# 2023 Calendar | Places of Hope • Harmony • Healing

From time immemorial, in seasons of both trouble and joy, people have gone to designated sacred places in search of hope, inspiration and peace. Our 2023 calendar takes us on a journey to some of these natural and manmade places that were used by our ancestors for prayer and thanksgiving. We believe that the beauty, stories and spirit of these places will inspire the hope of a better future in all of us, triggering our imagination to new possibilities and opportunities. TUINUANE. Let's Go Beyond.

Simple • Transparent • Honest FOR YOU

In partnership with The National Museums of Kenya. Photography by Allan Gichigi

# TUNICANE Let's Go Beyond

Scan to experience Tuinuane





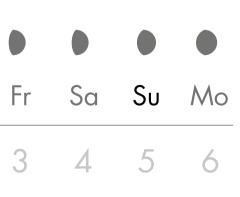
# The Great Baobab Tree of Mnarani | Location: Kilifi

This area holds great cultural and spiritual significance to many communities and religious groups in the area. This ancient tree is as much a place of worship as any other, open to anyone who needed it from the days of our ancestors to date. In the past, people would gather under the large canopy, place their prayers, sacrifices and offerings in the hollow of the trunk, walk around its circumference seven times and pray to their God to intercede in all their areas of need.





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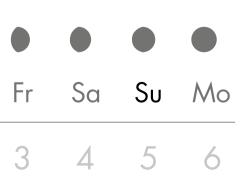


# Gong Rocks of Lewa | Location: Lewa Wildlife Conservancy

It is believed that early man used the Gong Rocks of Lewa for rituals and calling on the divine. For generations it has been used by the pastoralists and others around the area as a way point, junction, and meeting place. During times of intertribal clashes, the Gongs were used as a place where a truce was called, a place where opposing factions rested and played games together. In these times peace prevailed. The rocks were believed to be a place of tranquillity, harmony, and brotherhood.

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# Vigango Shrine of Kaya Kauma Forest | Location: Kilifi

Deep in the Sacred Forest, there are five figures who represent the ancestors and the heads of those who lived and worshiped here. These elders were considered to have reached the highest ranks and their spirits were believed to live within the figures. As time progressed, community members would gather around the figures to dedicate sacrifices and prayers for different reasons and seasons. For example, when women struggled to bring life into the world, the elders would dedicate offerings in front of this shrine.

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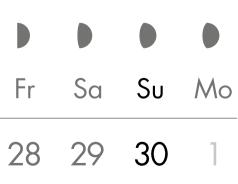


# Oreteti Tree | Location: Maasai Mara

The pastoralists living in the vast Maasai Mara believe that God dwells in this sacred tree. They also believe that the tree has many special properties that cure all ills. The Oreteti is a meeting place where the community members seek miracles and answers, especially in times of strife amongst families and neighbours. Women who have trouble conceiving seek the miracle of being blessed with a child through holy rituals done at the tree, including drinking a potion made of the vines.

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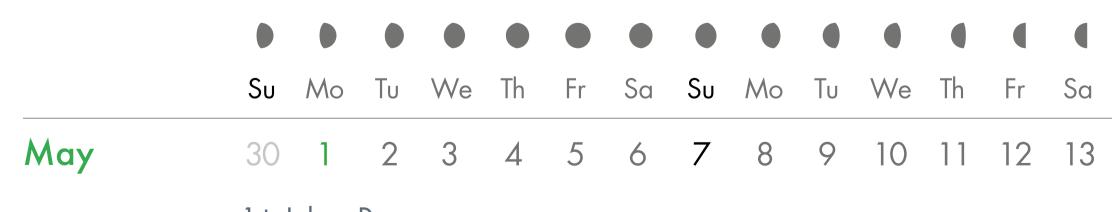




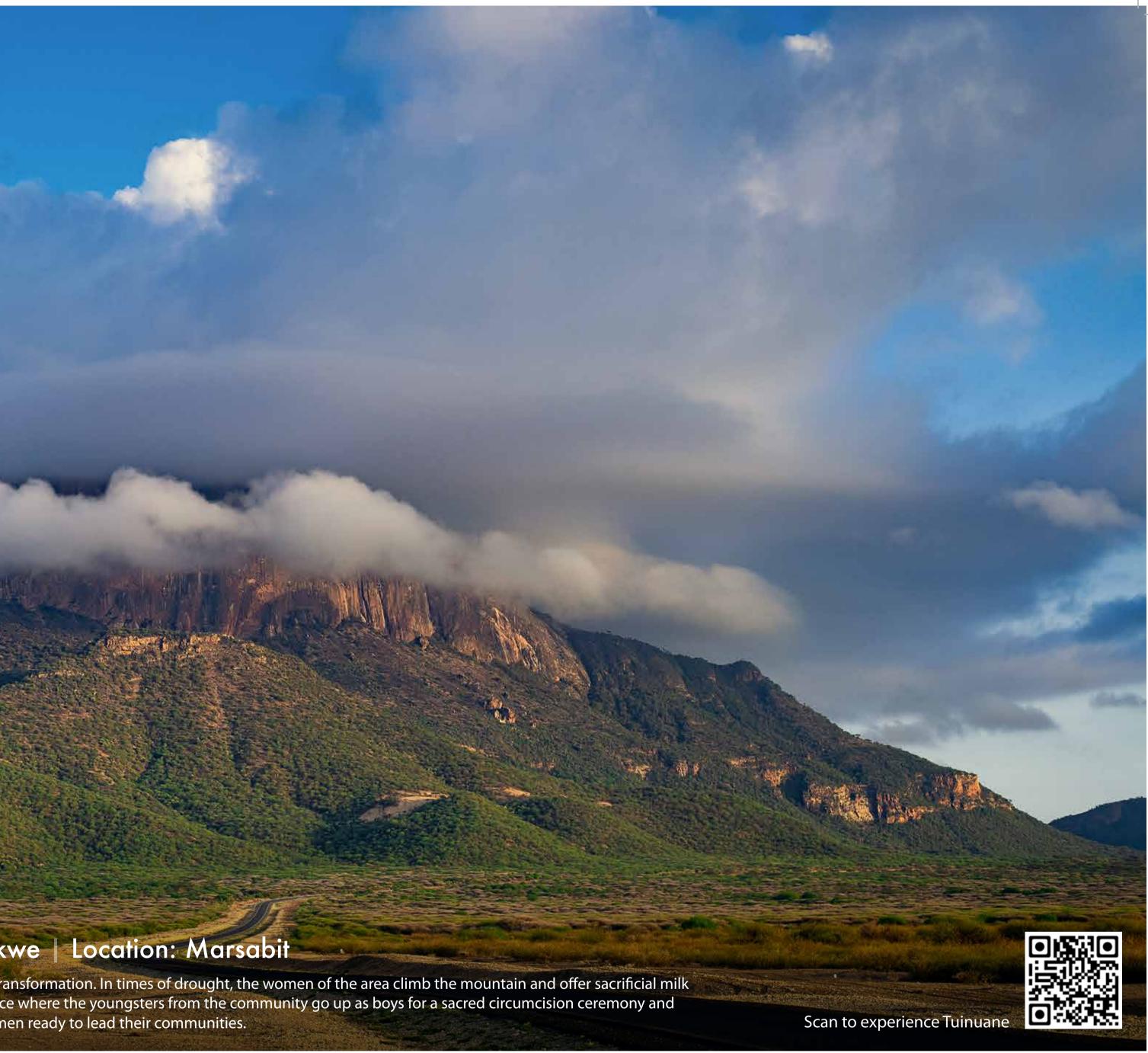


# Mount Ololokwe | Location: Marsabit

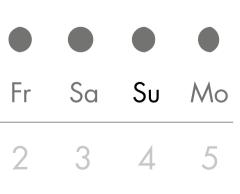
Fondly dubbed 'Old Africa's Mystery Mountain,' Mt Ololokwe is a place of miracles and transformation. In times of drought, the women of the area climb the mountain and offer sacrificial milk down its slopes for rain to save their crops and livestock. The mountain is also the place where the youngsters from the community go up as boys for a sacred circumcision ceremony and come back down as men ready to lead their communities.



1st - Labour Day



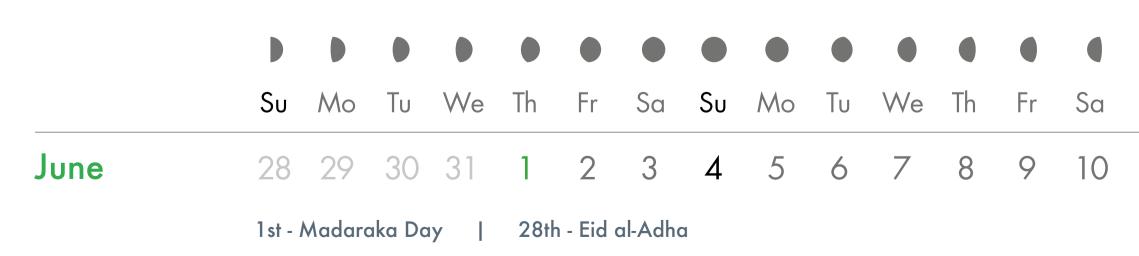
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## Kit Mikayi | Location: Kisumu

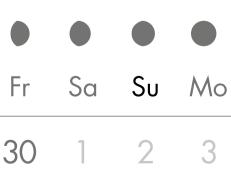
Legend has it that there was once a traveller looking for a place to call home when he happened upon this rock formation. Enamoured by it, the man decided to build his home close-by but would often spend the day sitting underneath the rock with his Kom Nyaluo (known as the three-legged stool). When people would visit and ask where he was, they were always directed to the rock. Visitors named the rock his 'first wife.' To this day, Kit Mikayi is highly revered by the communities in the area and is used to make sacrifices and hold prayer ceremonies to ask for rain during the planting season.



Scan to experience Tuinuane

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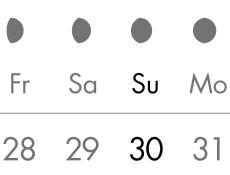


One of the great lakes of Mt. Kenya, whose local name Iria ria Kijiariro translates to the 'Lake of Birth' as many animals go there to deliver their offspring. For centuries, the lake has been revered as a holy place where male elders from the area, as a last resort, would undertake the trek to the lake to offer sacrifice, prayer and throwing stones into the lake to beseech the spirits to ease the thirst on the land in hopes of rain.

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# Iria Ria Kijiariro (Lake Ellis) | Location: Mt. Kenya





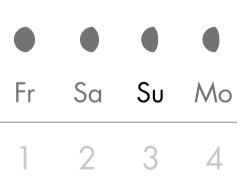


### Namoratunga Stones | Location: Turkana

The people of the area, together with their God, hosted traditional dances which they called Dong'aa. After finishing their presentations, the God showed off his unique dance moves under the condition that no one laugh at him. Those who did were immediately turned to stone. This made others realise the significance of God, turning this festive place into a sacred shrine where people would gather to worship, pray, and seek God's intervention in livestock conflicts. To this day, passers-by still add stones to the pile to show respect.

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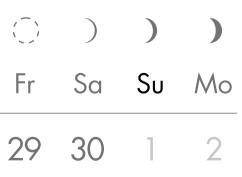


# Sacred Caves of Mfangano Island | Location: Homa Bay

The Mfangano Island is surrounded by Lake Victoria and is home to many sacred sites, including these caves that were used for a multitude of purposes. From ceremonies, events, coming-of-age classes, to a site many sought protection and shelter from over the generations. These caves represented the will and wishes of the people who lived along the lake. The caves were regarded highly in the minds and hearts of the community, making it the perfect communal ground to meet, pray for one's needs and pass-on cultural wisdom from elders to their descendants.

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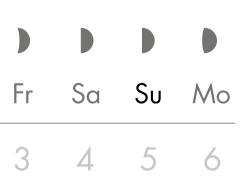
# Mugumo Tree | Location: The Aberdares Forest

For generations the Mugumo tree has held a sacred place in the hearts of the people living on the slopes of Mt. Kenya. They believe that the spirit of the ancestors' dwell within the trees, and it is also where God comes to rest from his home in Mt. Kenya. The people believe that prayers are answered here in times of drought and calamity. History tells us that the Mau Mau gathered at this tree to give offerings, gratitude and pray for success. The tree was also used as a 'post office' where people would leave messages for each other scribbled into the bark of the tree.

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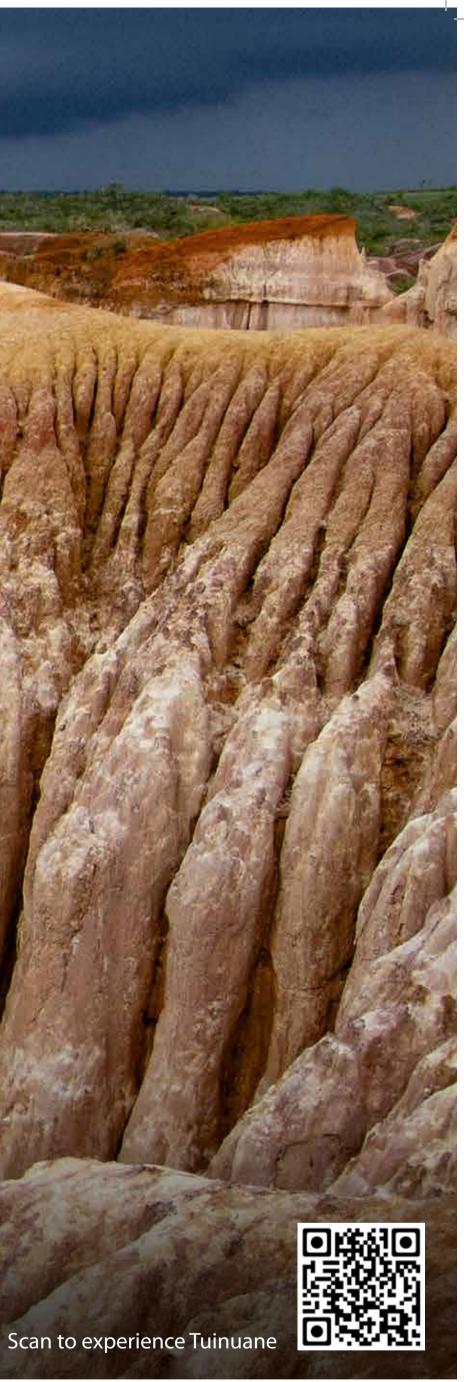


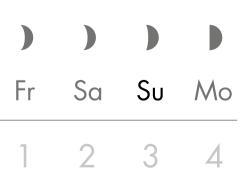


# Nyari (Hell's Kitchen) | Location: Marafa Settlement

This naturally occurring rock crater holds many stories about how it was formed but the outcome, even after hundreds of years, remains the same – It is a place of worship and thanksgiving. It is believed that special prayers were made for the people and villages that surrounded it. When the people needed rain for instance, they asked their elders to offer their prayers and beg for rain on their behalf. When their prayers were answered and the harvest fruitful, the same elders would visit the crater once more to offer animal sacrifices giving thanks and praise to the one who listened to them.

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# Lwayo Lwa Mulungu (God's Footprint) | Location: Kwale

Long before the people of this land domesticated animals and became pastoralists, they were hunters. Because the men who took on this role tended to live very far from each other, they picked a central location to meet during the hunting season. It is during this time that some believed God came to walk among them, leaving behind his giant footprint. From then on, it was considered a spiritual place where many would pray for rain during drought, for protection from enemies during times of conflict and for wisdom from their forefathers.

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