

Private Ranches, Family Homesteads and Upcountry Estates

MICATO'S PRIVATE AFRICA

14 DAYS – DEPARTS AND RETURNS AT YOUR PLEASURE

Imagine a safari that is sophisticated and exclusive, offering privacy, flexibility and the near undivided attention of each camp owner or manager who is also the consummate host, maybe even your personal Safari Guide, as well as dinner companion around a great table every evening.

Have we sparked your interest? For those of you who like to be on the cutting edge of the very finest in the world of travel—and you know who you are—this is your safari.

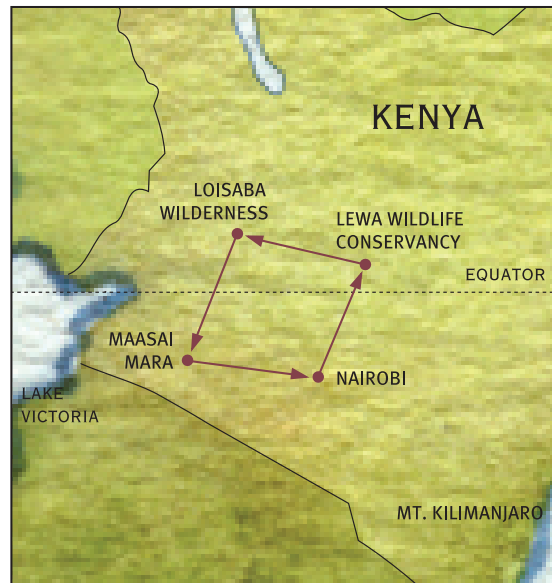
Myriad elements make this programme distinctive, but largely it's the choice of "bush homes" as our style of accommodations. Bush homes are small exclusive camps or the actual private homesteads and ranches of individuals who settled in Kenya, often generations ago, and now open their homes and extraordinary way of life to a limited number of guests. Each bush home usually possesses no more than 7-8 exquisite rooms, ensuring a powerfully privileged experience.

In effect, for the few weeks that you are on safari, you will live the life of the landed Kenyan gentry. You will have a home, and friends, in Africa. This experience is very different from a typical safari—different even than one of our own ultra-deluxe safaris. For example, you will not be travelling with a "group" on a regularly scheduled departure. Instead, your safari commences on the date of your choosing and, being a small party of just yourselves, moves with great ease and tranquility between locations within Africa. (Still, of course, under the guiding arm of Micato with its myriad conveniences and services.) Additionally, the activities of each day are not fixed according to a predetermined schedule but decided by you, on the spot, depending upon your impulse of the moment.

Every morning your host describes various options and your guide is on standby. Then it's your call. (Such decisions!) Choices for the day might include, for example, a game drive by open-top vehicle or a spirited hike in the reserve for a spot of exercise and a great view; a horseback riding safari or perhaps a foot safari, both providing an unhurried examination of the bush; tracking wildlife at the traditional crack of dawn or sleeping in and catching them later...even much later! And, before retiring at

night, you may be asked if you wish to sleep in your regular room or—and this is marvelous—in a "star bed" within a chalet open to the night sky. Dreamy! (More on star beds later.)

The camps themselves offer many alluring and private places to escape to between game drives and camp activities...a cozy, British colonial-style living room wrapped in books, down-filled sofas and chesterfield chairs perfect for curling up into; cushioned rattan sun loungers under umbrellas on a deck overlooking Africa; fringed cotton hammocks slung low between trees in dappled sunlight; and even a quiet bench tucked inside the homestead's organic garden.



But, perhaps most memorable of all will be the people you meet during this private African sojourn—from the accomplished Kenyan major domos of each home to the skilled local trackers and the enormously knowledgeable Safari Guides. And, your hosts, the bush home owners, are a fascinating lot with a great vision and passion for Africa. Not only do they run superlative hostels, but they are also involved in farsighted tribal community projects, educational trusts and wildlife conservation operations. Getting to know these people on safari—and doubtlessly considering

them friends by the end of your stay—may even trump the wildlife experience that lured you to Africa in the first place. Each individual has a captivating story to tell and they are, to a person, endlessly interesting.

Evenings on this safari are especially enchanting, when the Kenyan bush home takes on the atmosphere of an intimate, casual dinner party. The great room glows with the soft light of hurricane lanterns, the dinner table laid with an artful collection of damask, crystal and tribal artefacts, and the waitstaff dressed in their clan's traditional splendour. There are drinks, dinner and stories around the fire. The meal itself is an elegant sit-down, multi-course affair and the cuisine, as you might expect, is extraordinary.

Indeed, for the utterly unique experience of being "at home" in Africa, there is simply no equal.

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AT YOUR PLEASURE

Day 1 United States – Europe

We board our flight this evening and the journey begins. Africa beckons!

Day 2 – Day 3 Nairobi

We land in the evening and drive to a charming inn located in the wooded hamlet of Karen. Offering the warmth and character of a private country home blended with the amenities of a fine hotel, our stay at Ngong House, Giraffe Manor or House of Waine is an ideal overture to the game lands to follow.

And a visit to Karen Blixen's home—where it all began—is nigh obligatory. As is a rendezvous at the Daphne Sheldrick Wildlife Sanctuary. Daphne, a living legend in the conservation world, is frequently present chatting casually with visitors. Perhaps this afternoon you'll also have time for tea with Micato owner, Jane Pinto. And by dinnertime tonight, you'll already be applauding your decision to travel on *Micato's Private Africa*.

Day 4 – Day 6 Lewa Downs, Mount Kenya District

It's off to the bush by light aircraft, setting a course to Lewa Downs, the home of our hosts Will and Emma Craig. The ranch has been the Craig family home since 1922, when Will's grandparents came from England to raise cattle. Located in the foothills of Mount Kenya, it has been described as "a private home, a private ranch, a private paradise." We agree.

And it's certainly no exaggeration that game viewing here is also some of the best in Africa. With every manner and mode of viewing possible! Via an open-top vehicle day or night, on foot with a professional tracker, jogging with a Maasai warrior, sitting in a blind with a thermos of hot coffee and a good book, or even on horses so compliant that a five-year-old child could ride effortlessly for hours. After which you can tour Lewa's community weaving and furniture workshops, tour the organic garden producing the lodge's fruits and vegetables, play tennis, explore the nearby ancient archaeological site, swim in the pool or simply relax on the terrace with a pair of binoculars spotting the "Big Five" from your lounge chair. The accommodations here are also divine—British cozy meets safari chic. Simply stated, Lewa Downs is an utterly perfect safari experience.

Day 7 – Day 9 Loisaba, Laikipia Plateau

In truth, every bush home seems utterly perfect. Loisaba, for example, takes luxury, privacy and adventure to dazzling



new heights. Located at the edge of a towering escarpment in a secluded glade, Losiaba was built originally as the Kenyan home of the late Italian Count Ancilotto, who transformed its 60,000 acres from a failing cattle ranch to a successful enterprise in alternative land use—and in the process, created a wilderness paradise for a very privileged few to share. His home, occasionally available for private groups, is divine (Italian nobles have exquisite taste!), and his delightful lodge offers diversions beyond our wildest imagination. Micro-light flying anyone? Or perhaps quad biking across the escarpment, rafting the



COTTAR'S 1920 CAMP

Ewaso Nyiro River, four-wheel driving through the wild canyons of two great rivers or trekking with camels. All this, in addition to excellent game viewing, of course. And star beds! Spend an evening, if you so desire, in a four-poster bed with only the boundless equatorial night sky for a ceiling. It's truly extraordinary.

Day 10 – Day 12

Cottar's 1920 Camp, Maasai Mara

“If you want to track the safari bloodline, you go to Cottar's,” states *Travel+Leisure*. A short flight and yet another stunning sojourn, now with Calvin and Louise Cottar as your hosts. Calvin's great grandfather was an American who, inspired by Teddy Roosevelt's hunting exploits, moved to Kenya in 1911 and established Cottar's Safari Services. The rest is history—nearly 90 years of it.

Cottar's today is the quintessential luxe safari camp, inspired by the halcyon days of African travel. And who would know better? Scattered throughout the camp are Cottar family heirlooms, from the Victrola to the silver tea service. Each guest tent, with its own butler, is a luxurious affair of white canvas replete with antiques, illuminated by lanterns, offering private en suite dressing rooms and bathrooms complete with a freestanding tub! Cottar's fortuitous position in the Mara—located on a concession of private land bordering the Serengeti—affords prolific game drives in the shimmering light of early morning, golden light of late afternoon or by the sterling light of the moon. All without equal.

Day 13 – Day 14

Nairobi – United States

We fly to Nairobi and return to our charming inn...it's like coming home again. A vehicle is at our disposal should we wish to make a trip to town for a quick spot of sightseeing or shopping. Our international flight departs after dinner and arrives home the next day.

SPECIAL ITINERARY NOTE

The unique appeal of this safari is the exclusive nature and small size of bush homes, which also means that occasionally one of them may be fully booked when you wish to visit. Should this be the case, we will either rearrange the itinerary or recommend another bush home—there are, literally, scores of exquisite places to choose from! A small sampling of our favourites can be admired in the Micato Bespoke Collection on pages 38-42.

Tariff 2007: Per Person

Land Arrangements (per person)	Apr & May	Balance of Year
	Double Occupancy	\$9,850
Single Supplement	\$1,445	\$1,665
Internal Airfare	\$1,860	\$1,860

(Nairobi/Lewa/Laikipia/Masai Mara/Nairobi) Connections may apply.

Private-Use Vehicle Supplement

Per person from	\$1,450
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Sample Airfare from Atlanta or New York

Economy Class from	\$1,010
Business Class from	\$6,370

The airfares listed above are provided *only* as indications of fares that might be available when booking your flights. Micato does not supply international air tickets, only the “Internal Airfare” flights within Africa during the safari. Travellers should purchase international flights through travel agents or via the Micato preferred air purveyor—complete details will be provided upon booking. Airfares are subject to change, carry penalties and seasonal surcharges. Add-on fares are generally available from major U.S. cities.

Options that complement this safari:

Ballooning in Maasai Mara:	\$425	Zanzibar:	\$1,745
Lend a Helping Hand:	\$395	Lake Victoria:	\$2,915

2007-2008 Departure Dates

Daily departures at your pleasure.

Please note that some bush homes may close in April, May or November; we will suggest other exceptional properties in their stead.