

# rabai

MUSEUM





# Our history

## LOCATION

Built in 1846 as the first Church edifice in Kenya, Rabai is situated about 25 km North-west of Mombasa, off the Nairobi-Mombasa highway on Mazeras on Mazeras-Kaloleni road. Rabai is about half an hour's drive from Mombasa.



St. Paul's Church Rabai: inside and outside

## BIRTH OF RABAI

Rabai is well known in the annals of history as the place where Christianity and modern learning in Kenya started well over 150 years ago. In 1998 the **Krapf Memorial Museum** was founded to give formal and a perpetual reminder to monumental events during the advent of early missionaries. Stories about the first missionaries were passed on by word of mouth and are still told today.

**Dr. Ludwig Krapf**, a German missionary of the church society of England arrived in Rabai with a mission of spreading Christianity in the region. He was warmly welcomed by the Rabai Kaya leader **Jindwa** and later given 92 acres of land by the Kaya elders. Together with **Johan Rebmann** in 1846 they then began building a church which was the pioneer church followed by a school and later cottages. The church, **St. Paul's Church** is still in use today.





Dr. Ludwig Krapf

## LUDWIG KRAFT

Dr. Ludwig Krapf published his book Swahili grammar besides his dictionary of six languages and translation of parts of the Bible in the Kamba language, despite having health problems and also losing his wife and new born daughter to Malaria. Their graves can still be seen near Krapf memorial in the Nyali/ Mkomani areas of Mombasa's North mainland.



Inside the Krapf Museum



Johann Rebmann

## ATTRACTIONS

- The Museum comprises of St. Paul's church complex.
- Rebmann's cottage which is currently used as a school.
- Krapf's house.
- Mission market.
- The early school house that later functioned as the early permanent church building.
- Bohora and Islam mosque within mission land.
- The 'Iron' house belonging to Rev. Samuel Kuri.
- Freed slaves and **Wamisheni** settlement
- Exhibition: From the **"Kaya to the Cross"**
- This exhibition in the Krapf Museum shows the development of the village parallel to the arrival and work of Krapf and his colleagues in Kenya.

# The Foundation

With the financial assistance from the German Embassy, The National Museums of Kenya and the community embarked on a project to rehabilitate the church and its surroundings to develop the small museum. On 18th 1998, June the museum was officially opened. Today this place represents a mixture of the history of Christianity, slavery and the Mijikenda culture whose evidence is still in place.



# Cultural Expressions

## EXHIBITION

The culture of the *Mijikenda* (meaning nine tribes) people is captured and reflected as well in exhibits, maps, photographs and artifacts. These people practiced agriculture and animal husbandry besides trading in jewelry, axes, arrow heads and other related products with coconut and products with the *Swahili* people.

## CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

You'll also be delighted to learn of their Traditional new year cultural celebrations *Mwakamuvya*, during the month of October, where *Rabai Kaya* elders conduct rituals in the *Kayas*.

There is a lot to learn about the culture with your visit as you interact with the local people which serve as a unique and interesting experience.



Koma



Kaya Elders



Swahili Ngoma



## Our charges in (Kshs.)

### Citizens

Adults 100 Children 50 School groups 50 College groups 100

### Residents

Adults 400 Children 200

### Non-residents

Adults 500 Children 250

Open daily  
including  
weekends & public holidays  
from  
8.30 am to 6.00 pm

### Contacts:

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