
17TH LAMU CULTURAL FESTIVAL

16TH -19TH NOVEMBER 2017

THEME: Amani na Maridhiano
"Peace and co-existence"



SWAHILI CULTURAL HERITAGE
LAMU, WHERE HISTORY LIVES



Lamu once again is celebrating its annual cultural festival on its 17th year with the slogan that goes “peace and reconciliation”

This year’s event was one to be remembered with different dignitaries visiting the magnificent island.



Usually the event is held by lamu cultural promotion group with the help of Lamu county government and other stake holders, Like KPA, Silver Stone among others.

Because of its unique characteristic, Lamu was marked as one of the heritage island across the world by UNESCO.

It has been praised for retaining its traditional functions where you will still find houses Built in coral stone, mangrove timber, narrow streets and magnificent stone buildings with impressive curved doors, influenced by unique fusion of Swahili, Arabic, Persian, Indian and European building styles.

Full of charm from the locals and the visitors, the island was beamed with light with the beautiful cultural dances featuring Goma la Siu, Chama cha matondoni, Goma la Barani, orma dance, pokomo dance, tari la ndia, Anidan dance to mention a few.



Arts and way of living was an obvious thing to happen in the event, Henna painting, basket weaving, dhow making, fishing nets, women grinding cereals from traditional grinding stones and many other was all showcased during this year's event.



The event is mainly to promote the rich Swahili culture and its heritage. Therefore, different talents were encouraged and brought together to execute its championship in their fields and awards were salient.

Unique dhow race is one of the competitions that has the highest popularity in the island. Mainly best sailing abilities are observed during the race and visitors together with locals gather on the shoreline to cheer for their preferred captain.



A joyful donkey race is another unique competition done in the county, where a young talent competes by riding donkeys across the seafont.



Swimming competition also marks the event of the cultural festivals where different age classification for competition is done. Both Young and elderly men compete to fast swimming along the shores.



Lamu has been branded as the island of festivals where more festivals are to come, the recent one is the Lamu Maulid festivals to be held from 11th-15th of December 2017. Lamu Arts Festival from 16th -19th February 2018, and Yoga Festival from 14th -18th March 2018.