SIYU FORT

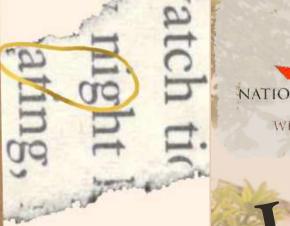
industry

Unlike Fort Jesus in Mombasa and the Fort in Lamu which were built by foreigners, the Siyu people built their own fort. Oral tradition maintains that the fort was built by one of Siyu's great leaders, Bwana Mataka in the 19th century to safeguard Siyu residents from Omani domination. The fort constructed of coral with a small mosque within it was gazetted in 1958 as a National Monument. Apart from the fort, Siyu hosts the remains of magnificent tombs and mosques. Furthermore, the village is well established in leather craft and wood carving cottage



Located on Manda Island and covering about 12 acres, the ruins are the remains of a Swahili town that flourished between the 15th to 17th centuries. The settlement was abandoned in the 17th century due to salination of the fresh water and endless fights with the people of Pate. The site has a standing structure of a mosque remains, a tomb and parts of the town wall with traces of North and South gates. Accessing the ruins of Takwa takes a 30 minutes boat ride from Lamu town. The site is very pleasant for a casual visit which can be complemented by a picnic and overnight bonfire camping

KARIBUNI



AT THE HEART OF SWAHILI CULTURE

CONTACTS

LAMU MUSEUMS P.O BOX 48, LAMU

TEL: +254-42-633402 museums.or.ke

WORKING HOURS

8:30 AM TO 6:00 PM

NATIONAL MUSEUMS OF KENYA WHERE HERITAGE LIVES ON



RESIDENTS

ADULTS - 400 CHILDREN - 200

NON-RESIDENTS

ADULTS - 500 CHILDREN - 250

THE CRADLE OF SWAHILI CIVILIZATION CONSTITUTING 5 THEMATIC MUSEUMS IN THE LAMU OLD TOWN WORLD HERITAGE SITE AS WELL AS TAKWA RUINS ON MANDA ISLAND AND SIYU FORT ON PATE ISLAND & TENS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES ON THE LAMU MAINLAND

LAMU MUSEUMS, SITES & MONUMENTS

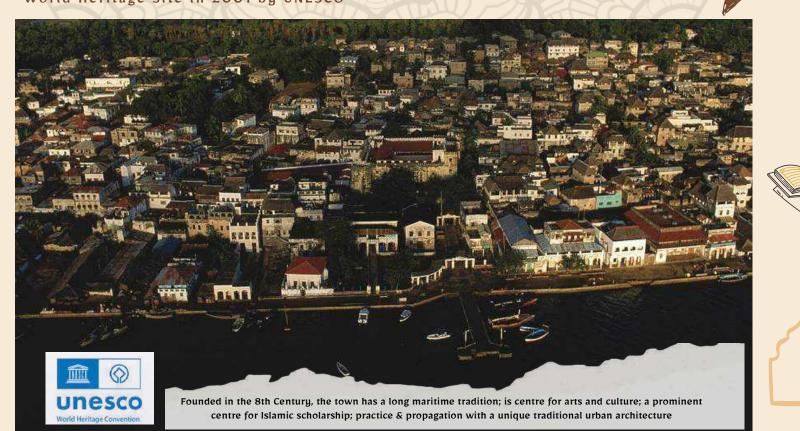
CHARGES CITIZEN ADULTS - 100 CHILDREN - 50

LAMU OLD TOWN

Lamu old town has been inhabited by human beings for over 700 years, and is recognized as the cradle of Swahili civilization harbouring numerous rich Swahili cultures and architecture and is the only coastal town in East Africa to have retained its values despite civilization.

By the 14th century it had already established itself as a rich trading town exporting mangrove poles, ambergris and cereals to the far East countries such as Arabia, Persia, India and China in return they exchanged Chinese porcelain and Persian rugs.

The ancient town has unique architecture expressed in a diverse number of buildings, illustrating the range of cultural influences on its built heritage that spans hundreds of years from European, Arabian, Persian and Indian origins. These intertwine with local Swahili techniques to produce a distinct aesthetic. Lamu's rich tangible and intangible culture which comprises music, art, dance, culinary and religious celebrations such as the Maulid led to its inscription as a World Heritage Site in 2001 by UNESCO











Lamu Museum is the flagship of the Lamu Museums and the main intepretation centre for the Lamu Museum World Heritage Site. The building's foundation stone was laid in 1892 after the land was reclaimed from the ocean. It exemplifies the 19th Century style of architecture influenced by Europeans. The building first served as the residence of the Liwali (Governor), Al Busaid, who was deployed by the Sultan of Zanzibar. It was later used by the Imperial British East African Company and senior British Colonial administrators before becoming the district commissioner's residence up until 1968. In 1971 the National Museums of Kenya acquired it and transformed it into a museum.

Today, the museum serves as an important information and educational centre aimed at preserving, conserving and managing Swahili ethnographic materials, their culture, history, traditions and their identity. It houses exhibitions of four indigenous ethnic groups of Lamu including; Swahili, Boni, Pokomo and Orma

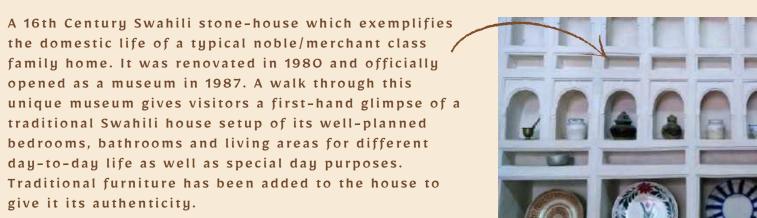






Built in 1821 shortly after the battle of Shela to protect the town against the forces of Pate and Mombasa, the fort served as a garrison until 1910, when it was turned into a prison before being handed over to the National Museums of Kenya in 1984. Today, the fort is the most important socio-cultural centre in the Lamu Old Town, and also houses the island's only public library.

SWAHILI HOUSE MUSEUM



the domestic life of a typical noble/merchant class family home. It was renovated in 1980 and officially opened as a museum in 1987. A walk through this unique museum gives visitors a first-hand glimpse of traditional Swahili house setup of its well-planned bedrooms, bathrooms and living areas for different day-to-day life as well as special day purposes. Traditional furniture has been added to the house to give it its authenticity.

GERMAN POST OFFICE



Originally built as a residence in the late 1800's, it was renovated by a German consul Mr Gustav Dernhadt who transformed it into on of the earliest post offices in East Africa to enable communication of the German protectorate in Witu to be served from Lamu- a well-established town with links to the outside world. The post office was operational briefly from 1888 to 1891 after the withdrawal of German settlements in Witu. The post office was restored and now houses photographic exhibits and memorabilia showing the long historical relationship between Germany and Kenya.