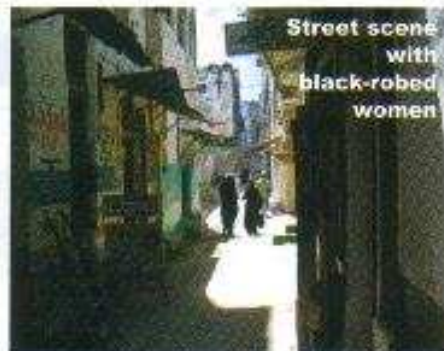




Comfortable 4-star hotel room



Street scene with black-robed women

nineteenth century Lamu fell into decline. Perhaps because it was isolated from modern technology and materialism during the first half

of the twentieth century, Lamu was finally discovered as a tourist destination in the early 1960s. Today the story of Lamu is to be seen in the old buildings which line its narrow, cool and quiet streets. Lamu's traditional eighteenth century coral stone Swahili courtyard houses are richly decorated inside. The House Museum, restored by the National Museums of Kenya, provides a fine example of intricately-carved wall niches and ceilings. The Lamu Museum, formerly the house of the British district commissioner, is another tourist highlight, providing a good introduction to the town and to the tribes which live opposite Lamu on the Kenya mainland.

Lamu Town faces nearby Mandia Island where the air strip is situated. Because most visitors arrive by air, their first view of Lamu is from the

water. This is appropriate since Lamu's modern economy is based, aside from tourism and forestry (mangrove pole cutting), on shipping, fishing and boat building.

Two fine 4-star hotels are located in Shela, a suburb which is a 15-minute boat ride or a 45-minute walk away from downtown Lamu.

Lesser quality accommodation is available in downtown Lamu itself.

Lamu is known for Maulidi, the celebration of the Prophet's birthday.

During this week there are religious festivities, feasting and dancing. But during the festival hotel accommodation is at a premium.

While most visitors to Kenya rightly focus on game viewing, unique Lamu, now a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is also well worth a visit.



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Wall niches in Lamu's House Museum



Rings made from old Lamu pottery shards



#### ABOUT TED COOKSON:

Egypt's most widely-traveled travel agent, Ted has been to every country in the world. He has also visited 307 of the 317 destinations on the list of the Travelers' Century Club (visit [www.eptours.com](http://www.eptours.com) and refer to World Travel Club). A travel agent in Cairo since 1986, Ted manages EGYPT PANORAMA TOURS, a full-service travel agency, at 4 Road 79 (between Roads 9 and 10, near the "El Moadi" metro station) in Moadi.

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