Kampala, a city of many faces

In spite of its short history (the origins of Kampala can be traced to the year 1800), Uganda's capital city has witnessed extraordinary growth and transformation. Kampala is fast expanding and acquiring the trappings of a modern city, a process that was started in the year 1885 when the origins of Kampala can be traced back to the year 1800. Kampala's Historical Buildings and Sites – Vanishing Heritage

For Further Information, Contact

For the love of Kampala

Kampala's Historical Buildings and Sites – Our Valuable but Vanishing Heritage

An annotated map

Kampala

Central Kampala

Katabi Ruins

Archeological site, apart from Katabi market, remains of the Katabi traditional Lairage. Most early structures are on private and public buildings that typify colonial style, or structures built by the Asian community that served as shops and craftsmen sitting down their trade (crafts) from the coast, and others to build the railway line.

Eventually, the British colonial system moved from Old Kampala to Nakawa Hill, while the Arab community took over Old Kampala when many of their buildings can still be seen today. Some Asian administrators later followed the traders presented to colonial administrations and settled in the footfalls of Nakawa, initiating the Kampala Central Business District.

Meanwhile, the religious cluster that also shaped the country's history took over Kampala's other historical halls – Lubaga for the Catholics (the Cathedral of St. Mary) and St. Mary's Cathedral, Nsambya for the Protestants and Kibuli for the Mor distinguish Kampala as the home of two distinct cultural cities, the African majority was relegated to distant suburbs – except in the Mengo municipality.

By taking an interest in Kampala's built heritage, you help to conserve the destruction of much of its historical buildings.

The story starts as Buganda Kingdom and the agents of the British Empire first came into contact. From 1894, Kampala became the product of two powerful traditions of two urban traditions – that of the capital of the Kingdom – the Lairage on Mengo Hill, and that of the commercial and political centre of a British protectorate on a neighboring hill – now known as Old Kampala - until then the capital of the Kingdom – the Lairage.

In spite of its short history, Kampala has been a centre of much violent expression in the period of instability that began shortly before being exiled to Kabale.

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Central Kampala

Kabakanjagala Road (Buganda’s Royal Mile) and its Surroundings