

Beautiful Kenya > Lake Naivasha left natural highway between the rocky walls

Hell's Gate: An adventure through a winding gorge

Several memorable films have been shot here, among them *Tomb Raider* starring Angelina Jolie

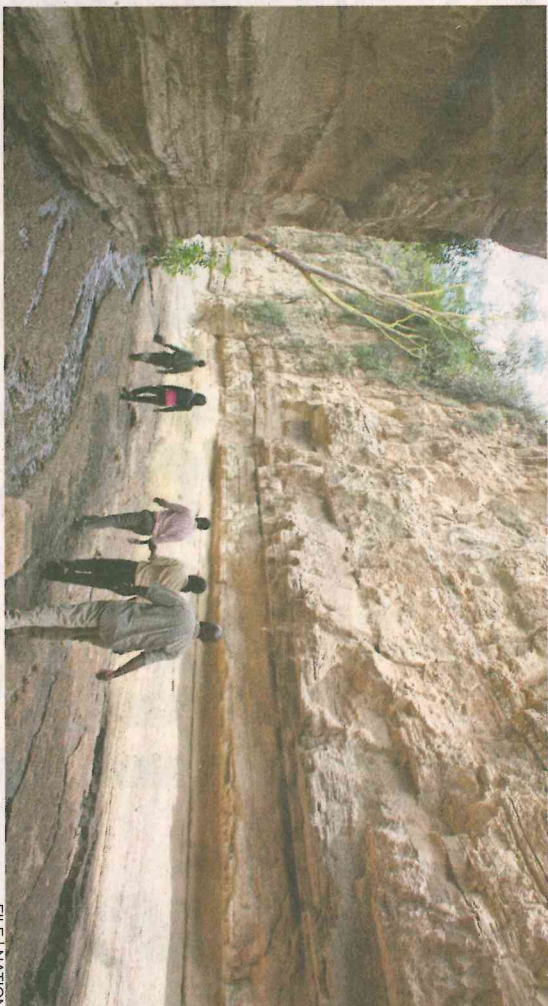
BY JOHN GACHIGI

To the north of Nairobi, along the road to Uganda, lies a group of lakes set in the Great Rift Valley.

Lake Naivasha, Lake El-emetaita and Lake Nakuru are the remains of one great lake which spread through the basins, spilling out at its southern end through Ol-Njorowa Gorge-Hell's Gate.

On entering the park through Elsa Gate, the visitors are faced with a high volcanic plug rising out of the valley floor. This is Fischer's Tower, named after the German naturalist and explorer, G A Fischer. He was the first European to document it in 1885. Around the base and scuttling among the rocks are dasses, or rock hyrax, quite unperturbed by visitors.

When Lake Naivasha ceased to flow through the 15km of the Ol-Njorowa Gorge, it left a natural highway between the soda lakes of Lake Natron and Magadi in the south and the fresh water lakes and rivers in the north.



FILE | NATION

Visitors tour a gorge at the Hell's Gate National Park in Naivasha. The park has several hot and cold waterfalls.

background, your adventure has only just begun.

From here you can explore the amazingly different views and experience and explore the lower gorge.

Turning down towards the gorge, the track is wet. As you go further, there is an almost sheer, but fairly climbable rock wall. On another side of the gorge is the highlight of the expedition with its high,

water-eroded walls, in some places so narrow that they block out the sky.

If you return to the main gorge and turn left, you will come to a series of steep drops. Very rough and worn footholds have been cut into the soft rock and there are several hot and cold waterfalls to walk past.

During World War II, the land between Hell's Gate and Mt Longonot was an artillery training camp with 25 pounder and anti-tank shells still there.

Both sites can be reached by car and foot. You emerge eventually, somewhat damp into the smooth-floored and wider gorge with a sizeable stream running down the middle.

Near the top you will find steps, now eroded by green algae filled hot springs. These were cut for the film *Sheena, Queen of the Jungle*. Other films have also been shot here such as *Tomb Raider II* which stars Angelina Jolie

At the summit, turn right to the viewpoint and gaze down

Petrol goes up Sh2.2 as ERC raises diesel, kerosene pump price

BY VICTOR JUMA

Prices of petroleum fuels have been increased by up to Sh2.2 per litre in the latest price review by the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC).

The new prices, which will be in force until September 14, were driven by a delay in delivery of cheaper products that saw the prices set based on more expensive June supplies, said ERC.

The maximum retail prices of petrol, diesel and kerosene were all raised in the review. A litre of petrol in Nairobi now costs Sh95.13, diesel Sh84.51 and kerosene Sh62.48.

"Taking into account the weighted average cost of imported refined petroleum products...the maximum allowed petroleum pump prices in Nairobi are as follows: Super petrol increases by Sh2.2 per litre, diesel increases by Sh1.27 per litre while kerosene increases by Sh1.03 per litre," ERC said in a statement.

The price jump will add inflationary pressure on businesses and households as the cost of transport, manufacturing and cooking is likely to go up.

"The free on board (FOB) price of Murban crude oil lifted in July was posted at \$44 (Sh4,444) per barrel, a decrease of 9.07 per cent from \$49.05 (Sh4,954) per barrel in June 2015," ERC said.

"However, due to the time lag of 30-45 days between order placement and delivery, a majority of the cargoes that

July drop in crude prices will be reflected in local pump prices in subsequent price reviews.

Kenya imports petroleum products through the Open Tender System (OTS), whereby an oil marketer is contracted to ship in the commodities via competitive bidding.

ERC says it typically takes 30 to 45 days between the award of a tender and delivery of the products, leading to a situation like the current one where a fall in global crude prices is not immediately felt by consumers.

The agency said the landed cost per tonne of petrol increased 3.31 per cent to \$521.72 (Sh52,693), followed by diesel at 3.18 per cent to \$469.1 (Sh47,379) and kerosene at 2.86 per cent to \$493.86 (Sh49,879).

Besides the delay in deliveries, a weakening of the shilling by 0.19 per cent against the dollar to 101.39 units also caused the increase in the price of the petroleum products.

The higher petroleum prices come at a time when inflation has risen for two consecutive months, signalling a further rise in the cost of living this month. Inflation rose to 6.39 per cent last month from 5.8 per cent in June.

Sh2.2

Increase per litre in the price of super petrol in Nairobi to Sh95.13

When

1885

Year when