

THE
MICATO GRAND
SAFARI



East Africa

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.

—Elsbeth Huxley, *The Flame Trees of Thika*



Dear Friends,

We recently won our tenth first-place *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.

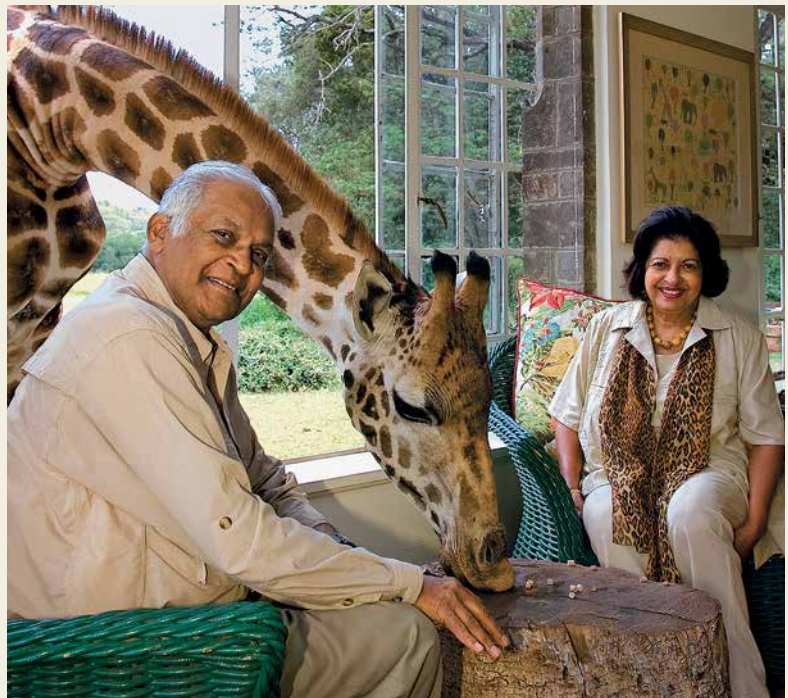
And so, I hope you'll enjoy an armchair safari with this brochure, and that you'll consider joining us for hilltop sundowners overlooking the guileless and gorgeous African game lands.

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: 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 60 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 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 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.



THE WORLD'S Most Awarded SAFARI COMPANY

**TRAVEL+
LEISURE**

World's Best
Value Winner

**TRAVEL+
LEISURE**

Trips of
a Lifetime

**PORTRHOLE
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

**TRAVELAGE
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 • 43-Time Winner, Travel Weekly Magellan Awards, including Gold for Best Tour Operator, Best Education Program, Best Social Media, Best Consumer Brochure, and Best Trade Website • Travvy Award: Gold, Best Escorted Tour Operator, Africa and Silver, Best Escorted Tour Operator, Adventure • Hospitality Sales and Marketing Association International's (HSMIA) Adrian Awards: Leadership in Corporate Social Responsibility; Gold, Best Trade Brochure and Best Consumer Brochure, multiple years; HSMIA 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

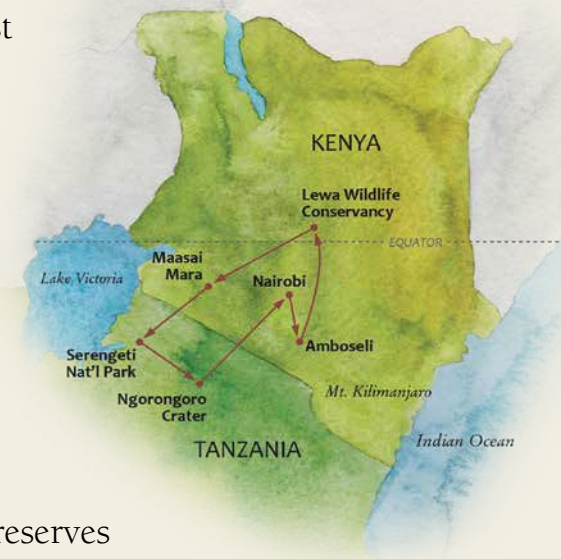
THE MICATO GRAND SAFARI

Kenya's Amboseli, Lewa Conservancy & Maasai Mara · Tanzania's Serengeti & Ngorongoro Crater

15 days door-to-door Includes days en route to/from Nairobi

The grand, glamorous, unabashedly luxurious safaris favoured by princes and princesses, potentates, plutocrats, and ex-presidents (Teddy Roosevelt's epic 1909 safari was one of the first of its sumptuous kind) are central to East Africa's heritage as one of the world's most desired destinations. This *Grand Safari* is Micato's homage to those old and romantic days, to their indulgent and exquisite grace.

The *Micato Grand Safari's* six flights make travel between game reserves and luxury camps a seamless, time-saving joy. And our stays in places like the airy Tortilis Camp in Amboseli; Bateleur or Governors' Il Moran camps in the Maasai Mara; the charmingly luxe Four Seasons Safari Lodge in the Serengeti; and the serene Lewa Safari Camp on the Laikipia Plateau bring us into close and comfortable contact with some of Africa's richest game lands and most stirring landscapes.



Sitting [by a safari campfire] listening to the lions far out in the darkness was like returning to the really true world again—where I probably once lived 10,000 years ago.

—Karen Blixen, in a letter to her mother, Ingeborg Dinesen



DAY 1 *En route*

DAYS 2 & 3 *Nairobi*

Upon arrival in the Kenyan capital, we'll be met by our Micato Safari Director and driven to **Hemingways**, a hotel that great lover of Africa would have savoured for its classic African ambience and old-school luxuries.

The next day, we'll wend our way over to the Giraffe Centre for some interspecies camaraderie, and visit the former home of Karen Blixen, author—writing as Isak Dinesen—of *Out of Africa*, one of the most evocative books ever written about any earthly place. And we'll head over to Lavington, the home of Felix and Jane Pinto, Micato's founding couple, for a hearty, familial, and story-flavoured lunch, then tour the excellent National Museum before returning to our hotel.

DAYS 4 & 5 *Amboseli*

We fly south this morning over the Athi Plains to the natural wonderland of Amboseli National Park. Mount Kilimanjaro, the still-glaciated monarch of Africa, presides over Amboseli, thrusting three dizzying miles above the park's grasslands. As Peter Matthiessen wrote in *The Tree Where Man Was Born*, "A snow peak in the tropics draws the heart to a fine shimmering painful point of joy."

Tortilis Camp is our base for a visit to a Maasai village and game drives in this almost incomparably rich animal kingdom. Our spacious, luxuriously furnished, thatch-covered tents nestle under the huge and reposeful Tortilis acacia trees from which the camp takes its name. Unwinding on our veranda, we might, like Isak Dinesen, watch a parade of elephants "pacing along as if they had an appointment at the end of the world."

DAYS 6 & 7 *Lewa Safari Camp*

Set high up on the Laikipia Plateau, graced with unendingly various views of lordly Mount Kenya,* **Lewa Safari Camp** is the jewel of the famed Lewa Conservancy, which has helped create the template for the successful conservancy model of wildlife and habitat preservation. Lewa's wide range of

* 17,057-foot Mount Kenya, seat of Ngai, God himself, is the only mountain in the world to give its name to a country.

terrains supports a full cast of predators and prey; it's home to the world's largest concentration of Grevy's zebra, and its 130 happily roaming black and white rhinos are a testament to the Conservancy's resolute

and ingenious conservation efforts. Lewa Safari Camp's 12 thatched roof tents are classically airy and simply, easefully luxurious. Each has a modern en-suite bathroom and a large private veranda overlooking one of the continent's vastest and most vibrant African landscapes.

drive throughout the Mara, spend rewarding time with the local Maasai people, and make side trips to the Mara River and its tributaries for a gander at leviathan crocodiles and hippos. And we'll have sundowners in the gentle evening warmth of Ms. Dinesen's true world, breathing its clean and guileless air, watching Africa's showy stars come out to dazzle, feeling like we might have dallied in these parts, 10,000 years ago.

On our second day in the Mara, we'll sweep in a hot-air balloon above the *siringet*, or the "endless place," as the Maasai call this great land (normally an additional cost, ballooning on *The Micato Grand Safari* is part of the luxe experience). And at flight's end, we'll savour a sparkling breakfast; we'll already be a little giddied by the plain's beauty and our good fortune to be so welcome and at ease in its presence.

Tortilis Camp

DAYS 8 & 9 *The Maasai Mara*

This morning we'll fly over the planetary rumple of the Great Rift Valley—it makes "the Grand Canyon look like a line scratched with a toothpick," John Gunther wrote in *Inside Africa*—to the Maasai Mara, the northern sector of the bigger-than-Belgium Serengeti–Maasai Mara ecosystem, unquestionably the earth's greatest haven for large mammals, more than 70 species of which go about their business in the oceanic Serengeti–Maasai Mara grasslands. Based from equally splendid **Bateleur Camp** or **Governors' Il Moran Camp**, we'll game



DAYS 10 & 11 *The Serengeti*

We'll spend our two Serengeti nights in the **Four Seasons Safari Lodge Serengeti**. The magnificently conceived Four Seasons is set on a fine collection of kopjes, looking out at what seems a golden eternity, with sunrise skies "banded with rose and lemon and the colour of flamingo wings," as Elspeth Huxley wrote. The vast plain, home of three million or more large mammals—elephants, cheetahs, gazelles by the gazillions, wildebeest, zebras, giraffes "floating across the plain" (thanks, Ms. Dinesen), lions, rhinos and more than 60 more species

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



inhabit the great grassland, its riverine forests, and bustling, set-piece kopjes, rock islands that pop up from the plain.

The Serengeti—and the Four Seasons—are the kind of African places that Micato loves to introduce our guests to, places that lull us into slowing down as we enter a world where nature expresses itself wholly and the tumults and furies of the larger world are stilled by a million-year calm.

DAYS 12 & 13 *Ngorongoro Crater*

We fly southeast from the unforgettable Serengeti to Lake Manyara—the lake that heart-stirringly erupted with thousands of flamingos in the film *Out of Africa*. Ernest Hemingway thought, and many of us think—that Manyara is Africa's loveliest lake. We'll have splendid views of the lake during lunch at the refreshing Lake Manyara Serena Safari Lodge, and perhaps have time to amble, maybe catching sight of some local predators and sprightly birds.

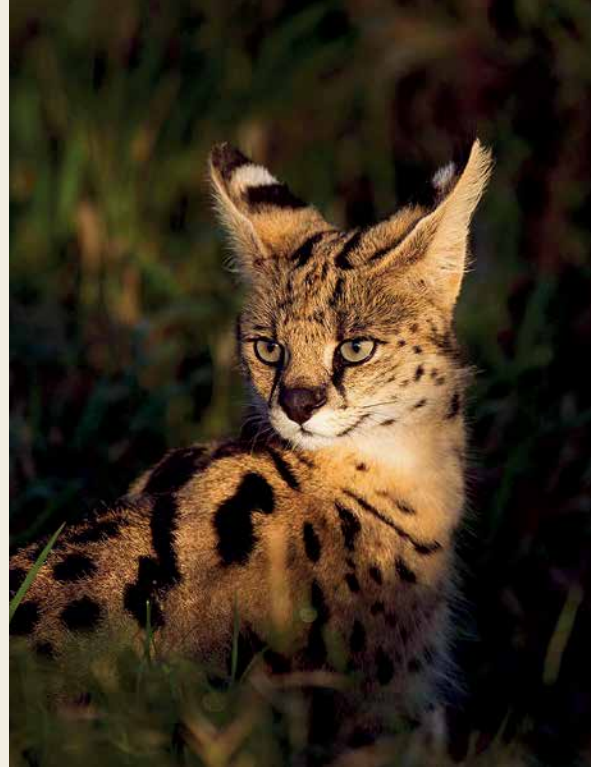
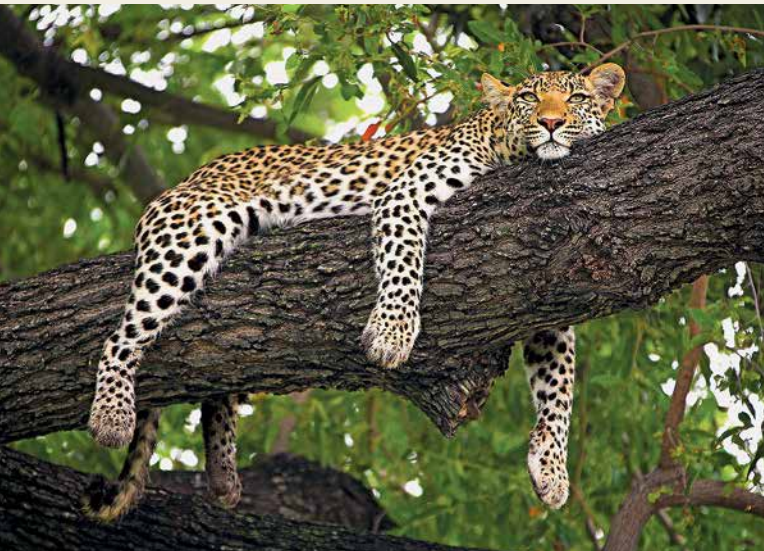
Now we make the beautiful drive across the Crater Highlands and up to the **Ngorongoro Crater Lodge**, perched on the rain-forested rim of the Ngorongoro Crater, one of our solar system's greatest geographic ornaments.

In *The Tree Where Man Was Born*, Peter Matthiessen captured one of the crater's enigmas: "How did the hippopotamus find its way up into the Crater Highlands, to blunder into the waters of Ngorongoro? Today one sees them there with wonder, encircled by steep walls." Indeed, meandering around the softly lush caldera floor, we may feel like Professor George Edward Challenger and Lord John Roxton in Arthur Conan Doyle's thriller *The Lost World*. True, we won't see any *Aardonyxes* or *Zupaysauri*, but—as we often say—once you've really *looked* at a rhino, or contemplated the gigantic unlikelihood of an elephant, your old sadness at never having seen a dinosaur will be lightened.

What an incredible experience! Thanks to Micato, my family and I enjoyed a trip we will never forget. We could not have asked for a friendlier, more knowledgeable team. It was truly the adventure of a lifetime.

—Cal Ripken

This tour was the most expensive travel adventure we had ever considered, and as we embarked we wondered if the cost would prove to be worth it. Let me assure you that we now not only believe it was worth every penny, but for the dollars spent, consider it a great travel value. —Alan Kaufman



DAYS 14 & 15 Depart Nairobi

After breakfast and a last look at the Edenic lands below, we'll drive to Lake Manyara and fly to Nairobi, where we'll have day rooms, and the services of our Safari Director and vehicle, at the *Norfolk* or the *Four Points Sheraton*, and get a bite—meals and amenities as always included—before being driven to the airport for our late flights back to the Northern Hemisphere.

Make Your Safari a Private Classic

The *Micato Grand* 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.

Tariff 2024

Land arrangements, per person

	Jan-Mar	May	November	Balance of Year
Double Occupancy	\$30,500	\$29,500	\$31,500	\$33,500
Single Supplement	5,450	3,650	5,650	6,850
Internal Flights	3,150	3,150	3,150	3,150

(Nairobi / Amboseli / Lewa / Maasai Mara / Serengeti / Lake Manyara; Lake Manyara / Nairobi) Connections may apply.

2024 Dates

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

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

2025 Dates

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

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

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 36 years, 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, 25,000-volume Harambee Centre Library is the proud recipient of the Best Community Library Award by the 50-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, if they attend school, have to take long bus rides to state schools in the vicinity.

Red Hill’s Present and Future

Accomplished in close partnership with the Red Hill Development Forum and the Red Hill Literacy Project, this bright new library is staffed with trained librarians, a computer centre, and a welcoming community meeting place.

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

—African proverb

Goals for the future: Bringing in IT professionals to train Red Hill's teens and adults; a broad variety of new classes; more librarians; reaching our goal of 2,500 books and a dozen computers; further expansion of the Centre with a second floor; more joy and learning to the Red Hill community.

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 2,100,000 to date—which have been distributed in free Huru Kits to more than 300,000 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 24,000,000 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

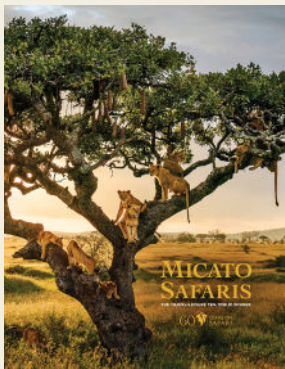
About Huru’s important and effective work. And about its highly successful Skills Transfer Program, a targeted, practical programme that addresses East Africa’s huge problem of youth unemployment, which disproportionately impacts girls; 65 per cent of the Skills Transfer Program’s trainees have no income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