

WHV – Beyond the Ruins: Youth-Led Digital Preservation of Fort Jesus

Fort Jesus, Mombasa, Kenya

PROJECT DATES

Cultural property inscribed on the World Heritage list (2011)

10 September - 10 December 2025

THE SITE - The Fort, built by the Portuguese in 1593-1596 to the designs of Giovanni Battista Cairati to protect the port of Mombasa, is one of the most outstanding and well preserved examples of 16th Portuguese military fortification and a landmark in the history of this type of construction.

OBJECTIVES - The project aims to promote Fort Jesus by leveraging its rich history as a site of resilience and cultural exchange. During the project, young people will utilize digital tools to raise global awareness about the cultural significance of the heritage site, while promoting digital preservation practices. By mobilizing youth volunteers, the project will implement awareness raising activities such as content creation, digital storytelling, social media advocacy to bring to light the memory of Fort Jesus and contribute to heritage preservation and promotion while equipping the young people with digital preservation skills.

ACTIVITIES - The volunteers will actively contribute to the organization and creation of accessible digital information and awareness campaigns about Fort Jesus. They will use social media and other digital platforms to sensitize on the importance of the unique World Heritage site as a site that signifies the rich cultural past of the Kenyan people. The videos and social media posts will include trivia quizzes concerning the site, to not only serve as an icebreaker but to also to deepen their understanding of its historical significance. Additionally, digital storytelling will capture the different cultural preservation and heritage economic activities like traditional crafts, local pottery as well as preservation methods such as artifact handling or conservation methods.

PARTNERS - Kenya National Commission for UNESCO (KNATCOM), National Museums of Kenya, Kenia Voluntary Service Organisation.

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