

September 2020 Newsletter

Embracing Domestic Tourism!

Greetings!

The travel and tourism industry is a fickle sector that can easily be disrupted by any form of upheaval or risk like disease epidemic or pandemic. We have all witnessed this as we saw closure of hotel chains and many people being rendered unemployed because of COVID-19 Pandemic. This pandemic is both an unprecedented public health crisis and a catastrophic economic crisis throughout the world. It has disrupted international travel and business and brought the travel and tourism industry to a standstill as most countries depend on tourism as a major source of economic boost. It is because of this that the recovery for the travel and tourism industry will be extremely gradual.

However, there is a silver lining amidst this as local tourism is picking up. At a time when hundreds of thousands of tourists would be making their way to Kenya to witness the famed wildebeest migration in the Maasai Mara, the national reserve is now relatively filled with domestic tourists as opposed to international tourist despite the removal of an international travel ban on August 1st. This is a good thing as domestic tourism is being promoted and tour and travel companies now have packages that are affordable to local tourists.

Member's Tips

We have witnessed many Kenyans traveling down the coast, going on safaris in various parks, discovering new places to eat and embracing domestic tourism at large. We encourage you to take advantage of the low season and help the tourism sector grow by exploring our country and its vast tourist attractions. You can use the search button on Wanderlust Diaries Ltd group to get all your recommendations and reviews posted by our members. Before you travel, make

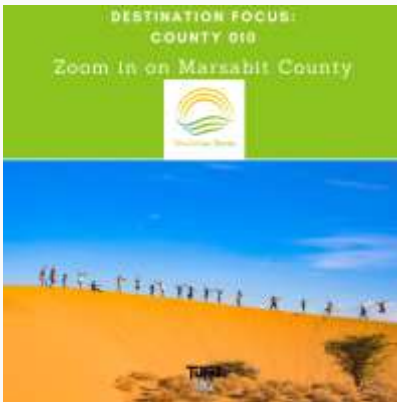
sure you have all the travel elements taken care of. These key elements are known as the 5 A's: Access, Accommodation, Attractions, Activities, and Amenities. To help you enjoy the experience and document it better, here are few tips by **O'kubasu Malik**, a member of our group.

- A good camera- it could be a phone camera or a real camera but the megapixel needs to be super to capture the moment for you.
- A Power bank or a portable charger. Have power back up or a phone with a higher battery capacity so that you don't miss capturing any moment.
- Medicine. Carry at least Anti-Malaria, pain relievers, or allergy medications.
- Have light shoes with a tight grip on the treads, could be boots or rubber shoes but of importance is they don't slide.
- Find out the climatic conditions of your destination and dress accordingly or carry appropriate clothing.
- Carry a water bottle as some parks have a ban on plastic bottles.
- Carry enough glucose for the hikes in case you need it.
- Carry a portable music player. Some background music and occasional dance helps make the experience more enjoyable.
- Don't drink to get drunk. It's dangerous out there when you're drunk.
- Don't travel with boring people.
- Wear stretching outfits that you can hop step and jump easily.
- Carry a tripod and a selfie stick. They come in handy if you don't have a photographer.
- Be on your best behaviour and respect the natives.

County Focus!

Every week on Wanderlust Diaries Limited social media pages, we zoom in on a counties in Kenya and our members share some hidden gems they know, tourist attraction and general knowledge of the counties. It is interesting to note that there are so many places in Kenya that have untapped potential of being major tourist attractions. For the month of August, we focused on Marsabit, Isiolo, Mandera and Wajir counties. In the spirit of promoting local tourism, here are some of the interesting places you may want to visit in the aforementioned Northern frontier

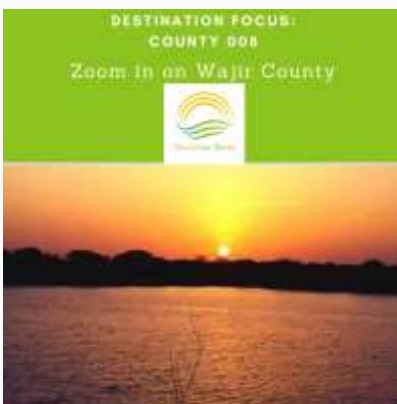
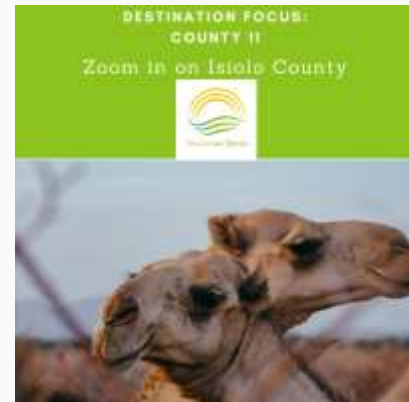
counties.



Marsabit town is the largest county in Kenya. If you are an outdoor lover, then you will definitely enjoy the amazing sites Marsabit has to offer. From the beautiful Marsabit National Park where you can spot huge tusked elephants among other wildlife, you can also enjoy some bird watching, hikes in the dense forest just to mention a few. There is also Huri Hills, Kalacha Rock Arts, Gof Choba which is a scenic crater, Chalbi desert which you can see, learn and get all the

information needed from **Turnup.Travel** YouTube page. The list is endless. Make a point to travel up North and explore.

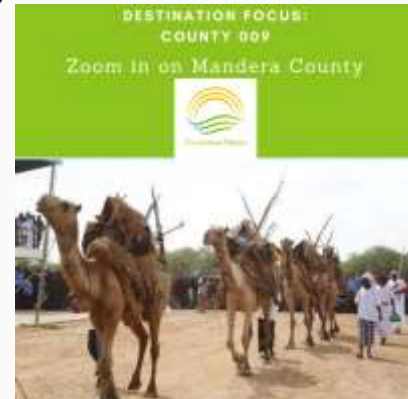
Isiolo being the epicenter of Kenya which I'm sure most of you did not know, has Shaba National Reserve, Buffalo Springs National Reserve a home to the endangered Grevy's Zebra, the famous Lewa Wildlife Conservancy among other reserves. You can go for hikes, game drives, visits to the cultural village whilst in the area.



Host to several sites and monuments such as Wagalla Massacre Site, Yahut dam, Shalety wells, monumental buildings, the British bunkers and Orpahey wells. It is also graced with abundant wildlife like giraffes and leopards.

Malka Mari National reserve, Elewak Ancient Wells, Marehan Sandstone, River Dua and Dandu hills are among the many attractions you will find in Mandera County.

In case you did not know of all this gems in the Northern frontier of Kenya, you are welcome. Now go and tembea Kenya and share your experiences on Wanderlust Diaries group.



Member Spotlight!



The stories you as our readers share make us all feel like we have traveled the world. We do appreciate you all immensely. Keep sharing your journeys. That being said, we would like to introduce what we call 'Our member spotlight of the month.' This segment on our newsletter will highlight one of our star members who takes his/her time to share their escapades and make all of us travel virtually. We will get to know their adventurous side a little better by asking them some interesting questions in regards to travel.

This month, we shine the light on **Ken Martin**, one of the most active storytellers. He captures the attention of our members with his interesting posts. Get to read his stories [here](#) in our group. Here is what he had to say in his words.

Q. What's your favourite place so far? *

A. Paris France, Kigali Rwanda and Nairobi Kenya

Q. Do you prefer solo travel or with someone else? And why? *

A. Solo traveler because of flexibility in decision making.

Q. What has been the most interesting item of food you've tasted? *

A. Roasted maize and shawarma.

Q. According to you, which country has the friendliest people? *

A. France, Scotland and Rwanda.

Q. What was your most embarrassing moment? *

A. Accidentally farting in the train

Q. What's the best piece of travel advice you've received? *

A. Research your destination before travelling.

Q. What's been the weirdest thing you've seen? *

A. Nude beaches.

Q. Beach, safari or city? Why? *

A. Safari and city, safari you enjoy the adventure and city I love architecture both old and modern buildings.

Q. What's the most interesting thing you've learnt? *

When you travel you learn a lot, for example different cultures, countries lifestyles, ie food and the system etc

Q. Travel advice? *

A. Nothing teaches you more than exploring the world and accumulating experiences

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