AFAR

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Where to Safari in Africa

Excerpted from an article by Jennifer Flowers

The Maasai Mara

The Mara fills with visitors in the dry period between June and October, when there's less green foliage to hide wildlife; in July, hundreds of vehicles line the rivers to watch epic wildebeest herd crossings. But a visit outside of high season can be even more rewarding, according to Dennis Pinto, managing director of Nairobi-based Micato Safaris. "The lushness of the landscapes throughout Kenya right after the April rains, during the off-peak green season, makes for a photographer's paradise," he said. "Wildebeest, zebra, and multitudes of other plains game being born make April and May such a wonderfully literal time of renewal—along with the predators looking for easy prey."

Micato frequently sends guests to the private, community-owned conservancies adjacent to the Mara reserve that are sustainably managing wildlife on their lands—and have more restricted visitation, which translates into fewer crowds, benefiting both visitors and nature. One such camp is the well-appointed, 12-tent Mahali Mzuri, a Virgin Limited Edition camp that leases land from the Masai-owned Olare Motorogi Conservancy.

How to book

Nairobi-based luxury outfitter Micato Safaris, owned and run by a Kenyan family, can arrange a custom-designed itinerary in Kenya.