

An aerial photograph of a wetland landscape. A dark blue river flows through the center, with two small brown animals swimming in it. The river is flanked by dense green and brown reeds. A large, circular island of yellowish-green vegetation is prominent on the right side. The overall scene is a rich, natural environment.

PASSAGE
THROUGH
BOTSWANA AND
ZIMBABWE

A herd of elephants is gathered in a lush savanna landscape. In the foreground, a body of water is filled with yellow water lilies. The elephants are of various sizes, including several adults and a few calves. They are standing on a grassy bank next to the water. The background is dominated by tall palm trees with large, fan-shaped fronds. The sky is a clear, bright blue.

Southern Africa

Classic Safaris

*So geographers in Afric-maps . . .
Place elephants for want of towns.*

—Jonathan Swift, *On Poetry: A Rhapsody*

Dear Friends,

We recently won our tenth *Travel+Leisure* award for World's Best Safari Outfitter (I'm proud to say that no other company has more than three wins), but among all our many accolades, perhaps the most heartening is also 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 the U.S. and East and Southern Africa.

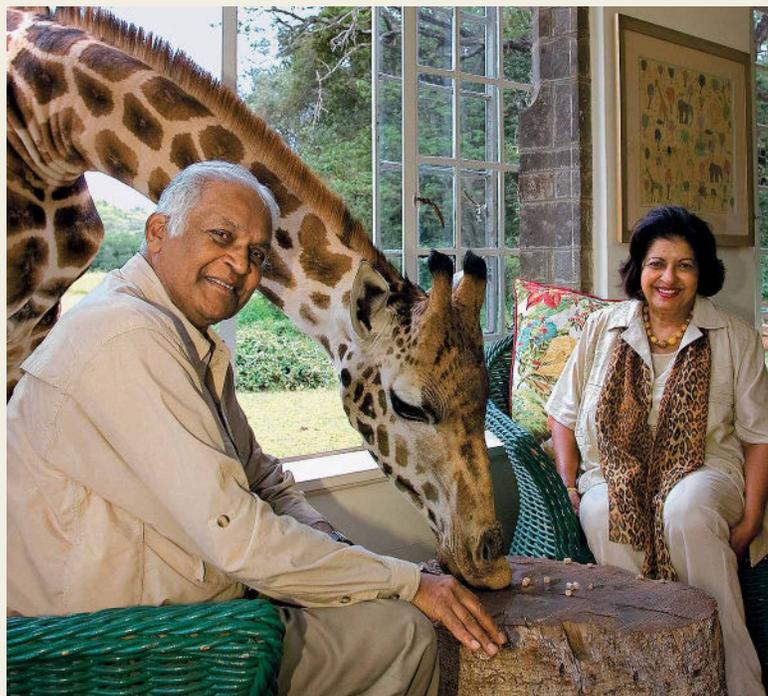
It's been rocky time for the world and for the travel industry. But we've kept the Micato family together, redoubling our commitment to Micato-AmericaShare and Huru (see pages 46-53), and we've been sending travellers on (safe, sane, and Covid-protocoled) safari since summer of 2020. Africa's open skies 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



Micato's founders, Felix and Jane Pinto (and a friend) pictured near their suburban Nairobi home



Your Safari Team in the Bush

Safari Directors: Guides, Helpers, Friends

And they're 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.

In addition to a thorough education in the theory and on-the-savannah practice of our state-of-the-science Covid protocols, every Micato Safari Director in Kenya has earned prestigious Gold or Silver certifications from the Kenya Professional Safari Guides Association. Seasoned professionals, most of whom have been with us their entire careers, graduates of Kenya Utalii College or Tanzania's College of Wildlife Management, they're creative choreographers of safari: guiding flexible, always-in-the-lookout forays into the bush, lecturing on flora and fauna, deftly handling logistics, and imparting fascinating nuggets of African history and local folklore. They will also become dear friends.

And the same highest standards and credentials—and affable, unstinting service—apply to Micato Safari Directors in all the East and Southern African countries in which we safari.

Driver Guides—Tops in Their Field

While most companies offer only Driver Guides, Micato safaris always include a team: Safari Director, Driver Guide, and, of course, our in-country Concierge Service and staff. Our Driver Guides in Kenya—and these same standards apply throughout Micato's Africa—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.

This was my first trip overseas since the pandemic shut the world down, but I felt confident in Micato's hands based on their history of excellence and comprehensive safety protocols. I knew that Micato could handle any surprises thrown our way, and they did, including a pre-departure Covid test conducted as I watched zebras graze behind the airstrip, followed with a glass of local beer. — Elisabeth Brown





*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 ten 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 21.)



PASSAGE THROUGH BOTSWANA AND ZIMBABWE

Botswana's Okavango Delta & Khwai Private Reserve · Victoria Falls & Hwange National Park

14 days door-to-door Includes days en route to/from Johannesburg

Botswana's Okavango Delta, a world-unique oasis of smoothly meandering waterways, lagoons bubbling with hippos, idyllic mini-savannah islands, the “most unexpected of wonders,” as Frans Lanting wrote, “water in the desert,” gently pulsing water that brings life to a dazzling population of wildlife.

Victoria Falls, Mosi-oa-Tunya, “The Smoke That Thunders,” far and away the planet's grandest waterfall—as we like to say, one of the planet's grandest *anythings*—brimming with “scenes so lovely [they] must have been gazed upon by angels in their flight,” rhapsodized David Livingstone, the first outsider to succumb to the Falls' immense charisma.

And not far from the colossal cascade, Zimbabwe's Hwange National Park's archetypal African landscapes, roamed in natural freedom by the fabled Big Five and five score other mammals and 20 score colourful avians, making Hwange one of the continent's finest game-viewing, traveller-enchanting destinations.

*I think I could turn and live with
animals. . . . I stand and look at
them long and long. . . . Not one
is respectable or unhappy over
the whole earth.*

—Walt Whitman,
Leaves of Grass



DAY 1 *En route*

DAY 2 *Johannesburg*

After arrival, we'll be met and whisked out to the halcyon *Saxon Hotel, Villas and Spa* in Johannesburg's verdant suburb of Sandhurst. And in the evening, we'll enjoy dinner at the home of old Micato friends.

DAYS 3 & 4 *The Okavango Delta*

It's hard to be more enthusiastic about the "vast, mesmerizing oasis" of the Okavango Delta than we are just to the right of here, on page 121. Suffice to say—until you experience it—that the Delta is in the topmost rank of world wonders (and more sweetly accommodating than most).

We fly north from Joburg to Maun and on to the intimate, very Africa-chic *Mapula Lodge*, set on its own serene island in a private 220,000-acre concession, giving us great solitude as we explore the incredibly lush Delta's gently wending waterways and islands by watercraft, 4-wheel drive vehicles, and on walks with Mapula's cadre of enthusiast-guides. This part of the Delta is blessed with an exceptionally varied animal population, prominently including the harrumphing hippos at home in Mapula's lagoon.



Thorntree River Lodge

DAYS 5–7 *Khwai Private Reserve*

A short morning flight takes us to what we think is one of Botswana's best kept secrets: the Khwai Private Reserve, another Okavangan marvel. Our lodging here is *Sable Alley*, an inspirationally stylish camp set on its own quiet lagoon. We step out onto the veranda of Sable's enormous (almost 600-square-foot) tents to a close view of the lagoon and its medley of animal visitors.

Khwai's water- and landscapes vary dramatically:





riverine forests, acacia woodlands, and the Delta's gliding watercourses. We'll explore them all, in small watercraft, safari vehicles, and on foot, delighting in the reserve's full African cast of nowhere-else-on-earth creatures—lions, skyscrapey giraffes, bouldery Cape buffalo and peppy, fascinating African wild dogs. "They live the life domestic dogs wish they could live," as biologist Rosie Woodroffe says.

DAYS 8 & 9 *Victoria Falls*

We fly into Zambia, and along the way we may see a dramatic sight from many miles away: silvery, tower-

ing clouds rising up from the flat brown earth. The plume of the world's most colossal cascade, Victoria Falls.

Our small, astutely designed **Thorntree River Lodge** is set in Mosi-oa-Tunya National Park, beside the Zambezi River, upstream from the Falls. We'll make an arrival-afternoon game drive in the park (lovingly protected rhinos are headliners), or take a sunset cruise on the Zambezi. But Victoria Falls beckons, and we'll spend Day 9 wandering its many vantage points, strolling through mist in our Micato-supplied rain gear, swooping over the



Somalisa Camp

When I first thought about taking our groups to Africa, I was told by people I respect that I should deal only with Micato Safaris. I was told not only that you were the best, but also that you were unique in your ability to transfer the warmth of your operation to everyone you touch . . . and I must say that even my very high expectations were exceeded in every way! —Barry Wolpa



Falls in a helicopter (the famous, pulse-quickening Flight of Angels), continually astonished by one of the greatest wonders in a world full of them (see more waterfallian praise on page 138).

DAYS 10–12 *Hwange National Park*

Somalisa Camp is located in the middle of Hwange, in a vlei, or marshy, animal-attracting area. We

arrive in the intimate camp (only seven fully modern, elegantly decorated tents) after a short flight from Victoria Falls and make the first of our eventful game drives in the cooling afternoon, perhaps after a revivifying dip in Somalisa’s

aquamarine pool, often with elephants frolicking in a waterhole only yards away.

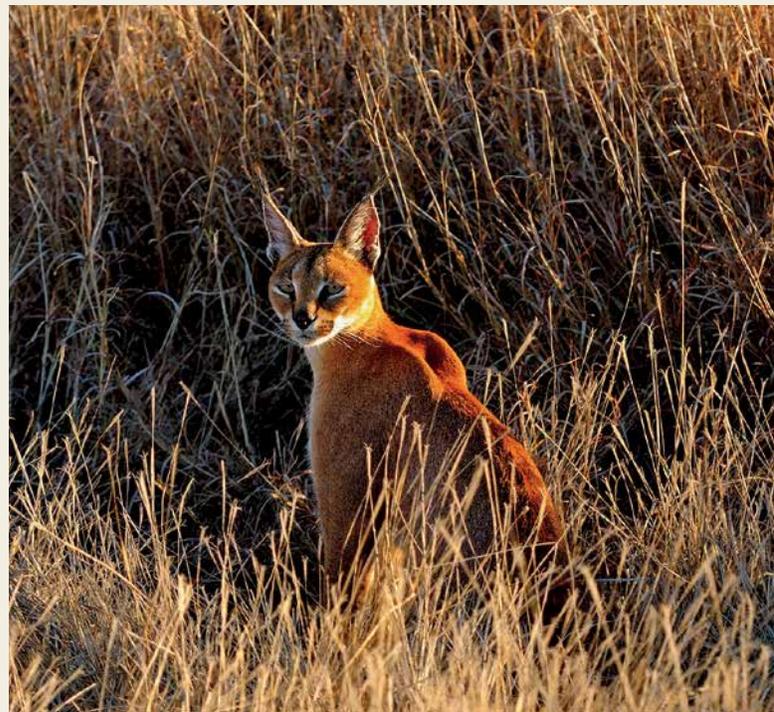
Hwange is classic African bush country, and our game drives in the park are exceptionally rich; the Big Five are in residence, along with white rhino, zebras by the hundreds, and more than a hundred other mammals, including another large contingent of wild dogs, stately gemsbok, and brown hyenas, crafty and oddly compelling creatures who endear themselves to many veteran safariers. And after

game drives we relax on Somalisa’s tree-shaded veranda, enjoy the camp’s top-notch cuisine, and savour safari’s freedom from care.

DAYS 13 & 14 *Homeward bound*

After a short flight back to Victoria Falls, we continue to Johannesburg for our outbound flights, with full-service, meals-included day rooms at the **InterContinental**—and, as always, our Safari Director and vehicle at beck and call.

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





Thank you again for all the unexpected wonderful gifts and surprises we received on our safari. We have proof now that Santa Claus' headquarters is in Nairobi, not the North Pole.

—Shelly and Jim Fraser

Make Your Safari a Private Classic

Passage Through Botswana and Zimbabwe 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 2023

Land arrangements, per person

	Jan-Mar	June-Oct	Apr-May, Nov-Dec
Double Occupancy	\$20,450	\$22,950	\$19,950
Single Supplement	3,750	4,750	2,950
Internal Flights	3,150	3,150	3,150

(Johannesburg / Maun / Camp to Camp / Kasane / Livingstone; Victoria Falls / Hwange National Park / Johannesburg) Connections may apply. For assistance booking international flights, we will be happy to refer you to our preferred air ticket purveyor.

2023 Dates

Door-to-Door from Home | Departs Sunday, returns Saturday
Every date is a guaranteed departure

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

2024 Dates

Door-to-Door from Home | Departs Sunday, returns Saturday
New rates and dates may apply

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



THE WORLD'S Most Awarded SAFARI COMPANY

**TRAVEL+
LEISURE**

World's Best
Value Winner

**TRAVEL+
LEISURE**

Trips of
a Lifetime

**PORTHOLE
CRUISE MAGAZINE**

Best African Safari
Tour Operator



Legacy in Travel
Philanthropy Award

**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



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

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.”

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.

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



I will never forget my first experience of visiting Harambee Centre! It surpassed my expectations; above all I felt very safe around that space despite the fact that everyone was a stranger when I got in but as I was leaving, I felt warm and I thought to myself this looks like a neat family that I would like to be part of.

—Aisha Omar



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.

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 dynamic, 13,000-volume Harambee Centre Library was recently the proud recipient of the Best Community Library Award by the 56-year old 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.

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 Red Hill. Its offerings are imaginatively multi-faceted: we lead creative writing workshops, knitting circles, and résumé 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 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

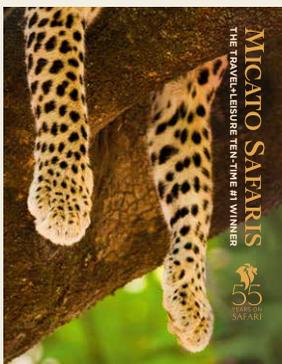
About Huru's important and effective work. And about its highly successful Skills Transfer Program, a targeted, practical programme that addresses East Africa's huge problem of youth unemployment, which disproportionately impacts girls; 65 per cent of the Skills Transfer Program's trainees have no income 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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