



PRIVATE
KENYA
SAFARI

East Africa

To depart on a safari is not only a physical act, it is also a gesture. You leave behind the worries, the strains, the irritations of life among people under pressure, and enter the world of creatures who are pressed into no moulds, but have only to be themselves; bonds loosen, anxiety fades, the mind closes against the world you left behind like a folding sea anemone.

—Elsbeth Huxley, *The Flame Trees of Thika*



Dear Friends,

We recently won our tenth first-place *Travel+Leisure* award for World's Best Safari Outfitter (I'm proud to say that no other company has more than three wins), but among all our many accolades, perhaps the most heartening is also from *Travel+Leisure*: "The Pintos treat their guests like well-loved, out-of-town relatives."

Micato's dedication to expert, familial service is the legacy of our founders, my parents Felix and Jane (pictured below in Nairobi). Willingness to go many extra miles to ensure that a Micato safari is the trip of a lifetime—as it is for so many of our guests—is the rock on which Felix and Jane built our family-owned, family-operated company, and why every member of the Micato team will become your welcoming family—from the Safari Director who will be with you from touchdown to takeoff, to our large staffs in the U.S. and East and Southern Africa.

And so, I hope you'll enjoy an armchair safari with this brochure, and that you'll consider joining us for hilltop sundowners overlooking the guileless and gorgeous African game lands.

We'll clink our glasses in celebration of the safari life Isak Dinesen said "makes you forget all your sorrows and feel as if you had drunk half a bottle of champagne—bubbling over with heartfelt gratitude for being alive."

Sincerely,



Dennis Pinto
Managing Director



Micato's founders, Felix and Jane Pinto (and a friend) pictured near their suburban Nairobi home



Your Safari Team in the Bush

Safari Directors: Guides, Helpers, Friends

And they're with you every step of the way. Safari Directors meet you upon landing in Africa and are with you until the moment you depart, always nearby and on prompt call around the clock—not just during business hours.

In addition to a thorough education in the theory and on-the-savannah practice of our state-of-the-science safety protocols, every Micato Safari Director in Kenya has earned prestigious Gold or Silver certifications from the Kenya Professional Safari Guides Association. Seasoned professionals, most

of whom have been with us their entire careers, graduates of Kenya Utalii College or Tanzania's College of Wildlife Management, they're creative choreographers of safari: guiding flexible, always-on-the-lookout forays into the bush, lecturing on flora and fauna, deftly handling logistics, and imparting fascinating nuggets of African history and local folklore. They will also become dear friends.

And the same highest standards and credentials—and affable, unstinting service—apply to Micato Safari Directors in all the East and Southern African countries in which we safari.

From the minute we stepped off the airplane in Nairobi, to the moment we said good-bye to our Safari Director Henry the trip far exceeded our expectations. He delighted us with his enthusiasm, his knowledge and love for the animals. Throughout the trip we experienced many instances of his caring, charming, witty and humble personality. He gracefully took care of all travel needs - airport check-ins, boarding passes, border crossings, hotel check-in/out, many wonderful surprises, and overall hand holding. — Elisabeth Brown





*The Pintos
treat their guests
like well-loved,
out-of-town
relatives.*

—Travel+Leisure

The Many Micato Differences

How does a safari company amaze and excel for 60 years? By a cheerfully relentless dedication to service and innovation. With painstaking discernment, profound expertise, and the generosity of spirit that arises from a family's bedrock commitment to hospitality.

- *Travel+Leisure* has named us #1 World's Best Safari Outfitter ten times. No other company comes remotely close.
- Exclusive access to people, places, and experiences available only through the Pinto family's longtime connections.
- Itineraries perfected by our large in-country staff's generations of experience and the generational knowledge that comes from living in Africa.
- Luxurious camps and lodges—obsessively, continually curated.
- Safari Directors—all Silver and Gold certified—accompany every safari from beginning to end.
- A wonder-working Concierge Team, at your beck and call every moment of the day and night.
- All tips included, even to Safari Directors and Driver Guides.
- All meals included. And we unhesitatingly pick up the tab for meals in any local restaurant on all Custom Safaris.
- At mealtimes, regional wines, beer, and bottled water are included. In Southern Africa, spirits are often included, too.
- Free valet laundry service, everywhere, every day (and complimentary, custom-designed luggage to put it in).
- Small-group, boutique safaris of fewer than 18 travellers, and only 12 in Southern Africa.
- 100% guaranteed departures on our scheduled Classic Safaris, even for parties of two.
- The finest, well-stocked safari vehicles, Wi-Fi equipped, with guaranteed window seats for all.
- Surprises. We're famous for them. You'll be amazed.
- And—this could well be at the top of the list—we pay for an African child's education for every safari we sell.



A Day on Safari

Early-Morning Game Drive

The sun rises early and eagerly on the savannahs, and after some tea, coffee, and pre-breakfast snacks, we venture into what the great lover of Africa Peter Beard called “a paradise caressed by light and air in their most special forms.”

Back at the lodge, we tuck into an English-style breakfast, or perhaps we enjoy an acacia-shaded picnic in the bush.

Exploring Africa's Intimate Landscapes

“Whole landscapes seem alert,” Peter Matthiessen wrote about Africa in *The Tree Where Man Was Born*. He may well have been thinking of *our* alertness in these landscapes, a charged, joyous concentration “like a marvelous childhood faculty restored.”

We roam the savannahs and forests with our eyes, searching for their treasures—*Look! There, a cheetah!*—and the land is no longer mere scenery, an object to look at and admire, but a living thing that invites intimacy and engagement. We know about our species that the more we engage with something, the more likely we are to develop a fiery affection for it.



Sundowners and Sunsets

After a festive lunch, with talk of sightings and amazements (high on the list of safari surprises: the fresh and tasty food), we have time for reading, music, maybe a profound nap followed by a swim, and then it's off for an afternoon game drive.

After a lovely dinner back at camp, and some time around the campfire, we're off to bed. And in the morning we may agree with author Elspeth Huxley that there is no “sleep so perfect as that stirred but not broken by the thrilling vibrance of a lion's roar.”



Africa always brings us something new.

—Pliny the Elder, *Historia Naturalis*



Flying Over Africa

You may remember—it's hard to forget—the scene in the film version of *Out of Africa* when Denys Finch Hatton (played by Robert Redford) lands his Gipsy Moth near Karen Blixen's (Meryl Streep's) farm. She rushes out to the spiffy little biplane, and Finch Hatton doesn't take off his flying goggles, he barely throttles back his engine, he just says, "Get in," and thus begins one of cinema's great moments: a heart-firing poem of a swooping flight over the incomparably eloquent landscapes of East Africa.*

Isak Dinesen, Blixen's nom de plume, remembered her many African flights as "the most transporting pleasure of my life. . . . Every time I have gone up in an aeroplane and looking down have realized that I was free of the ground, I have had the consciousness of a great new discovery. 'I see,' I have thought, 'This was the idea. And now I understand everything.'"

It's as true today as it was in the 1920s: flying low and easily over the continent in small planes

is a matchlessly intimate way to appreciate its subtle and dramatic colours, its tectonic dramas, and its cavalcade of creatures. We fly over villages, waving to their residents, and in a few moments, we're on the ground, shaking their hands. One of our guests said it well: "For me, flying over Africa is about as *flying* as flying gets."

Our Custom Safaris offer as many flights as your personalized itinerary calls for, and we—and our guests over the years—think the flights that link lodges and camps on our Classic Safaris (six on *The Micato Grand Safari*, for instance, and five on *The Stanley Wing*) are safari highlights, airy dalliances with Africa's incomparable landscapes.

* Before she climbs into the plane, Blixen asks Finch Hatton, "When did you learn to fly?" And he answers with a Redfordian grin, "Yesterday." Rest assured our pilots have hundreds upon hundreds of times more experience than that—and many of them have movie-star smiles.



THE WORLD'S Most Awarded SAFARI COMPANY

**TRAVEL+
LEISURE**

Unprecedented Ten-Time Winner
of Travel+Leisure's Award for
#1 World's Best Safari Outfitter

Travel+Leisure Hall of Fame

**Condé Nast
Traveler**

Unprecedented Five-Time Winner of the
Condé Nast Traveler World Savers Award
for Education and for Doing It All

Member of the World Savers Hall of Fame

**TRAVEL+
LEISURE**

World's Best
Value Winner

**TRAVEL+
LEISURE**

Trips of
a Lifetime

**PORThOLE
CRUISE MAGAZINE**

Best African Safari
Tour Operator



Legacy in Travel
Philanthropy Award

**TRAVEL+
LEISURE**

Global Vision Award

Development, Youth Education
Micato One for One
Commitment

**TRAVEL AGE
WEST** *wave*
EDITOR'S PICK

Best Tour Operator
Africa / Middle East



Virtuoso Winner

Best Sustainable Leadership
Best VAST (Active) Operator
Best Escorted Tour Operator
Best Destinations & Experiences
Custom Tour Partner
Family and Celebration Partner
Virtuoso Performance Award

**1,000
PLACES
TO SEE
BEFORE
YOU DIE**

#1 New York Times Travel Guide
Preferred East Africa

PRIVATE KENYA SAFARI

Nairobi • Tsavo National Park • The Laikipia Plateau • Maasai Mara • Nairobi

13 days door-to-door Includes days en route to/from Nairobi

In her magnificent *Out of Africa*, Isak Dinesen wrote that “When you have caught the rhythm of Africa you find it is the same in all her music.”

Ms. Dinesen was wonderfully accurate, and on this event-rich but reposeful safari—beautifully accompanied by the praise of birds and the sheer fun of three-night stays in a trio of marvelously African camps—that music crescendos to symphonic heights.

We begin in Tsavo, based in the luxurious Finch Hattons Camp, named for and inspired by Denys Finch Hatton, an aristocratic Britisher bursting with love for Africa and its stupendous sceneries and free-roaming animals. Then to off-the-well-trod path to Loisaba Tented Camp, in the Loisaba Conservancy, a private enclave adjacent to the Laikipia Reserve, up on the game-rich plateau of the same name, graced with views of a volcanic peak so regal that Kenya took its name as its own (Micato’s birthplace is the only country in the world to name itself for a mountain). We finish flourishingly in Sir Richard Branson’s gem, Mahali Mzuri, a spectacular camp in the fabled Maasai Mara, the lush northern part of the Serengeti-Maasai Mara ecosystem, Earth’s greatest congeries of free-ranging animals.



*We have Africa
in our blood and
Africa has our bones.
We are all African.*

—Richard Dawkins



DAY 1 *En route*

DAYS 2 *Nairobi*

Upon arrival in the Kenyan capital, we'll be met by our Micato Safari Director and driven to **Kempinski Villa Rosa**, a lush contemporary hotel with rooms that blend elegant European and Pan-African furnishings with modern touches.

DAYS 3–5 *Tsavo National Park*

We fly south this morning over the Athi Plains to the natural masterpiece of Tsavo National Park. This great park occupies much of the hinterland between the Kenyan coast and Nairobi, a vast expanse of 8,000 square miles that extends to the

border with Tanzania. Tsavo—we always think of it as one of the most evocative African names—is one of the largest game sanctuaries in the world, especially famous for its large population of elephants and its classic savannah and acacia woodlands.

Finch Hattons Luxury Safari Camp is our base for game drives in this almost incomparably rich animal kingdom. Unabashedly luxurious and intimate, it caters to the safari traveller who's looking to avoid crowds and has, like Denys Fitch Hatton himself, a taste for the finest and comfiest accommodations and toppest-notch cuisine. Finch Hatton Camp was named and inspired by Denys Finch Hatton, the aristocratic adventurer who was immortalized by his

lover Karen Blixen in *Out of Africa*, and led many British royals and international luminaries on safari in Kenya (he's credited by many as one of the first to de-emphasize hunting safaris in favor of photography and just letting the African wonder sink in bloodlessly). Finch-

* 17,057-foot Mount Kenya, seat of Ngai, God himself, is the only mountain in the world to give its name to a country.

Hatton was known to bring Mozart and crystal with him on his safaris, and his eponymous camp is happy to follow his lead

in mixing luxe with earthy enjoyment. Even the setting of the camp is dramatic: the cloud forests of the Chyulu Hills, and beyond, gargantuan Mount Kilimanjaro provide a majestic backdrop, and in the foreground, ever-viewable from our suite's decks, animals congregate at the camp's water hole, and hippos cavort in a couple of their own pools.



Finch Hattons Luxury Safari Camp

For Micato, it's not about luxury (though there was that to spare), it's about authenticity. Our guides were not only magically knowledgeable about every possible thing you could want to discover about the wildlife that popped up at every turn, they were funny, human, and real.

—Dr. Jean Marmoreo and Bob Ramsay



DAYS 6–8 *The Laikipia Plateau*

The Laikipia Reserve came into existence in 1991 when the ranches of the Colonial era turned from farming to wildlife conservation. Since its ranch days, the plateau has reverted back to wilderness, a wildlife refuge supporting huge numbers of animals (it's the only place to see the endangered Jackson's Hartebeest). Other game includes lions, cheetahs, leopards, rare wild dogs, impalas, gazelles, reticulated giraffes, Grevy's zebras (the most comely of the zebra clan), Somali ostriches, Beisa oryxes (endemic to the north of Kenya) and balletic gerenuks.

Well off the beaten path, *Loisaba Tented Camp*, set in privacy in its own conservancy adjacent to the Laikipia Reserve, is a Micato favourite. Its spacious, airy tents have floor-to-ceiling windows,

polished floors, and minimalist but sophisticated Africana furnishings. Horse and camel rides, bush walks, Samburu village visits and more await as we explore the Reserve and the Loisaba Conservancy quite literally in our backyard.

Your Safari Director will discuss with you a variety of individualized activity choices at every safari location.

DAYS 9–11 *Maasai Mara*

We fly west from Nairobi to the Maasai Mara, the northern, more verdant section of what we think of as the undisputed capital of the Animal Kingdom, the Serengeti-Maasai Mara ecosystem. Game drives in the Mara are especially fruitful, as our camp, Mahali Mzuri, is auspiciously set next to one of the Mara's prime migration pathways. (Though the famous migration—a million and a half wildebeest, a couple hundred thousand zebras,





and a slew of watchful predators—reaches seasonal crescendos, the migration is more or less constant as the animals circle the Serengeti-Maasai Mara, which is larger than New Jersey, with Rhode Island thrown in the bargain. It's not unusual for us to see miles-long herds flowing on the savannah most times of year.)

Sir Richard Branson's isn't known for lack of imaginative panache, and his Mahali Mzuri's dozen delightfully innovative, yet very African tents, interconnected by walkways, are set on a gentle rise above a quintessentially African scene: rolling hills dotted with acacias, animal-magnet waterways and, in the background, the limitless Maasai Mara. It's almost needless to add that those tents resemble the tents of our youth like a Gulfstream G650 resembles a Piper Cub, as we like to say.

DAY 12 *Nairobi*

We'll have day rooms for use prior to our late-night flights homeward. And during the day, we can visit the Micato-AmericaShare Harambee Centre, do some shopping, or just

kick back and savour the first, fresh memories of a classic African safari.

DAY 13 *Connect on with Homeward flights*

Rates

Price Per Person (2025)

Land arrangements from: \$33,950

Internal flights: 2,150

Dates

Micato's Private Safari is one of our Classic Safaris but with a difference. Like our Classics, it has a fixed daily itinerary, but we will operate it as a Private Classic—without regularly scheduled departures—so you can fit it into your schedule. As on all Private Classics, your group will have its own Safari Director and vehicles, and much privacy throughout.



THE MICATO
One for One
COMMITMENT



FOR EVERY GUEST ON SAFARI
WE SEND A CHILD TO SCHOOL

Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.

—Nelson Mandela

Hundreds of thousands of Kenyan children don't attend school because their families are too poor to pay even the most nominal school fees. In principle, primary education is free in Kenya, but myriad fees often put it beyond reach: parents are obliged to buy their child's desk; to pay for term exams, the wood for cooking fires, and a portion of the cooks' salaries. Then there are schoolbooks, uniforms, writing supplies, and notebooks.

All this adds up to many, many thousands of eager and worthy children staying at home.



The Micato One for One Commitment

For almost 40 years, Micato-AmericaShare has been a passionate advocate for East African children and their families. Under the Micato One for One Commitment, simply by signing up for a Micato safari, every guest on every safari sends a child to school—year after year.

Thousands of Kenyan children are able to attend school thanks to our guests who join us in this commitment. Every child deserves an education, and we're overjoyed to be contributing to this unalienable right.

LEFT: A typically exuberant classroom, led by Peter Mithamo at a school near the Micato-AmericaShare Harambee Centre. Anastasia Pinto summed up the African ethos when she said, "African people will give away their last dollar or loaf of bread to someone who needs it more."

Micato-AmericaShare

For almost 40 years, Micato's tribute to our birth continent has been our nonprofit, Micato-AmericaShare. In the next six pages we'll tell you what AmericaShare does, but first, here's why:

It all began with one little boy, going from person to person in a Nairobi shopping centre with a note from his school headmaster. The note said that he was an orphan and needed to raise 700 shillings for a school uniform before he could come to class. He had only collected 100 shillings. The boy approached Micato's Lorna Macleod. She read the note and handed him the 600 shillings—the equivalent of \$15. Tears running down his face, the boy stood there for a moment, said "God bless you," and dashed away.

At that moment Lorna realized that Micato was an ideal bridge between some of the poorest people on the planet, and some of the wealthiest, our travellers. So we gave that bridge a name: AmericaShare, and have been helping to change lives for the better ever since.

We're proud of our accolades and of the



life-sparking joy our safariers routinely experience, but as our Managing Director Dennis Pinto often says, "AmericaShare is the why of why we exist."

Sponsorship

It's not unusual for inspired safari guests to decide on the spot (or back home for that matter) to sponsor a child to attend boarding school. This programme places a child in a carefully vetted boarding school, and provides every resource necessary for that child to graduate high school (and beyond, if the spirit is willing). Many lives, on both sides of the Atlantic, have been changed by this programme.

The Harambee Centre

The heart of Micato-AmericaShare's Kenya operation is Harambee Centre, a multi-building oasis of calm and purpose in the midst of Mukuru, one of Nairobi's largest slums (where a staggering 60,000 or more children can't attend school). Harambee Centre—made possible by our dear friends



I will never forget my first experience of visiting Harambee Centre! It surpassed my expectations; above all I felt very safe around that space despite the fact that everyone was a stranger when I got in but as I was leaving, I felt warm and I thought to myself this looks like a neat family that I would like to be part of.

—Aisha Omar



Bernard Wharton and Jennifer Walsh and scores of caring safari-goers—serves Mukuru residents with a Community Centre; a beautiful, 25,000-volume library—with more than 57,000 yearly visitors—and a flourishing second library, both made possible by Suzie and Bruce Kovner through a grant by the Kovner Foundation; and a digitally up-to-the-minute Computer Centre.

Harambee's Computer Centre

A big, bright room equipped with over 70 computers, visited more than 100,000 times since its inception, Micato-AmericaShare's Harambee Computer Centre—enabled by Dr. Derrick Rossi—offers Mukuru residents free computer access and digital skills training.

During a 12-week training programme, 120 students undergo a comprehensive curriculum designed to enhance their computer skills and proficiency in various Microsoft applications, with a module on CV (curriculum vitae) writing. As this is written, more than 300 students are on our waiting list for future classes, and we hope to increase the number of programmes we offer, as the need and demand is great, and the potential rewards for our students is huge.

More Milestones

The dynamic, 25,000-volume Harambee Centre Library is the proud recipient of the Best Community Library Award by the 50-year old Kenya Association of Library and Information Professionals.

To its post-graduates, Micato-AmericaShare offers scholarships that cover the cost of acquiring trade skills or semi-professional certifications or professional degrees.

We partner with Volunteer Optometric Services to Humanity to bring eye clinics to the community. VOSH doctors examine and treat thousands of children and adults, and donate thousands of prescription eyeglasses.

Lacrosse, a game not played in Kenya, was introduced in Mukuru in June 2014 through an AmericaShare Project by teenager Ian Macleod with support from private donors, businesses, and the International Lacrosse Federation.

Learn More

At our website, AmericaShare.org, or email us at Inquiries@AmericaShare.org.



The Red Hill Library and Community Centre

Tucked away on the verdant seaward side of the glorious Old Cape Road, south of Cape Town, past the imposing Steenberg Mountains and lovely Simon's Town, on the way to the Cape of Good Hope, is the community of Red Hill, whose 1,500 makeshift households are blessed with wonderful views, bright community spirit, and not much in the way of community services.

"Micato-AmericaShare's educational outreach in East Africa inspired us to find a community in South Africa where we can have a lasting impact," says Lorna Macleod, AmericaShare's co-founder and executive director. "And at Red Hill, we knew we had found our place."

That place is AmericaShare's Red Hill Library

and Community Centre, a joyful place for a town with a single part-time clinic, 37 per cent unemployment, and no school for its more than 2,000 school-age kids, who have to take long bus rides to state schools in the vicinity.

Red Hill's Present and Future

Our bright new, ever-growing library, led by a trained librarian and volunteers who help students with their homework, is a welcoming community meeting place, and our Literacy and Numeracy Programme, designed to equip Red Hill kids with

the skills they'll need as they enter the educational system, meets every day for two hours. The Centre's Computer Lab offers classes to community members of all ages, focussing on Google Classroom assignments, Typing.com, and Tynker coding. And the beautiful, ocean-view Umbono Wempunelelo—View to Success Deck—has become an integral part of Red Hill's commitment to meeting the needs of young, energetic minds. The deck's combination of fresh air and sunlight enhances learning experiences, promotes improved focus, creativity, and overall wellbeing.

Most of Micato's...

...safariers to the Cape Peninsula will visit the Red Hill Library and Community Centre, and many of them will be inspired to help it bring more light to the community. They'll want to make donations like books, computers, or funds for a new building.

So: if you'd like to visit Red Hill, either before or after your Micato safari, or if you're just inspired by what you're seeing and reading on these pages, send an email to Inquiries@AmericaShare.org.



This collaboration with Micato-AmericaShare has brought light to our community. Scholars are able to do their homework and research in the library, which provides a great environment for their education and homework clubs. The Forum is also benefitting from having a productive space in which to meet. This project has uplifted the entire community by making resources available to everybody.

—Luyando Lombo, Red Hill Development Forum member





Huru Means Freedom

African girls who can't afford sanitary pads very often avoid school during their periods, losing as much as an entire month each school year. The consequences are significant: girls who miss school or work fall behind, drop out or quit, perpetuating a grim cycle of poverty and gender inequality.

Micato is a major donor and proud supporter of Huru, founded in 2008 by AmericaShare's co-founder Lorna Macleod. Huru manufactures reusable sanitary pads—more than 2,300,000 to date—which have been distributed in free Huru Kits to more than 320,000 girls in Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda.

Huru Kits have proven to be a simple, sustainable, and wonderfully practical way to alleviate this world-wide problem.

Each Huru Kit consists of a colourful drawstring backpack with six reusable pads; three pairs of underwear; detergent-grade soap for washing pads; two resealable waterproof bags for safe storage of used pads; and educational materials on HIV prevention and reproductive and sexual health.



Since Huru pads came we are comfortable and we do not feel left out. We are able to attend classes without fear or shame. It brings so much joy to know there are people on earth living far away from you who can rescue you.

— Charity, age 16

All Huru pads are locally produced by women and men from underserved communities, and are designed for the resilient girls and women who use them. Each pad lasts a minimum of 24 months, making them a cost-effective and environmentally friendly alternative to expensive disposables.

The crucial and heartening bottom line: Huru Kits have saved girls 24,000,000 school days (and counting) that otherwise would have been lost. Independent evaluation shows that girls who receive Huru Kits are three times less likely to miss school during their periods.

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) recently entered a groundbreaking partnership with Huru to provide more than 22,000 women in 43 workspaces in Kenya's crucial garment and horticulture industries with

Huru Kits and educational sessions on menstrual health and sexual and reproductive health topics, and awareness campaigns for 13,600 supervisors to combat menstrual stigma.

Learn More

About Huru's important and effective work. And about its highly successful Skills Transfer Program, a targeted, practical programme that addresses East Africa's huge problem of youth unemployment, which disproportionately impacts girls; 65 per cent of the Skills Transfer Program's trainees have no income whatsoever. Huru's informative website is accessible 525,600 minutes a year at HuruInternational.org.

We educate women because it is smart. We educate women because it changes the world.

—Drew Gilpin Faust, first female president of Harvard University



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in Africa



You have me longing for more...

...please mail me your entire, beautiful brochure!

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