

KENYA AT A GLANCE!



HONORARY CONSUL OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA
IN THE HELLENIC REPUBLIC



Kenya is an amazing country:

**From its topography of extreme contrasts
to its people blessed with liveliness and dynamism
and its modern culture born out of the influence of being at the hub
of centuries old trading and migratory routes.**



By looking at a world map we notice that Kenya is located at a **strategic site** on the eastern coast of the African Continent.

The country straddles the Equator; so one part of Kenya belongs to the Northern Hemisphere and one to the Southern.



Indian Ocean cools the country from the east.

Kenya is bordered by Somalia to the east, Ethiopia and Sudan to the north, Uganda to the west and Tanzania to the south.



The **second highest mountain** on the African Continent is located here.
It is Mount Kenya, a perennially snow-capped mountain.

Much of Central Kenya
lies over 1,500 metres above sea level.

This makes temperatures vary from
pleasantly mild to low.

On the contrary, along the coast the climate
is usually tropical, warm and wet.

In the north and northeastern parts of the country
the climate is rather arid.

**As does the climate, Kenyan landscapes
vary also a lot.**

**We encounter deserts, bushlands and savannahs,
volcanic mountains and hills, lakes and rivers,
swamps and marshes, dense forests,
fertile cultivated lands and pastures,
sandy beaches and islets along the coastline, coral reefs,
and even mountaintops with never melting snow.**

In these lands wildlife has its own
vivid and enthralling rhythms.
Wild animals –real legends in Europe,
all live here
and arouse our admiration!



Lions



Elephants



Rhinoceroses



Giraffes

**Various
antelope
species**





Buffaloes



Flamingos



Zebras

Hippopotamuses



Crocodiles



Various ape species



Cheetahs



Leopards

In 2006, the great wildebeest migration, taking place each and every year in the Maasai Mara region, was elected one of the 7 wonders of the world by American TV channel ABC.





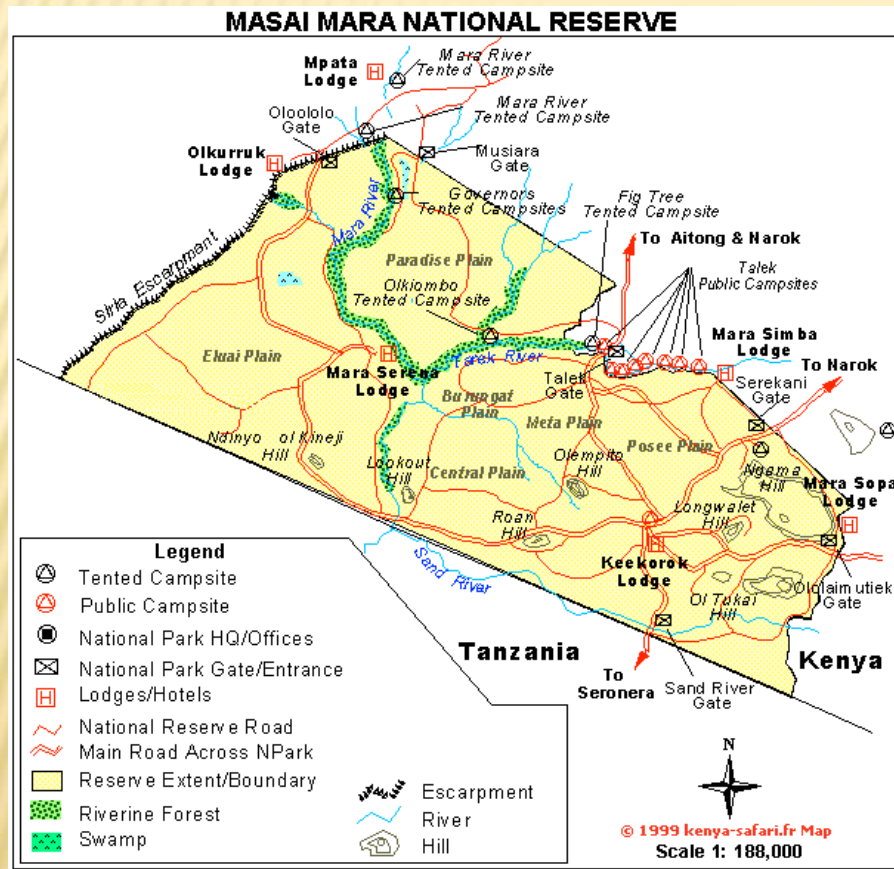
The Great Migration.

An incredibly rich botanic wealth!





Numerous flora and fauna species make up a great wealth that is protected by legislative regulations both national and international .



And for the sake of this protected wealth, the country has established a net of National Parks and Reserves - safe and valuable havens for wildlife.

Globally famous is the Maasai Mara National Reserve which lies in southwestern Kenya at the borders with Tanzania.

To describe the general idea of the basic features of Kenya using just a few words one could say the following:

- Crossroads and melting pot of civilizations.
- Laboratory of endless natural processes.
- Seminary of natural history and history of man.
- Face modern, manifold and dynamically developing.

Let us examine these 4 points in a more analytical way:

Crossroads and melting pot of civilizations

Peoples of African, Arab, Turkish, Persian and European origin fought to gain and maintain their domination and control over this strategic point on Earth at the crossroads of the trade routes in the wider region of Indian Ocean.

During Renaissance Period in Europe, the part of Africa that is now Kenya was an important centre of political, commercial and cultural globalization.

The interchange of cultural values among all these peoples, whether native or conquerors, resulted in a cultural osmosis that gave birth to a unique in the world culture from the level of its values to its architectural creations.

Swahili, the official language of the country,
taught together with English throughout Kenya,
is a good example of this osmosis.

Swahili's vocabulary is an amalgam of the languages of the native peoples
not only with Arabic and Persian
but also with Portuguese, Hindi, English, French
and even German.

Unesco, estimating the heritage value and importance
of the various cultural elements in Kenya,
has included in the list of
World Heritage Sites
three of the most conspicuous locations of the country:

Lamu Old Town on Lamu Island

Lamu Town is located 350 kilometres north of Mombasa; it is Kenya's oldest continually inhabited town since the end of the 14th century. Lamu has succeeded in maintaining its social and cultural integrity up to the present day.



The old
Fort
on Lamu.



Designated as a Unesco World Heritage Site, Lamu is considered as the oldest and best preserved Swahili settlement, a good example of the Swahili culture as it has interacted with the cultures of the Arabs, Persians, Indians and Portuguese.

It is a place one can study the Islamic and Swahili cultures.



Sacred Kaya Forests and the fortified settlements of the Mijikenda people



For the ethnic group of Mijikenda the Kaya Forests are considered to be an intrinsic source of ritual power and the origin of cultural identity. It is also a place of prayer and, together with the fortified village, it is the traditional organizational unit of the Mijikenda society.

Kayas, spread over some 200 km along the coast, were created in the 16th century and by the early 20th century they began to fall out of use.





Here are protected not only the social structures and the traditional occupations but also the biodiversity of the forests which have been under severe pressure and ran the danger of extinction because of the increasing disregard for traditional values and for nature and environment as they tended to prevail during the early and mid 20th century.

Fort Jesus in Mombasa



The Fort was built by the Portuguese at the end of the 16th century on a coral rock at the southern end of the very important port of Mombasa.



Fort Jesus bears testimony to the first successful attempt by Western civilization to rule the Indian Ocean trade routes, which, until then had remained under Eastern influence.



Fort Jesus bears physical witness, in its structures and subsequent transformations, also to the interchange of cultural values and influences between and among peoples of African, Arab, Turkish, Persian and European origin that fought to gain and maintain their control over this strategic port. Its important role in the control of trade also saw it host many peoples of the Indian Ocean basin.



The design of the Fort, with its proportions and geometric harmony, its imposing walls and five bastions, reflects the military architectural theory of the European Renaissance.

Long-term conservation and management issues include also the protection of the Fort from urban encroachment and inappropriate design in the areas adjacent to it and in the surrounding Mombasa Old Town.



**Laboratory of endless
natural processes**

Nature in Kenya is **evolving constantly and rapidly** offering thus the opportunity to scientists to monitor and study the various phenomena of life.

Geologists, seismologists, volcanologists, mineralogists, hydrogeologists, biologists and anthropologists, zoologists, zooethologists, botanists, agronomists, ecologists, paleoarchaeologists are only a few of the various specialized scientists who find in this land **a large and valuable research laboratory** for the study of nature.

The Great Rift Valley, a continuous geographic trench running the western part of the country from north to south, still continues creating numerous interesting features in the natural environment and in the landscape. Among them most characteristic are fumaroles and geysers.





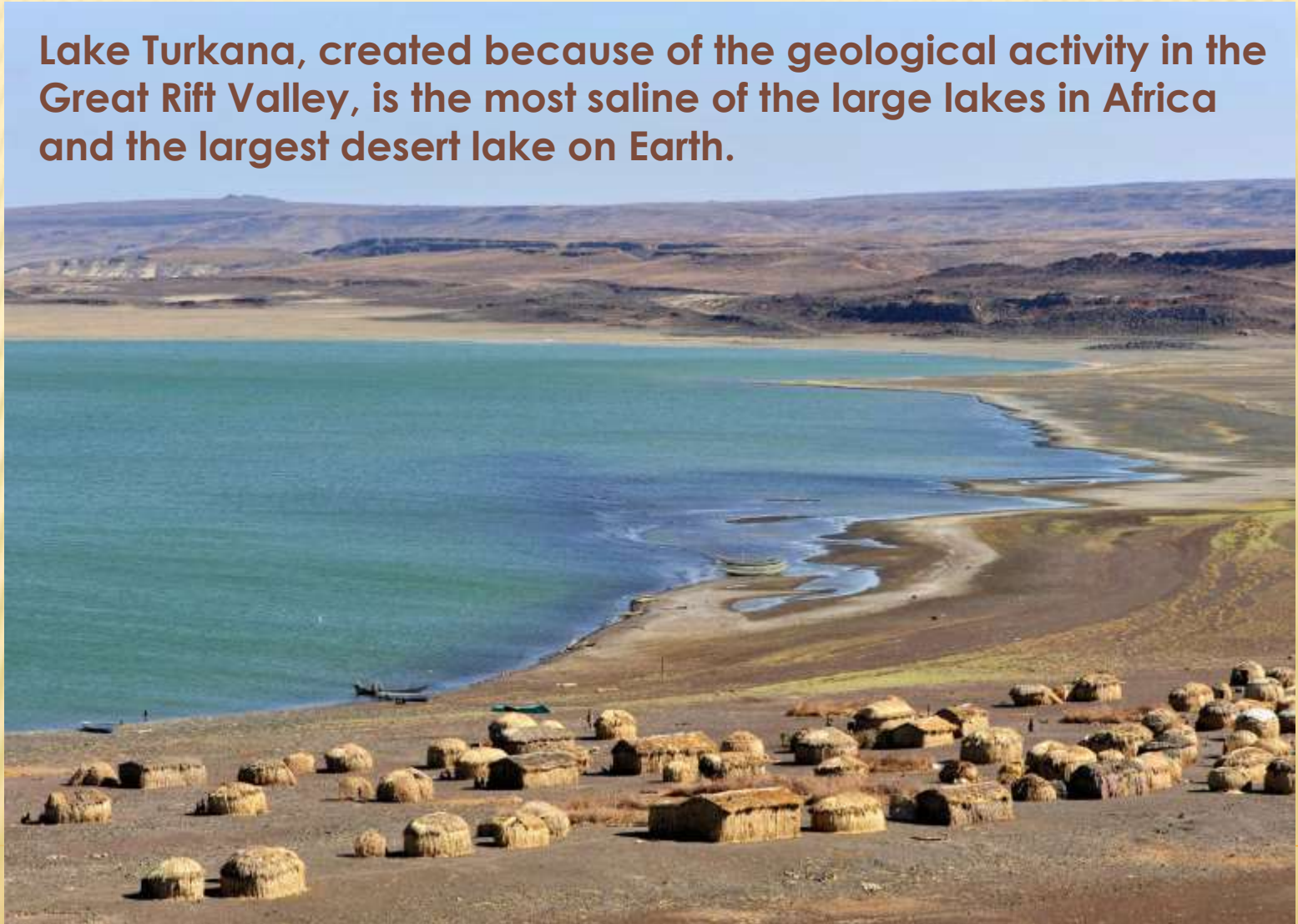
Steam as it emerges hot from the Earth's crust is used today for electricity generation (clean energy) as well as for heating greenhouses. To these greenhouses Kenya owes its reputation as one of the largest players in floriculture.



Unesco has included in the list of
World Heritage Sites
several of the most fascinating and important examples
of Kenya's nature:

Lake Turkana National Parks

Lake Turkana, created because of the geological activity in the Great Rift Valley, is the most saline of the large lakes in Africa and the largest desert lake on Earth.



The area surrounding the lake is globally renowned for the numerous paleoanthropological and archaeological findings that have a great interest and importance.

The geology and fossil record of the lake represents in the best possible way the **major stages of Earth's history**.

So, for many years now Turkana is **a site attracting** scientists from all over the world.





**Reconstruction
of the “Turkana Boy”.**

Among the most interesting findings are the bones of the world famous “Turkana Boy” discovered near Lake Turkana. Dated 1.6 million years old, this skeleton is the most complete prehistoric human skeleton ever found.

The area is managed under two State Acts ensuring protection, conservation and sustainability of the environment in the highest level of legal protection, thus universally consisting a very good example of environmental protection, conservation and management.



Kenya Lake System in the Great Rift Valley



Lake Elementaita




Lake Bogoria

The landscape around the lakes is of outstanding beauty and their environment is **one of the most rich in biodiversity on our whole planet.** The property is home to 13 globally threatened bird species, as is the Great White Pelican.

The Great White Pelican



Lake Nakuru



Apart from the national management of the lakes a transboundary cooperation also ensures their efficient protection; this is a good example of a proper environmental management.

Mount Kenya National Parks & Natural Forests



Mount Kenya, one of the most impressive landscapes in East Africa, was once an active volcano, but now it is extinct.

Its flora and fauna are of great scientific interest.

Mount Kenya was regarded as a holy mountain by all the communities living adjacent to it; according to their belief its peak was the residence of the ancient traditional god Ngai and his spouse Mumbi. So, the mountain was used for traditional rituals.

The property's legislative framework as well as the good coordination of management practices are generally sound and provide for adequate protection of the site running threats from illegal logging, grazing, poaching, tourism and fires.



Seminary of natural history and history of man

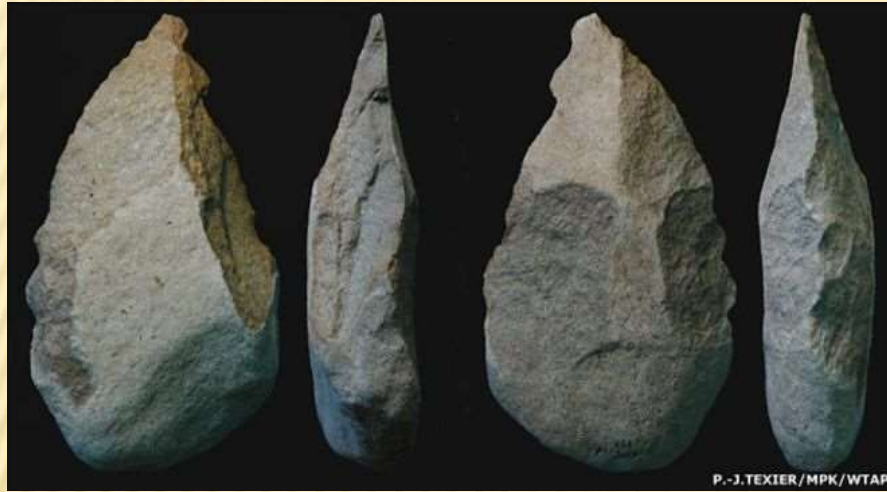
**All the aforementioned facts demonstrate clearly
the role and significance of Kenya's nature
in the study of the physical environment.**

**The list of research opportunities and discoveries
is really endless.**

**Kenya's rich pre-historic heritage not only tells
the story of man's origin and evolution, but also
has contributed to the understanding of the Earth's history.**

But Kenya is globally well-known also for being the land where paleontological discoveries contributed decisively to the study and understanding of the evolutionary history of the human species.





Several thousand fossils and artifacts spanning over 27 million years have been discovered in Kenya. There are sites in the country globally renowned for having the largest number of stone tools in the world and sites universally acclaimed for their distinct rock paintings that bear evidence of prehistoric civilizations. This rich heritage helped scientists to understand not only the history of man's presence on Earth and of his first communities but also the history of various pre-human species.

Kenya is truly the cradle of mankind as scientists confirm.

**Face modern, manifold
and dynamically developing**

**The independent from British rule
Republic of Kenya was formed in 1964.**

**Although the country was officially
declared a British colony in 1920,
the roots of its colonial history go back
to the Berlin Conference in 1885.**

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Decisive role to the fight for freedom from British rule played the Mau Mau Movement.

In 1953, Jomo Kenyatta, the first President of the Republic of Kenya after the country was liberated, was charged with directing the Mau Mau Movement and was sentenced to 7 years of imprisonment.

From 1964 and on, Kenya continues progressing with steady and fast pace determined to follow routes of development in all sectors of economic and social life, such as:

- ✓ **Political**
- ✓ **Financial**
- ✓ **Trade**
- ✓ **Scientific**
- ✓ **Energy**
- ✓ **Tourism**
- ✓ **Culture**
- ✓ **Sports**

Kenya:

- Is the **fastest growing country** in Sub-Saharan Africa.
- Is the **main gateway to the markets** of all East Africa countries.
- Is of **key importance** being the **commercial hub of East African Community** the dynamic market of which reaches nowadays almost 140 million people in its 5 countries (Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Tanzania).
- Elaborated a **far-reaching strategic plan for development**, namely Kenya Vision 2030.
- Offers **many and important advantages** to investors and entrepreneurs, such as stability, attractive taxation, friendly and encouraging working environment, flexible and dynamic banking system.



Many are the big multinational companies and corporations that have chosen Kenya to establish their seat for their activities in the Sub-Saharan region.

Also many are the international organizations having their Africa headquarters in Kenya. Characteristic examples are the United Nations and the United Nations Environment Programme, having their headquarters in the modern city of Nairobi, Kenya's capital.



Kenya's modern culture offers to humanity a strong example of how it is really possible for differing cultures to **coexist, interact and finally co-create** something new, common and viable.

Kenya's culture of today was born out of a myriad of sources and influences both modern and traditional.

Despite the many and varied influences that have shaped Kenyan society, the culture in Kenya has become with no doubt **truly and purely Kenyan**.

If there is any one thing about Kenya that gives any indication of this unique character today, it is the melding of traditional societies and culture with modern norms and values.

The ease with which Kenyans adopt and adapt in their own way to new cultural influences has a long history.

Kenyan culture is built on the acceptance and absorption of new and varied cultures, be of migrant nomads or sea-borne traders.

**Thus arises a culture consisting of multiple trends;
a culture both dynamic and fecund.**

Education, sciences, music, literature, theatre,
cinema, television, fine arts
have developed **on strong foundations** in Kenya
and continue **rising up** progressively.

TOURISM

Tourism in Kenya is the **second largest source** of foreign exchange revenue following agriculture.

It is a **rapidly growing sector** of the national economy.



The Kenya Tourism Board is responsible for maintaining information pertaining to tourism in Kenya.



Tourism in Kenya dates back to pre-independence days and history has it recorded that as early as the 1930's overseas visitors and explorers had started coming to Kenya mainly for big-game hunting expeditions while others came in search of solitude.

These expeditions were locally referred to by the Swahili word «**safari**» thus bequeathing to the travel world literature with a new vocabulary.



Among the early visitors were statesmen, royalties and celebrities such as Theodore Roosevelt, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, and Ernest Hemingway respectively.

It is said that Hemingway, the legendary American writer, was probably the one introducing the Swahili word "safari" to the English language.

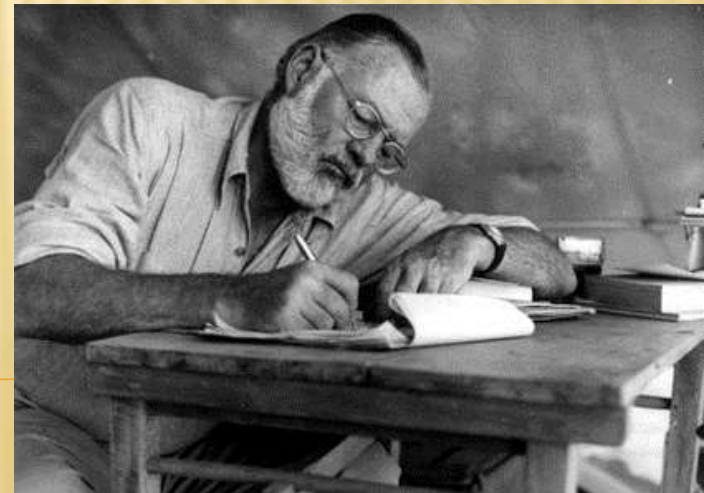


Queen Elizabeth II

Roosevelt



Hemingway



Kenya's natural and cultural heritage are characterized by a **great variety** of features, fact that makes the country an undoubtedly **attractive pole** for visitors from all over the world.



Lake Nakuru

Traditional games and sports are prevalent in Kenya since antiquity.

Traditional games and sports include, among others, wrestling, racing exercises, stick fights, hunting (using spears and arrows), board games, bull fights, and dances.

The sports varied from one community to another.

Today, most modern sports in Kenya owe credit to the British colonization; the British introduced sports in schools in 1925.

As a great sporting nation, Kenya is probably best known for her award-winning athletes who scoop several awards at international meetings worldwide.



Very well-known in Greece are all the **Kenyan Marathon champion runners**, both men and women.



Hyvon Ngetich crawled to the finish line in Austin's Marathon Race (2015).



Moses Tanui at the celebrations of the Half-Marathon Race in Marathon city, Greece (2015).

Characteristic cases

**Many are those,
who, either of Kenyan or other nationality,
lived in Kenya, loved the country
and the country inspired them.**

Let us spot just a few examples:

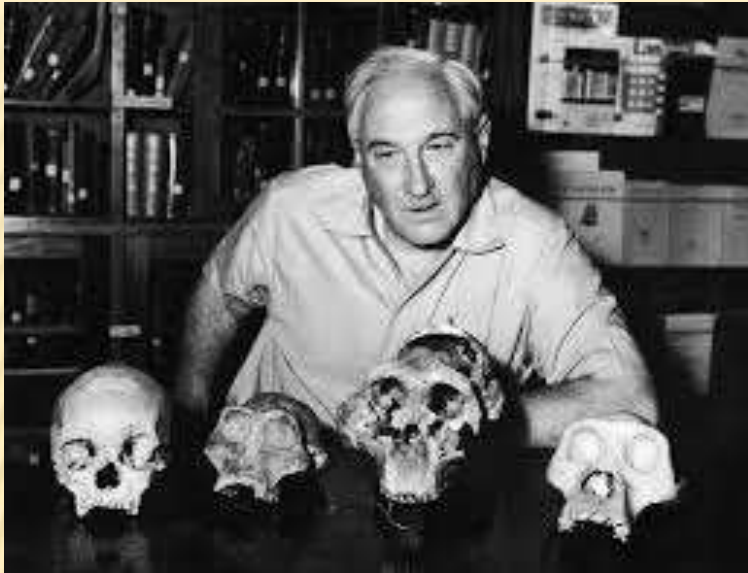


Lord Baden-Powell,
the founder of the scouting
movement, died in Kenya
in 1941.

He is buried in Nyeri, in the
Mt. Kenya region, after
spending much of his later life
in Kenya.

Karen Blixen, author of many books, including « Out of Africa », on which the 1985 Oscar winning film of the same name was based, lived in Kenya for most of her life. On her death, she was buried at her home, now named the « Karen Blixen Museum ». It is located in Karen, on the outskirts of Nairobi.





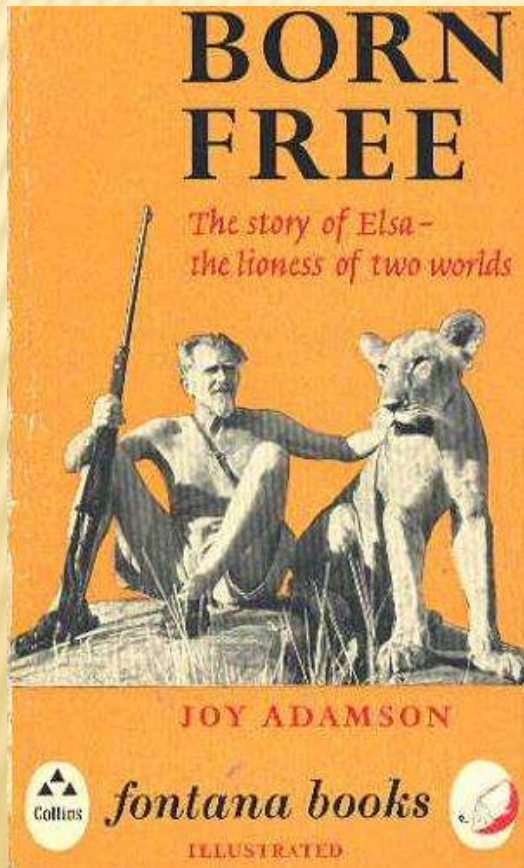
Louis Leaky, the famous archaeologist and anthropologist, who together with his wife Mary discovered *Zinjanthropus* (now called *Austropithecus Boisei*), was born in Kabete, near Nairobi.

He was the mentor of famous scientists as Dian Fossey (who worked with mountain gorillas) and Jane Goodall (who works with chimpanzees).

The skull of
Austropithecus Boisei
and its reconstruction.



The Kora camp in Kenya was home and is now the resting place of the world famous lion experts **Joy** and **George Adamson**. They were conservationists who first championed the idea of releasing back to the wild animals reared in captivity, otherwise known as stocking.



One of George Adamson's many books, « Born Free», about his beloved lions, was made into a movie.



Wangari Mutha Maathai, biologist and Professor in the University of Nairobi, is the first Kenyan woman to study in USA and so far the only African woman to win the Nobel Prize.

She won the Nobel award in 2004 for her work for the environment as well as for her contribution to sustainable development, democracy and peace.

Wangari Maathai
1940 – 2011

**Nobel Peace Prize
Laureate of 2004**



Maathai died in 2011 leaving behind a valuable heritage not only in the scientific field but also in the fields of society and the women's rights.

In the 1970s, Maathai founded the Green Belt Movement, an environmental non-governmental organization focused on the planting of trees, environmental conservation and women's rights. Thanks to the volunteer work of the Movement's members millions of trees were planted in desertified areas of Kenya.



Symbolisms

**As a conclusion, let us look
at the great ideas and symbolisms
that Kenya offers to the global human community
with her national anthem, her flag and
the country's coat of arms.**

National anthem

The country's national anthem encourages and urges all and everyone to:

- ❖ Defend Justice, Peace and Liberty.**
- ❖ To dwell and work in Unity.**
- ❖ Be Strong and True in heart.**
- ❖ To defend and serve the People,
their Homeland and their Heritage.**
- ❖ To fill their hearts with Thanksgiving.**

The Kenyan Flag

Everything here is a symbol:

Maasai warrior's shield and two crossed spears
symbolize unity and defense of freedom.

Black symbolizes
the indigenous
black population.

Red speaks about
the blood shed
in the struggles for freedom.

Green represents
the fertile land
and the natural wealth.



White stands for Peace and Unity.

The Kenyan Coat of Arms

The following symbolisms can be detected:

- Lions are a symbol of protection.
- The shield and spears talk about unity and defense of freedom.
- The shield contains the national colours having the same symbolism as on the flag.
- The rooster announces the dawn of a new day. It is contained in the coat of arms also because it is one of the few animals that seldom moves backwards.
 - The rooster is holding an axe to demonstrate the will to work and to success.
- All the aforementioned elements are securely based on Mount Kenya and the country's main agricultural products.



- A scroll supports the coat of arms;
upon it is written the word «Harambee».
- In Swahili this word means
- «**All for one**»
- and also
- «**Working together in unity**».



Life in Kenya breathes with vivid and creative rhythms,
with a pulse both vibrant and full of vigour.
Its union, under the terms of equality and mutual respect,
with whatever positive aspects the spirit of the West can offer,
may create miracles!



Capital city: **Nairobi**

Official languages: **Swahili, English**

Currency: **Kenyan Shilling (KES)**

Time zone: **EAT(UTC+3)**

Climate: **Varies from tropical to temperate and arid**

Calling code: **+254**

Population: **46.749.000 (average UN estimate, 2015)**

Main airport: **«Jomo Kenyatta» International Airport – Nairobi (NBO)**

Main cities: **Mombasa, Kisumu, Nakuru, Eldoret**