans who have undertaken important work around the built heritage who deserve to be credited."

Ghanaian ruler pushes British Museum to return gold BBC

The ruler of Ghana's Asante people is pressing the British Museum to return gold items in its collection. The Asantehene Otumfuo Osei Tutu II, who attended the Coronation of King Charles, later met the museum director Dr Hartwig Fischer.

The British Museum's collection includes works taken from the Asante palace in Kumasi during the war with the British of 1874.

The museum told us it is "exploring the possibility of lending items" to Ghana. Ghana's government made a formal request in 1974 from the then Asantehene, requesting the return of regalia and other items taken by British forces in 1874, 1896 and 1900. Since then, the British Museum says it has worked to establish a positive and ongoing collaboration with the Asantehene and Ghana's Manhyia Palace Museum, which chronicles Asante culture.



In recent times Ghana's government has set up a Restitution Committee to look at the return of items taken from the Asante palace which are now in collections around the world. Nana Oforiatta Ayim, who sits on that Committee, told the BBC: "These objects are largely sacred ones and their return is about more than just restitution. It is also about reparation and repair, for the places they were taken from, but also those who did the taking."

She added that they are looking for a new relationship "not based on exploitation or oppression, but on equity and mutual respect".

Otumfuo Osei Tutu II requested a loan of items of regalia belonging to his forbears, acknowledging the successful ongoing collaboration with the British Museum.

There are more than 200 Asante gold objects and other regalia within the British Museum collection which were taken by British troops during the Anglo-Asante wars.

The British Museum has not received a formal return request from Ghana since 1974. It loans more than 5,000 objects to institutions around the world every year in its efforts to share its collection globally.

For some Ghanaians however, loans can never be a long term solution. Oforiatta Ayim, who is also a special adviser to Ghana's Culture Minister, said: "Loans can be a first step in that they can open up dialogue in the kind of institutions and structures that are slow to change. At the end of the day, objects like the ones taken in 1874 were taken under horrifically violent circumstances... There needs to be honesty, accountability and action". She added: the objects' homes are "undeniably the places they were taken from" though could be lent back to British institutions in future.

London's Horniman Museum returned 72 items in its collection to Nigerian ownership last year. At the time, Nick Merriman, the Horniman Museum director, told the BBC there was a "moral argument" to return them. He said "we're seeing a tipping point around not just restitution and repatriation, but museums acknowledging their colonial history".

Eight Museum Openings to Look Forward to in 2023

The museums are spread out from Africa to North America, East Asia, and Central Europe. For my fellow travellers you have something to look forward to this year. Without further ado let's jump right into it.

1. The Grand Egyptian Museum in Cairo, Egypt

This museum has been planned for at least 20 years and will now be welcoming visitors in the first half of 2023. It will be the world's largest archaeological museum complex given the huge amount of antiquities. It will be just about a mile from the world-famous Giza pyramid complex. For now, it will house some of the most wonderful showpieces ever to have been collected. This will include many that go back to the reign of Tutankhamun as well as many treasures from earlier pharaohs and pieces that were previously in storage in Alexandria, Sohag and Beni will now be displayed in their new permanent home.

2. The Robot and AI Museum in Seoul, South Korea

The idea behind the museum is to support public education in machine learning and robotic technologies. This will not only add to the public's knowledge and interest in technology but also hopes that the institution will help the next generation of programmers and technology enthusiasts to access cutting-edge developments. Four stories will be given over to all things robot & computer-related with drones and other examples of self-learning systems on display throughout. It is scheduled to open in July. Interestingly, robots have been deployed in constructing of the museum thus it is already showing how technology is in use before it has even officially opened its doors.

3. The Scottish National Gallery in Edinburgh, Scotland

It is fair to say that this is not a new museum however, in January 2019 work began at the site in Central Edinburgh to try and increase the amount of exhibition space on offer. This new extension will have a different feel for visitors as the historic museum was built in a neo-classical style while this new extension will be different. The architects involved have attempted to create a new visitor experience with different routes in and out from how the gallery has traditionally been accessed.

This newly updated art museum will show more works in its collections such as those by William MC Taggart, Charles Rennie Mackintosh and Anne Redpath among others.

4. The International African American Museum in Charleston, U.S.

This is one of the hotly most anticipated new museums of the recent years given the nature of the history that will be covered by the museum galleries. Charleston in South Carolina was at the heart of the trans-Atlantic slave trade in the United States for many years and many African Americans who came to North America during the 18th century are said to have passed through that infamous wharf. According to the museum's board, the exhibitions will focus on sharing '*untold stories*' of the African American people at all points in their history in North America. The curators will blend classic techniques of storytelling with new approaches enhanced by technology and digital displays.

5. The Museum of Art & Photography in Bengaluru, India

This museum is set to become one of the most significant in Karnataka State. It will cover all sorts of visual media of the last thousand years from the sub-continent. The museum is already the custodian of a substantial collection of works by Indian artists around 60,000 artworks. In addition to its collection it has a number of 21st century artworks that are completely digital in their nature so even though the museum has not yet open the public can get a taster of what will be on offer. It is hoped that the new home for this art will mean that viewers can engage in a 'comprehensive journey' of Indian visual culture. When it opens its doors, admittance to the museum will be free for all but special exhibitions will be only possible to view with a ticket.

6. The Richard Gilder Center for Science, Education and Innovation in New York, U.S.

It is officially part of the famous American Museum of Natural History. The center has a very different feel and look from the rest of the museum and is full of amorphous shapes with lots of natural light. The idea is to afford visitors an immersive experience when they enter the new museum's wing. The educational centre will primarily be devoted to insects and prehistoric species as well as contemporary ones.

Spread over three storeys, the new exhibition space will offer the chance to see much more of the natural history museum's permanent collection with notable addition to numerous floor-to-ceiling display stands.

7. The Art Museum in Busan, South Korea

This new art gallery was a design brought by a company, D'strict to add something completely new to the renovation of a former industrial site. They came up with a cladding system that allowed the art gallery to project any image it likes on the outside of the building, making it appear as if it contains a rolling wave, for example. It contains projections, three-dimensional images, light and sound all combine to make the new gallery very different from anything that has come before.

8. The Holocaust Museum in Toronto, Canada

The Holocaust museum was established in the mid-1980s as a place dedicated to sharing stories with students and it has been undergoing a significant refit in recent years. The museum is being updated to become a state-of-the-art facility for education and reflection. As it was thought that addressing the needs of younger people would be more appropriate for the museum's continued use. The newly revamped site would mean the museum remains a centre of excellence and innovation in Holocaust education. It will now serve as a forum for dialogue among present and future generations, offering a collaborative space where community partners can convene with one another.

Source: www.museumnext.com

Compiled by Stephanie Njoki

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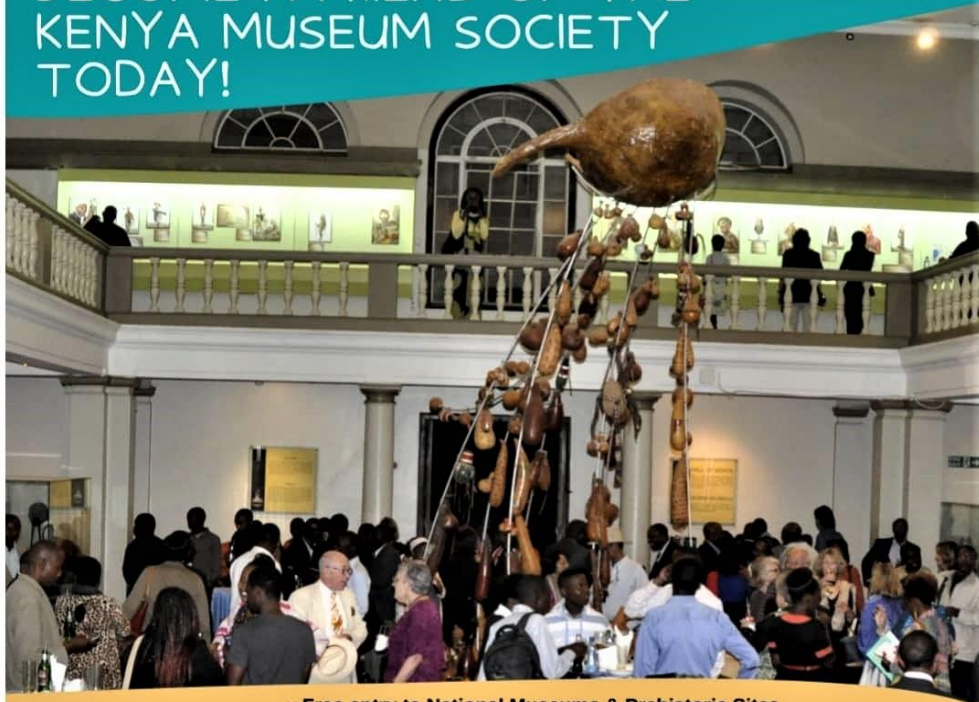
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