

# NAIROBI RAILWAY MUSEUM



Home to Kenya's Historic Past



Kenya Railway Corporation

# Our Background



**K**enya Railways represents the historical growth of this country and Nairobi Railway Museum narrates the tale of this country's evolution; indeed it is the rail that developed Kenya to the country it is now!

*'It is not uncommon for a country to create a railway, but is uncommon for a railway to create a country.'* These were the words uttered by a senior British administrator, Sir Charles Elliot in 1903.

The Nairobi Railway Museum was opened in 1971, and much of the credit for its foundation goes to the first Curator, Mr. Fred Jordan, who had been with the railways in East Africa from 1927.

Realising the speed at which changes were taking place within the railway system he saw the need to preserve as many links with the past as possible. He began to gather items which were to form the nucleus of the present day museum's fascinating and growing collection.

Nairobi Railway Museum is owned by Kenya Railways and is the only Railway Museum in East and Central Africa.





## THE MAIN GALLERY

A walk inside the gallery will reveal to you a fascinating collection of historic maps, photographs, artefacts, models and furniture.



*Bombay lounge chair*



*Compass Binoculars (William Mackinon ship)*



*Engine seat mounted in front of a steam locomotive*



*Grand mother clock*



*1st World War side board and table from Königsberg warship*



*Queen's seats and cutlery*



*Man-eater (Lion) claws*

## THE MAIN GALLERY



*Model of steam ship: The Nguvu*



*Models of locomotives*



*Push trolley used in Mombasa in 1890 to 1926*



*Permanent way inspector bicycle*



*Steam ship bell (Kavirondo)*



*Steam ship steering wheel*



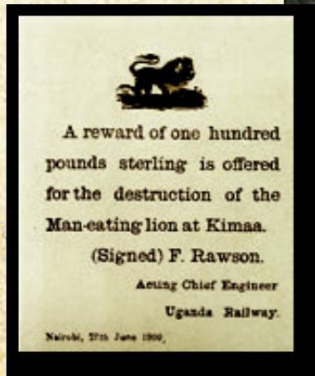


## THE OUTDOOR SECTION (YARD)

The outdoor section welcomes you to the historic steam engines & coaches to experience the 'Steam age'. The grounds are also available for hire for events, picnic, photo shoots, modelling and weddings.



*The coach from which SP. Charles Ryall was dragged and killed by the man-eating Lion of Tsavo*



## THE MINI TRAIN (Rainbow City)

The mini train gives a delightful ride within the yard for the young ones. It runs upon booking by interested parties (including weekends & public holidays). For booking contact 0722 489108.

## THE AUDITORIUM

The museum is located in an ideal, quiet and serene environment. The auditorium is hired for conferences, seminars and parties.

## RESOURCE CENTRE

The Resource Centre is priceless to railway historians and researchers. It contains old railway records, correspondence, books on the construction of the railway, maps, annual reports and thousands of historic photographs dating back to 1896.

## Hours

It is open daily from **8am to 5pm** including **National Holidays**.

## Charges

Non – Resident	<b>Ksh. 600 (\$10)</b>
Non – Resident student	<b>Ksh. 300 (\$5)</b>
Non – Resident Child	<b>Ksh. 100 (\$2)</b>
Resident	<b>Ksh. 500 (\$8)</b>
Citizen	<b>Ksh. 200</b>
Citizen student/pupil	<b>Ksh. 100</b>





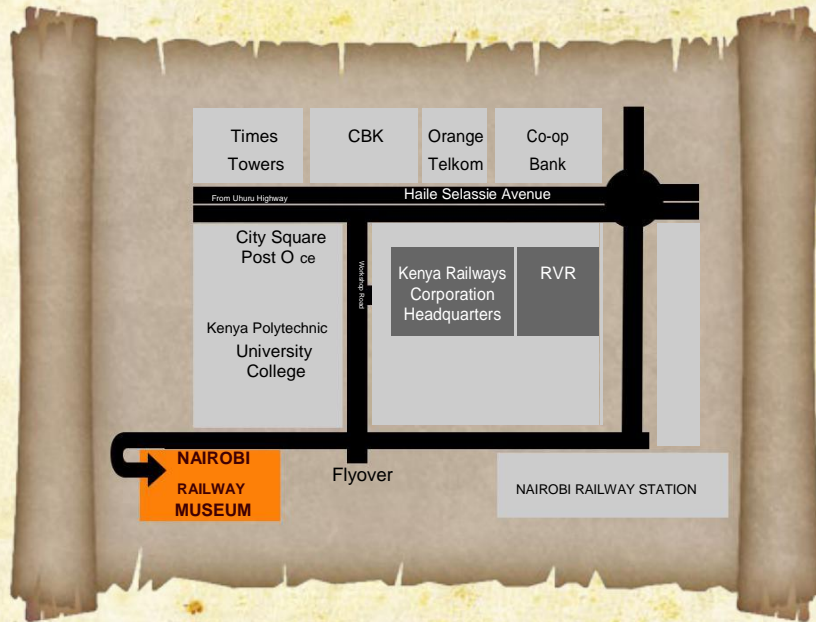
## THE MAKING OF KENYA RAILWAYS

The Nairobi Railway Museum narrates the tale of Kenya's evolvement. The Museum was opened in 1971 by the then East Africa Railways (EAR) which saw the need to create as many links as possible with the past owing to the many changes that were taking place within the railway transport sector. The Museum is the only one of its kind in East and central Africa and provides answers to many unanswered questions concerning the early history of the rail road in East Africa and Kenya's historical development.

### Important Dates in the Railway History

- 30<sup>th</sup> May 1896:** Beginning of construction of Uganda Railways.
- 1899:** Rail head reach Nyrobi, name later changed to Nairobi.
- 1900:** The line reached Nakuru
- 19<sup>th</sup> Dec. 1901:** Rail line completed and reached Port Florence now named Kisumu.
- 1915:** Completion of Konza to Magadi line.
- 1920:** Voi to Taveta line completed
- 1924:** The line reached "64" (WNow Eldoret)
- 26<sup>th</sup> Feb. 1926:** Name Uganda Railway changed to Kenya and Uganda Railways
- 27<sup>th</sup> Dec 1927:** Became Kenya and Uganda railway (KUR) and harbours.
- 12<sup>th</sup> Aug 1929:** Present Headquarters Building opened.
- 1930:** Nairobi to Nanyuki line completed.
- 14<sup>th</sup> Jan 1931:** Jinja Kampala line opened connecting through to Mombasa.
- 1932:** Kisumu to Butere line completed.
- 1<sup>st</sup> May 1948:** Became East Africa Railways (EAR) and Harbours.
- 1950:** Nairobi made city.
- 1<sup>st</sup> June 1969:** East Africa Railways Corporation established.
- 1977:** End of East Africa Railway Corporation Administration.
- 20<sup>th</sup> Jan 1978:** Present Kenya Railways Corporation (KRC) was formed through an Act of Parliament. **1<sup>st</sup>**
- Nov 2006:** Kenya Railways goods and passenger services conceded to Rift Valley Railways (RVR). **9<sup>th</sup>**
- Dec 2010:** Rebranding of Kenya Railways
- 28<sup>th</sup> Nov 2013:** Launch of the Standard Gauge Railway Project

## LOCATION OF THE MUSEUM



### Kenya Railways

Workshop Road Off Haile Selassie Avenue  
Opp. Technical University of Kenya - formerly Kenya

Polytechnic P.O. Box 30121 - 00100 NAIROBI

Tel: 0728 603581, 0728 603582, 0708 571587, 0708 572574, 0709 907000  
24hrs Emergency No. 0711 777577

#### Museum Contacts:

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