

The Best Companies For Your Active Outdoor Travel — Now Or After the Pandemic



Excerpted from an article by Allison Olmsted

I've been fortunate over the past two decades to travel with many of the best companies in this field, and prefer to recommend only companies I know and have faith in, especially at these times when safety and experience are paramount.

Micato Safaris: Micato is not famous for active travel, they are famously known as the world's best safari operator, and **the number of awards they have won is almost embarrassing** - such as an unprecedented and unrivalled nine-time winner of *Travel + Leisure's* World's Best Safari Company.



I have traveled repeatedly with Micato and they are unbelievable, as good as their lofty reputation, and one of the most interesting active options they do is gorilla trekking in Rwanda, perhaps the most physical African wildlife experience there is. To see the gorillas you have to trek onto their turf, through dense foliage on steep mountain slopes, often for a couple of hours, and it is a far cry from just sitting in a Land Rover looking at animals. But it is also one of the hardest trips to arrange because permits and rooms are extremely limited and increasingly in demand, especially from the fast growing, newly wealthy travel markets of China, Brazil, and Russia. **This is a trip that should be planned over a year out, which is perfect for these times, but even with advance warning it also requires using a company that has the local infrastructure, expertise, and insider connections to do it right, all of which means Micato.**

Micato's guides took me on epic full day hike up Cape Town's Table Mountain, mountain biking in Kenya, hiking along Victoria Falls, and tracking endangered rhinos on foot in the Kalahari Desert. **Safaris are awesome, one of the truest must-do "Bucket List" trips, but because it is so easy to be sedentary on a safari, the way around that is to go with a company that will cater every day and every stay and every lodge to your desire to be more active, with daily walking safaris and much more. That's Micato**, and all of the best trips are ones you should be planning for a year or more in advance, when hopefully things are normal again.