



## VILLAS MAR VILLAS TO LAUNCH AT THE POLANA SERENA HOTEL



The Polana Serena Hotel in Maputo is set to launch Villas Mar comprising eight brand new private villas overlooking the Indian Ocean. The villas will offer either one or two bedrooms with open plan living and dining areas connected to a kitchenette. All villas will have a patio leading to outdoor shaded seating and dining areas and secluded gardens. Guests staying in these self-catering villas will also enjoy special discounts if they wish to use the hotel's facilities including dining, spa treatments and even laundry services. Check out the [new video here](#).



Naming baby gorillas

## RWANDA'S KWITA IZINA 2019

Did you know that mountain gorillas are no longer critically endangered with the population sitting at well over 1,000 now. Every new birth gets us one step closer to ensuring their longevity – and is celebrated annually at a ceremony called Kwita Izina in Volcanoes National Park in Rwanda. Thousands of people, including conservationists, celebrities, and citizens gather every year in Kinigi to witness the naming of the babies. This year, at the 15th ceremony, held on 6 September, 25 babies were named. You can read more about the naming on the [ATTA](#) website.

Gorilla trekking combines well with the R&R of a “lake break” at Lake Kivu. If your visit is scheduled around the Kwita Izina dates, it costs US\$100 per person to attend, including the ceremony and the gala dinner afterwards and can be booked through the concierge desk at either Kigali Serena Hotel or at Lake Kivu Serena Hotel.

## KIFARU – THE FILM

[KIFARU](#) is a film about James Mwenda and JoJo Wachira, two of the rangers at Ol Pejeta Conservancy who spent day and night protecting and caring for Sudan - the last northern white male rhino left in the world before he sadly passed away. Kifaru, the feature length story of profound love and loss, by Emmy® nominated cinematographer & award-winning filmmaker Davis Hambridge, has already won a string of awards at various film festivals. If you care for conservation you really don't want to miss this film when it eventually reaches UK screens...

Watch the trailer here [https://youtu.be/V\\_WKm547F20](https://youtu.be/V_WKm547F20)



## MONKEY BUSINESS - COLOBUS RELOCATION



In July and August 2018, twenty-three Mount Kenya Guereza Colobus Monkeys were successfully relocated as two different family groups from the farmlands at Kipipiri to the Soysambu Conservancy for their own protection. Now, a year down the line, the two families have settled in and habituated successfully and established their territories along the river – with no conflicts with the three families already living in the reserve. They have settled in so well that there has even been a new birth which is quite unusual so quickly after a relocation.

With such great results and the new residents thriving the Soysambu Conservancy in collaboration with the Institute of Primate Research and Kenya Wildlife Service plans to now translocate the remaining 37 individuals – bringing the total up to 60. With just 2000 individuals left in Kenya, this project is vital for the species, which is now listed as threatened on the I.U.C.N red list.

## TANZANIAN VISAS AT KILI - ONLINE WINS!

Please note that Kilimanjaro Airport has changed its process of issuing Visas on arrival. Clients arriving without a Visa will now need to stand in three separate queues which can take up to 2 hours – first for a Government Control Number, then to pay at the bank and then finally go through Immigration to check and issue the Visa. We therefore strongly recommend applying online at least three weeks before travel at [www.immigration.go.tz](http://www.immigration.go.tz). They need a bit more info online than on arrival but it is totally worth it!



## THE ART OF AUTHENTICITY... THE NAIROBI SERENA

Nairobi has seen a lot of exciting tourism developments in recent years with a plethora of new hotels opening. However, The [Nairobi Serena Hotel](#) remains a true gem in the heart of the city, offering a truly authentic Pan-African experience. A lot of changes and upgrades have been made over the past couple of years to ensure the hotel maintains its reputation as “the place to be seen” with all the latest mod-cons, a new wing of accommodation and its brand-new restaurant Herbs & Spices. The Nairobi Serena has however maintained its warm African atmosphere – with its focus firmly on showcasing the rich art and culture of Africa. Guests can even enjoy an Art and Cultural Tour of the hotel to learn more about the history as well as the artefacts - some of which are very rare - dotted around the guest areas.



In this video you can meet Felix, Concierge at The Nairobi Serena Hotel, who shares some interesting facts about the hotel and its artworks ... [https://youtu.be/IrC9Yx\\_Is6U](https://youtu.be/IrC9Yx_Is6U)

## SELOUS REOPENS & 2020 PACKAGES

Selous Serena Camp and Serena Mivumo River Lodge have undergone some soft refurbishments during their annual closure and are now open for guests with an elevated look and feel, whilst still blending seamlessly into the surrounding bush.

While game drives are a popular way to explore Selous, boat safaris give guests an added opportunity to discover the mighty Rufiji River as they spot the aquatic and terrestrial wildlife.



## OL PEJETA – SAVING RHINOS & CHIMPS

Ol Pejeta is one of Kenya's most noteworthy conservancies and home to the 'Big Five' (elephant, rhino, lion, buffalo and leopard). Activities include day and night guided game drives, lion tracking, horse riding with rhino and a visit to the rhino info centre and the Chimpanzee sanctuary.

### NORTHERN WHITE RHINOS...

Exciting developments have been made at Old Pejeta in the mission to save the northern white rhinoceros species. When only two female rhinos, Najin and Fatu, were left in 2018, it seemed their extinction was inevitable – but scientists have just successfully created two northern white rhino embryos using eggs collected from Fatu fertilised with frozen sperm from deceased male, Suni. Fatu's precious embryos are now stored in liquid nitrogen to be transferred into a surrogate mother in the near future.

### GIVING DAY FOR APES...

Ol Pejeta is also home to the Jane Goodall Sweetwaters Chimpanzee Sanctuary where 37 mostly traumatised chimps have found a safe and loving home. Help support the 37 Chimps by supporting the "[Giving Day for Apes](#)"

### BUSH & BIRD WALKS...

Their guided Ol Pejeta Bush & Bird Walks are also back as of 11 September 2019, available daily from 6:30AM-8:30 AM and 3:30PM-5:30 PM. Check out the video on <https://www.youtube.com/embed/FIN1GFdrpKg>

Stay with Serena at [Sweetwaters Serena Camp](#) or [Ol Pejeta House](#) to experience all the magic of Ol Pejeta.



## BEACH BLISS - WITH A SWAHILI TWIST

Kenya is synonymous with safaris – but it also boasts some of the most beautiful coastlines in the world, with white sandy beaches lapped by the warm Indian Ocean!

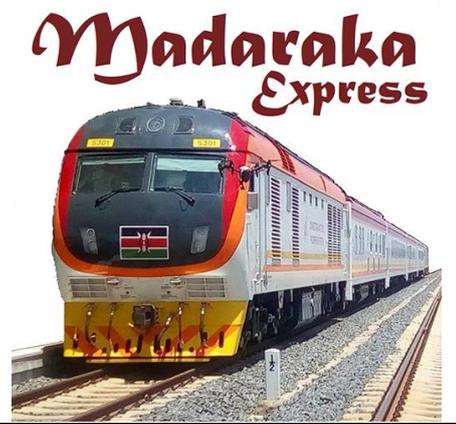
Serena Beach Resort and Spa on Shanzu Beach, north of Mombasa, is very popular with families as it offers something for everyone - from the lovely kids swimming pool, ice-cream parlour and water sports centre - to the cool elegance of the Maisha Spa and Jahazi Seafood Grill restaurant. But this is not a typical beach resort that could literally be "anywhere".



Serena Beach offers all the facilities you could ask for – but has a truly authentic Kenyan feel to it - designed to replicate the winding lanes and colourful marketplaces of a traditional 13th century town, Lamu. Guests can even enjoy a Cultural, Architectural and Conservation Tour of the resort to truly embrace its history and "sense of place". Kids will also learn a lot with conservation projects on site including the Butterfly Centre and Turtle Hatchery. Read the full Serena Experience Beach blog [here](#).

## MADARAKA MAGIC

When it comes to rail travel, the Madaraka Express is fast becoming a game changer in East Africa. This year alone, [The Telegraph](#) and [The Times](#) featured this transformational infrastructure project as one of the best things to happen for travellers who wish to traverse Southern Kenya. The Madaraka Express provides a link between some of Kenya's diverse safari destinations – enabling its passengers to easily link Amboseli National Park and Tsavo National Park with the Coast. Serena's Madaraka Express packages are well-coordinated to make this rail tour unforgettable. Guests can take note some of the pertinent updates on the Madaraka Express [here](#).



## BIRDIES FOR AFRICA AT THE UGANDA OPEN

"Birdies" and "eagles" on a golf course are always cause for celebration! But at Lake Victoria Serena Resort in Uganda we celebrate both the golfing and feathered varieties! Players from 19 different countries participated in the Uganda Open - now a part of the Safari Tour. The road to the 2020 Magical Kenya Open will now make three stops in Uganda and one in Tanzania in addition to the seven events in Kenya. This year's grey crowned crane trophy went to Zambian Muthiya Madalitso who won his 2nd Uganda Open professional title, ending the 72-hole event with a score of 279, nine-under par.

In other news from Uganda, both the Kampala Serena Hotel and Lake Victoria Serena Golf Resort will be hosting the week-long Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference at the end of September.



## COFFEE TOURS IN RWANDA

Did you know that the simple act of drinking coffee can help Rwandan women farmers advance their expertise in coffee agronomy? With every cup served and every coffee pod supplied in the rooms, Kigali Serena Hotel and Lake Kivu support the Sustainable Growers Non-Profit Program, which trains 40,000 community women farmers to become professional suppliers of specialty coffee. Guests can also learn more about coffee by taking part in coffee farm tours and master classes offered by the Sustainable Growers, booked via the concierges at both hotels.

## SAVE WATER. PLANT A TREE. BE THE CHANGE

Serena Hotels is dedicated to improving and preserving the environment in which it operates in line with the goals set out by the UN Development Programme. Over the last 16 years, **Serena has planted 415,000 trees per annum which translates to 6.64 million trees across East Africa** - most of which are in Kenya. Serena also has an extensive range of sustainable water saving measures in place – including more efficient laundry and dishwashing formulations, phased investment in bio-digesters and phased installation of desalination plants at the Serena Lodges and Camps. The majority of the communities in which Serena operates lack access to clean drinking water and are thus, exposed to a wide range of water-borne diseases. Over the last 10 years, Serena has provided surrounding communities at Amboseli Serena (Kenya) and Lake Manyara (Tanzania) with clean drinking water. Approximately 23,765 beneficiaries and 12,500 of their livestock per annum have benefited from this initiative.

We invite you to join our initiatives to help save the environment.

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