

# THE TRAVEL+LEISURE WORLD'S BEST SAFARI

## *Southern Africa*

*So geographers*

*in Afric-maps . . .*

*Place elephants for want of towns.*

—Jonathan Swift, *On Poetry: A Rhapsody*



## *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.)

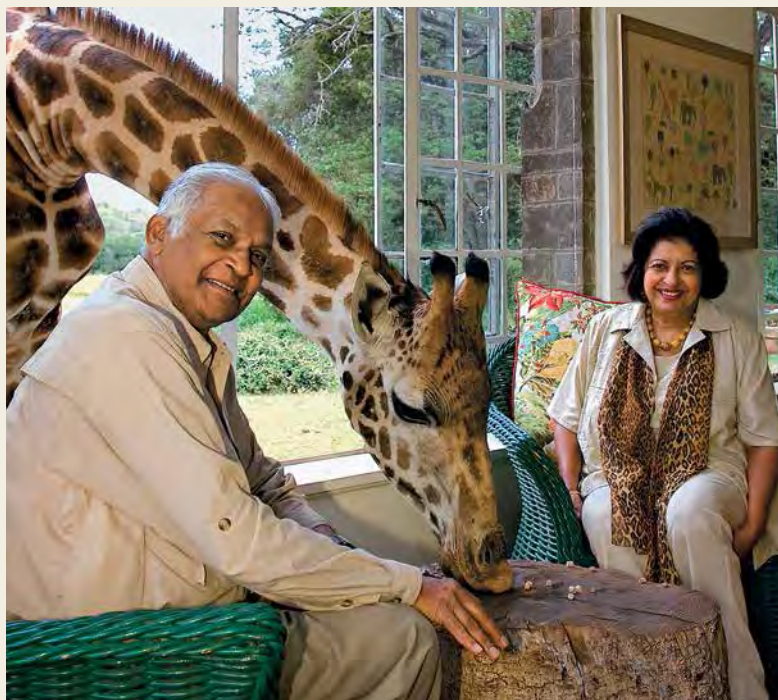
From the beginning we knew Micato would be unique. We are third generation Africans, and we began and built our company here in the well-known, well-loved land of our birth. We raised our children on a farm in Kenya, quite close to Karen Blixen's famous coffee plantation, seven or eight miles from the 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



# 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.

*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





Why  
Choose  
Micato?





# Here Are The Many Micato Differences

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.



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

— *Travel+Leisure*



# 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. (As for the welcome practicality of flying in Africa, see *Bush Flights with a Difference*, page 31.)





# THE TRAVEL+LEISURE WORLD'S BEST SAFARI

13 days door-to-door Includes days en route to/from Cape Town and Johannesburg

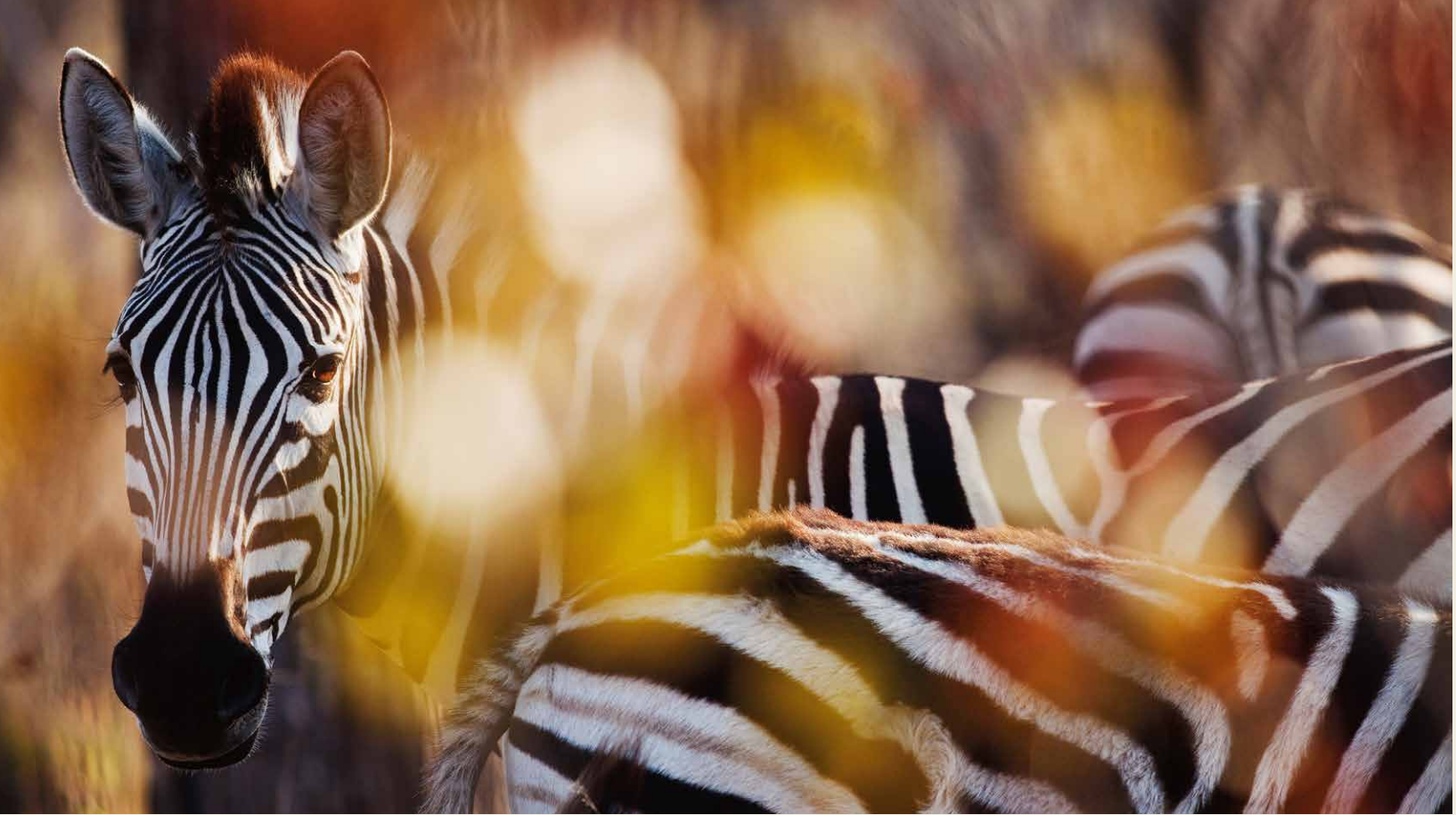
We're fans of *Travel+Leisure's* annual Best in the World polls. (Admittedly, we're just a bit prejudiced, having been voted World's Best Safari Outfitter by *T+L* a record nine times.) So a few years ago we decided to honour *Travel+Leisure* and its readers by creating an all-star safari that sets down at some of Africa's best hotels, as consistently recognized by the magazine (and by our happy guests).

We begin with four nights in Cape Town's "knockout" One&Only, a resort of "outside luxury" on the Victoria & Alfred Waterfront and a superb base for explorations in this most cosmopolitan of cities and its varied, magnificent environs. Then comes a splendid four nights in the bush at Singita Lebombo or Singita Sweni Lodge—both much-admired, both located in Kruger National Park, and two of the finest and most intelligently designed lodges on the continent. We end with a perennial favourite, the famed Royal Livingstone, where mist from nearby Victoria Falls freshens our day.

*Haste, haste has  
no blessing.*

—Swahili proverb





DAY 1 *En route*

DAYS 2–5 *Cape Town and environs*

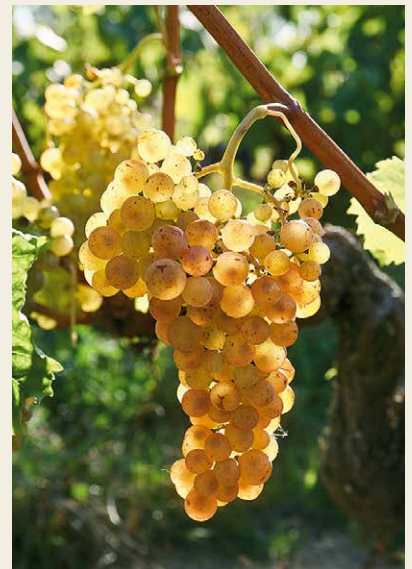
“The whole town,” Captain Cook wrote in 1771 about Cape Town, “may be consider’d as one great Inn fitted up for the recreation of all comers and goers.” The great voyager may as well have been writing this week: Cape Town is one of the world’s jazziest, most fascinatingly multicultural and downright beautiful cities, a magnet for discerning

goers and comers from six continents.

We’ll have an electrically relaxed few days to explore this dynamic, cosmopolitan city, based from the incomparable **One&Only**, set on the bustling Victoria & Alfred Waterfront, looking up at Table Mountain, which we will summit via the famed

Aerial Cableway, a spectacular bit of engineering in service to an even more spectacular view. We’ll spend a little heart-lifting time helping out

at one of Micato-AmericaShare’s programmes for Cape Town’s less fortunate. And we’ll wander out to the Cape Winelands for tastings and relaxed meals at places like the sublime Delaire Graff and Waterford Wine Estates. The Winelands charms us with brisk and picture-pretty little towns, a variety of refreshing activities, and lovely scenery reminiscent of Northern California’s Wine Country (except the craggy mountains that shoot up from its vineyards make Sonoma and Napa’s look rather modest in comparison). And we’ll head over to the Cape of Good Hope, around which much of the world’s history once turned, and which a dissimilar cohort of creatures—including penguins, zebras, and ostriches—happily call home.\*



\* The Cape Floristic Region, which we’ll be amidst, is far and away the smallest of the world’s six recognized floristic kingdoms or phytchorions. It’s the only earthly abode of more than 6,000 vascular plant species. The long and short of it: the CFR is a guaranteed pulse-raising wonderland for nature lovers.

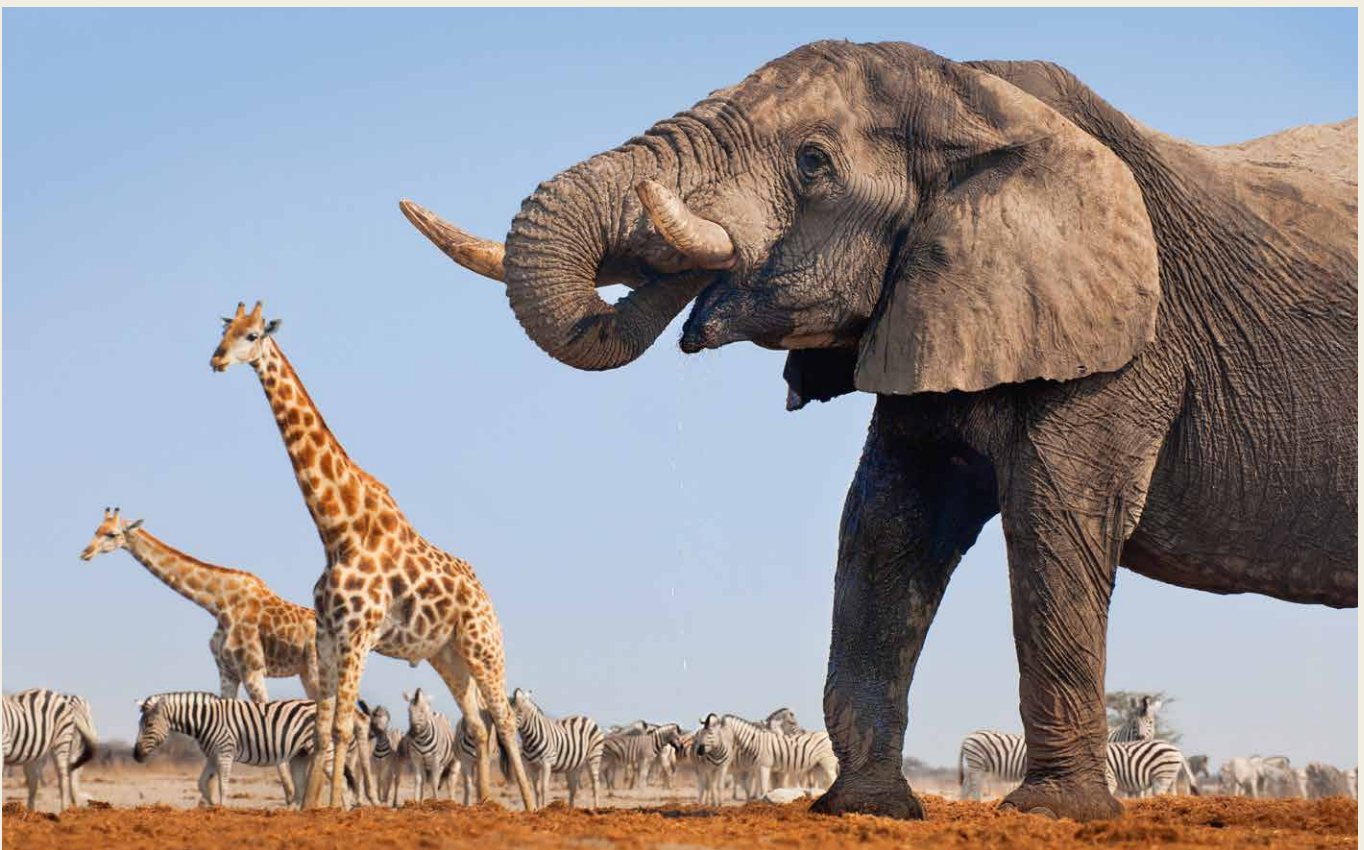
DAYS 6–9 *Singita Kruger National Park*

Singita's concession in talismanic Kruger was granted in 2001 in recognition of its fervent and effective commitment to conservation, and its dedication to creating an absolutely minimal environmental footprint. Singita's 33,000-acre concession is an isolated haven of untroubled wilderness where a unique and species-rich wildlife population thrives across four distinct ecological zones, all of which we'll get to know and admire during our leisurely, wonderfully extended stay. Singita Kruger's two lodges, *Singita Lebombo* and *Singita Sweni*, were built to reflect its "touch the earth lightly" philosophy, which is entwined with every aspect of the lodges' daily life. It is one reason these lodges are so respected and honoured—the other major reasons being their beauty and unobtrusive luxuriousness. In any case, Singita Kruger was recently voted by *Travel+Leisure* as the third-best hotel on planet Earth, an encomium that needs no expansion.



*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 10 & 11 **Victoria Falls**

“Poor Niagara,” Eleanor Roosevelt supposedly said upon viewing Brazil and Argentina’s Iguazu Falls. Had she gazed on Victoria Falls—the greatest curtain of water on earth, 60 tumultuous feet higher than its South American rival—the famously articulate First Lady might have been struck speechless. Victoria Falls is a waterfall like no other, and during our stay at the legendary **Royal Livingstone Hotel** (another perennial T+L best) we’ll get to know the Falls, helicoptering over them on the famed Flight of Angels, savoring early-morning, coffee-sipping views from our room’s veranda of the almost 1,000 feet of mist that rise from the watery cauldron to lazy afternoon sundowners near its dramatic precipice, contemplating what

the greatest travel writer of all time, Richard Halliburton, called “a hurricane of bursting water. . . that seems to fall *up*, not down.”

DAYS 12 & 13 **Departure**

We fly from Livingstone to Johannesburg, and on to a day room in the **InterContinental** at Johannesburg’s airport, and connect with our international flight home, arriving on Day 13.

*Most memorable was the attention to detail, the personal service and thoughtful gifts from our hosts Felix and Jane Pinto. This is what wins awards as well as loyal clients. I can honestly say that this was the finest tour my husband and I have ever taken.*

— Hannah Reinmuth, Virtuoso Travel Consultant





Singita Lebombo Lodge

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

The *Travel+Leisure World's Best Safari* can easily be transformed into a fully Private Classic Safari, with your own Safari Director, vehicles etc. And, since once you're on safari it's hard to leave, you might want to extend your journey with a short trip to Rwanda to see the mountain gorillas, head over to Zanzibar for some beach safairing, or visit the grand Namibian deserts.



## Tariff 2019

Land arrangements, per person

	December 15-31	Balance of Year
Double Occupancy	\$24,500	\$21,500
Single Supplement	4,150	2,500
Internal Flights on Safari	2,100	2,100

(Cape Town / Johannesburg / Kruger / Nelspruit / Livingstone / Johannesburg)  
Connections may apply.

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

## 2019 Dates

Door-to-Door from Home | Departs Sunday, returns Friday

Every date is a guaranteed departure

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

## 2020 Dates

Door-to-Door from Home | Departs Sunday, returns Friday

New rates and dates may apply

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

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



*Travel+Leisure* World's Best Value



Tourism Cares Legacy in Travel Philanthropy Award



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



*Travel+Leisure* Trips of a Lifetime



*Travel+Leisure* Global Vision Award  
Development, Youth Education  
Micato One for One Commitment

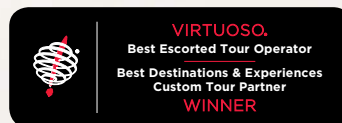


*Porthole Cruise Magazine* Best African Safari Tour Operator

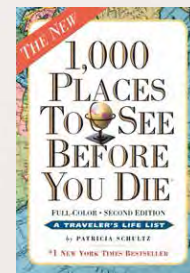


*Best Tour Operator Africa/Middle East*

TravelAge West WAVE  
Best Tour Operator  
Africa / Middle East



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



1,000 Places to See Before You Die  
#1 *New York Times* Travel Guide  
Preferred East Africa  
Tour Operator

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

World Tourism Award, 2017 • Travvy Awards: Gold, Best Escorted Tour Operator, Africa, 2016, 2018; Silver, Best Escorted Tour Operator, Adventure, 2016, 2018; Silver, Best Escorted Tour Operator, Family, 2016; Silver, Best Escorted Tour Operator, Luxury, 2016 • Travel Weekly Magellan Awards: Gold, Best Tour Operator, 2017, 2015; Silver, Best Tour Operator, 2016; Gold, Best Marketing Campaign, 2009, 2011, 2015; Gold, Best Consumer Brochure, 2009, 2012-2013, 2016-2017; Gold, Best Trade Brochure, 2009-2012, 2016-2017; Silver, Best Trade Brochure, 2010-2011, 2013-2014; Gold, Best Travel Website, 2012, 2014, 2017; Silver, Best Travel Website, 2013, 2015 • Hospitality Sales and Marketing Association International's (HSMIA) Adrian Awards: Gold, Best Trade Brochure, 2012, 2014-2016; Gold, Best Consumer Brochure, 2012, 2014-2016; HSMIA and National Geographic Traveler Gold Winner, Leader in Sustainable Tourism, 2013 • Ubuntu Tourism Award • Travel Weekly's World Travel Market Global Award • Tanzania Tourist Board Cruise Development Award • TORCH (Together Our Resources Can Help) Inspiration Award, to Lorna Macleod, head of Micato-AmericaShare • William D. Littleford Award for Corporate Community Service • Travel Agent magazine's Tour Operator of the Year: Leaders in Luxury—Dennis Pinto • LuxuryLink.com's World's Best Luxury Tour Company • National Geographic 50 Tours of a Lifetime.

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

—Mother Teresa

**A**n 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.

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

## 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."



## 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 Bernard Wharton and Jennifer Walsh and scores of caring safari-goers—comprises a Community Centre for Mukuru residents; a beautiful, 13,000-volume library for all of Mukuru (made possible by Suzie and Bruce Kovner through a grant by The Kovner Foundation); a digitally up-to-the-minute Computer Centre (also enabled by the Kovner Foundation); a basketball court; a special-needs classroom; a fresh-water well (Mukuru has no assured water supply); the Gorretti Nursery School, which cares for upwards of 150 children (Micato-AmericaShare contributes to the students' daily meals for these children, which is often their only meal for the day); and a cottage factory for Huru International.

For much more on **Micato-AmericaShare** and all our efforts to **give back** to our home continent, visit [Micato.com](http://Micato.com) and click **About Micato**



## 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 colourful drawstring backpack with eight reusable pads; underwear; detergent-grade soap for washing pads; a resealable 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](mailto:Inquiries@AmericaShare.com) to learn more.

## 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.

A wide-angle photograph of an African savanna landscape. The foreground is filled with tall, golden-brown grasses. The middle ground shows a valley with scattered trees and a small blue pond. The background features rolling hills under a clear sky.

Join us at home  
*in Africa*