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.

—Elspeth Huxley, *The Flame Trees of Thika*
Dear friends,

Little did we think 50 years ago that the small enterprise we had just inaugurated would become one of the world’s premier safari companies. (In our minds, of course, Micato is unquestionably the world’s absolute best safari company—fortunately, many well-informed minds agree, as our awards and accolades indicate.)

From the beginning we knew Micato would be unique. We are third generation Africans, and we began and built our company here in the well-known, well-loved land of our birth. We raised our children on a farm in Kenya, quite close to Karen Blixen’s famous coffee plantation, seven or eight miles from the Ngong Hills. So, you see, when you travel with Micato you’re travelling with more than just a company—you’re travelling with our family.

Indeed, that’s what sets Micato apart and makes our safaris feel so different. You’ll find yourself charmed by Africa’s generous spirit, spellbound by the peace and beauty of its natural world, delighted by the gentle luxury of life on safari, and you’ll be enveloped in warmth and friendship. Every member of the Micato affiliate companies—the Safari Director who’ll accompany your safari, your Driver Guides, all our Africa staff, our son and daughter at Micato USA, and many others in Africa and America—will become your family. This is how we have conducted our lives, this is how we built our company, this is why we say, please join us at home in Africa, for a safari that will surpass your most eager dream.

Sincerely,

Felix and Jane Pinto

Founders, Micato Africa
Having a Safari Director and a Driver made such a difference. I learned so much... felt sorry for [guests] not on a Micato safari!

—Sarah Wille

**Your Safari Team in the Bush**

**Safari Directors: Guide, Helper, Friend**

And 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.

Every Micato Safari Director in Kenya has earned the prestigious Silver-Level certification by the Kenya Professional Safari Guides Association and are seasoned professionals, most of whom have been with us their entire careers. Graduates of Kenya Utalii College or Tanzania’s College of African Wildlife Management, they guide forays into the bush, lecture on flora and fauna, deftly handle logistics, impart fascinating nuggets of African history, Swahili, and tribal folklore. They will also become dear friends.

In Southern Africa, Micato Safari Directors meet the same high standards, while wildlife explorations are led by Game Rangers and Trackers stationed at each camp. Safari Directors offer a deep knowledge of the region’s natural history and are fluent in South Africa’s cultural history, current affairs, local art, and culinary and winery scenes—you name it. But their real talent lies in their ability to make the logistics of travel calm and effortless for Micato travellers.

**Driver Guides, Tops in Their Field**

It bears repeating: While most companies offer only Driver Guides, Micato groups safari with a team of Driver Guides and a Safari Director. In Kenya, our Driver Guides hold a minimum Bronze-Level certification from the Kenya Professional Safari Guides Association and many are Silver certified. Micato is one of the few safari companies that still operates an in-house training school with classes in conservation, the latest discoveries in paleoanthropology, guest relations refreshers, and many etceteras, including CPR training in which every Safari Director and Driver Guide is fully certified.
Why Choose Micato?
The Pintos treat their guests like well-loved, out-of-town relatives.

— Travel + Leisure

How does a safari company amaze and excel for more than 50 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:

- Exclusive access to people, places, and experiences available only through the Pinto family’s longtime connections.
- Small-group, boutique safaris of fewer than 18 travellers, and only 12 in Southern Africa.
- 100% guaranteed departures, even for parties of two.
- 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 included. In Southern Africa, spirits are often included, too.
- Unique Micato Moments abound on every safari, from bush cocktails to walking safaris.
- Free Wi-Fi and valet laundry service included everywhere.
- Luxurious camps and lodges—obsessively, continually curated.
- Itineraries perfected by generations of experience and local knowledge.
- Safari Directors who accompany every East Africa safari. And exceptionally well-versed Driver-Guides.
- A wonder-working Concierge Team, at your beck and call every moment of the day and night.
- Surprises. We’re famous for them. You’ll be amazed.
- The Pinto family, at your service, in Africa and in the U.S.
- And—this could well be at the top of the list—we pay for an African child’s education for every safari we sell.

Here Are The Many Micato Differences

Why Choose Micato?
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
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. (As for the welcome practicality of flying in Africa, see Bush Flights with a Difference, page 31.)

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**FLYING OVER AFRICA**

47
All our lives we’ve seen these animals in captivity or on a screen. Now we see them in wilderness, propelled by the force of their evolution; at last they’re able to tell us what they are, who they are.

—Mary Marenka Poxon, in a letter to her sister, Eileen Borzencki

**THE HEART OF KENYA AND TANZANIA**

The names alone are magic: The Serengeti. Ngorongoro Crater. The Maasai Mara. We’re reminded that when we travel, we visit names as well as places—names with romantic heft, names that resound, names that may have captivated us for many years. Names like Ngorongoro.

(Then again, if we’d never heard that sonorous name, and we made the exhilarating drive up the flank of the old volcano and reached its rim and suddenly beheld the green and animal-thronged crater far below, Ngorongoro would be just as utterly amazing.)

In less than two weeks, *The Heart of Kenya and Tanzania* introduces us—or re-introduces us—to places with famous names, but most of all, it brings us to fantastic places, fantastic in the sense that their like is to be found exactly nowhere else on earth.

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—Mary Marenka Poxon, in a letter to her sister, Ellen Borzencki
Day 1  
**En route**

Day 2 & 3  
**Nairobi**

After arrival at Jomo Kenyatta Airport, we’ll be met by our Safari Director and driven to the classic Fairmont Norfolk Hotel, for more than a century the world’s preferred pre- and post-safari stomping ground. We’ll meet sassy pachyderms at the Daphne Sheldrick elephant orphanage, consort with the world’s tallest terrestrial animal at the Giraffe Centre, make a pilgrimage to the home of Karen Blixen—aka Isak Dinesen, one of Africa’s supreme laureates—and have lunch at Lavington, home of Micato’s founders, Felix and Jane Pinto (be sure to ask about Jane’s adventures in the world of international table tennis).

Day 4  
**Tarangire**

We’ll tour the informative National Museum and after lunch fly in early afternoon from Nairobi to northern Tanzania’s Kilimanjaro International Airport. We fly onward to Tarangire National Park and the Tarangire Sopa Lodge, a classic example of beautifully designed modern lodge architecture. Tarangire is an apt place to begin a wildlife safari. Home to just about all the headline beasts, including a large and robust elephant population, Tarangire also shelters such rarities as the fringe-eared oryx and the long-necked gerenuk, a particularly winsome and creatively constructed antelope. Tarangire charms us with its exemplary African landscapes: acacia trees, brawny brown hills, sweeping vistas, clear nights of “soft velvet,” as Elspeth Huxley wrote. “[Like] a warm conservancy whose great dome was encrusted with all the diamonds in the world, and all the scents in the world were there too, changing like currents in the sea.”

Days 5 & 6  
**Ngorongoro Crater**

We drive from Tarangire up into the green Crater Highlands, weaving our way to our lodge, the Ngorongoro Sopa, perched at well over 7,000 feet on the rim of the fabled Ngorongoro Crater.

As geologic masterpieces go, Ngorongoro has had quite a career. It’s been a gigantic peak, perhaps a rival of Kilimanjaro, and, after it blew its snowy top in what must have been a rather impressive explosion (our forefathers over at the nearby Olduvai Gorge, busy getting their humanoid act together, probably saw it). Ngorongoro spent many millennia as an alternately quiet and occasionally bubbling lava lake. Now in an extended pacific mood, the crater is home to upwards of 25,000 personality-rich animals, who roam—as we will—over a sweetly lush area larger than 76 Central Parks.

Days 7 & 8  
**The Serengeti**

After stopping at Olduvai, the symbolic wellspring of our DNA, we drop down to the Serengeti, the known universe’s largest (and, happily for us, most wonderfully watchable) collection of illustrious mammals: elephants, giraffes, tumbling pool-fuls of hippos, elegantly slinking serval cats, zebras with incredibly muscular haunches (leading us to wonder why they were never ridden—very weak backs, that’s why), and scores of species more, all of them going about their business unconcerned by the likes of us. (“But make no mistake,” an old Africa hand once wrote, “these aren’t theme parks. The truest owners of these lands are the animals who roam them free and, if that’s their nature, fiercely.”)

We’ll soak up the essence of the Serengeti from the Sopa Lodge, set on an escarpment overlooking the seemingly limitless plains, enjoying a sundowner after a game drive, watching clouds build up as the day cools, big clouds that “look like you could scoop them up with a spoon,” as Elspeth Huxley wrote. *If there were a Guinness Book of Best Sunsets and Sunrises, the Serengeti’s would be near the top of the list; one morning we saw a cloud on the horizon lit incandescently by the still-hidden sun that it was almost too bright to look at directly.*

THE HEART OF KENYA AND TANZANIA: EAST AFRICA CLASSIC SAFARIS 87
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Make Your Safari a Private Classic, Or Add an Amazing Extension

The Heart of Kenya and Tanzania can easily be transformed into a fully Private Classic Safari, with your own Safari Director, vehicles etc. And a visit to Victoria Falls, or our favorite, the Maasai Mara, is a guaranteed spirit-lifter, before our late evening flight.

We fly back to Kilimanjaro International, then to Nairobi, and on to the Kenyan section of the Mara. We fly back to Kilimanjaro International, then to Nairobi, and on to the Kenyan section of the Mara.

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It was beyond a vacation or even a dream.
DAYS 9 & 10  The Maasai Mara

We fly back to Kisumu, and then to Nairobi, and on to the Kenyan section of the Serengeti–Maasai Mara ecosystem, a world treasure, one with no counterpart, anywhere. (During humanity’s tenure, the closest any place on earth has come to equaling the Serengeti’s incredible wealth of wildlife may be paleolithic Siberia, with the ancient North American Plains another contender.) The size of Vermont (with Lichtenstein thrown in for good measure), the Serengeti–Maasai Mara ecosystem is, amongst much else, famed for the dramatic migration of its 1,000,000-plus wildebeest and 750,000-or-so zebras (and the intense attention that migration gets from predators, both feline and reptilian). Though the migration reaches seasonal crescendos, the movement of animals—north after the Long Rains, south as the rains return to nourish the southern plains—is more or less continual, and the sight of a two- or three-mile-long train of animals on the move is extremely memorable.

Up here in the system’s north, the landscapes are grandly varied but tend to be more green (which is why the migration heads up here, in search of water), with somewhat less savannah than in the south. We’ll be staying in a characteristically attractive tented camp, either Kichwa Tembo at Fairmont Mara Safari Club, both of which take advantage of the Mara’s scenic max. Kichwa is set in riverine forest on the banks of the Sabaringo River, and the Mara River nearly wraps around the Mara Safari Club. Both camps offer balloon excursions, wading over the Mara in the piercingly fresh and golden morning, floating over elephants and hippos, feeling a mild and worthy intoxification-by-grandeur, is one of those things that, having done, we wonder how on earth we ever contemplated not doing.

I had time after time watched the progression across the plain of the Giraffe, in their queer, inimitable, vegetative gracefulness, as if it were not a herd of animals but a family of rare, long-stemmed, speckled gigantic flowers slowly advancing.

—Isak Dinesen, Out of Africa

DAYS 11 & 12  Nairobi and onward

We fly back to Nairobi in the morning for some relaxation, freshening up at our day rooms at the Norfolk or the near-the-airport Roma Nairobi, and perhaps making time for a visit to the Micato-AmericaShare Harambee Centre, a guaranteed spirit-lifter, before our late evening flight.

Make Your Safari a Private Classic, Or Add an Amazing Extension

The Heart of Kenya and Tanzania can easily be transformed into a fully Private Classic Safari, with your own Safari Director, vehicles etc. And a visit to Victoria Falls, or our Harambee Centre, a genuine close, friendly, and very substantial relatives, the mountain gorillas of Rwanda, are intriguing safari extensions.

It certainly was a new experience to receive so much attention from a company owner. The personal touch of Jane Pinto and her sister Dalu was very much appreciated. And our driver Frederick was so warm and amiable that we thought we were traveling with a friend.

We were especially moved by the enthusiasm and dedication of Reza, our Safari Director. It was beyond a vacation or even a dream.

—Respect, Jule, and David Tse

Tariff 2019

Land arrangements, per person

|                      | May | November | Balance
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(Nairobi / Arusha / Tarangire / Serengeti / Maasai Mara / Nairobi)

Connections may apply.

For assistance booking international flights, we will be happy to refer you to our preferred air ticket purveyor.

Make this a Private Classic Safari: Convert any date into a private departure for your party alone. Call for details and rates.

2019 Dates

12 Days Door-to-Door from Home

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2020 Dates

Door-to-Door from Home

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New rates and dates may apply.
THE WORLD’S
Most Awarded
SAFARI COMPANY

Unprecedented Nine-Time Winner of Travel+Leisure’s award for #1 World’s Best Safari Outfitter

Travel+Leisure Hall of Fame

Unprecedented Five-Time Winner of Condé Nast Traveler World Savers Award

Three Education, Two for Doing It All

Member of the World Savers Hall of Fame

Sor for the fine print, but here are some other Micato Awards and Accolades:


#1 New York Times Travel Guide Preferred East Africa Tour Operator

Porthole Cruise Magazine

Best African Safari Tour Operator

Tourism Cares

Legacy in Travel Philanthropy Award
THE WORLD’S
Most Awarded
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World’s Best Value
Winner
Travel+Leisure

World’s Best Value
Winner
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World’s Best Value
Winner
Travel+Leisure

Best Tour Operator Africa / Middle East
TravelAge West WAVE

Best VAST (Active) Operator
Best Escorted Tour Operator
Best Destinations & Experiences
Custom Tour Partner
Virtuoso Performance Award

Best Escorted Tour Operator
Best Destinations & Experiences
Custom Tour Partner
Virtuoso Performance Award


Sorry for the fine print, but here are some other Micato Awards and Accolades:
An unimaginable number 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 One For One Commitment

For more than a quarter of a century, Micato-AmericaShare has been a passionate advocate for East African children and their families. The Micato One for One Commitment sends a child to school—year after year—for every safari we sell. Thousands of Kenyan children are able to attend school thanks to our guests, who join us in The One for One Commitment by signing up for safari. Every child deserves an education, and we’re overjoyed to be contributing to this unalienable right.

If you can’t feed a hundred people, then feed just one.

—Mother Teresa

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 last loaf of bread to someone who needs it more.”
The Boy Who Started it All...

It all began with one little boy, thirty years ago. He was 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, "Micato-AmericaShare is the why of why we exist."

More Milestones

The Harambee Centre Library was recently awarded the Best Community Library in Nairobi by the Kenya Library Association.

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.

Huru International

Girls in East Africa who can't afford sanitary pads very often avoid school during their periods, losing as much as an entire month each school year. Micato is a major donor and supporter of Huru International, founded in 2008 by AmericaShare founder Lorna Macleod. Huru manufactures reusable sanitary pads, which have been distributed in Huru Kits to more than 150,000 girls in Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda. Each kit consists of a colorful drawstring backpack with eight reusable pads; underwear; defendant grade soap for washing pads; a reusable waterproof bag for the safe storage of used pads; and educational materials on HIV/AIDS prevention and sexual and reproductive health. Huru Kits have saved girls 3.5 million school days that otherwise would have been lost.

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 a child to obtain a high school diploma. Many lives, on both sides of the Atlantic, have been changed by this programme. Email Inquiries@AmericaShare.com to learn more.

THE MICATO ONE FOR ONE COMMITMENT

FOR EVERY SAFARI SOLD WE SEND A CHILD TO A CAREFULLY CHOSEN SCHOOL

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Fame from an AmericaShare and a tour effort to give back to our home continent, visit Micato.com and click About Micato.
Micato-AmericaShare

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Join us at home in Africa