TANZANIA SPECTACULAR

East Africa

Classic Safaris

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,

Of all the compliments that have come our way in the past 56 years, perhaps the most heartening is from *Travel+Leisure*: "The Pintos treat their guests like well-loved, out-of-town relatives."

Micato's dedication to expert, familial service is the legacy of our founders, my parents Felix and Jane (pictured below in Nairobi). Willingness to go many extra miles to ensure that a Micato safari is the trip of a lifetime—as it is for so many of our guests—is the rock on which Felix and Jane built our family-owned, family-operated company, and why every member of the Micato team will become your welcoming family, from the Safari Director who will be with you from touchdown to takeoff, to our large staffs in Eastern and Southern Africa and the U.S.

Our eight African countries fared relatively well during the pandemic, far better than the U.S., Europe, and almost all the world's most popular destinations. When travel was shut down, we kept the Micato family together, redoubling our commitment to Micato-AmericaShare and Huru (see pages 38-45), and we've been sending travellers on (safe, sane, and Covid protocoled) safari since early winter of 2020-21. Africa's open skies beckon.

And so, I hope you'll enjoy an armchair safari with this brochure, and that you'll consider joining us for hilltop sundowners overlooking the guileless and gorgeous African game lands. We'll clink our glasses in celebration of the safari life Isak Dinesen said "makes you forget all your sorrows and feel as if you had drunk half a bottle of champagne—bubbling over with heartfelt gratitude for being alive."

Sincerely,

Dennis Pinto
Managing Director

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, and 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

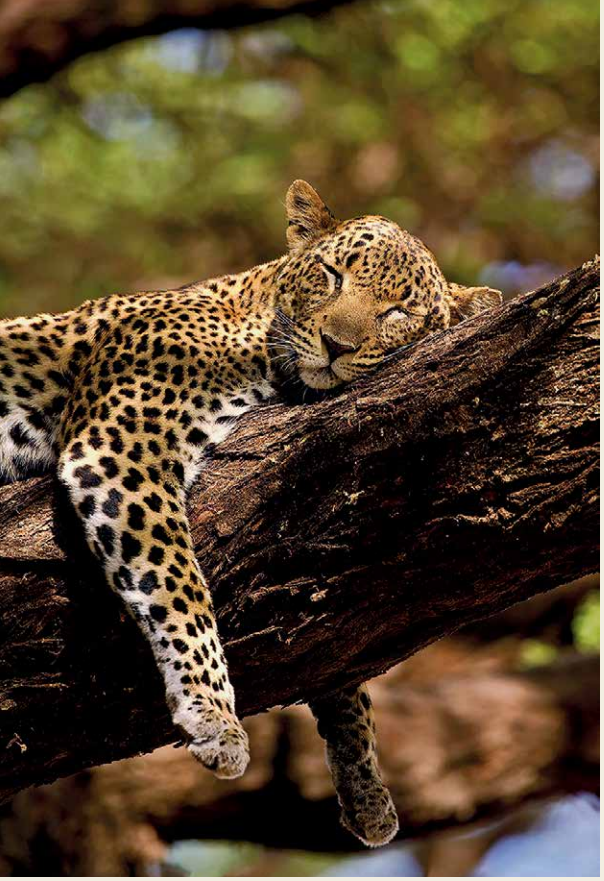
The Pintos treat their guests like well-loved, out-of-town relatives.

—*Travel+Leisure*

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.

- *Travel+Leisure* has named us #1 World's Best Safari Outfitter nine times. No other company comes close.
- Exclusive access to people, places, and experiences available only through the Pinto family's longtime connections.
- Share a meal with our founders, Felix and Jane Pinto, at their suburban Nairobi home.
- Itineraries perfected by generations of experience and local knowledge.
- Luxurious camps and lodges—obsessively, continually curated.
- Safari Directors—all Silver and Gold certified—accompany every East Africa safari from beginning to end.
- A wonder-working Concierge Team, at your beck and call every moment of the day and night.
- 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 are included. In Southern Africa, spirits are often included, too.
- Free valet laundry service, everywhere, every day (and complimentary, custom-designed Marmot luggage to put it in).
- Small-group, boutique safaris of fewer than 18 travellers, and only 12 in Southern Africa.
- 100% guaranteed departures on our scheduled Classic Safaris, even for parties of two.
- The finest, well-stocked safari vehicles, Wi-Fi equipped, with guaranteed window seats for all.
- Surprises. We're famous for them. You'll be amazed.
- And—this could well be at the top of the list—we pay for an African child's education for every safari we sell.



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.)

TANZANIA SPECTACULAR

Tarangire, Ngorongoro Crater & Serengeti

10 days door-to-door Includes days en route to/from Arusha

We bow to the fact: Many of us are firmly engaged in a very busy world, a world in which time away from the busyness is precious. And so we offer this safari to three major contributors to the East African mystique: the classic game lands of Tarangire, the Ngorongoro Crater, and the fabled Serengeti—all in a mere but marvelous 10 days. We begin with the sudden, serendipitous serenity of the Arusha Coffee Lodge, and then we're off on a carefully choreographed safari, with two nights in each of the three camps and lodges we've chosen for their warmth of spirit, their invigorating calm, their location, their refreshing lack of busyness.

When you have caught the rhythm of Africa, you find it is the same in all her music.

—Isak Dinesen, *Out of Africa*

DAY 1 *En route*

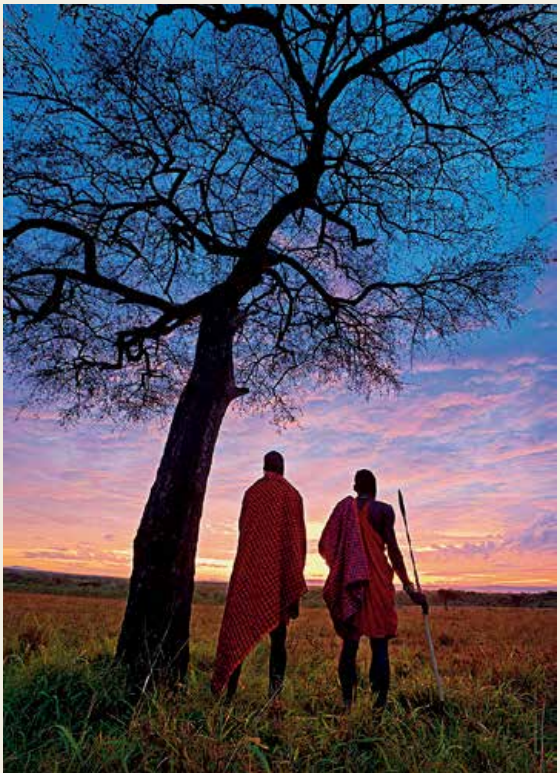
DAY 2 *Arrive in Arusha*

Arusha Coffee Lodge, an old-fashioned island of quietude tucked away in a plantation, is a great place to unwind after the rigours of long flights. Arusha is only 3 degrees south of the equator, but its 4,500-foot elevation encourages floral luxuriance and gentle airs. So we'll be more or less surrounded by enthusiastic greenery as we sit on our Plantation Suite's veranda—perhaps after a relaxing swim—looking up at massive Mount Meru, a 14,977-foot volcanic colossus that looms beneficently over this quintessentially African city.

DAYS 3 & 4 *Tarangire*

After a breakfast topped off by some of the freshest and best coffee we'll ever imbibe, we'll be briefed by our Safari Director and set off on a marvelously African drive to Tarangire and our home for the next couple of nights, ***Tarangire Treetops***. Our first experience of luxury life in the bush couldn't be more spectacular. Treetops' main lodge, built around a thousand-year-old baobab, is only the beginning. The lodge's 20 famous, lovingly crafted tree houses, elevated for sweeping views of the park, are extraordinarily large, airy, and utterly magical.

And from our tree house's balcony, we look out at Tarangire's wonderfully varied landscapes of rocky outcrops, rolling hills, and golden savannah generously strewn with acacias and baobabs, home to just about the entire cast of wild African characters—and some rare stars, like kudu and oryx—in addition to 2,500 or so elephants. We'll spend a day in the bush discovering the big game and spying dozens of species of birds cavorting in the trees of Tarangire, and, if we're still keen to see more all-star creatures, we can go out on a night drive, always a revelation.



DAYS 5 & 6 *Ngorongoro Crater*

The drive from Tarangire to the world-wondrous Ngorongoro Crater takes us north, past Lake Manyara, into the Crater Highlands, and up to the reposeful cabins of ***Neptune Ngorongoro Luxury Lodge***.

We'll drive to the crater for an extraordinarily rewarding game drive, exploring the caldera's 100 square miles, spotting lions, elephants, black rhinos, just about all of East Africa's faunal celebrities, and return to the lodge for quiet, view-besotted sundowners on our cabin's private terraces, followed by a lovely dinner overlooking one of the world's most magical places.

DAYS 7 & 8 *The Serengeti*

We end this short, but undeniably spectacular, safari in the Serengeti. "There is a lightening of the spirit," Cyril Connolly wrote about the vast plain. We're invited to a rare, deep-rootedly serene idyll. The sky is huge and blue and as pure as the day the earth was born. (And on the southern horizon, over the Crater Highlands—"That's Ngorongoro, just behind that big green mountain," we'll say knowledgeably, affectionately—clouds pile up in grandly crazy towers, looking like computer-generated special effects.) The Serengeti's kopjes are the creation of a cosmic bonsai master, and on a flat brown rock atop one of them, a lion rolls over and warms its fluffy white belly in the sun.

Your Safari Director will discuss with you a variety of individualized activity choices at every safari location.

We'll spend two idyllic Serengeti nights in ***Migration Camp***, tucked away in kopje-esque rocks just above the Grumeti River. The main lodge has a split-level lounge, a swimming pool, and a dandy restaurant, and each of Migration Camp's 20 tents is encircled by a deck, a private sanctuary from which to gaze out at the natural extravaganza below and beyond. Those of us who can't quite believe that hippos really exist—that's how otherworldly they sometimes seem—are delighted that rumbling pods of them disport on the Grumeti, along with many single-minded crocodiles; the great migration funnels into a crossing of this river, and the crocs bide their time like the pleistocenic beasts they are.

Your people are knowledgeable, kind, funny, and lovely. Thank you Micato. —Lisa and Richard Troska

DAYS 9 & 10 *Depart and fly homeward*

After a final game drive, we'll head back to ***Migration Camp*** for breakfast. Maybe we're close to sighting the Little Five, and need just a little luck to complete the list. We promised to divulge their identities on page 78, and here are the mini-masterpieces: rhinoceros beetle, buffalo weaver, leopard tortoise (not so mini, really; they can weigh as much as three standard bowling balls), ant lion, and the extremely shy elephant shrew, which weighs not much more than an elephant's tear.

In any case, it's time to say goodbye to the Serengeti and Tanzania's spectacular bush. We fly back to Arusha, relax in day rooms at the ***Arusha Coffee Lodge***, maybe take a pre-flight swim, and board our homebound planes in the evening, arriving back home.

Your Safari Director will discuss with you a variety of individualized activity choices at every safari location.

I can watch elephants (and elephants alone) for hours at a time. . . . There is mystery behind that masked gray visage, an ancient life force, delicate and mighty, awesome and enchanted, commanding the silence ordinarily reserved for mountain peaks, great fires, and the sea. —Peter Matthiessen, *The Tree Where Man Was Born*

Singita

At each camp we would meet other travelers and the talk would eventually come around to their safari company. When they heard about the quality service we were experiencing, you could see them turn green with envy. To say that this was the best trip I could ever have expected is an understatement. I cannot find a flaw in your system.

—Jim Paul

Make Your Safari a Private Classic

Tanzania Spectacular can easily be transformed into a fully Private Classic Safari, with your friends or family group's own Safari Director, private bush flights, private vehicles, with the freedom to set your own schedules, to enjoy private meals in the bush, and many etceteras. In short, while your Private Classic will follow the set itinerary of any of our Classic Safaris, it offers the exclusivity and flexibility of a Custom Safari, at a lower cost. For a deeper look at Private Classics, see pages 66 and 67.

Tariff 2022

Land arrangements, per person

	Jan-Mar	*May*	*November*	*Balance of Year*
Double Occupancy	$12,550	$10,750	$12,150	$13,550
Single Supplement	2,150	1,650	1,950	2,450
Internal Flights	600	600	600	600

(Lake Manyara / Serengeti / Arusha)
Connections may apply.

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

2022 Dates

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

Every date is a guaranteed departure

Jan. 02 – Jan. 11	May 15 – May 24	July 31 – Aug. 09	Oct. 16 – Oct. 25
Jan. 09 – Jan. 18	May 22 – May 31	Aug. 07 – Aug. 16	Oct. 23 – Nov. 01
Jan. 16 – Jan. 25	May 29 – June 07	Aug. 14 – Aug. 23	Oct. 30 – Nov. 08
Jan. 23 – Feb. 01	June 05 – June 14	Aug. 21 – Aug. 30	Nov. 06 – Nov. 15
Jan. 30 – Feb. 08	June 12 – June 21	Aug. 28 – Sept. 06	Nov. 13 – Nov. 22
Feb. 06 – Feb. 15	June 19 – June 28	Sept. 04 – Sept. 13	Nov. 20 – Nov. 29
Feb. 13 – Feb. 22	June 26 – July 05	Sept. 11 – Sept. 20	Nov. 27 – Dec. 06
Feb. 20 – Mar. 01	July 03 – July 12	Sept. 18 – Sept. 27	Dec. 04 – Dec. 13
Feb. 27 – Mar. 08	July 10 – July 19	Sept. 25 – Oct. 04	Dec. 11 – Dec. 20
Mar. 06 – Mar. 15	July 17 – July 26	Oct. 02 – Oct. 11	Dec. 18 – Dec. 27
Mar. 13 – Mar. 22	July 24 – Aug. 02	Oct. 09 – Oct. 18	Dec. 25 – Jan. 03

2023 Dates

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

New rates and dates may apply

Jan. 01 – Jan. 10	May 21 – May 30	Aug. 13 – Aug. 22	Nov. 05 – Nov. 14
Jan. 08 – Jan. 17	May 28 – June 06	Aug. 20 – Aug. 29	Nov. 12 – Nov. 21
Jan. 15 – Jan. 24	June 04 – June 13	Aug. 27 – Sept. 05	Nov. 19 – Nov. 28
Jan. 22 – Jan. 31	June 11 – June 20	Sept. 03 – Sept. 12	Nov. 26 – Dec. 05
Jan. 29 – Feb. 07	June 18 – June 27	Sept. 10 – Sept. 19	Dec. 03 – Dec. 12
Feb. 05 – Feb. 14	June 25 – July 04	Sept. 17 – Sept. 26	Dec. 10 – Dec. 19
Feb. 12 – Feb. 21	July 02 – July 11	Sept. 24 – Oct. 03	Dec. 17 – Dec. 26
Feb. 19 – Feb. 28	July 09 – July 18	Oct. 01 – Oct. 10	Dec. 24 – Jan. 02
Feb. 26 – Mar. 07	July 16 – July 25	Oct. 08 – Oct. 17	Dec. 31 – Jan. 09
Mar. 05 – Mar. 14	July 23 – Aug. 01	Oct. 15 – Oct. 24	
Mar. 12 – Mar. 21	July 30 – Aug. 08	Oct. 22 – Oct. 31	
May 14 – May 23	Aug. 06 – Aug. 15	Oct. 29 – Nov. 07	

THE WORLD'S Most Awarded SAFARI COMPANY

TRAVEL+ LEISURE

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

Travel+Leisure Hall of Fame

Condé Nast Traveler

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

Virtuoso Winner

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

TRAVEL+ LEISURE

Global Vision Award

Development, Youth Education
Micato One for One
Commitment

Travel Age West wave

EDITOR'S PICK

Best Tour Operator
Africa / Middle East

TourismCares

Legacy in Travel
Philanthropy Award

TRAVEL+ LEISURE

World's Best
Value Winner

TRAVEL+ LEISURE

Trips of
a Lifetime

PORTHOLE CRUISE MAGAZINE

Best African Safari
Tour Operator

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

World Tourism Award • Travvy Awards: Gold, Best Escorted Tour Operator, Africa, 2016, 2018; Silver, Best Escorted Tour Operator, Adventure, 2020 • 39-Time Winner, Travel Weekly Magellan Awards, including Gold for Best Tour Operator, Best Consumer Brochure, and Best Trade Website, 2020 • Hospitality Sales and Marketing Association International's (HSMAI) Adrian Awards: Leadership in Corporate Social Responsibility, 2018; Gold, Best Trade Brochure, 2014-2016, 2018; Gold, Best Consumer Brochure, 2014-2016, 2018; HSMAI and National Geographic Traveler Gold Winner, Leader in Sustainable Tourism • 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

THE MICATO *One for One* COMMITMENT

FOR EVERY GUEST ON SAFARI
WE SEND A CHILD TO SCHOOL

Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.

—Nelson Mandela

Hundreds of thousands 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. Under the Micato One for One Commitment, simply by signing up for a Micato safari, every guest on every safari sends a child to school—year after year.

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

For more than 36 years—with intensified dedication during the pandemic—Micato's tribute to our birth continent has been our nonprofit, Micato-AmericaShare. In the next seven pages we'll tell you what AmericaShare does, but first, here's why:

It all began with one little boy, 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, "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—serves Mukuru residents with a Community Centre; a beautiful, 25,000-volume library—with more than 57,000 yearly visitors — and a flourishing second library, both made possible by Suzie and Bruce Kovner through a grant by the Kovner Foundation; and a digitally up-to-the-minute Computer Centre (see the next page).

Harambee's Computer Centre

A big, bright room, equipped with over 60 computers, visited more than 40,000 times since its inception, Micato-AmericaShare's Harambee Computer Centre—enabled by Dr. Derrick Rossi—offers Mukuru residents free computer access and digital skills training through a series of eight-week classes in Word, PowerPoint, and Excel basics.

The Centre has joined with a group of young professionals to offer classes in graphic design, and makes the math tutorials of the online Khan Academy available to students before their pivotal year-end exams. Intel East Africa's mobile computer learning truck is also a visitor to Harambee.

More Milestones

The ever-growing Harambee Centre Library was recently the proud recipient of the Best Community Library in Nairobi Award by the Kenya Association of Library and Information Professionals.

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.

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 that child to graduate high school (and beyond, if the spirit is willing). Many lives, on both sides of the Atlantic, have been changed by this programme.

Learn More

At our website, AmericaShare.org, or email us at Inquiries@AmericaShare.org.

The Red Hill Library and Community Centre

Tucked away on the verdant seaward side of the glorious Old Cape Road, south of Cape Town, past the imposing Steenberg Mountains and lovely Simon's Town, on the way to the Cape of Good Hope, is the community of Red Hill, whose 1,500 makeshift households are blessed with wonderful views, bright community spirit, and not much in the way of community services.

"Micato-AmericaShare's educational outreach in East Africa inspired us to find a community in South Africa where we can have a lasting impact," says Lorna Macleod, AmericaShare's co-founder and executive director. "And at Red Hill, we knew we had found our place."

That place is AmericaShare's Red Hill Library and Community Centre, a joyful place for a town with a single part-time clinic, 37 per cent unemployment, and no school for its more than 2,000 school-age kids, who have to take long bus rides to state schools in the vicinity.

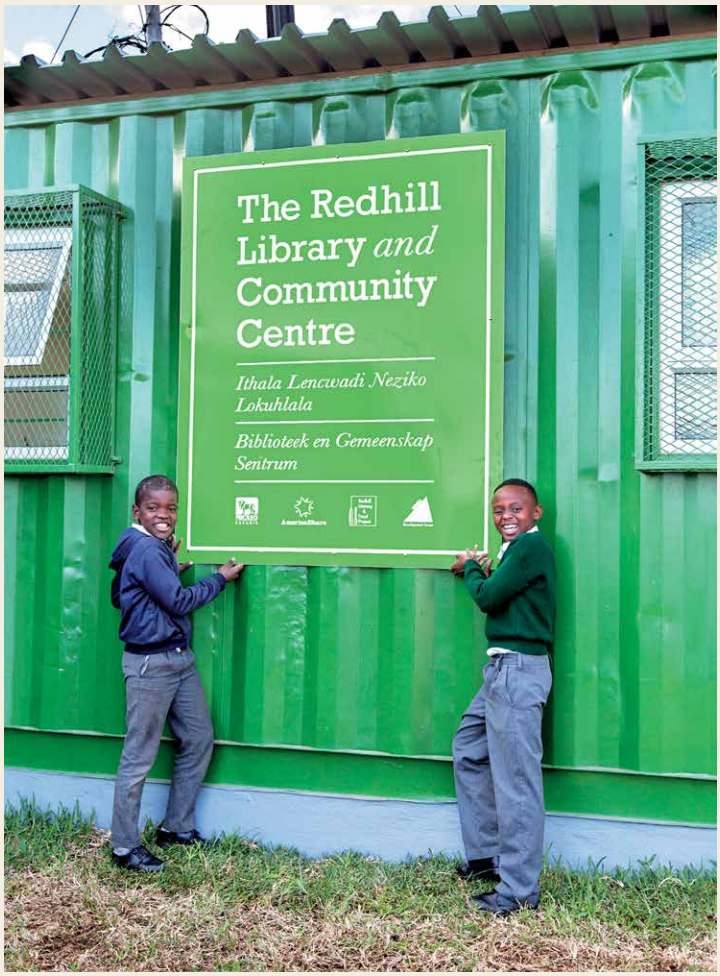
Red Hill's Present and Future

Our bright new, ever-growing library is a welcoming community meeting place, led by a trained librarian, with volunteers who help students with their homework and read books to the younger children. The centre's computer lab also offers classes to

Knowledge is like a garden. If it is not cultivated, it cannot be harvested.

—African proverb

community members of all ages. The Community Centre is a second home for many in the Red Hill community. Its offerings are imaginatively multi-faceted: we lead creative writing workshops, knitting circles, and resume writing classes that have helped many to secure full-time jobs.



Most of Micato's...

....safariers to the Cape Peninsula will visit the Red Hill Library and Community Centre, and many of them will be inspired to help it bring more light to the community. They'll want to make donations like books, computers, or funds for a new building.

So: if you'd like to visit Red Hill, either before or after your Micato safari, or if you're just inspired by what you're seeing and reading on these pages, send an email to Inquiries@AmericaShare.org.

This collaboration with Micato-AmericaShare has brought light to our community. Scholars are able to do their homework and research in the library, which provides a great environment for their education and homework clubs. The Forum is also benefitting from having a productive space in which to meet. This project has uplifted the entire community by making resources available to everybody.

—Luyando Lombo, Red Hill Development Forum member

Huru Means Freedom

East African girls who can't afford sanitary pads very often avoid school during their periods, losing as much as an entire month each school year. The consequences are significant: girls who miss school or work fall behind, drop out or quit, perpetuating a grim cycle of poverty and gender inequality.

Micato is a major donor and proud supporter of Huru, founded in 2008 by AmericaShare's co-founder Lorna Macleod. Huru manufactures reusable sanitary pads—more than 1,600,000 to date—which have been distributed to in free Huru Kits to more than 200,000 girls in Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda."

But Huru Kits have proven to be a simple, sustainable, and wonderfully practical way to alleviate this world-wide problem.

Each Huru Kit consists of a colourful drawstring backpack with eight reusable pads; three pairs of underwear; detergent-grade soap for washing pads; a resealable waterproof bag for safe storage of used pads; and educational materials on HIV prevention and reproductive and sexual health.

Since Huru pads came we are comfortable and we do not feel left out. We are able to attend classes without fear or shame. It brings so much joy to know there are people on earth living far away from you who can rescue you.

—Charity, age 16

All Huru pads are locally produced by women and men from underserved communities, and are designed for the resilient girls and women who use them. Each pad lasts a minimum of 24 months, making them a cost-effective and environmentally friendly alternative to expensive disposables.

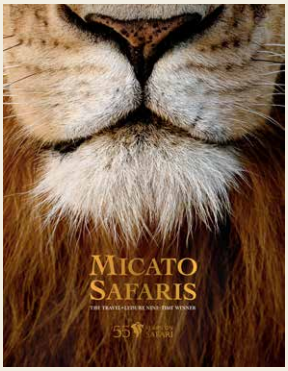
The crucial and heartening bottom line: Huru Kits have saved girls 5,105,800 school days (and counting) that otherwise would have been lost. Independent evaluation shows that girls who receive Huru Kits are three times less likely to miss school during their periods.

Learn More

About Huru's important and effective work. And about its highly successful Skills Transfer Program, a targeted, practical programme that addresses East Africa's huge problem of youth unemployment, which disproportionately impacts girls; 65 per cent of the Skills Transfer Program's trainees have no income whatsoever. Huru's informative website is accessible 525,600 minutes a year at HuruInternational.org. And its phone number is: 212-340-7115.

We educate women because it is smart. We educate women because it changes the world.

—Drew Gilpin Faust, first female president of Harvard University



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...but I want the lion's share of it!
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