



KIJABE HILL PARAGLIDING FESTIVAL 5TH EDITION

FULL EVENT DESCRIPTION:

Kijabe Hill Paragliding Festival is the premier paragliding competition in East Africa. Started in 2018, the event has grown its audience and expanded its reach to become a fully fledged festival including other activities such as tandem paragliding, hiking, cycling, yoga & camping.

The event takes place at Sky Camp Kijabe, a uniquely selected location based on the altitude and wind conditions required for smooth flying.

The fifth edition of the festival will take place from 3rd - 5th September. Program and ticketing details are shared below:

The Experience

The Kijabe Hill Paragliding Festival 5th Edition will be unlike any other. It will be hosted at the infamous Sky Camp Kijabe, a location that offers amazing views of the hills and valleys of the Rift Valley with great depth that will be sure to take one's breath away.

You should expect to be met by an immanent atmosphere of adventure from the paragliding pilots taking off with their colourful gliders as they fly 4000ft in the air and transform into birds as they do twists and turns that would make you question the laws of physics, to the peloton of cyclists ready to take on challenging downhills and ascents and not forgetting the nature seekers who are out for a good party and camping experience in the wild.

This experience will be all about taking a deep breath because you are about to dive into the great outdoors as you ride the descents of Kijabe Hill like a whirlwind over the escarpments and soar under the clouds on your tandem paragliding adventure.

There will be a dedicated outdoor restaurant and bar serving all your favourite continental dishes and drinks all day and night as you party with your newfound community after balancing your body, mind and spirit in a sunset yoga session on a dedicated wooden yoga deck facing the magnificent Mt. Longonot crater.

After your body gives in to all the activities of the day there will be dedicated self camp spots as well as dome tent & glamping rentals for you to recharge and be ready for the next day. Come see it for yourself, it's all happening at the Kijabe Hill Paragliding Festival at Sky Camp Kijabe.



Event program:

Friday:

- Event set-up
- Arrival of paragliding/cycling participants
- Competition run-through

Saturday:

- Sunrise Yoga
- Cross Country XC Family Fun Tour, Fun ride and Kids
- Funduro + Skills Camp
- Paragliding Accuracy landing
- Paragliding Open XC (Cross Country)
- Hiking
- On site entertainment by Sukasa Band & Dj Mike & Josh (music theme: afro-house/afro-tech)
- Sunset Yoga

Sunday:

- Sunrise Yoga
- Cross Country Race
- Enduro Race
- Paragliding Accuracy landing
- Prize Giving
- On site entertainment by Sukasa Band & Dj Mike & Josh (music theme: afro-house/afro-tech)

Ticketing

- Cycling & Paragliding competitions Ksh2,500
- Cycling Family Events: Ksh2,500
- Spectator Season ticket: Ksh2,500
- Spectator Single Day ticket: Ksh1,500
- Yoga: Ksh2,500

Accommodation

- Self camp: Ksh1,000 per tent
- 2-man tent (incl. mattress & sleeping bag): Ksh6,000 per night
- Camping Fullboard package: Ksh7,500
- Camping Fullboard & Yoga package: Ksh9,500



A SMALL HISTORY ABOUT PARAGLIDING IN KENYA AND HOW IT ALL CAME TOGETHER

Paragliding is a popular outdoor sport and has been going on since the late 1960s. Mountaineers in the French alps got tired of getting sore knees descending the mountains on foot and started launching themselves off the summits with parachutes to have a less strenuous and faster mountain descent.

Ever since then the sport has evolved into a global industry of over 200,000 active pilots. The global competition scene boasts numerous international competitions taking place all over the globe with 50-200 pilot entries. The biggest events are the World Cup Super Finals hosted this year in the Swiss Alps.

As the sport is quite young and the equipment is costly (USD 4000 for full flying gear), the sport was only recently introduced to East Africa Kenya in the early 1990's.

Paragliding is similar to parachuting, the only difference being that the canopy is designed to glide farther than a parachute. For this, the pilot is seated in a more comfortable harness. The pilot takes off and lands on his feet and the paraglider equipment has rapidly evolved to achieve world records of over 600km straight line of flight and more than 9 hours flight time.

Kenya boasts natural landscapes and beautiful launch spots for paragliders. Since the early 1990's around 20 flying spots have been found in Kenya and the local flying community consists of 20-25 active pilots.

In terms of paragliding the sport boosts tourism in the Kerio Valley in Western Kenya where hundreds of paragliding pilots flock into Iten to enjoy the wonderful flying along the over 100km long escarpment bordering the Kerio Valley.

Many paragliding enthusiasts come and enjoy the flying at Kijabe Hill as it is very close to Nairobi, even sometimes during short stopovers at JKIA. 'Cloudbase Kenya' guides these tourists every year for their Kijabe Hill adventure.

To introduce Kenyans to the sport of paragliding the venture 'Cloudbase Kenya' was established to train paragliding enthusiasts to later take flight. For more info go to: www.cloudbasekenya.com or "Cloudbase Kenya" Page on Facebook.



As local and foreign pilots are flying in Kenyan Airspace there needed to be a regulating paragliding society in Kenya under the umbrella of the Kenyan Civil Aviation Authorities (KCAA). The Paragliding Association of Kenya was established to regulate the sport in Kenya and also pave the way to host future paragliding events of international standards.

For more info on competition scoreboards etc go to www.paraglidingkenya.or.ke or the Paragliding Association of Kenya Facebook Page .

The annual paragliding competition editions from the Sky Camp Kijabe grounds (2600m launch altitude and 600m over the Rift Valley) started in 2018 to get the small band of local pilots together, but also to share this great sport and location with other fellow citizens and flying tourists. Average paraglider pilot numbers are 15-20 entrants, with more and more international pilots showing interest. For more info go to Sky Camp Kijabe Pages on Facebook or Instagram.

Previous Prize Winners

We are excited to announce that the first Kenyan Female (Nyambura Kariuki) won the first Prize of Cross Country category at the Festival in June 2021.

October 2018	Simon Woods: Accuracy Landing
June 2019	Simon Woods: Accuracy Landing Isaac Gitau: Cross Country
August 2020	Xan Woods: Accuracy Landing Jack Marrian: Cross Country
June 2021	Sean Mousley: Accuracy Landing Nyambura Kariuki: Cross Country



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