

Jevanjee Gardens

Koja

River Rd

Tom Mboya St

Moi Avenue

Latema Rd

Koinange St

Muindi Mbingu St

MacMillan Memorial Library

Jamia Mosque

Kimathi St

City Market

Banda Street

Accra Rd

Kenyatta Avenue

Kenya National Archives

Luthuli Av

Moi Avenue

Nairobi Expressway

Kenyatta Avenue

Muindi Mbingu St

Wabera Street

Mama Ngina Street

City Hall Way

GPO stage

Posta Rd

Kaunda Street

City Hall Way

Aga Khan Walk

Moi Avenue

Tom Mboya St

Holy Family Basilica

Kenyatta International Convention Centre (KICC)

Nairobi Expressway

Uhuru Park

Parliament Rd

Harambee Ave

Haile



Start / End

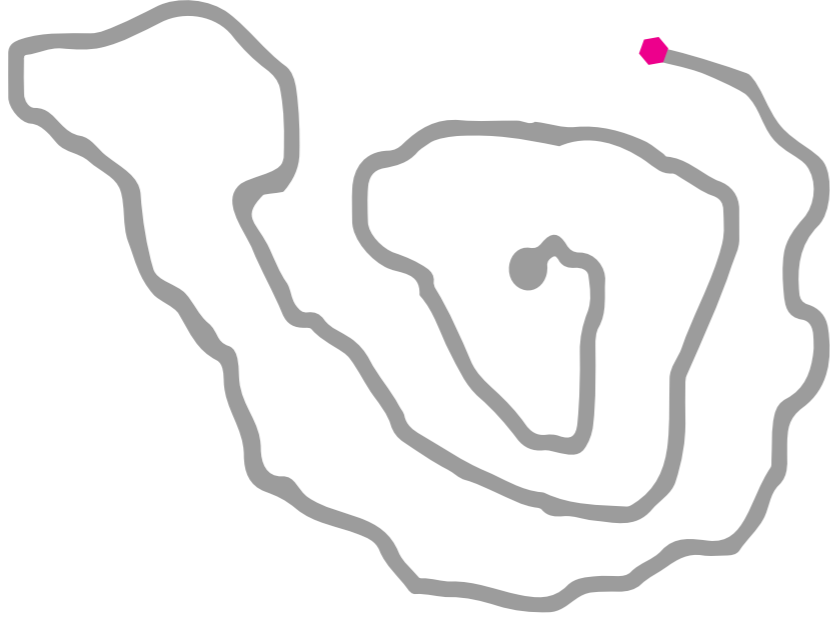


Walking Route  
(ca. 1.8 km,  
ca. 23 – 35 min)

You will find sounding encounters along the way. Some might be more obvious than others. Some are planned some are not. Enjoy your time!

by Lutiivini Majanja  
Memory Walk

# ear map



On this walk, I will guide you through places in the city which offer different acoustic experiences. I will include a few anecdotes from having lived in Nairobi, and how the sounds I encounter on a daily basis are interwoven with my memories of past visits to these places.

We start at the McMillan Memorial Library. Walk directly to Kenyatta Avenue. Let's cross the road at the ICEA building which is now called JKUAT Towers. The buses that stop here still say ICEA. Pause at the intersection of Muindi Mbingu Street and Kenyatta Avenue. In the past, newspaper vendors who occupied this corner traded in international newspapers and journals, notably papers from the East African countries—Uganda, Tanzania, Sudan and South Sudan. Shifts in languages and accents of the people standing or walking around these vendors were just more noticeable. The adjacent 680 Hotel also hosted guests from different countries, people's movement along around this area had that inflection.

Carry on towards the GPO (General Post Office) bus stop. Can you hear the dominant sound of revving bus engines, and bus conductors calling out bus routes and fares to draw passengers? Keep walking.

Turn the corner onto Posta Road. Notice the freelance photographers offering their services. Once you pass them, it gets quiet. This road has few cars passing through, and a notable presence of private security guards and police officers. You will be asked to move if you linger too long. Do you know why people tend to avoid this street? Keep walking along the side of GPO building. How much tree cover is there? What do you hear?

At Kaunda street pause. What do you hear? This area has considerably changed because of significant construction within Holy Family Basilica's compound. There's a different restaurant in place Antonio's Grill, which was a popular evening meeting place for wedding and funeral planning committees. That restaurant was often so crowded, one could hear the customers' clinking cutlery and babble from outside. What do you hear now? Notice how people's voices sound or change as you move along this street. Does this place feel vacuumlilike?

Next, pause at City Hall Annex. Is it busy today? Consider that it is less crowded because many public services can be accessed and transacted online.

Walk to the KenCom bus stop. Observe how the sound changes when you move from the bus stop to Aga Khan Walk. Past the redundant water fountain, installed when Mayors governed Nairobi. How many steps before the cacophony of buses, bus conductors and hawkers fades? Did you hear any preachers today? Around you, is the walking pace fast or slow? What does that sound like? Rest. Maybe sit on a bench and just listen. Stand up and keep walking up to the shoe shiners at the end of Aga Khan Walk, facing Harambee Avenue.

Turn back, and use the passage between Naivas Supermarket and Electricity House to get to Kenya Cinema Plaza on Moi Avenue. What do you hear? Are there phone shops and phone accessory vendors on this street? Is there music playing? Describe it.

Cross Moi Avenue and walk to the National Archives. The Tom Mboya monument was erected in 2011. Imagine what this place sounded like before that.