

Nairobi

A period of fifty years in the life of most towns is a mere fragment; for Nairobi it is almost the whole of our history. It spans the lives of many that come to hew from what was for the most part an unknown and unfriendly country, the civilization we enjoy today.

Nairobi owes its existence to the railway, for it was in the late '90's that the engineers who were constructing the railway from Mombasa to Kisumu decided to make a base on the site where Nairobi now stands. It is around the stores and workshops thus erected in a temporary fashion out of temporary materials that there has grown into permanent stone buildings that make the capital of Kenya.

From this beginning, Nairobi is now a different sort of base, not the remote corners that were then called the Dark Continent.

Main historic sites and attractions in the city of Nairobi



Kenya International Conference Center (KICC). The new government headquarters - NARC offices.



Former president Mr. Daniel Toroitich Arap Moi's monument.



This is the Nairobi City Hall, the premises, and City Council offices. They maintain cleanliness in the streets and keep Nairobi in standard.



Nairobi High Court building. They maintain law and order.

Life in the streets of Nairobi

Parking kids. Most of these children are sent out by their mothers to beg for money for them to eat or most of them run away from home or they are orphans. The new government is rehabilitating them and educating them.



Most people in Kenya have a good education, but because of the economic situation, there are no jobs for them. Some end up being hawkers, so as to earn a living.



Hawkers

Matatus are used as a means of transport. They are like taxis, only that they carry many passengers, are bigger, and are cheap. The word matatu started when the touts used to say “ithatu”, a Kikuyu word that means three shillings. The amount of money that is to be paid depends on where the passenger is going and the distance. The matatus are designed with many designs and strictly loud music that makes the world go crazy. There is the tout and the driver; the driver drives and the tout is left to take the money from the passengers.



Matatu



Matatu picking up passengers in Nairobi

Art

The Kenyan art industry promotes Kenyan traditions that still amuse the eye. By drawing according to tradition, the art expresses Kenyan beliefs and customs that are from one generation to the next that gives respect and support for tradition. Curios have a very large bearing on our art industry. This is because curios show tourists our culture and the historical importance carved into them and when they are bought they help our economy, therefore curios are an exposure of raw talent and culture that benefits we Kenyans in all aspects.



Anthony and Shelliza dressed as Masai's in Masai attire at one of the curio shops.



The Kenyan African curio shops.



A number of curios selling African paintings, baskets, furniture, and ornaments.

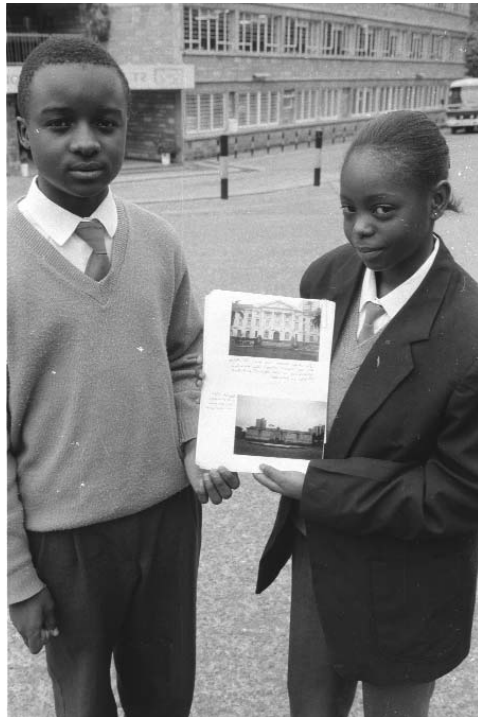


A curio shop selling drawings, African ornaments like bead necklaces, earrings, chains.

Our names are Shelliza Mativo and Anthony Omondi. We go to St. Nicholas Senior School. Shelliza is 17 years and Tony is 15. We both live in Nairobi.

This book has helped us learn more about Nairobi. It has taught us more about our culture. We hope the book will be an inspiration like it has been to us.





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