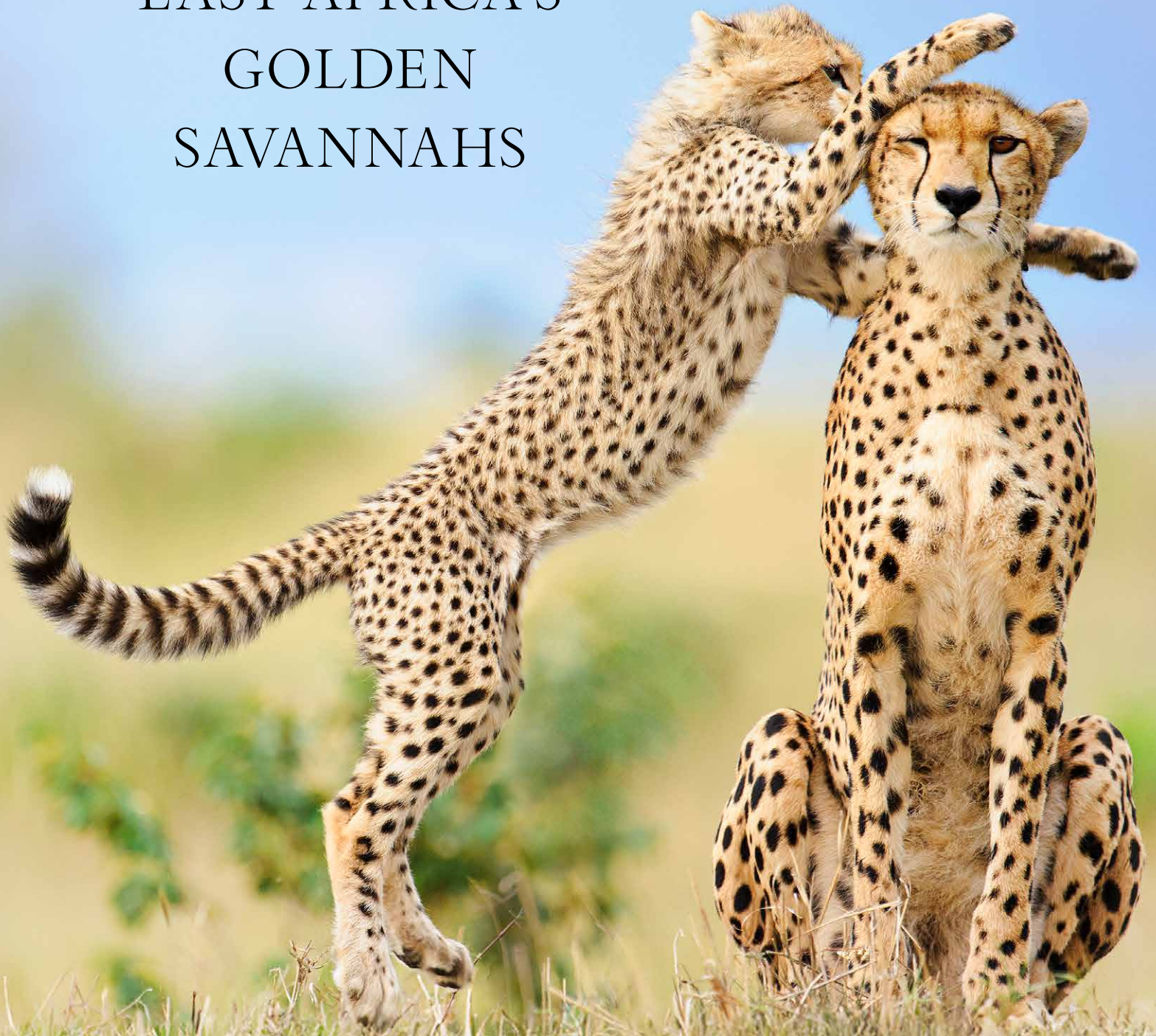


EAST AFRICA'S
GOLDEN
SAVANNAHS



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

EAST AFRICA'S GOLDEN SAVANNAHS

Kenya's Tsavo & Maasai Mara · Tanzania's Serengeti & Ngorongoro Crater

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

There are marvelous earthly places that, no matter how many pictures we've seen of them, how many documentaries and travelogues we've watched, still rocket past our expectations. The Grand Canyon and the Taj Mahal come to mind, and so do the grand game lands of East Africa. We've been acquainted with its animals since we hugged them in our cribs. But coming close to them, watching as they go about their free-ranging lives, is a revelation. We thought we knew them until we met up with them in their homelands and we realize that we are truly in what we call, in uppercase, A World Apart.

On *East Africa's Golden Savannahs* we savour and roam in the ultimate exemplars of that unique world: The fabled Serengeti, the Maasai Mara, Tsavo, and—excuse a phrase your strictest English teacher would disapprove of—the most unique game land of all, the Ngorongoro Crater. We chose the camps and lodges for this safari because they were created to honour and complement the beautiful landscapes of the game lands, and because they allow us to inhabit this World Apart in thoughtful luxury, imbued with gentle, smiling African hospitality.

I thought...of Africa, not a particular place, but a shape...and the shape of course, is roughly that of the human heart.

—Graham Greene,
Journey Without Maps





DAY 1 *Depart home*

DAYS 2 & 3 *Nairobi*

After landing in Nairobi, we'll be escorted through the formalities by Micato staff and driven to **Hemingways**, our jet-lag soothing hotel in one of the capital's lushest suburbs. (Just another of the many Micato Differences: amazingly quick and smooth touchdown-to-hotel transitions.)

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

The next day we'll mingle with the kids and elders at the Micato-AmericaShare Harambee Centre, and head over to the Giraffe Centre (where we'll hand-feed endangered Rothschild giraffes) and the home of Karen Blixen, now a lovingly restored museum. In 1937, Baroness Blixen (under the pen name Isak Dinesen) published *Out of Africa*, which many of us consider the most heart-stirring book ever written about the continent. And after a leisurely lunch at one of Nairobi's stylish restaurants, we'll return to Hemingways, inspired by our first experiences of African hospitality, by good food and conversation, eager and ready to embark on a classic African safari.

DAYS 4 & 5 *Tsavo National Park*

It's fitting that our first camp is in Tsavo, an archetype of all that brings us to Africa's astounding game lands. The Big Five are in numerous residence, along with the myriad of animals and birds, almost infinite skies, long, golden reaches and million-year quiet that, as Isak Dinesen wrote, "soothe the homesick soul."

We and our Safari Director make unfailingly exciting game drives based from **Finch Hattons Camp**, named for a man who held Tsavo close to his heart. Denys Finch Hatton, a charismatically jaunty British aristocrat, was a pioneer of modern safari (and, as you may remember from the book or movie, was Isak Dinesen's great and tragic love). Now part of Sir Richard Branson's stellar Virgin Collection, Finch Hattons expertly combines deep respect for history and African culture with modernity and smilingly orchestrated luxury.

DAYS 6–8 *The Maasai Mara*

We fly from Tsavo to the Maasai Mara, the northern reaches of the Maasai Mara-Serengeti ecosystem, the greatest assembly of wild (and wondrous) animals on planet Earth. The Mara abounds with rolling grasslands, expressive acacia trees, sweeping vistas

teeming with wildlife, and the rock islands, called kopjes, that Peter Matthiessen called “magnificent, harmonious stone gardens...[revealing] the bone of Africa.” And then there is one of Africa’s common but unforgettable sights: “the cumulus clouds that drift all day long across a sun-filled sky,” as Elspeth Huxley wrote in *The Flame Trees of Thika*, “remind[ing] me of huge swirls of whipped cream.” (Those sunny skies and grand landscapes inspire us to consider a hot-air balloon option while we’re in the Mara.)

Our camp, **Mahali Mzuri**, is another Richard Branson gem, a winner of *Condé Nast Traveler’s* Readers’ Choice Awards for Favorite Safari Camp. Its twelve innovatively designed tents and main lodge, connected by winsome walkways, are designed for full-tilt, reposeful luxury. (And, as

we like to say, those tents resemble the common idea of “tent” about as much as a vintage Yugo resembles a Rolls-Royce Phantom.)

DAYS 9–11 *The Serengeti*

Now south by air to the fabled Serengeti, a place, wrote the great conservationist Bernhard Grzimek, “where you can feel the pulse of the Earth, the rhythm of life that has been playing out for millions of years.”

Our lodge, the **Elewana Serengeti Explorer**, the newest addition to Elewana’s superb collection of camps and lodges, sits in serene isolation on the Nyaboro Hills, overlooking the auric plains. We roam freely on the vast plain, watching elephants make their mammoth rounds, cheetahs atop rocky kopjes, alert to every shifting molecule below, and





long, orderly lines of zebras and wildebeest as they trace their ancient migratory paths.

We delight in hippos frolicking, fighting, and snoozing in waterholes, and gaze upward as mountainous afternoon clouds pile up over the Ngorongoro Crater, our next stop on this eventful, revelatory safari.

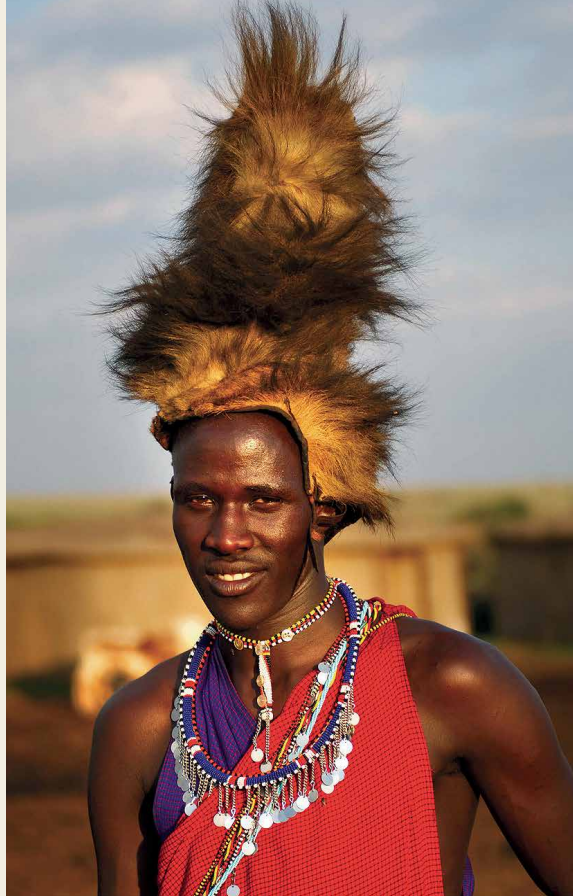
* For trivia buffs: The world's deepest lake, Siberia's Baikal—also a mid-continent rift lake—is 5,387 feet deep. Second deepest is Tanganyika, at 4,823 feet.

DAYS 12 & 13 *Ngorongoro Crater & Lake Manyara*

We fly to flamingo-thronged Lake Manyara, the comeliest of Africa's Rift Lakes, and drive to **Ngorongoro Lodge Meliá**, a lovely, boutiquey sanctuary brightened by original African artwork and tremendous views. And from there we hop into our safari vehicles and wend our way a couple of thousand

feet up, then thrillingly down into the Ngorongoro Crater, like Manyara, gigantic evidence of Africa's eons-long splitting apart.

That tear in the earth's surface has created the Great Rift Valley, a gargantuan parting of the ways of the Nubian Plate, which carries most of the continent, and the Somali Plate, on which fitfully rests most of far-eastern Africa. As one tectonic plate moves east, and one west, the slender (but sometimes very deep) Rift Lakes are formed—Tanganyika, Turkana, and Manyara among many—along a 4,000-mile-long fracture.* And an unimaginable grinding creates volcanoes like Kilimanjaro and Mount Kenya, and, as we'll see and experience today, the world's largest intact caldera, a 100-square-mile, 2,000-foot-deep bowl, all that's left of a mountain that, before a stupendous explosion a couple of million years ago, rivaled Kilimanjaro in grandeur.



Now peacefully at rest, Ngorongoro abounds with life and beauty. (It was unknown to the outside world until 1892, which helps account for its wealth of wildlife, everything from a burgeoning lion population to fine strands of flamingos).

DAYS 14 & 15 *Depart, arriving home Day 15*

After flying back to Nairobi, we'll have a day room—with full amenities—at the **Four Points Nairobi Airport** before being escorted by our Safari Director for our late-night flights home.

Make Your Safari a Private Classic

East Africa's Golden Savannas can easily be transformed into a fully Private Classic Safari, with your friends or family group's own Safari Director, private vehicles, with the freedom to set your own schedules, to enjoy private meals in the bush, and many etceteras.

It is a challenge to determine where to begin in our praise of Micato... We are seasoned travelers, taking an average three to four significant trips annually. I can say without reservation that we have never had a single travel experience that we haven't thoroughly enjoyed. However, having said that, we can also state unequivocally that our safari with Micato transcends any journey that we have ever taken.

—Gary and Linda Kaplan

2026 Rates

Please contact a Micato Safari Specialist for 2026 rates.

2026 Dates

Door-to-door from home, including days en route

Departs Thursday, returns Wednesday | Every date is a guaranteed departure

Jan. 01 – Jan. 15	May 21 – June 04	Aug. 06 – Aug. 20	Oct. 22 – Nov. 05
Jan. 08 – Jan. 22	May 28 – June 11	Aug. 13 – Aug. 27	Oct. 29 – Nov. 12
Jan. 15 – Jan. 29	June 04 – June 18	Aug. 20 – Sept. 03	Nov. 05 – Nov. 19
Jan. 22 – Feb. 05	June 11 – June 25	Aug. 27 – Sept. 10	Nov. 12 – Nov. 26
Jan. 29 – Feb. 12	June 18 – July 02	Sept. 03 – Sept. 17	Nov. 19 – Dec. 03
Feb. 05 – Feb. 19	June 25 – July 09	Sept. 10 – Sept. 24	Nov. 26 – Dec. 10
Feb. 12 – Feb. 26	July 02 – July 16	Sept. 17 – Oct. 01	Dec. 03 – Dec. 17
Feb. 19 – Mar. 05	July 09 – July 23	Sept. 24 – Oct. 08	Dec. 10 – Dec. 24
Feb. 26 – Mar. 12	July 16 – July 30	Oct. 01 – Oct. 15	Dec. 17 – Dec. 31
Mar. 05 – Mar. 19	July 23 – Aug. 06	Oct. 08 – Oct. 22	Dec. 24 – Jan. 07
May 14 – May 28	July 30 – Aug. 13	Oct. 15 – Oct. 29	Dec. 31 – Jan. 14

2027 Dates

Door-to-door from home, including days en route

Departs Thursday, returns Wednesday | New rates and dates may apply

Jan. 07 – Jan. 21	May 20 – June 03	Aug. 05 – Aug. 19	Oct. 21 – Nov. 04
Jan. 14 – Jan. 28	May 27 – June 10	Aug. 12 – Aug. 26	Oct. 28 – Nov. 11
Jan. 21 – Feb. 04	June 03 – June 17	Aug. 19 – Sept. 02	Nov. 04 – Nov. 18
Jan. 28 – Feb. 11	June 10 – June 24	Aug. 26 – Sept. 09	Nov. 11 – Nov. 25
Feb. 04 – Feb. 18	June 17 – July 01	Sept. 02 – Sept. 16	Nov. 18 – Dec. 02
Feb. 11 – Feb. 25	June 24 – July 08	Sept. 09 – Sept. 23	Nov. 25 – Dec. 09
Feb. 18 – Mar. 04	July 01 – July 15	Sept. 16 – Sept. 30	Dec. 02 – Dec. 16
Feb. 25 – Mar. 11	July 08 – July 22	Sept. 23 – Oct. 07	Dec. 09 – Dec. 23
Mar. 04 – Mar. 18	July 15 – July 29	Sept. 30 – Oct. 14	Dec. 16 – Dec. 30
Mar. 11 – Mar. 25	July 22 – Aug. 05	Oct. 07 – Oct. 21	Dec. 23 – Jan. 06
May 13 – May 27	July 29 – Aug. 12	Oct. 14 – Oct. 28	Dec. 30 – Jan. 13

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

*H*undreds 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.



School 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 a carefully vetted boarding school, and our School Scholarship Programme provides every resource necessary for many hundreds of children to graduate high school (and beyond, if the spirit is willing). Sponsors and students are kept in touch by letters, deep relationships are built, and many lives are changed. As one of our sponsors wrote, "You start out writing a check, but what you get back is the joy of seeing the impact, the happiness. Our sponsee George, getting ready to attend university, is a joyous human being."

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 informal settlements (the word slum doesn't do justice



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



to the stubborn hope and vitality of those settlements). Harambee Centre serves Mukuru—where a staggering 60,000 children are unable to attend school—with a Community Centre; a beautiful 30,000-volume library (with more than 60,000 yearly visitors); a secondary, specialized library; and a Computer Centre with more than 70 computers and a 12-week programme in digital skills training.

The Red Hill Library and Community Centre

AmericaShare's Red Hill Library and Community Centre, on the seaward side of the glorious Old Cape Road, south of Cape Town, is joyful place considering it's 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, if they attend school, have to take long bus rides to state schools in the vicinity.

Red Hill's bright new library is staffed with trained librarians, a computer centre, and a welcoming community meeting place. Its Literacy and Numeracy Programme meets for two hours daily, kids are taught basic and advanced computer skills on its expanding bank of computers, and its 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 by engaging the kids in outdoor learning activities.

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.



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 2,800,000 to date—which have been distributed in free Huru Kits to more than 460,000 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 upward of 25,000,000 school days 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.

Huru also leverages its extensive network to reach girls most in need, through its menstruation and reproductive health app, and by sending Huru teams to schools, rescue centres, and community hubs, distributing essential supplies and providing

vital education to girls and young women, not only about menstruation, but sexual hygiene and awareness. Almost 900,000 girls have benefited from those distributions and education sessions, and the much-visited app.

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





My Ambitions Were Given a Chance to Shine

Micato–AmericaShare and Huru Success Stories

From *The New York Times*

Not long ago, Pulitzer Prize-winner Nicholas Kristof and journalist Trisha Mukherjee travelled to Africa. The result: “The Shame That Keeps Millions of Girls Out of School,” a *Times* op-ed column in which Mukherjee writes: In Nairobi’s bustling settlement of Mukuru, Celestine Wanza, 18, used to tear off a piece of her mattress to use as a pad, a workaround common in Kenya. Ms. Wanza is charming, sharp and quick to speak up when her classmates are shy—the kind of student any teacher

would want. For years, she stayed home while menstruating. But once she had to attend school for an exam. Blood seeped through the cloth shred and onto her clothes, sending her running home. That day, Ms. Wanza decided she had had enough. Asking around, she learned of Huru International, a nonprofit that provides free kits of six thick, washable pads, along with panties, instructions and an odor-proof storage bag for when water is scarce. When I ask whether she still misses school because of her period—even one day a month—she proudly shakes her head no.

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

From Scholarship Sponsors

Caroline Wainaina [who was in university when this was written] has been our “adopted daughter” for six years now. The depth of her thankfulness, her gratitude and joy are sustaining for both of us, but we don’t want to take credit. All we did was give her some financial stability to use her considerable talents to shine. If truth be told, her success is really all about her, not us. We feel so lucky to be part of her life.

Juliet Walters and Geoffrey Knowles

I am fortunate to sponsor two children, Evalyne Lucinda, and Dennis Mburu. It was their letters that really made me feel connected to them. Their personalities shone. People would be surprised by the effect that being a sponsor has on one’s daily life. I want to thank them for adding to my life, and for widening my perspective.

Albert Herrera

Irene [Nduta Njuki] had been living in a ghetto with her grandmother and uncle. She is very bright and loves academics, so going to a boarding school offers her protection, good medical attention, direction, and most of all, hope. I want Irene in my family’s life. Her example is one of overcoming adversity and pressing on to succeed. It is women like her who will change the world.

Bonnie Scripps

From Micato-AmericaShare Scholarship Students

I am proud to say that Micato-AmericaShare has been nothing but a blessing to me.... Later this year I will begin my studies at Nairobi’s Multimedia University. If it were not for Micato-AmericaShare I surely could not have had a future to dream about. My ambitions were given a chance to shine.

Edwin Odwori

My mother died when I was two years old and my father died a year later. I lived with my Aunt in Nairobi, but she had seven children of her own and couldn’t afford to pay for my school fees, but I somehow got by. In the sixth grade, Micato-AmericaShare came looking for children from needy backgrounds, and I was enrolled in a boarding school near Nairobi, with all the tuitions and school items I need thanks to AmericaShare....[After graduating from high school] in 2013, I entered the Bachelor Degree of Medicine program at the University of Nairobi, again with AmericaShare’s full support.

Dr. Justus Omondi Okeyo

(At the time of this writing Justus is a resident Obstetrician Gynecologist at Kenyatta National Hospital, Kenya’s largest teaching and referral hospital. He’s also pursuing, with Micato-AmericaShare support, a Master of Medicine in Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Nairobi.)



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