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WITH PHILIP MWAKIO

Hospitality college with environmental edge

Stunning scenery and exciting attractions welcome you as you enter the Globoville College located in a once disused limestone quarry which had been designated a municipal dumpsite.

Nineteen years of hard work and dedication by Mombasa-based paediatrician, Dr Frederick Gikandi seem to be paying off slowly.

Dr Gikandi began by planting 80 different indigenous trees on four acres of land in an effort to raise environmental awareness through a campaign that mainly targeted the local population.

Today, Globoville College, which is located in Shanzu, about 15km from Mombasa town and off the Mombasa-Malindi highway, has bagged several international awards and continues to lead in environmental conservation.

NATURE PARK

In conjunction with Moi University, the college offers certificate, diploma and degree courses in hospitality, journalism, business and human resource.

The once rocky and bare land is now a lush forest with a nature park. More reforestation work is



Students at Globoville College enjoy a lesson in hospitality. (PHOTO: OMONDI ONYANGO)

still ongoing. The institution is the only one located close to the Indian Ocean.

It is renowned for its unique curricula where students combine study work with practical environmental conservation activities. Adjacent to the college is the Ngomongo theme park. In the background is the sound of huge trees swaying and birds chirping.

"We are able to fully integrate learning and environmental con-

servation studies owing to the fact that we have an extension of the nature park that has a lot to offer," says Serene Muhoro, the acting principal. The student population stands at 300.

WILDLIFE

Apart from the college buildings, there is also the park area which houses 10 different traditional tribal villages namely Luo, Kikuyu, Taita, Maasai, El molo,

Mijikenda, Kalenjin, Kamba, Turkana and Abaluhya.

Wildlife such as crocodiles, ostriches and over 100 species of birds have been added to the park to make it more attractive for visitors who include local and foreign tourists. School parties and other organised tour groups regularly visit the park grounds.

A restaurant specialising in international and local cuisine is very popular with visitors.

travel bytes

ORGANISING YOUTH RETREATS

Young people enjoy getting away from their parents every once in a while. A retreat is a great getaway. Often, churches and private organisations organise them. Retreats allow one to recharge their batteries and restore their energy. If you are in charge of planning a youth group retreat, here are some tips to get you started:

1 Planning Stages: The first thing you will want to do is to put together a team to help you find a suitable retreat venue and group activities while there. Most importantly, plan well in advance. This will ensure you get a good location and the young people have sufficient time to sign up and look for funds.

2 Check out all proposed locations and facilities: The location of the retreat can make or break it so you have to be careful. When settling on a venue, thoroughly examine it to ensure it is safe and well equipped. Take into consideration the sleeping arrangements. Boys and girls should sleep in different quarters. Visit the facilities and ensure the cabins are safe. Ask about the meals, too.

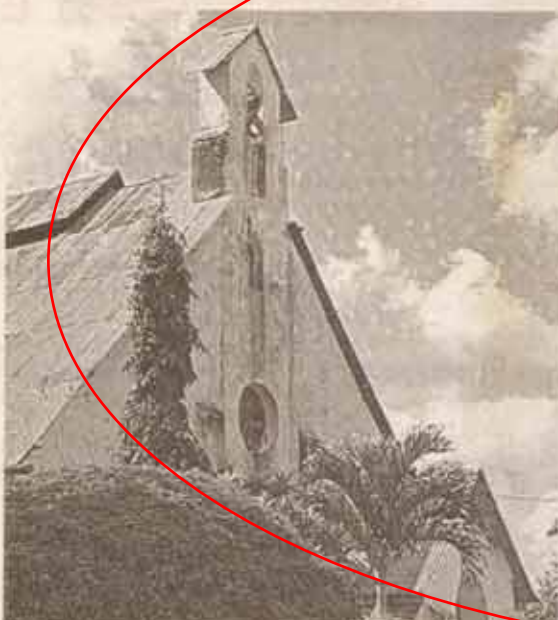
3 Activities: Youth retreats should be fun and educational. Youths want time together but they also need some down time. Fill the day with age-appropriate outdoor activities such as swimming, boating, archery, crafts and sports. Include educational programmes or church activities, too. The evening is a great time for everyone to get together near a campfire. Dedicate that time to share devotions, testimonies, prayers and songs. This will guarantee a fulfilling and inspirational getaway.

BY NJERI WACHIRA

Treading where Ludwig Krapf strode



sightsandsounds/ WITH NGUMBAO KITHI



Anglican Church of Kenya in Rabai where the first missionaries to Kenya landed. (PHOTO: MAARUFUJ MOHAMED)

Kenyans interested in knowing the history of Kenya, particularly in relation to missionaries and Christianity, can visit Rabai Museum in Kaloleni.

The museum, located at what was formally Rabai Mission but is now Anglican Church of Kenya, is a tourist attraction.

The name Rabai, which the local people call 'Mudzi Mupya', which means new home, is the best example of how Europeans adopted African traditions to woo the local people into Christianity.

Situated a few kilometres from Mombasa, Rabai Museum is a reminder of how European

culture intertwined with African culture, leading to the spread of Christianity and various explorations.

Rabai is, however, incomplete without the mention of Dr Ludwig Krapf and a school named after the missionary. Krapf Secondary School is famous because of the significant history of the missionary.

BEGINNING OF LEARNING

Rabai is well known in the annals of history as the place where Christianity and modern learning in Kenya started over 150 years ago.

Established by Krapf in 1846 as the first Church edifice in Ke-

nya, Rabai Mission is situated about 25km East of Mombasa, off the Nairobi-Mombasa Highway on Mazaras-Kaloleni Road.

Despite the museum, the church, one of the oldest Anglican churches in Kenya, attracts worshipers who, although may not be Anglicans, visit to learn how Christianity came to Kenya.

The National Museums of Kenya have taken over the maintenance of the centre.

The locals are the best people to narrate the history of the centre as they have been trained on the arrival of the missionary and how Christianity was welcomed in the village.