

GOING PLACES

Travel | By Abbie Kozolchyk



Earn Some Humanitarian Miles

Exciting Getaways With an **Altruistic Edge**

Two of the impulses tied to the holiday season—giving back and getting out of town—happen to pair quite nicely. Especially now, with the travel industry responding to an ever greater demand for trips that also do good. Virtuoso, a luxury travel advisor network that forecasts top trends in luxury travel, names wildlife preservation among the year's major motivators; same goes for travel that benefits local communities, including tours and hotel stays that—by virtue of your simply booking them—will give back in some meaningful and useful way.

"Some people say you can't change the world," says Barbara Alpert, who recently traveled with Micato Safaris to help support the company's childhood-education initiatives (more on those shortly). "But when you change one child's life, you *do* change the whole world for that individual child. And if that can happen as the natural extension of an already amazing trip, so much the better." Of course, even when you're not going big, you can still go bighearted: The quickest weekend escape (to the right hotel) can make a difference. So whatever the scale of your next getaway, one of these give-back hotel stays and tours may be just the ticket.

Micato Safaris

This award-winning luxury outfitter offers an extensive safari menu, from the classics (see: the Heart of Kenya and Tanzania, with stops in the Serengeti, Ngorongoro Crater and Maasai Mara) to the niche.

The new Elite Running Safari, for example, will have you training and socializing with some of Kenya's most storied marathoners—as well as seeing hallucinatory wildlife. But whichever safari you choose, its sale will cover all school fees for a local child who couldn't otherwise afford them.

Among the many other worthy endeavors of Micato's nonprofit arm, one standout is Huru International, formed in response to the staggering number of girls who miss school for want of affordable menstrual supplies. Since its founding eight years ago, Huru has distributed free reusable kits to approximately 150,000 girls in East Africa, often in partnership with the Peace Corps. *Micato.com*