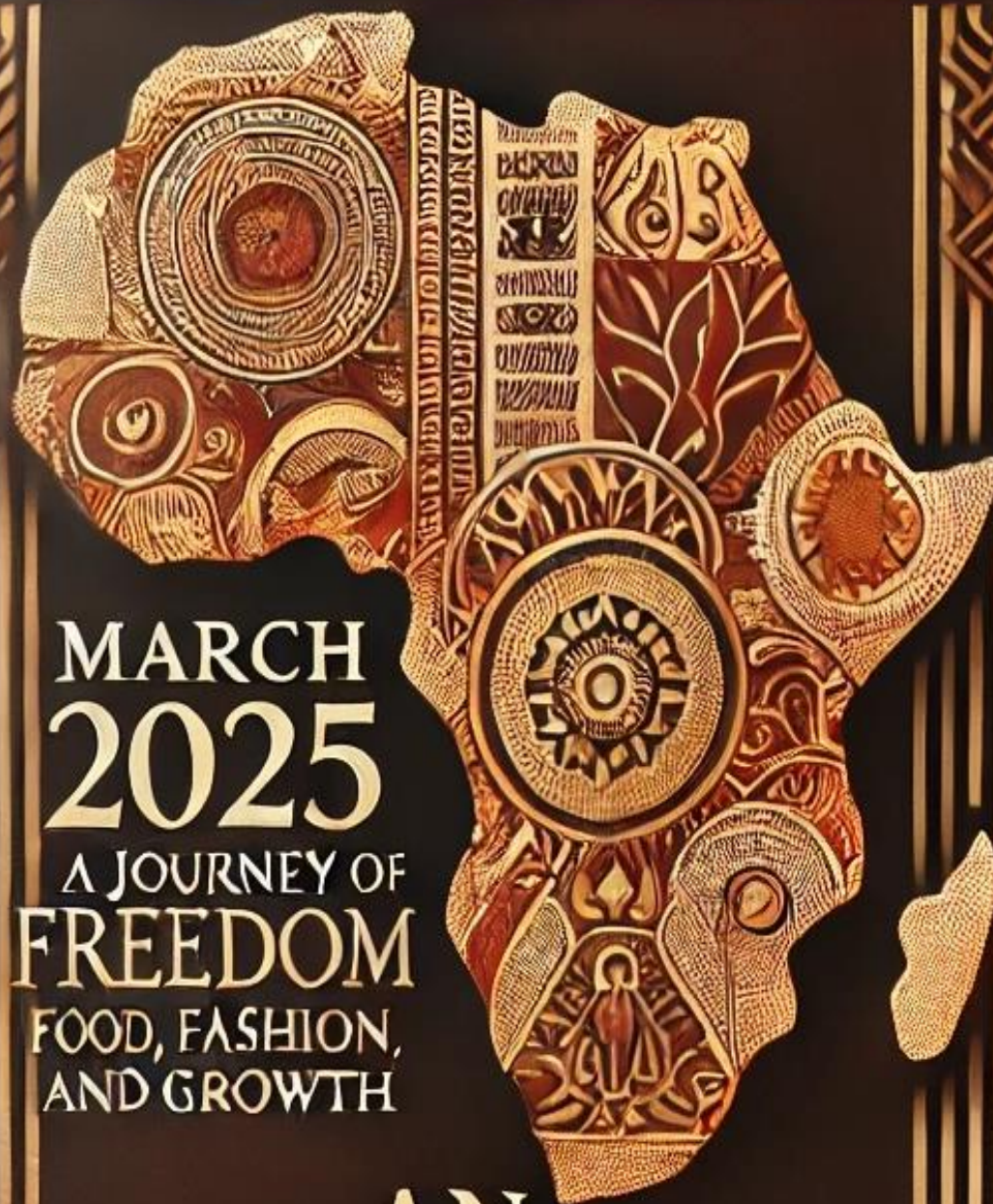


THE
AFRICAN
LANE MAGAZINE



MARCH
2025

A JOURNEY OF
FREEDOM
FOOD, FASHION,
AND GROWTH

AN
AFRICAN
HANDBOOK 1



Aerial view of Gambia River

EDITOR'S NOTE

Africa is a continent of endless diversity—a mosaic of cultures, languages, and histories woven together over centuries. Whether it's the rich heritage of the Nile Valley, the vibrant street markets of Lagos, the artistic hubs of Dakar, or the tech innovations of Nairobi, each region tells a story of resilience, creativity, and transformation. Yet, despite this richness, many Africans grow up with a fragmented understanding of their own continent—its past, its achievements, and its evolving identity. Much of Africa's story is told from external perspectives, often leaving out the depth, complexity, and progress shaping its present and future.

Africa is not just a continent of history; it is a continent of momentum. Across industries, from finance and technology to fashion and tourism, African nations are reshaping economies, setting global trends, and leading innovations. Yet, these achievements often do not receive the recognition they deserve—not just as individual success stories, but as part of a collective African evolution.

To tell Africa's story more fully, we begin *The African Lane Magazine Handbook to Africa 1*, an edition dedicated to rediscovering and celebrating Africa. We explore the identities behind country nicknames, highlight nations that have made remarkable progress in the last five years, and examine the rise of fintech and its role in financial inclusion. We celebrate African designers redefining global fashion, uncover unforgettable travel destinations, and showcase the vibrant flavors of African cuisine.

This is a commitment to amplifying African voices, celebrating our heritage, and ensuring that our stories are told as they should be—by us, for us, and for the world.

Stay connected with *The African Lane* on our social media platforms and visit theafricanlane.com for more stories, insights, and achievements.

Lane Dela-Favour Owan
Editor-in-Chief



Zanzibar Beach

ABOUT THIS EDITION

The African Lane Magazine has always been dedicated to telling Africa's stories—celebrating success, innovation, and the brilliance of the continent. Our first four editions focused on the rise of African entrepreneurs, global achievements, and the promotion of African products.

With this edition, we introduce a new series: The African Lane Magazine Handbook to Africa—a deep dive into the continent itself, exploring its cultures, travel opportunities, economic strides, and history. While we will continue publishing our original editions that highlight success stories and African excellence, this Handbook series will focus on understanding Africa beyond achievements—its identity, heritage, and evolving landscape.

Both series will run simultaneously, ensuring that we not only celebrate Africa's progress but also deepen our knowledge of the continent we call home.

MEET THE EDITORS



LANE DELA-FAVOUR.O.

I'm a storyteller and researcher dedicated to uncovering Africa's untold stories. Exploring the intersection of culture, innovation, and economic growth, I craft narratives that inform, inspire, and challenge perspectives. through The African Lane Magazine, I amplify African voices, break stereotypes, and foster deeper understanding of the continent's rich and evolving identity."



PRECIOUS OLAGOKE (PRECIUSLOLA)

Precious Lola is a writer and an editor with a keen interest in Africa's evolving fintech space, travel, and culture. She is passionate about uncovering stories that highlight Africa's progress and unique identity. In this edition, she explores key fintech trends and some of the continent's best holiday destinations.

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African woman gathering coffee in Ethiopia
Getty image

THE SOUL OF AFRICA: COUNTRY NICKNAMES & WHAT THEY TRULY REPRESENT

Africa is a vast and diverse continent, home to 54 unique countries, each with its own rich history, culture, and identity. From the ancient civilizations of Egypt and Ethiopia to the thriving economic powerhouses of Nigeria and South Africa, Africa is a land of immense natural and human wealth.

Many African countries have earned nicknames that reflect their heritage, geography, or economic strengths. Nigeria, for instance, is called the Giant of Africa due to its large population and booming economy, while Kenya is known as the Safari Capital of the World for its breathtaking wildlife experiences. Ethiopia's Land of Origins speaks to its deep historical and biblical significance, while Botswana's Land of Diamonds highlights its vast mineral wealth.

These nicknames are more than just labels—they capture the essence of each nation, evoking images of striking landscapes, vibrant cultures, and rich histories. They also reflect the blend of tradition and modernity that makes Africa a fascinating and dynamic continent. From music and art to innovation and entrepreneurship, Africa's influence is felt worldwide.

Here's a look at all 54 African countries, grouped by region, along with their nicknames and what makes them stand out:



Northern Africa:

1. Algeria

Nickname: "The Land of the Berbers or Land of the Free"

Known for: The Sahara Desert, Roman ruins like Timgad, and oil and gas resources.

2. Egypt

Nickname: "The Gift of the Nile"

Known for: The Pyramids of Giza, the Sphinx, and ancient Egyptian civilization.

3. Libya

Nickname: "The Land of the Setting Sun" or "The Great Jamahiriya" (Jamahiriya" means "state of the masses" in Arabic, referring to Gaddafi's vision of a "direct democracy" and the political system he implemented in Libya.)

Known for: The Sahara Desert, the ancient Roman city of Leptis Magna, Mediterranean coastline and oil production.



Image: Cairo Egypt, images showcase Cairo, Egypt, featuring the Nile River, modern skyscrapers, and historic buildings. Cairo, the capital of Egypt, is the largest city in the Arab world and Africa.

Image source: Google and Unsplash.



Casablanca: The Heart of Morocco's Modern Charm"
image source: Getty Image

4. Mauritania

Nickname: "The Land of the Moors"

Known for: The Sahara Desert, ancient cities like Chinguetti, and nomadic culture.

5. Morocco

Nickname: "The Kingdom of the Atlas"

Known for: The Atlas Mountains, imperial cities (Marrakesh), and the Sahara Desert.

6. Sudan

Nickname: "The Land of the two miles or land of the Nile"

Known for: The Nile River, the ancient pyramids of Meroë, and diverse ethnic cultures.

7. Tunisia

Nickname: "The Land of the Jasmine" or "The Land of Carthage"

Known for: The ancient ruins of Carthage, Mediterranean beaches, jasmine flowers and Roman history.

**** Western Sahara (Disputed territory)**

Nickname: "Last Colony of Africa"

Known for: The Sahara Desert and phosphate mining.

Western Africa:

1. Benin

Nickname: "The Land of the Rising Sun"

Known for: The history of the transatlantic slave trade and the vibrant culture of the Fon people.

2. Burkina Faso

Nickname: "The Land of Upright People"

Known for: Rich cultural heritage, vibrant arts, and FESPACO film festival.

3. Cabo Verde (Cape Verde)

Nickname: "The Islands of the Blue Sea"

Known for: Scenic islands, Creole culture, and the music genre of morna.

4. Gambia

Nickname: "The Smiling Coast of Africa"

Known for: The Gambia River, beautiful beaches, wildlife reserves, birdwatching and friendly locals.

5. Ghana

Nickname: "The Gold Coast"

Known for: Gold production, vibrant culture, and the historic slave forts along the coast.

6. Guinea

Nickname: "The Land of a Thousand Rivers"

Known for: The Fouta Djallon Highlands, the River Niger, waterfalls and bauxite mining,



The monument at Cap Angela Tunisia is commonly referred to as the "Africa Map Monument" or "Monument of the Northernmost Point of Africa." It features a large map of Africa and a plaque marking Cap Angela as the continent's northernmost tip. Image source: Google

7. Guinea-Bissau

Nickname: "The Land of the Brave" or "Land of Brave"

Known for: Its diverse wildlife, tropical islands, mangrove swamps and the Guinea-Bissau Civil War.

8. Ivory Coast (Côte d'Ivoire)

Nickname: "The Land of the Ivory"

Known for: Cocoa production, vibrant art, and the city of Abidjan.

9. Liberia

Nickname: "The Land of Freedom"

Known for: Being founded by freed American slaves, rich biodiversity, Tropical rainforests, coastal scenery, and resilience of its people.

10. Mali

Nickname: "The Land of the Great Empire"

Known for: The ancient Mali Empire, Timbuktu, and rich cultural heritage.

11. Niger

Nickname: "The Land of the Nomads" or "The Land of the Niger River"

Known for: The Sahara Desert, the Niger River, nomadic culture and uranium mining

12. Nigeria

Nickname: "The Giant of Africa"

Known for: Oil production, Nollywood (film industry), vibrant cities and cultural diversity.



Lagos, Nigeria: Tinubu Square on Lagos Island - surrounded by high-rise buildings, park and fountain in the middle
Image source: Istock

13. Senegal

Nickname: "The Gateway to Africa"

Known for: Goree Island (slave trade), vibrant music scene (mbalax), and Dakar.

14. Sierra Leone

Nickname: "The Lion Mountain"

Known for: Beautiful beaches, diamond mining, and a history of civil war.

15. Togo

Nickname: "The Land of the Sea"

Known for: Its palm plantations, voodoo culture, traditional craft and scenic beaches.

Central Africa:

1. Angola

Nickname: "The Heart of Africa"

Known for: Oil reserves, the Luanda coastline, and post-civil war recovery.

2. Cameroon

Nickname: "Africa in Miniature"

Known for: Mountains, beaches, wildlife, and cultural diversity.

3. Central African Republic

Nickname: "The Switzerland of Africa"

Known for: Rainforests, wildlife, and being landlocked.

4. Chad

Nickname: "The Land of Tibesti Mountain"

Known for: The Sahara Desert, Tebesti Mountain Lake Chad, nomadic culture, Historically significant Wildlife and National park

5. Congo (Congo Brazzavile)

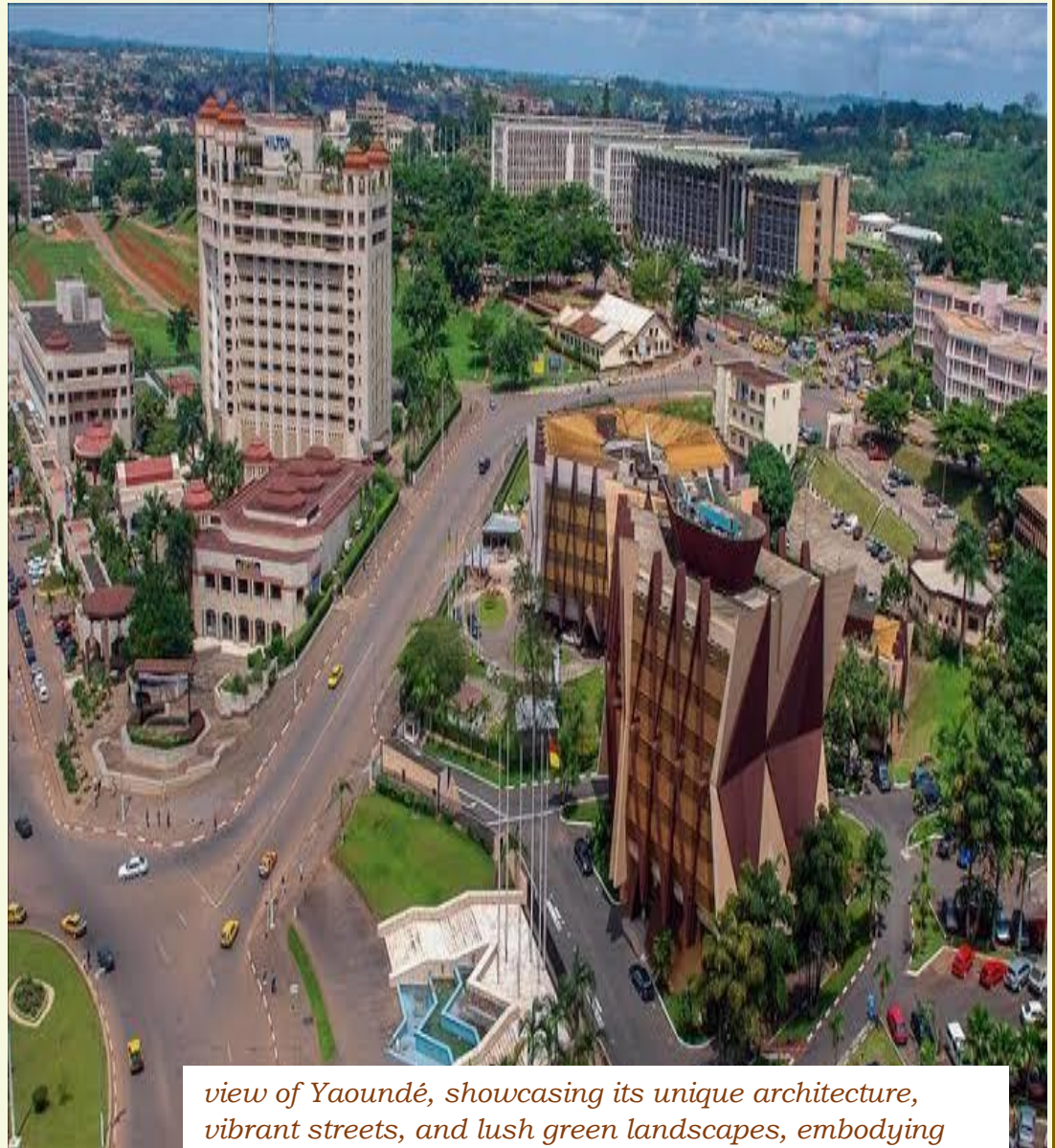
Nickname: "The Emerald of Africa"

Known for:
The Congo River, dense rainforests, and Brazzaville.

6. Democratic Republic of the Congo (Congo Kinshasa)

Nickname:
"Land of the Moon"

Known for:
Rich mineral resources, Congo River, and dense rainforests.



view of Yaoundé, showcasing its unique architecture, vibrant streets, and lush green landscapes, embodying the heart of Cameroon's culture and progress.

7. Equatorial Guinea

Nickname: "The Land of the Three Kings or Africa's Singapore"

Known for: Oil production, Pristine beaches, biodiversity, and its location on the Equator.



Caravan Across the Sahara

8. Gabon

Nickname: "The Land of the Bantu" or "The Last Eden"

Known for: Rainforests, natural beauty rich mineral deposits, national parks (Loango National Park), and wildlife.

9. São Tomé and Príncipe

Nickname: "The Land of Chocolate" or "African Galapagos"

Known for its tropical climate, cocoa production, and picturesque beaches.



Mohéli Comoros is known for its pristine beaches, eco-tourism, and lush greenery, making it a top destination for travelers seeking unspoiled nature.

Eastern Africa:

1. Burundi

Nickname: "The Land of Drums"

Known for: Lakes, wildlife, and cultural diversity, Mountainous scenery, Lake Tanganyika, and traditional drumming.

2. Comoros

Nickname: "The Perfume Islands"

Known for: Its stunning natural beauty, with volcanic landscapes, beautiful beaches, incredible marine biodiversity, and coral reefs.

3. Djibouti

Nickname: "The Gateway to the Red Sea"

Known for: Its strategic port and desert landscapes, nomadic culture

4. Eritrea

Nickname: "The Red Sea Coast"

Known for: Its stunning coastline, ancient history, historic architecture, unique culture, and resilient people.

5. Ethiopia

Nickname: "The Cradle of Humankind", "The Land of Origins" or "The Land of the Queen of Sheba"

Known for: Ancient history (Aksum Empire), the Great Rift Valley, and Orthodox Christianity.

6. Kenya

Nickname: "Safari Capital of the World"

Known for: Safaris, wildlife (Big Five), the Maasai Mara and Amboseli National Park.

7. Madagascar

Nickname: "The Red Island" or "Island of Lemurs"

Known for: Unique wildlife (lemurs), biodiversity, and beautiful beaches.

8. Mauritius

Nickname: "The Star and Key of the Indian Ocean"



Luxury Meets Wild: Inside Kenya's Giraffe Manor the Most Instagrammable Hotel in The World.

Known for:

Beautiful beaches, diverse culture, and the extinct dodo bird

9. Rwanda

Nickname:

"The Land of a Thousand Hills"

Known for:

Coffee, Tea, The Rwandan Genocide, mountain gorillas, and scenic landscapes.

10.

Seychelles

Nickname: "Garden of Eden" or "Islands of Love"

Known for: Pristine beaches, unique wildlife, biodiversity, luxury tourism and coral reefs.

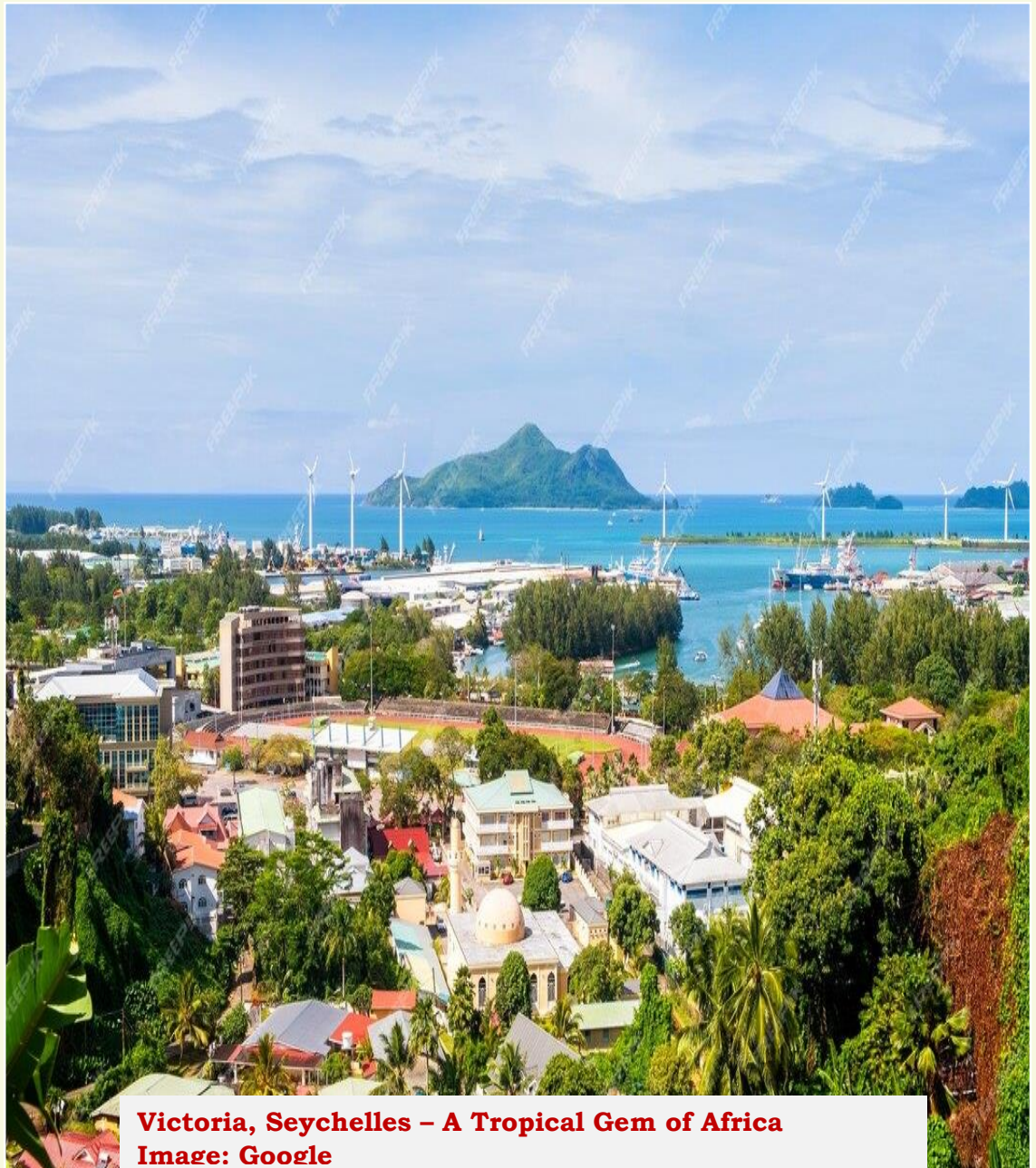
11. Somalia

Nickname: "The Horn of Africa"

Known for: Its strategic location, long coastline, and rich cultural heritage.

12. South Sudan

Nickname: "The Youngest Nation"



Victoria, Seychelles – A Tropical Gem of Africa
Image: Google

Known for: Being the newest country in the world, with diverse ethnic groups.

13. Tanzania

Nickname: "The Land of Serengeti" or "Land of Kilimanjaro"

Known for: Serengeti National Park, Mount Kilimanjaro, and Zanzibar.

14. Uganda

Nickname: "The Pearl of Africa"

Known for:
Tropical lakes, savannas, and mountainous scenery

Southern Africa:

1. Botswana

Nickname: "The Diamond of Africa"

Known for:
Diamond mining, Okavango Delta, Kalahari Desert and wildlife safaris.

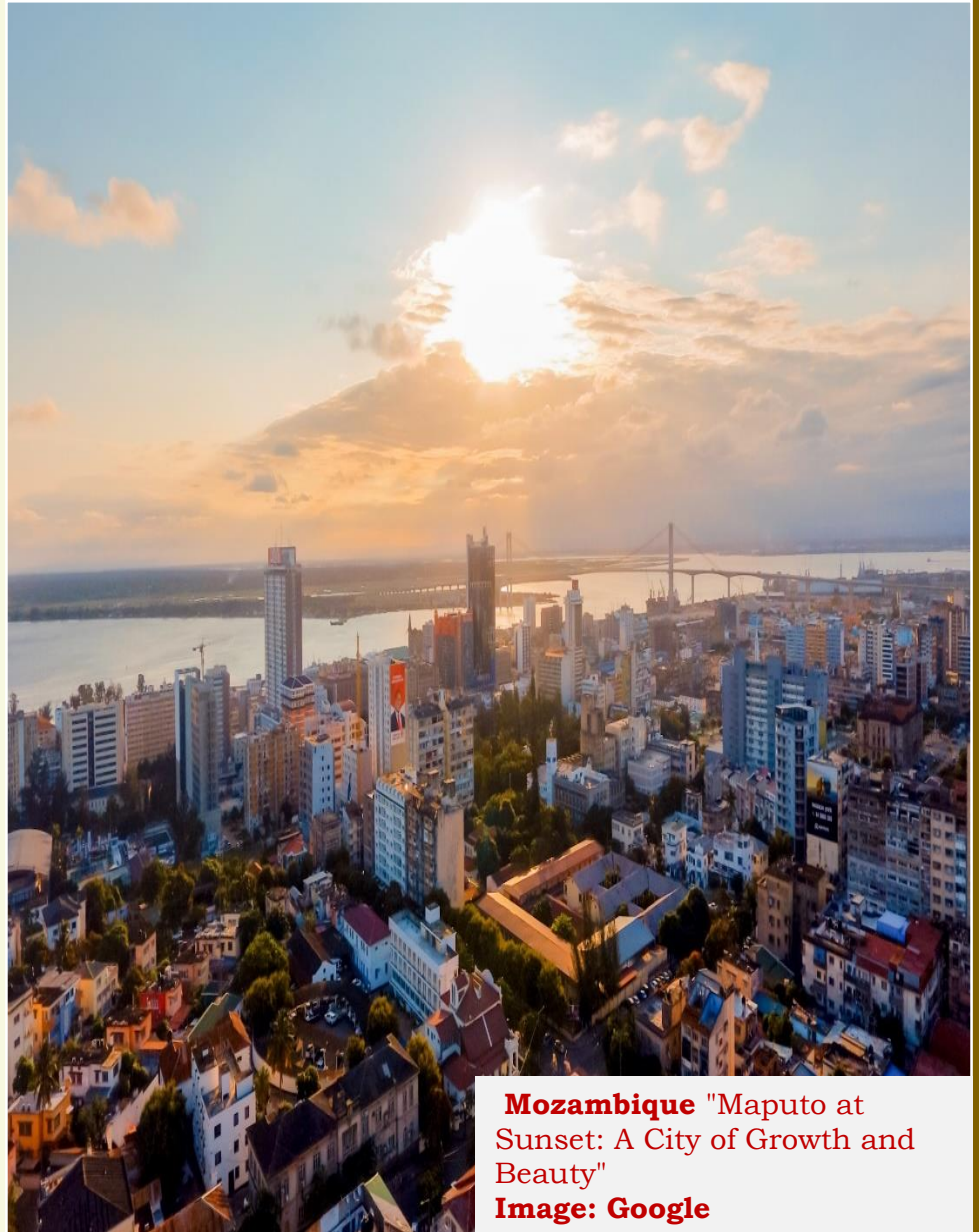
2. Eswatini (Swaziland)

Nickname: "The Kingdom of Swaziland"

Known for: Traditional culture, beautiful landscapes, and the annual Reed Dance.

3. Lesotho

Nickname: Kingdom in The Sky Land



Mozambique "Maputo at Sunset: A City of Growth and Beauty"

Image: Google

being landlocked, Basotho culture, traditional craftsmanship and a high-altitude, independent kingdom within South Africa.

4. Malawi

Nickname: "The Warm Heart of Africa"

Known for: Lake Malawi, friendly people, and rich wildlife.

5. Mozambique

Nickname: "The pearl of the Indian Ocean"

Known for: Stunning beaches, seafood, and Portuguese colonial history

6. Namibia

Nickname: "The Land of the Brave"

Known for: The Namib Desert, Etosha National Park, and rich mineral resources.

7. South Africa

Nickname: "The Rainbow Nation"

Known for: Rich cultural diversity, apartheid history, Table Mountain, and wildlife.

8. Zambia

Nickname: "The Jewel of Africa"

Known for: Victoria Falls, wildlife, and being home to numerous national parks.

9. Zimbabwe

Nickname: "The Land of the Great Stones" or "The Jewel of Africa"

Known for: The Great Zimbabwe ruins, wildlife, and Victoria Falls.



Johannesburg South Africa – the heart of the African's urban Brilliance
Image source: Istockphoto

THE RISE OF AFRICA: NATIONS THAT HAVE MADE STRIDES IN THE LAST FIVE YEARS

Over the past five years, several African nations have witnessed remarkable economic growth, driven by a combination of policy reforms, infrastructure expansion, foreign investment, technological advancements, and social progress. This transformation has been fueled by improved governance, strategic investments in key sectors like technology and agriculture, and strong international partnerships.

Despite global challenges such as the COVID-19 pandemic, inflation, and geopolitical tensions, these countries have navigated economic uncertainties and maintained impressive growth, securing their place among Africa's fastest-growing economies.

Here are some of the standout nation's leading Africa's rise:

1. **Niger** – Fastest Growing Economy

Niger has experienced Africa's highest GDP growth due to agricultural expansion, uranium mining, and energy investments. The country has improved food production and increased exports, while new energy projects, including

hydroelectric dams, are enhancing power supply.

Key Factors:

- Agriculture: Expansion in crop production and irrigation systems.
- Mining: Increased uranium production for export.
- Energy: Kandadji Dam for hydropower generation.
- Infrastructure: New road networks to improve trade.



*Leopold Sedar Senghor FPSO – Sangomar Oil Field Senegal
Image souece: Google*

2. Senegal – Oil & Gas Boom

Senegal's economy is being transformed by oil and gas discoveries, along with expanding renewable energy and infrastructure projects. The Sangomar Oil Field and Grand Tortue Ahmeyim LNG project are major contributors to growth.

Key Factors:

- Oil & Gas: Sangomar and Grand Tortue Ahmeyim gas fields.
- Renewable Energy: Scaling up wind and solar farms.
- Industrialization: Expansion of Dakar's industrial zones.
- Infrastructure: Upgraded road networks and port expansions.

3. Libya – Oil Sector Recovery

Libya's economy has recovered following an increase in oil production and foreign investments after years of instability. The government is prioritizing infrastructure rebuilding, focusing on transport and power supply improvements.

Key Factors:

- Oil Production: National Oil Corporation's expansion efforts.
- Foreign Investment: Increased economic collaborations with Europe.
- Infrastructure: Reconstruction of roads, bridges, and power grids.

4. Rwanda – Tech & Business Hub

Rwanda has become one of Africa's leading investment destinations, focusing on technology, manufacturing, and

tourism. The Kigali Innovation City is attracting global tech companies, while the government promotes sustainability with green energy policies.

Key Factors:

- **ICT Growth:** Kigali Innovation City's impact on tech startups.
- **Manufacturing:** Increased production of textiles and electronics.
- **Tourism:** Gorilla trekking and eco-tourism initiatives.
- **Sustainability:** Ban on plastic bags and renewable energy investments.

5. Côte d'Ivoire – Agricultural & Industrial Expansion

Côte d'Ivoire remains one of West Africa's fastest-growing economies, with strong exports of cocoa and coffee alongside major infrastructure projects in urban areas.

Key Factor

- **Agriculture:** Côte d'Ivoire remains the world's largest cocoa producer.
- **Industrialization:** Growth in cement, steel, and manufacturing industries.
- **Urban Development:** Expansion of Abidjan's business district.
- **Transport:** New highways and improved port facilities.

6. Ethiopia – Infrastructure & Industrial Growth Ethiopia has continued its economic rise through manufacturing, large-scale agriculture, and energy projects. The Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) has boosted

Kigali Innovation City Groundbreaking Ceremony

10 September 2024

KIGALI
INNOVATION
CITY



AFRICAN



power supply, while industrial parks have attracted global investors.

Key Factors:

- Infrastructure: GERD project supplying electricity to multiple regions.
- Manufacturing: Growth in textiles and automotive assembly plants.
- Telecom Reforms: Expansion of mobile and internet access.
- Agriculture: Large-scale commercial farming initiatives.

7. Nigeria – Tech & Economic Diversification

Despite oil sector challenges, Nigeria has strengthened its fintech industry, digital economy, and infrastructure. Tech startups like Flutterwave and Paystack are revolutionizing finance, while large-scale industrial projects are diversifying the economy.

Key Factors:

- Fintech Growth: Expansion of mobile banking and payment platforms.
- Digital Economy: E-commerce boom with platforms like Jumia.
- Manufacturing: Growth in cement production (Dangote Group) and vehicle assembly plants.
- Infrastructure: Lagos-Ibadan railway modernization and new power projects.

8. Egypt – Infrastructure & Industrial Expansion

Egypt remains one of Africa's largest economies, with major investments in transportation, energy, and real estate.



Suez Canal

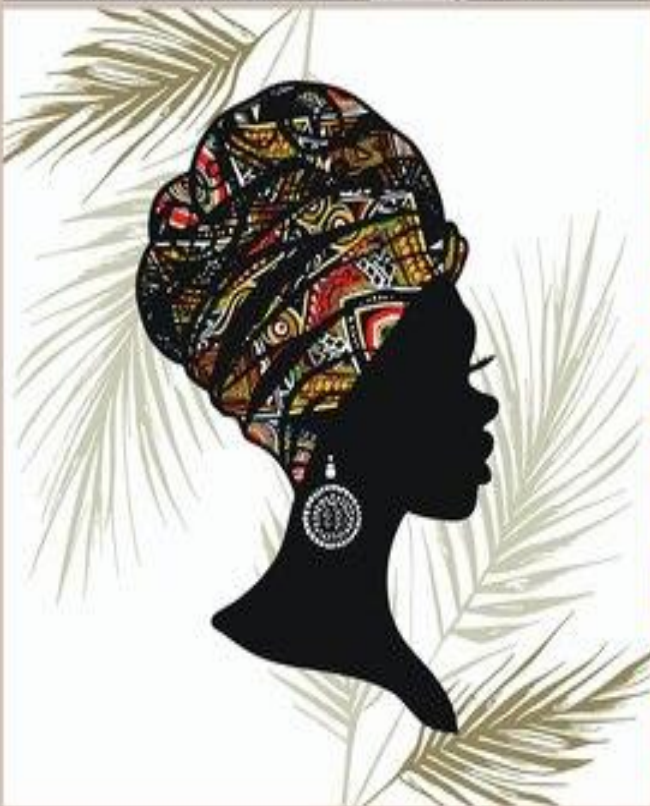
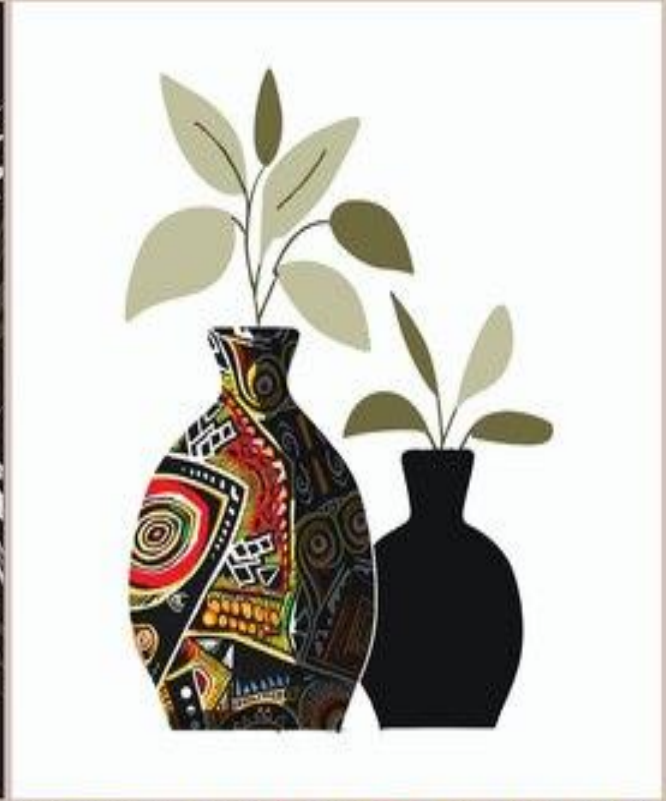
The Suez Canal expansion and the construction of a new administrative capital are reshaping the country's economic landscape.

Key Factors:

- **Transport:** Expansion of metro systems and high-speed rail projects.
- **Energy:** Growth in solar and wind energy, such as the Benban Solar Park.
- **Real Estate:** Development of Egypt's New Administrative Capital.
- **Trade:** Suez Canal modernization to increase global trade capacity.

Sources

- *African Development Bank (AfDB): <https://www.afdb.org>*
- *International Monetary Fund (IMF): <https://www.imf.org>*
- *World Bank: <https://www.worldbank.org>*
- *African Economic Outlook 2025:
<https://www.afdb.org/en/documents/african-economic-outlook>*



African art work from vector drawing
Image source:

FINTECH IN AFRICA: EMERGING TRENDS & WHAT'S NEXT

Africa's financial landscape has been transformed by the rapid rise of fintech, driving innovation and expanding access to financial services. Fintech—a fusion of finance and technology—has revolutionized banking, payments, and investments, making them more inclusive, efficient, and accessible across the continent. The fintech ecosystem in Africa has grown at an unprecedented pace, with the market valued at over \$4 billion in 2020. Projections indicate it could soar to between \$47 billion and \$65 billion in the coming years, reflecting a remarkable increase from its 2020 and 2023 values.



Discovery Limited Headquarters, Sandton South Africa

This surge is fueled by several key factors, including:

- Increased mobile penetration, enabling more Africans to access digital financial services.
- A growing demand for financial inclusion, as millions of unbanked individuals seek accessible banking solutions.
- A supportive regulatory environment, fostering innovation and investment in the fintech space.

Key Fintech Trends in Africa

1. **Mobile money:** Mobile money services, such as M-Pesa and PayPal, have revolutionized financial transactions in Africa, enabling users to store, send, and receive money using their mobile phones.

2. **Digital lending:** Fintech companies, such as Branch, Tala, and Okash, have introduced digital lending platforms, providing access to credit for underserved populations.

3. **Payment systems:** Fintech companies, such as Interswitch and Paystack, have developed innovative payment systems, enabling seamless transactions across Africa.

4. **Blockchain and cryptocurrency:** Africa has witnessed a growing interest in blockchain and cryptocurrency, with several countries exploring the use of blockchain for various applications.

The Way Forward

While Africa's fintech ecosystem has made significant strides, there are still challenges to be addressed to ensure sustainable growth. Some of the key challenges include:

1. **Regulatory frameworks:** While some African governments have implemented supportive regulations,

such as mobile money regulations, others need to follow suit to create a uniform regulatory environment.

2. **Infrastructure:** Africa's fintech ecosystem requires significant investment in infrastructure, including data centres, fibre optic cables, and reliable internet connectivity.
3. **Talent acquisition and development:** Fintech companies in Africa face significant challenges in acquiring and retaining talent, particularly in areas such as software development and data science.
4. **Financial inclusion:** Africa has a significant unbanked population, with over 60% of adults lacking access to formal financial services. While fintech has improved financial inclusion in Africa, there is still a significant gap to be bridged, particularly in rural areas.

To address these challenges, African governments, fintech companies, and investors must work together to create a supportive ecosystem that fosters innovation and growth. Some of the key strategies include: Investing in infrastructure, developing talent, implementing supportive regulations, and Promoting financial inclusion. By doing these, Africa's fintech ecosystem can continue to thrive and drive economic growth across the continent.



African women clothing art
Image source:

LUXURY ROUTE: AFRICAN FASHION DESIGNERS REDEFINING GLOBAL STYLE

African fashion is a dynamic and evolving industry that celebrates the continent's rich cultural heritage, diversity, and creativity. Known for its vibrant textiles, intricate patterns, and bold designs, African fashion blends traditional craftsmanship with modern innovation—from Ankara and Kente to Shweshwe and contemporary haute couture.



African art showcasing different African

In recent years, African fashion has gained global recognition, with designers redefining style by infusing cultural identity into their work. These designers are not only showcasing Africa's aesthetic brilliance but also

challenging fashion norms, influencing trends, and elevating the continent's presence on the world stage.

In this edition, we highlight some of the most influential African fashion designers shaping the global industry, including David Tlale (South Africa), Oumou Sy (Senegal), Christie Brown (Ghana), Imane Ayissi (Cameroon), and Maki Oh (Nigeria).

. 1. David Tlale (South Africa)

David Tlale is a prominent South African fashion designer, known for his stunning handmade luxury designs that blend traditional African elements. He began his career in the fashion industry at the age of 20, quickly gaining recognition for his bold and opulent designs. Tlale first made waves at South African Fashion Week and has since built an international presence, showcasing collections at global events.



David Tlale

His brand, David Tlale, is renowned for its high-end couture, and intricate craftsmanship, making it a symbol of African luxury fashion. Tlale designs feature luxurious fabrics, bold silhouettes, and African-inspired elements. Tlale creates elegant evening gowns, tailored suits, and statement bridal wear, often adorned with intricate details. His brand also includes accessories like jewellery, bags, and shoes, all reflecting his signature blend of modern sophistication and African cultural influences. His work has been showcased at the Cape Town Fashion Week, New York Fashion Week, and Paris Fashion Week. He has also designed collections for major retailers like Edgars



Throughout his career, Tlale has dressed numerous celebrities and high-profile figures. Notable individuals include American actress and singer Kelly Rowland, South African actress Thando Thabethe, and international supermodel Alek Wek. His designs have also graced the red carpet at major events such as the Grammys and various international film festivals.

Tlale is also passionate about empowering African talent, regularly collaborating with local artisans and promoting African fashion globally. His influence in the fashion world continues to grow



as he paves the way for the next generation of designers and creatives. Additionally, he is involved in mentoring upcoming designers, hosting fashion shows, and building partnerships with various local and international brands.

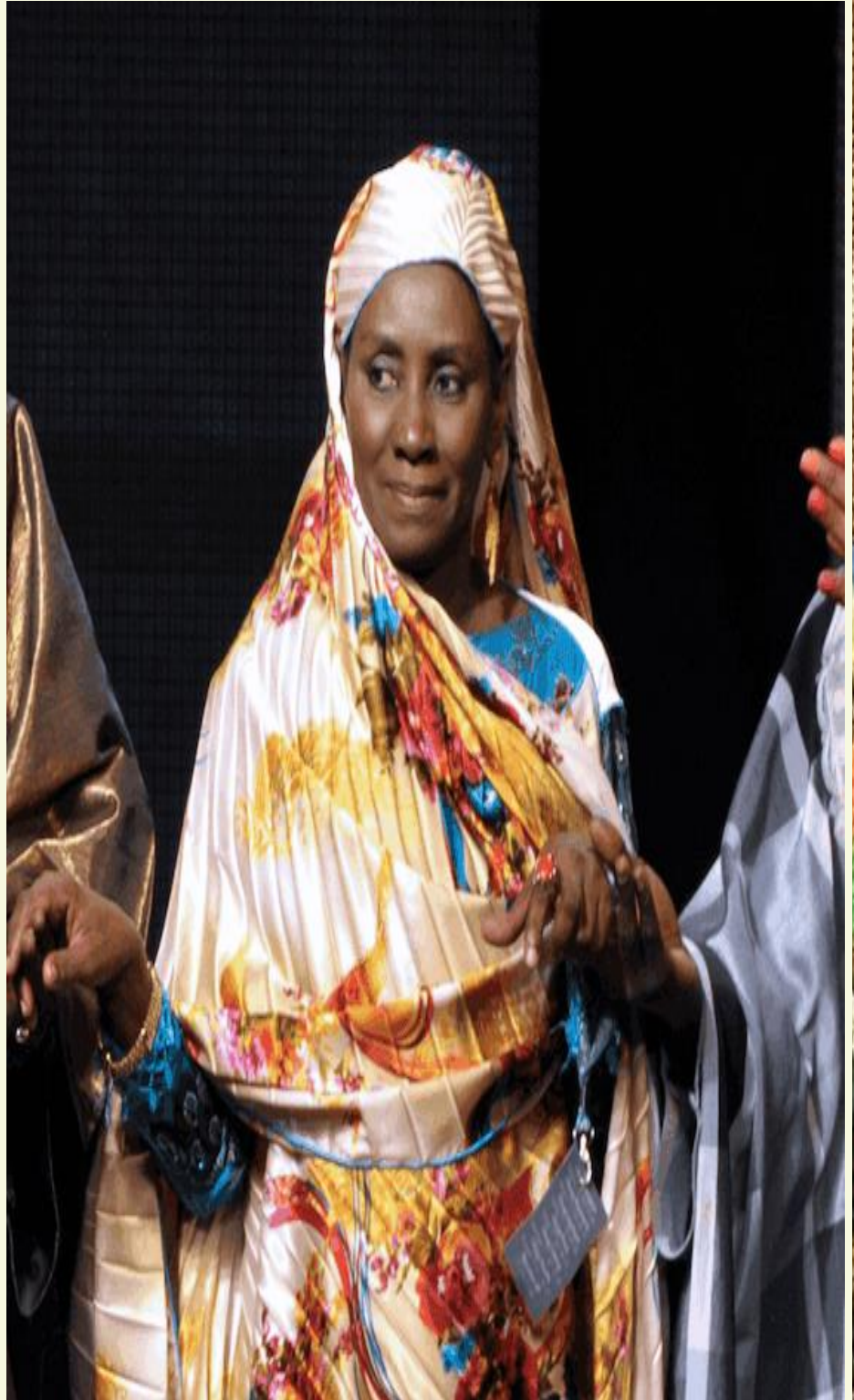


David Tlale designs

2. Oumou Sy (Senegal)

Oumou Sy is a renowned Senegalese fashion designer, celebrated for her haute couture creations that blend traditional African fabrics with modern, innovative designs. Known as "The Queen of African Couture," Sy's vibrant and intricate garments reflect Africa's rich cultural heritage and artistry.

Her thematic collections often explore the intersection of culture, identity, and globalization, making her creations a vibrant dialogue between past and present. Oumou Sy's dedication to using fashion as a platform for cultural





expression and social change has solidified her status as a figure in not only the fashion industry but also in the broader artistic community.

She designed the wardrobe for the Senegalese singers Baaba Maal and Youssou N'Dour and

dressed other prominent figures. Sy's work has not only made waves in the fashion world but also serves as a symbol of African empowerment and pride. Fusing bold colours and intricate beadwork and making a significant impact on both the African and global fashion scenes.





3. Christie Brown (Ghana)

Christie Brown is a luxury fashion brand founded by Ghanaian designer Aisha Obuobi. Known for its bold, contemporary designs, the brand combines African heritage with modern aesthetics, offering a fusion of traditional fabrics and high-end tailoring. Christie Brown's collections include elegant evening wear, stylish ready-to-wear, and bespoke pieces, with a strong emphasis on craftsmanship and vibrant patterns.

The brand has gained international recognition by dressing celebrities such as Tina Knowles Lawson, Nana Ama McBrown, Genevieve Nnaji, Jackie Appiah and Sandra



"Alexandrina" Don-Arthur. Christie Brown's designs are celebrated for empowering women and promoting African fashion on the global stage, blending elegance with cultural pride. Christie Brown is celebrated for her elegant, modern designs that incorporate traditional Ghanaian textiles and techniques.





Christie Brown designs

4. Imane Ayissi (Cameroon)

Imane Ayissi is renowned for his haute couture pieces that blend African textiles with European techniques, creating breathtaking, high-fashion designs. He founded his own

brand in 2011 and quickly gained recognition for his sophisticated, contemporary designs, which often incorporate luxurious African fabrics and traditional motifs.

Ayissi is notable for his ability to fuse traditional African elements, such as intricate beadwork, bold prints, and vibrant colours, with the refined aesthetics of European couture. His designs are both elegant and powerful, showcasing a deep respect for African culture while appealing to global luxury markets.



Imane Ayissi has showcased his collections at major fashion events, including Paris Fashion Week, where he became the first Black African designer to be invited to present at the prestigious event. His



work has attracted a global following, including celebrities and public figures who appreciate his unique approach to fashion.

His pieces are characterized by luxurious craftsmanship, intricate detailing, and a celebration of African heritage, making him a standout figure in the global fashion industry.





Imane Ayissi

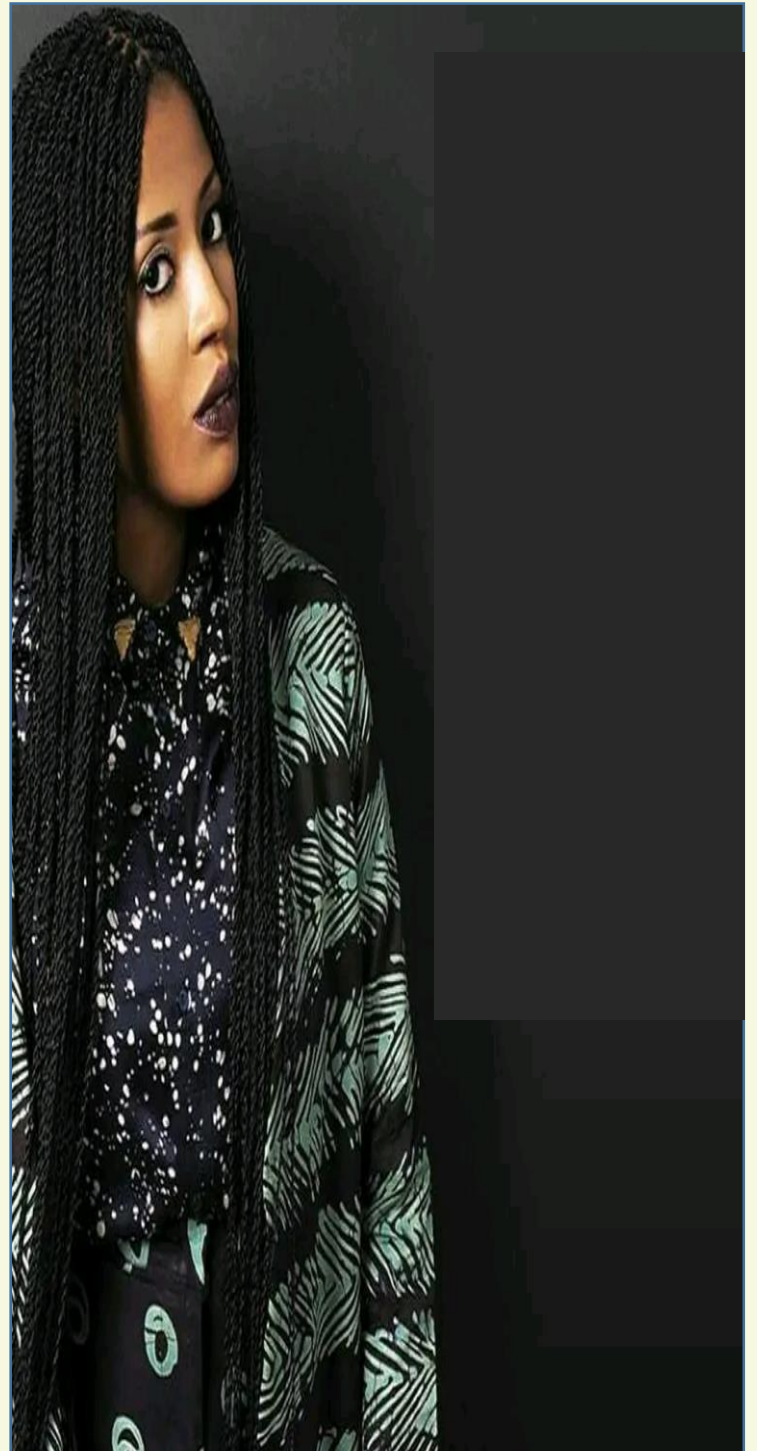
5. Maki Oh (Nigeria)

Maki Oh is a renowned Nigerian fashion brand founded by Amaka Osakwe. The brand is known for its stunning, handmade designs that blend traditional Nigerian textiles and techniques with modern styles.

Known for intricate details and bold colours, Maki Oh blends African cultural heritage with modern, sophisticated designs. Maki Oh's creations incorporate traditional Nigerian fabrics like Aso Oke and Adire, often enhanced with intricate hand embroidery and craftsmanship passed down through generations.

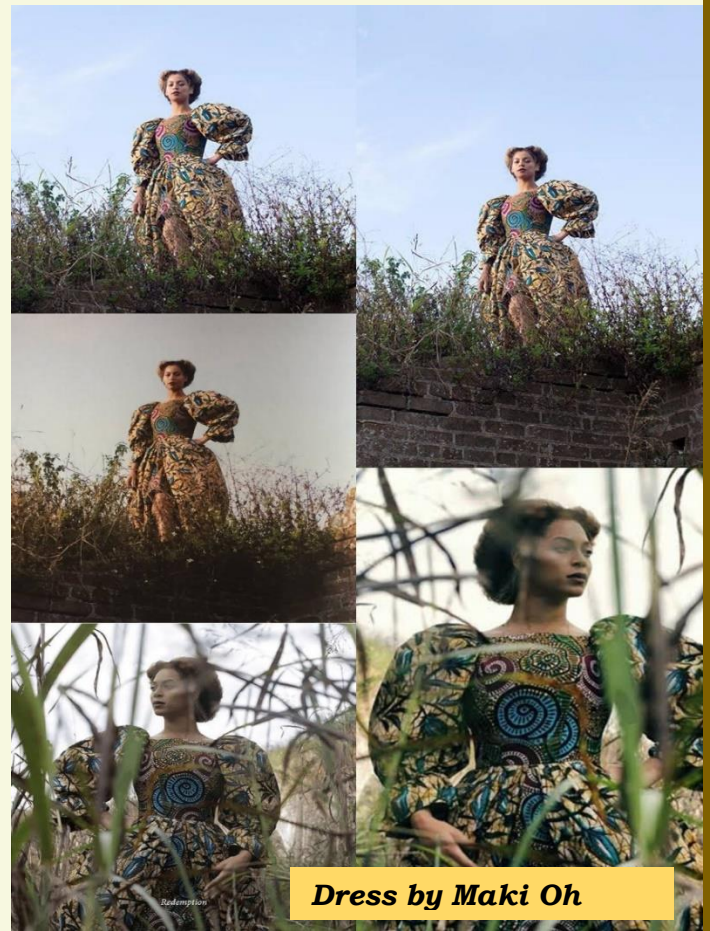
Her collections frequently explore themes of femininity, identity, and the intersection of tradition and modernity.

Maki Oh's commitment to using locally sourced materials has contributed to the promotion of sustainable fashion while supporting the African textile industry.



The brand has gained international recognition, showcasing its designs at top fashion events like New York Fashion Week and Lagos Fashion Week gaining attention from global buyers, fashion influencers, and celebrities. Her designs have been worn by notable figures like Beyoncé, Solange Knowles, and First Lady Michelle Obama, cementing her place in the international fashion landscape.

With a vision that celebrates the beauty of African heritage



and the empowerment of women, Maki Oh continues to redefine contemporary fashion, making waves both in Africa and internationally. Her brand's distinct aesthetic is a blend of timeless African storytelling with cutting-edge fashion innovation. Maki Oh's success has not only put Nigerian fashion on the global map but has also inspired a new generation of African fashion designers.



Exploring Africa in 2025: Visa-Free & Visa-On-Arrival Travel Guide

As Africa continues to embrace regional integration, more countries are making travel easier for fellow African citizens by offering visa-free or visa-on-arrival access. Thanks to regional and bilateral agreements, African travelers can now explore more of the continent with fewer visa restrictions.

Currently, 40 to 50 African countries allow visa-free or visa-on-arrival entry for fellow Africans, with stay durations ranging from 30 to 90 days.

Regional Economic Communities (RECs) Leading the Way

Several African regional blocs facilitate visa-free or visa-on-arrival travel among their member states:

1. **East African Community (EAC)** – Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi, and South Sudan offer visa-free access for up to 90 days.
2. **Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)** – All 15 West African countries, including Nigeria, Ghana, Senegal, and Ivory Coast, offer visa-free access for up to 90 days.
3. **Southern African Development Community (SADC)** – 16 Southern African nations, including South Africa, Botswana, Namibia, and Zimbabwe, provide visa-free travel for up to 90 days.
4. **Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS)** – 10 countries, including Cameroon, Gabon, Chad, and the Republic of Congo, allow visa-free access for up to 90 days.

Bilateral Agreements & The Future of African Travel

Beyond regional blocs, individual bilateral agreements between countries, such as those between Ghana and South Africa, further expand visa-free access.

Additionally, the African Union (AU) Passport is set to revolutionize travel, aiming to grant visa-free entry across all 54 African countries once fully adopted.

Visa-free travel allows you to enter a country without a visa, provided you meet the entry requirements. Here's how it works:

Arrive at Immigration: Upon arrival at the airport or border, proceed to the immigration desk.

Present Required Documents: Show your valid passport (typically with at least 6 months' validity), and

- Proof of your business activities (invitation letters, business meetings, letter of admission)
- Proof of return or onward travel (e.g., return flight ticket)
- Proof of accommodation (e.g., hotel booking or invitation letter)
- Proof of sufficient funds (e.g., bank statements or cash)

Immigration officers may ask for:

Stay Duration: You will be allowed to stay for a specified period (usually 30 to 90 days), depending on the country's visa-free policy.

Entry Granted: If you meet all requirements, you'll be granted entry and can proceed to your destination.

*** Advice:**

- Always check entry requirements for the specific country before travelling.

- Secure accommodation and have a return ticket ready to avoid delays at immigration.
- Ensure your passport is valid for at least 6 months from your arrival date.
- Be prepared to show sufficient funds to support your stay.

By preparing these details in advance, you'll avoid complications and ensure a smooth entry process.

Visa On Arrival: African travellers can enter a country without a visa in advance but must apply for and receive a visa upon arrival.

To apply for a Visa on Arrival:

- I. Arrive at the destination: Go to the immigration or visa desk at the airport or border.
- II. Complete the application: Fill out the visa form provided at the desk.
- III. Submit the required documents:
 - Valid passport (6+ months) Passport-size photo
 - Proof of return or onward travel
 - Hotel reservation or accommodation details
 - Proof of sufficient funds
 - Pay the visa fee: Pay the fee in cash or card (depending on the country).

Wait for processing: The immigration officer will review your documents and process the visa.

Receive your visa: Once approved, your visa will be stamped in your passport.



LIST OF AFRICAN COUNTRIES OFFERING VISA-FREE AND VISA-ON-ARRIVAL TO AFRICAN CITIZENS IN 2025

Northern Africa

Algeria

Visa-Free: Tunisia, Morocco, Egypt, Libya, Mauritania

Visa-Free Duration: 90 days

Visa on Arrival: None

Egypt

Visa-Free: Libya, Sudan, Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco, Mauritania, South Sudan

Visa-Free Duration: 90 days

Visa on Arrival: Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Morocco

Visa-Free: Tunisia, Algeria, Mauritania, Libya

Visa-Free Duration: 90 days

Visa on Arrival: Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Rwanda

Mauritania

Visa-Free: Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya

Visa-Free Duration: 90 days

Visa on Arrival: Benin, Cameroon, Chad, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa, Sudan

Sudan

Visa-Free: Egypt, South Sudan, Eritrea

Visa-Free Duration: 90 days

Visa on Arrival: Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Tunisia

Visa-Free: Algeria, Morocco, Libya, Mauritania

Visa-Free Duration: 90 days

Visa on Arrival: Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe

West Africa

Benin

Visa-Free: ECOWAS countries (e.g., Ghana, Nigeria, Senegal, Ivory Coast, Guinea, Liberia, Mali, Togo)

Visa on Arrival: Burundi, Cameroon, Comoros, Congo, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Malawi, Mauritania, Mozambique, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe
Visa-Free Duration: 90 days

Burkina Faso

Visa-Free: ECOWAS countries

Visa on Arrival: Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Nigeria, Senegal

Visa-Free Duration: 90 days

Cape Verde

Visa-Free: ECOWAS countries (except Guinea-Bissau)

Visa on Arrival: Available for several African countries like Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda

Visa-Free Duration: 30 days

Côte d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast)

Visa-Free: ECOWAS countries (Ghana, Burkina Faso, Liberia, Guinea, Sierra Leone)

Visa on Arrival: Nigeria, Rwanda, Kenya, South Africa, Uganda, Zimbabwe

Visa-Free Duration: 90 days

Ghana

Visa-Free: ECOWAS countries (Nigeria, Ivory Coast, Guinea, Togo, Liberia, Burkina Faso, Mali, Sierra Leone)

Visa on Arrival: Benin, Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, Comoros, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Kenya, Malawi, Mauritania, Rwanda, Sudan, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Visa-Free Duration: 90 days

Guinea

Visa-Free: ECOWAS countries (Ivory Coast, Mali, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Guinea-Bissau, Togo, Niger, Nigeria)

Visa on Arrival: Liberia, Sierra Leone, Ghana, Benin, Cameroon, Zambia, Sudan

Visa-Free Duration: 90 days

Guinea-Bissau

Visa-Free: ECOWAS countries (e.g., Ghana, Nigeria, Senegal, Ivory Coast, Mali)

Visa on Arrival: South Africa, Uganda, Rwanda, Tanzania, Zambia

Visa-Free Duration: 90 days

Liberia

Visa-Free: ECOWAS countries (Nigeria, Ivory Coast, Guinea, Sierra Leone, Burkina Faso)

Visa on Arrival: Ghana, Kenya, Uganda, Zambia

Visa-Free Duration: 90 days

Mali

Visa-Free: ECOWAS countries (Ivory Coast, Guinea, Senegal, Burkina Faso, Liberia, Ghana, Niger, Nigeria, Togo)

Visa on Arrival: Sierra Leone, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania

Visa-Free Duration: 90 days

Niger

Visa-Free: ECOWAS countries (Nigeria, Mali, Burkina Faso, Ghana)

Visa on Arrival: Benin, Central African Republic, Cameroon, Chad, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ivory Coast, Gabon, Kenya, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Uganda

Visa-Free Duration: 90 days



Image: Kenya Standard Gauge Railway (SGR)

Nigeria

Visa-Free: ECOWAS countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo)

Visa on Arrival: Available for several African countries

Visa-Free Duration: 90 days

Senegal

Visa-Free: ECOWAS countries

Visa on Arrival: Available for African countries like Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia

Visa-Free Duration: 90 days

Sierra Leone

Visa-Free: ECOWAS countries

Visa on Arrival: Available for African countries like Ghana, Kenya, Uganda, Zambia

Visa-Free Duration: 90 days

Togo

Visa-Free: ECOWAS countries

Visa on Arrival: Available for countries like Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Nigeria, Senegal

Visa-Free Duration: 90 days

Central Africa

Angola

Visa-Free: None

Visa on Arrival: Available for several African countries like Burundi, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Guinea, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Visa-Free Duration: None

Cameroon

Visa-Free: Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea

Visa on Arrival: Benin, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Sierra Leone, Uganda, Zambia

Visa-Free Duration: 90 days

Central African Republic

Visa-Free: None

Visa on Arrival: Available for several African countries

Visa-Free Duration: None

Congo (Republic of the Congo)

Visa-Free: Central African Republic, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea

Visa on Arrival: Available for several African countries

Visa-Free Duration: 90 days

Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)

Visa-Free: None

Visa on Arrival: Available for several African countries

Visa-Free Duration: None

Equatorial Guinea

Visa-Free: Cameroon, Central African Republic, Gabon

Visa on Arrival: Available for several African countries

Visa-Free Duration: 90 days

Gabon

Visa-Free: Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabonese nationals

Visa on Arrival: Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Sierra Leone, Uganda, Zambia

Visa-Free Duration: 90 days



*Image: Hot air ballooning
over Luxor Egypt
Source: Getty Image*

East Africa

Burundi

Visa-Free: Rwanda, Tanzania

Visa on Arrival: Available for several African countries

Visa-Free Duration: 90 days

Comoros

Visa-Free: Seychelles

Visa on Arrival: Burundi, Kenya, Malawi, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia

Visa-Free Duration: 90 days

Djibouti

Visa-Free: None

Visa on Arrival: Available for several African countries

Visa-Free Duration: None

Eritrea

Visa-Free: Ethiopia, South Sudan

Visa on Arrival: Available for several African countries

Visa-Free Duration: None

Ethiopia

Visa-Free: None

Visa on Arrival: Available for several African countries

Visa-Free Duration: None

Kenya

Visa-Free: Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi, South Sudan

Visa on Arrival: Available for several African countries

Visa-Free Duration: 90 days

Madagascar

Visa-Free: None

Visa on Arrival: Available for several African countries

Visa-Free Duration: None

Mauritius

Visa-Free: Seychelles, South Africa

Visa on Arrival: Kenya, Tanzania, Zambia, Uganda

Visa-Free Duration: 90 days

Rwanda

Visa-Free: Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania

Visa on Arrival: Available for several African countries

Visa-Free Duration: 90 days

Seychelles

Visa-Free: Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda

Visa on Arrival: Comoros, Malawi, Rwanda, Zambia

Visa-Free Duration: 90 days

Somalia

Visa-Free: None

Visa on Arrival: Available for several African countries

Visa-Free Duration: None

South Sudan

Visa-Free: Uganda, Kenya, Ethiopia

Visa on Arrival: Available for several African countries

Visa-Free Duration: 90 days

Tanzania

Visa-Free: Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, South Sudan

Visa on Arrival: Available for several African countries

Visa-Free Duration: 90 days



*Taro, cassava, and spices: The heart of Africa's fresh produce markets
Image source: Getty Image. Mahe Market Victoria Seychelles*

Uganda

Visa-Free: Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, Burundi, South Sudan

Visa on Arrival: Available for several African countries

Visa-Free Duration: 90 days

Southern Africa

Botswana

Visa-Free: South Africa, Namibia, Lesotho, Zimbabwe, Zambia

Visa on Arrival: Available for several African countries

Visa-Free Duration: 90 days

Eswatini (Swaziland)

Visa-Free: South Africa, Lesotho, Botswana, Namibia

Visa on Arrival: Available for several African countries

Visa-Free Duration: 90 days

Lesotho

Visa-Free: South Africa, Botswana, Eswatini (Swaziland)

Visa on Arrival: Available for several African countries

Visa-Free Duration: 90 days

Malawi

Visa-Free: Zambia, Tanzania, Mozambique, Tunisia, Algeria, Egypt

Visa on Arrival: Available for several African countries

Visa-Free Duration: 90 days

Mozambique

Visa-Free: Malawi, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Visa on Arrival: Available for several African countries

Visa-Free Duration: 90 days

Namibia

Visa-Free: South Africa, Botswana, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Lesotho

Visa on Arrival: Available for several African countries

Visa-Free Duration: 90 days

South Africa

Visa-Free: Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, Swaziland, Zimbabwe

Visa on Arrival: Available for several African countries

Visa-Free Duration: 90 days

Zambia

Visa-Free: Zimbabwe, Malawi, Tanzania, Mozambique

Visa on Arrival: Available for several African countries

Visa-Free Duration: 90 days

Zimbabwe

Visa-Free: South Africa, Botswana, Zambia, Mozambique, Lesotho, Eswatini

Visa on Arrival: Available for several African countries

Visa-Free Duration: 90 days

Please note that visa policies can change, and individual circumstances may vary. It's essential to verify the specific visa rules for your nationality and destination before travelling.



Unforgettable African Getaways: Best Places to Visit on Holiday

Africa is the only continent that stretches across all four hemispheres—northern, southern, eastern, and western—offering a diverse range of breathtaking destinations. Whether you're drawn to golden beaches, wildlife safaris, historical landmarks, or vibrant cities, Africa has something for every traveler.

With so many incredible places to explore, narrowing them down is no easy task. While this edition highlights some of the most unforgettable African getaways, don't worry—more stunning destinations will feature in future editions!

East Africa: Kenya

Kenya, often called the Cradle of Humanity, is world-famous for its thrilling safaris in the Masai Mara, the stunning beaches of Diani and Mombasa, and breathtaking hikes on Mount Kilimanjaro (located in neighboring Tanzania). The country is home to over 40 ethnic groups, with the Kikuyu, Luhya, and Luo being the largest.

Tourism plays a vital role in Kenya's economy, attracting visitors to its incredible wildlife reserves, national parks, and picturesque coastline. From the flamingo-filled Lake Nakuru National Park to the vast Tsavo National Park, Kenya offers unparalleled natural beauty and rich cultural experiences.

Must-Visit Destinations in Kenya

a. Mount Kenya National Park

Mount Kenya National Park was established in 1949 to protect the country's highest mountain and surrounding ecosystems. The park is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, recognized for its unique biodiversity and natural beauty.

Mount Kenya is Africa's second-highest peak, standing at 5,199 meters. The park is home to over 800 species of plants, 130 species of birds, and 30 species of mammals, including elephants, buffaloes, and monkeys. Whether you're an experienced climber or a nature enthusiast, exploring Mount Kenya's diverse landscapes is an unforgettable experience.

Best Time to Visit Kenya

The best time to visit Kenya depends on your interests:

- **For Wildlife Safaris:** July to October (Great Migration season in the Masai Mara)
- **For Hiking Mount Kenya:** January to March & June to October (drier conditions make climbing easier)
- **For Beach Holidays:** December to March (warm temperatures and clear waters)



b. Diani Beach

Diani Beach is on the Indian Ocean coast of Kenya, located 30 kilometres south of Mombasa, in Kwale County. The beach has been a popular tourist destination since the 1960s, attracting visitors with its pristine white sands and crystal-clear waters. The beach has developed into a thriving resort town, offering a range of accommodations, cafes, restaurants, and activities, catering to all budgets.

Diani Beach is a breathtaking coastal destination famous for its powdery white sands, turquoise waters, and lush palm trees. Since the 1960s, it has evolved into a vibrant resort town, offering everything from luxury beachfront resorts to budget-friendly stays.



Diani Beach

1. Southern Africa: South Africa

South Africa, the Rainbow Nation, famous for Table Mountain, Robben Island, and the Cape to Winelands. She has a diverse population, with several ethnic groups, including the Zulu, Xhosa, Basotho, and Afrikaners.

Tourism is a significant contributor to South Africa's economy, with popular attractions like Table Mountain, Kruger National Park, and the Garden Route. Also, South Africa is a significant wine producer, with many wine estates located in the Western Cape province.

Below are places to visit in Cape Town, South Africa.

a. Utopia Cape Town

Utopia Cape Town is a rooftop restaurant located in the heart of Cape Town. The restaurant was founded in 2019 and quickly gained popularity for its stunning views of Table Mountain and the city skyline. Utopia offers a unique dining experience with a focus on local flavours.



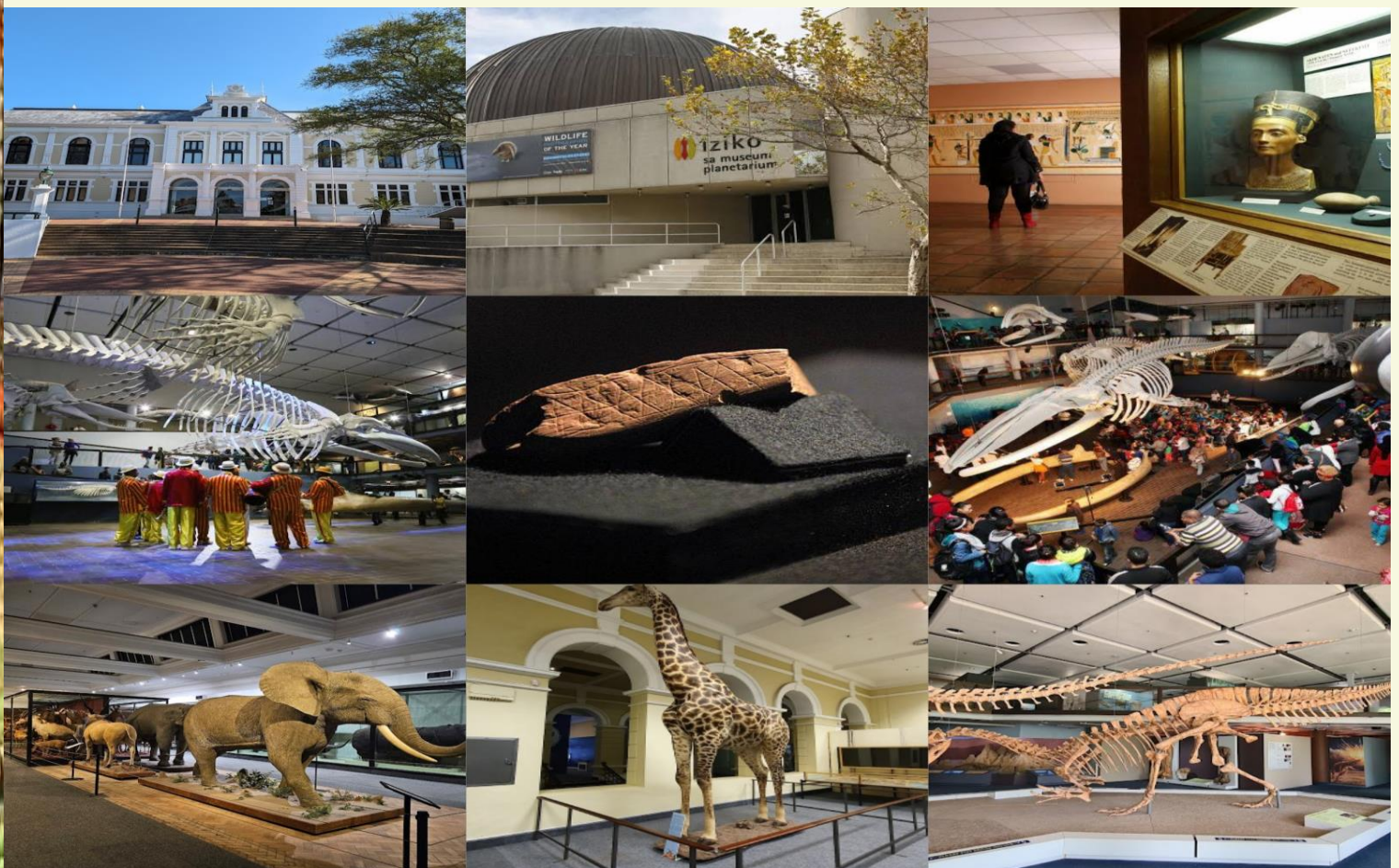
Utopia Cape Town

Utopia Cape Town has been named the "Best Rooftop Restaurant" in Africa by the World Culinary Awards. The restaurant's menu changes seasonally, and they offer a unique "Taste of Africa" experience, featuring dishes inspired by different African countries.

b. Iziko South African National Gallery

The Iziko South African National Gallery was established in 1930 and is located in the Company's Garden, Cape Town. The gallery features a diverse collection of South African, African, and Western European art, showcasing the country's rich cultural heritage.

This National Gallery has a collection of over 8,000 artworks. The gallery's collection includes works by famous South African artists like Irma Stern and Gerard Sekoto. The gallery also hosts temporary exhibitions, showcasing contemporary art from around the world.



Iziko South African National Gallery

2. North Africa: Morocco

Morocco, the Gateway to Africa, is famous for cities like Marrakech, Fez, and the Sahara Desert, with its vibrant souks (markets), historic sites, and unique culture. She has a diverse population, with several ethnic groups, including the Arabs, Berbers, and Sahrawis. Morocco has two official languages: Arabic and Berber. Many Moroccans also speak French and Spanish.

Morocco is home to a significant portion of the Sahara Desert, which covers much of North Africa. She is the largest producer of argan oil, used in cooking and cosmetics. Morocco has a rich cultural heritage, with evidence of ancient civilizations like the Phoenicians, Romans, and Berbers.

Below are places to visit in Morocco.

a. The Majorelle Garden, Marrakech

Marrakech is known as the "Red City" due to its red sandstone buildings, but right in its midst is The Majorelle Garden, known for its iconic blue colour, known as "Majorelle blue". It was created by French artist Jacques Majorelle in the 1920s. After his death, the garden fell into disrepair. In 1980, Yves Saint Laurent



The Majorelle Garden, Marrakech

and Pierre Bergé restored the garden to its former beauty, and it's now a popular tourist attraction.

You can also check out the Jemaa el-Fna Square, visit the Bahia Palace, go shopping at the Souk, enjoy a Dinner Show with a plate of Tagine (traditional Moroccan dish) and live music, or experience sunrise while walking in the streets of the Medina, while at Marrakech.

b. Chefchaouen

Chefchaouen is known as the "Blue City" due to its blue-painted buildings. The town is surrounded by the Rif Mountains, making it a popular destination. The city is a beautiful sensation that screams aesthetics and great social media pictures.

Chefchaouen was founded in 1471 by Moulay Ali Ben Moussa, a Moroccan chief. With its winding streets and stunning mountain views, visitors can hike, relax in a hammam (traditional spa), or simply soak up the laid-back atmosphere

The best time to visit Chefchaouen is from March to May or September to November, when the weather is mild, crowds are smaller, and the Rif Mountains are at their most scenic.



Chefchaouen

3. **West Africa: Nigeria**

Nigeria, the Giant of Africa, is known for its vibrant cities, rich cultural heritage, and destination. She has over 250 ethnic groups, with the Hausa-Fulani, Yoruba, and Igbo being the largest groups.

Nigeria has many colourful festivals, including the Osun Festival, the Eyo Festival, and the Durbar Festival, and her cuisine is diverse and flavorful, with popular dishes including jollof rice, suya, and egusi soup. She has many tourist attractions, including the Osun Osogbo Sacred Grove, the Benin City National Museum, and the Kainji National Park but when flying into Nigeria, you arrive at Murtala Muhammed International Airport (MMIA) in Ikeja, Lagos. Before exploring other places, below are two Lagos.

a. **Landmark Upside-Down House**

Yes, it's a house that's upside down; the first upside-down house in West Africa located at Landmark Lagos. It was built in 2015 by a Nigerian artist. The



Landmark upside-down house

house has since become a popular tourist destination. This mind-bending house features furniture, fixtures, and even a bicycle stuck to the ceiling! Visitors can take quirky photos, and the house has become a social media sensation. The upside-down house is a testament to Nigerian innovation and a must-visit attraction.

a. **Lekki Conservation Center's Canopy Walk**

The Lekki Conservation Center is home to Africa's longest canopy walkway. It was established in 1990 by the Nigerian Conservation Foundation. The canopy walk was added in 2015, offering a unique perspective on Nigeria's lush forests. The centre aims to promote conservation, education, and eco-tourism.

The 401-meter-long canopy walk is Nigeria's longest and offers breathtaking views of the forest. The walkway is 22 feet above the forest floor, providing a bird's-eye view of the vegetation. Spot monkeys, birds, and other wildlife as you walk among the treetops. It leads to a family park where tourists can relax after the thrilling hike.



The Lekki Conservation Center



Landmark Upside-Down House

AFRICAN CUISINE: A VIBRANT CELEBRATION OF CULTURE AND FLAVOR

African cuisine is a rich tapestry of flavors, deeply rooted in tradition and shaped by diverse cultures across the continent. Each region offers a unique culinary experience, from bold, spicy stews to delicate, aromatic dishes. These meals not only nourish but also tell the stories of history, heritage, and community.

Here are four iconic African dishes and the countries where they are most cherished

1. **Jollof Rice (West Africa)**

Jollof rice is one of the most famous dishes in West Africa, enjoyed in countries like Nigeria, Ghana, Senegal, Gambia, Liberia, and Sierra Leone. The dish is often served at celebrations, including weddings, birthdays, and festivals. While each country has its variation, the core ingredients remain the same: rice, tomatoes, onions, peppers, and a blend of spices.

Essential Ingredients

- Rice (long-grain or basmati)
- Tomatoes (fresh or canned)
- Red bell peppers
- Onions
- Garlic and ginger
- Scotch bonnet peppers (for spice)
- Vegetable oil or palm oil
- Tomato paste
- Bay leaves
- Thyme, curry powder
- Chicken or vegetable broth



Jollof Ingredients

- Salt, Maggi cubes (or bouillon cubes) Optional: Meat or protein (chicken, beef, fish, shrimp, or vegetables)

Instructions

- Prepare the Rice: Wash thoroughly until the water runs clear or parboil, then set aside.
- Make the Tomato Base: Blend tomatoes, bell pepper, and half of the onions until smooth.
- Cook the Tomato Sauce: Sauté remaining onions, garlic, and ginger in oil. Add tomato paste, cook for 2 minutes, then add the blended mixture. Simmer for 10-15 minutes.
- Season the Sauce: Stir in thyme, curry powder, Maggi, and salt.
- Add Broth & Rice: Pour in the broth, bring to a boil, then add rice. Reduce heat, cover, and cook for 20-30 minutes.
- Optional Additions: Stir in vegetables or protein halfway through cooking.
- Rest & Serve: Let the rice sit for 5-10 minutes before serving. Serve with fried plantains, grilled meat, or salad.



Jollof Rice and fried Plantain



Jollof Rice and salad

2. Injera (East Africa)

Injera is a staple in Ethiopia, Eritrea, Somalia, and Djibouti. It is a soft, spongy, and slightly sour flatbread made from teff flour. It is served with various stews, meats, and vegetables and acts as both a plate and an edible utensil.

Ingredients

- Teff flour (or mix with all-purpose flour)
- Water
- Salt
- Baking soda (optional)



Injera

Instructions

- Prepare the Starter (Optional): Mix some teff flour with water, cover, and let ferment at room temperature for 1-3 days until bubbly.
- Make the Batter: Combine teff flour and water until smooth. Add the fermented starter (if using).
- Cook the Injera: Stir in salt and baking soda. Heat a non-stick skillet, pour in batter, and swirl into a thin circle. Cover and cook until holes' form on the surface. Do not flip.
- Serve: Stack cooked Injera and keep covered to stay soft. Serve with Ethiopian stews like Doro Wat or Misir Wat.



3. Tagine (North Africa)

Tagine is a slow-cooked stew enjoyed in Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, and Libya. It is named after the clay pot it is cooked in and features meat, vegetables, dried fruits, and a blend of aromatic spices. The dish has many variations, from lamb and chicken tagines to vegetarian options.

Essential Ingredients

- Meat (lamb, chicken, or beef)
- Onions, garlic
- Carrots, potatoes, zucchini (optional)
- Dried apricots or prunes (for sweetness)
- Olive oil
- Cumin, coriander, cinnamon, paprika
- Saffron (optional)
- Chickpeas (optional)
- Preserved lemons (optional)
- Salt, pepper
- Fresh cilantro and parsley



Tagine Ingredients

Instructions

- Sauté Aromatics: Heat oil in a tagine or pot. Add onions, garlic, and meat, and cook until browned.
- Add Spices & Liquids: Stir in spices, salt, and pepper. Add a small amount of water or broth.



Tagine Served

- Slow Cook: Cover and simmer for 1-2 hours until the meat is tender.
- Add Vegetables & Fruits: Add vegetables and dried fruits in the last 30 minutes.
- Serve: Garnish with fresh cilantro and serve with couscous or bread.

4. Braai (Southern Africa)

Braai is the Southern African version of a barbecue, popular in South Africa, Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Lesotho, and Eswatini. More than just a cooking method, braai is a social event where friends and family gather to grill meat over an open fire. It is often served with pap (maize porridge) and chakalaka (spicy vegetable relish).

Essential Ingredients

Meat (beef, lamb, chicken, or boerewors sausage)

- Garlic, onions
- Olive oil
- Paprika, black pepper, coriander
- Vinegar or lemon juice
- Barbecue sauce (optional)

Instructions

- Marinate Meat: Mix oil, spices, and vinegar. Coat the meat and let marinate for at least 1 hour.
- Prepare the Fire: Use wood or charcoal for an authentic smoky flavor.
- Grill the Meat: Cook over medium-high heat, turning occasionally, until done.
- Serve: Pair with pap, chakalaka, or a fresh salad



Braai Ingredients



Braai served

These four dishes represent the rich diversity of African cuisine, each with its own unique flavors, cooking techniques, and cultural significance. They are enjoyed in multiple countries and are an essential part of African food heritage.



Thank

You

For taking this journey with us

See you in our next Edition!!!!

Keep up with us on our website

@theafricanlane.com

