



Colourful peanuts, which can be fried or crushed to make a powder used in soup, are one of the many ingredients you can purchase by the handful (or sackful) at Kimironko Market. Here, walkways are lined with bean-filled hessian sacks and piles of fresh fruit, vegetables, meats, household goods and clothing.

OPPOSITE On the last Saturday of each month, shops close and the residents of Kigali come together to mend roads, repair fences and sweep the city clean. Known as *Umuganda* and practised nationwide, it's a government-enforced day on which the nation participates in community work. Everyone between the ages of 18 and 65 is obliged to get involved – even President Paul Kagame – and the results are evident everywhere: lawns are trimmed, parks are green, there's a ban on plastic bags, and locals hold the law in high regard (jaywalking, for example, is against the rules).

TRAVEL

City of angels

Kigali is safe, cheap and so clean it practically shines. When Getaway photographer Teagan Cunniffe visited, she found a vibrant, colourful city full of welcoming citizens

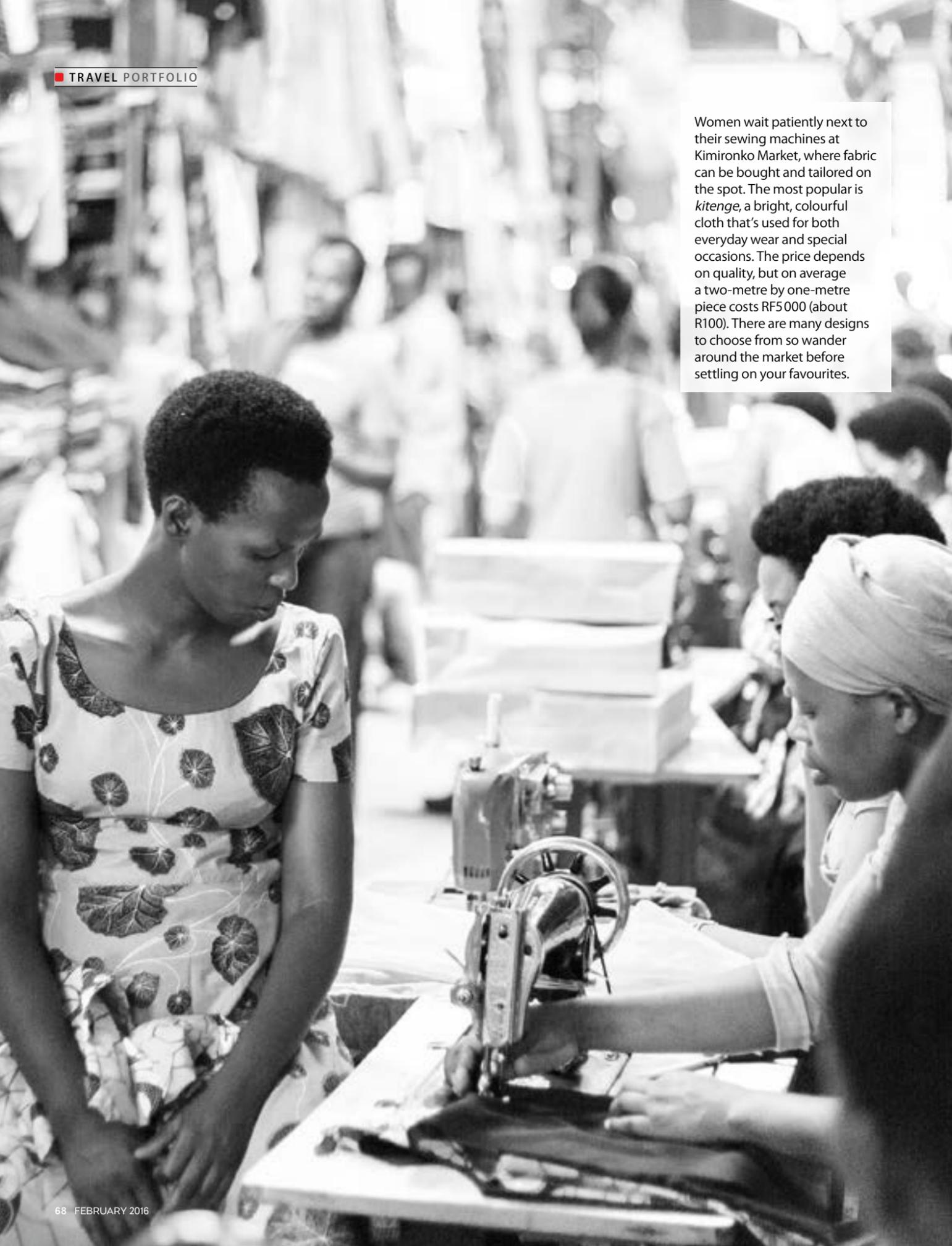




Jean polishes his taxi moto every morning before heading into the city to pick up passengers. Found throughout Kigali, these motorbikes are fast, cheap and can be flagged down in seconds. Despite almost being banned in 2006, they are a commuter's preferred choice and tight regulations make riding on them enjoyable and safe. One of my favourite memories was driving through the vibrant Nyamirambo district at sunset, weaving through traffic as we passed colourful buildings and mosques.



Kandt House is a natural history museum dedicated to the works of Richard Kandt. He was a German doctor, explorer (he went in search of the source of the Nile River in 1897) and founder of Kigali. Upon entering the doors to the house, I was met by tour guide Cadette in traditional *imikenyero* dress, who took me through the rooms. There are a number of museums in Kigali, the most visited being the Kigali Genocide Memorial – an utterly heartbreaking tribute to those who lost their lives and an essential stop in order to better understand Rwanda's history.



Women wait patiently next to their sewing machines at Kimironko Market, where fabric can be bought and tailored on the spot. The most popular is *kitenge*, a bright, colourful cloth that's used for both everyday wear and special occasions. The price depends on quality, but on average a two-metre by one-metre piece costs RF5000 (about R100). There are many designs to choose from so wander around the market before settling on your favourites.



Two men play *igisoro* outside their stores at Caplaki Craft Village. It's a popular game in East Africa, believed to be of Arabic origin. The craft village is one of the more touristy stops in Kigali, home to a wide collection of carvings and artworks. It's abuzz when tourist buses pull in, but otherwise it's quiet and vendors are open to chatting and discussing prices.

DO IT YOURSELF
Kenya Airways flies to Kigali from OR Tambo, via Nairobi. Return flights start at R6000 and there is usually a layover in Nairobi. kenya-airways.com

DO THIS
Buy a local sim card for RF250 (about R5) and data (1GB is about R100). Kigali has good network coverage and you can use Google maps to navigate the city. africa.airtel.com
Get local advice from Living in Kigali, an upbeat website that's a treasure trove of information, tips and things to do. livinginkigali.com

Take a walking tour with the Nyamirambo Women's Centre. The tour meanders through the vibrant Nyamirambo district and gives you a glimpse of everyday life. The cost is from RF18000 (about R355) for two-and-a-half hours and includes a delicious home-cooked meal. nwc-kigali.org

Visit the Cammelia Tea House, a bright green building downtown, and order African Tea – a popular, strong ginger milky tea. There's also a buffet lunch for about R50 pp.

Visit a milk bar. They're marked by large cow murals on the outside walls below the words 'Amata Meza'. Try a flavoured hot milk for about R5 each.

STAY HERE
Hotels are pricey. I stayed at the **Lemigo Hotel**, a popular choice for tourists and business people, but a room is from R3000 pp (including breakfast). lemigohotel.com
Rather check in at a B&B or hostel. Below are two options highly recommended on TripAdvisor.

Flame Tree Village is a B&B 10 minutes from the city centre. Rooms are from R1100 pp sharing. 3bhoteles.com

Discover Rwanda Youth Hostel has great views of the city. Dormitory accommodation starts at about R240 pp. discoverrwanda.hostel.com

*Prices and conversions correct at time of going to print