

Heritage Hotels Update, October 2007:

Delivering a Brand New Heritage for East Africa

It has been a busy year for Heritage Hotels, with new designs of safari vehicles and pioneering ‘family tents’ bringing stylish new levels of luxury to Kenya’s leading safari destinations, and renovation projects underway that promise world-class standards of accommodation and conference facilities, as well as the birth of one of Africa’s most spectacular coastal resorts in 2008.

Here, in brief, is a roundup of the key developments at Heritage’s eight Kenyan properties over the past 12 months:

Samburu Intrepids

By mid-2008, all of the lodge’s 27 luxurious tents overlooking the Uaso Nyiro River will have been refurbished. Two new ‘family tents’ – comprising two luxury bedrooms linked by a spacious family lounge – will be ready by the time you read this, with a third joining them in early 2008. The lodge’s public areas will also be upgraded by June 2008. Two new seven-seater ‘stretched’ Land Rover vehicles with personal fridges were added to the lodge’s safari fleet in 2007.

Mara Intrepids

The Mara’s premier safari destination was completely upgraded in the first six months of 2007, with all but three of the camp’s 30 tents replaced and equipped with luxurious new furnishings. The remaining three will be completed by December 2007, including three of the company’s new ‘family tents’. Six new Land Rovers have been purchased for use at Intrepids and its sister camp, Mara Explorer, including two stretched seven-seat vehicles. An extensive renovation of the camp’s public areas is also scheduled for 2008-09.

Mara Explorer

The legendary luxury of this exclusive 10-tent camp will be further revamped to ensure that it maintains its lead of the highly competitive ‘five-star wilderness’ market in 2008-09.

Voyager Ziwani

This charming tented camp in the shadow of Mount Kilimanjaro will undergo an extensive refurbishment to replace all of its 25 tents by June 2008. Several other exciting new avenues of specialised ‘off-beat’ travel are also in the pipeline for 2008. Watch this space!

Kipungani Explorer

Over the next 12 months, an extensive ‘luxury upgrade’ is planned of the accommodation at Lamu Island’s most remote and romantic ecolodge. During September and October, several exciting new watersports have been introduced at Kipungani, including the arrival of a brand new fleet of windsurfers, Lasers and Topper dinghies, together with a professional sailing instructor.

Siana Springs

The past 12 months have seen the birth of a unique new conservation venture with the Maasai of the Siana Group Ranch, to create a private game conservancy on this pristine wilderness bordering the Mara Reserve. The camp has also undergone a major upgrade to reflect its new-look 'lifestyle safaris', with a refurbishment of 24 tents.

The Voyager, Mombasa

After the comprehensive refurbishment of its 233 cabins, Mombasa's leading all-inclusive resort is about to embark upon the most ambitious renovation project ever witnessed on East Africa's shores. Over the next two years, a leading architectural team will elevate the resort's nautically-themed facilities to sparkling new standards, including four boutique restaurants and bars, an evocative theatre-and-dining space, expanded watersports and children's facilities, and a world-class 150-seat conference centre – all set around a 19th century ocean-going schooner.

The Great Rift Valley Lodge & Golf Resort

The holiday destination that all of East Africa is talking about, the Great Rift Valley Lodge will expand beyond its luxury rooms and golf chalets with the opening of 40 sparkling new three-bedroom villas in December 2007. The lodge's *pièce de resistance* – the Great Rift Valley Conference Centre – will be completed by April 2008, with three state-of-the-art conference rooms catering for up to 200 international delegates. Delegates will also have access to the finest hotel accommodation, with all of the lodge's 30 split-level suites scheduled for renovation by next April.

Please note that the owners and managers of Heritage Hotels will do everything in their power to ensure that guests are not disturbed or inconvenienced during the refurbishment work at each of these properties.