

*Custom Micato Safari to Rwanda, Kenya  
and Tanzania*

*Created by Liz Wheeler*

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### *Itinerary in Brief...*

Kigali, Rwanda (2 nights)

Parc National des Volcans (3 nights)

Nairobi (1 night)

Laikipia Plateau (3 nights)

Maasai Mara Game Reserve (3 nights)

Serengeti National Park (3 nights)

Ngorongoro Conservation Area (2 nights)

Nairobi, AmericaShare, Huru, Depart (Day Room)

## *A Micato Safari...*

### **Imagine a safari that is...**

...sophisticated and exclusive, offering privacy, flexibility and the undivided attention of each camp owner, manager, and safari director who are the consummate hosts, your personal guides to the bush, as well as dinner companions around a great table every evening. (But only if that is your desire, of course.)

### **On a Micato Safari you will...**

...live the life of the landed locals on their ranches and private game reserves. You will have a home and a place in Africa. This experience is quite different from a typical safari.

### **Activities are not fixed according to a predetermined schedule...**

...but decided by you, on the spot, following your impulses. Every morning your safari directors describe various options and your staff is at the ready. Then it's your call. (Such decisions!)

### **Choices for the day might include...**

... a game drive by open-top vehicle, or a spirited hike in the reserve for a spot of exercise and a glorious view. A mountain bike safari or perhaps a foot safari, both providing an unhurried examination of the bush. Tracking wildlife at the traditional crack of dawn, or sleeping in and catching them later. (Much later even.)

### **Perhaps most memorable of all will be...**

...the people you meet during your African sojourn, from the hospitable wait staff and the mamas at the lodges to the accomplished major domos of each camp, the skilled local trackers, and the erudite and genial Micato Safari Directors.

### **Your hosts on safari...**

...the Pinto family, the camp owners, your Micato Safari Directors. They're a fascinating lot with a passion and great vision for Africa. While operating superlative hostelries and safari services, they are also involved in farsighted initiatives such as tribal community projects, educational trusts and wildlife conservation operations.

Getting to know these people—and doubtlessly considering them friends by the end of your stay—may even trump the wildlife experience that lured you to Africa in the first place. Each individual has a captivating story to tell and they are, to a person, endlessly interesting.

### **Evenings on a Micato Safari...**

... are especially enchanting, when the camp takes on the atmosphere of an intimate, casual dinner party. The great room glows with the soft light of hurricane lanterns, the dinner table laid with an artful collection of damask, crystal and tribal artefacts, and the waitstaff dressed in their clan's traditional splendour. There are drinks, dinner and stories around the fire. The meal itself is a graceful sit-down, multi-course affair and the cuisine, as you might expect, is extraordinary.

“Micato Safaris treats guests like well-loved out-of-town relatives” is the *Travel+Leisure* tribute of which we're most proud. For the unique experience of being at home in Africa, there is no equal to Micato.



## *Arrive Kigali, Rwanda*

Touch down Africa. Kigali International Airport. The journey begins!

By special arrangement, you are met by a Micato representative immediately as you deplane and are personally escorted through baggage claim and customs procedures.

Rwanda's revitalized capital provides a warm welcome to this splendid country. Founded in 1907 as a German settlement, Kigali did not become the capital until Rwanda's independence in 1962 when it replaced the colonial seat of power in Butare. Today, the city offers a remarkable mix of rural and urban town overflowing on contrasting hilly terrain and is home to about one million dwellers.

Over the next two days, tour the city's market and shops, restaurants, cultural centre, and Kigali Genocide Memorial.



## *Your Home in Kigali*

Located in the heart of Rwanda's bustling capital city of Kigali wends a lovely boulevard whose occupants include the equally-lovely **Kigali Serena Hotel**, an amalgam of Rwandan art, architecture and modern sophistication. Elegant guest room furnishings and amenities are easily on par with other sharply-tended big city hotels we've enjoyed, and if we so wish we have at our disposal on site several worthy restaurants and bars, 24-hour room service as well as a spa and health club to balance our well-deserved repasts.



## *Parc National des Volcans*

This morning a thrilling helicopter ride takes us to the heart of the Virunga Mountains.

Rwanda's Parc National des Volcans is known for the verdant slopes of the Virunga mountain range, a lofty and lush paradise. In the rainforest here—buzzing with the sounds of jungle life—the soft mists prevail as they did when Dian Fossey wrote her legendary book, *Gorillas in the Mist*. And the creature that drew Dr. Fossey is the same one that beckons to us: the rare and regal mountain gorilla.



## *Luxury in the Parc*

**One&Only Gorilla's Nest** is the newest of the luxury lodges found in the Parc National des Volcans. With just 14 detached cottages, each highlighted by floor to ceiling glass doors, the sights and sounds of the forest blend seamlessly to create a perfect indoor / outdoor effect. Each room has its own private veranda warmed by a crackling fire to take the bite out of the cool mountain air. Traditional Imigongo artwork and craftsmanship fill the spaces with warmth and a rich local history.



## *In the Midst of Gorillas*

Here amongst the montane ecosystems of northwest Rwanda, we embark upon one of the most captivating and unforgettable wildlife experiences imaginable—gorilla trekking.

### *Gorilla Trek*

This morning at daybreak we trek into the Parc National des Volcans for the first time—a protected area of magnificent scenery and captivating wildlife. Almost immediately, we'll be introduced to the surreal soundscape of the rainforest: the air ripples with the varied calls of birds and cackling monkeys and a range of other creatures. Through the occasional break in the canopy, we may spy the spectacular peaks beyond.

With our experienced trackers leading us through the brilliant green forest—overhanging vines, giant lobelias, mossy hagenia trees—we come upon the goal of our journey: the endangered Mountain Gorilla.

It is another world: a gorilla family in the throes of their everyday life—feeding, playing, resting; raising their young. Encountering the silverback gorilla in its natural environs is among the most rare and captivating wildlife experiences imaginable.



## *Second Day of Gorilla Trekking*

...we make a second trek through the jungle on Thursday to find these magnificent creatures once again. Park regulations allow for one hour with each family group of gorillas, giving us plenty of time to enjoy this singular experience. Treks usually return in time for a late lunch—though it can take longer if it is muddy or the gorillas are elusive.

In the afternoons after trekking, there are ample fascinating activities. We may take a challenging 3-hour trek through charming local villages to reach Lake Burera, an experience which provides insight into the local history and culture. Other hikes take us to stunning waterfalls, the breath-taking tops of volcanoes, and even through the habitat of the rare and lovely golden monkeys. Micato can also arrange a performance of the Intore Dance Troupe. Founded several centuries ago, the Intore—literally “The Chosen Ones”—once performed exclusively for the Royal Court.



## *Nairobi, “A destination in itself”*

Today we enjoy a scenic drive back to Kigali through vibrant villages and lush countryside before boarding our flight to Nairobi.

As we drive through Nairobi, we’ll bear witness to a renewed metropolis with an exotically glamorous nightlife, superb restaurants, and fascinating people from conservationists to modern-day adventurers.

Lovely surprises await first-time (and returning) visitors to Kenya, and one of the most pleasant is burgeoning and bustling Nairobi, well on its way to becoming a great world capital--and already, as the New York Times recently said, “a destination in itself.”

Nairobi is also dear to Micato’s heart. Our founders, Felix and Jane Pinto, raised their children—Dennis, Anna, and Fiona—on the family’s Ideal Farm in the city’s leafy suburb of Karen, and live today in Lavington, not far from the shapely hills evoked by Isak Dinesen (or Karen Blixen, if you prefer, which most Africans do) in the first sentence of her masterpiece *Out of Africa*: “I had a farm in Africa at the foot of the Ngong Hills.”



## *Nairobi's Accommodations*

Brilliantly decorated in a high colonial plantation style, **Hemingways Nairobi** is a gem of a boutique hotel located in the lush and quiet Nairobi suburb of Karen (named for Karen Blixen, who wrote *Out of Africa* under her pen name Isak Dinesen. Her beloved Ngong Hills are evocatively visible from the balcony of all Hemingways rooms and suites.)

However many stars a luxury hotel these days is said to merit, Hemingways deserves the fullest measure. Its amenities are topflight: spacious, individually and artfully decorated rooms and suites; a sparkling spa, and its service is expert, amiable, and 24-hour-constant. We and our guests attest that Hemingways doesn't exaggerate when they say that "Your dedicated butler will know that you prefer Earl Grey to Assam with your scones and Cornish clotted cream, and he'll remember which trousers you like pressed flat and which ones need a central crease."



*By Special Arrangement: Private Elephant Visit & Adoption*

From her home in Nairobi National Park, the late Dame Dr. Daphne Sheldrick operated Kenya's foremost animal orphanage and conservation foundation, The David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust, established in memory of her husband, a leading conservationist and founding warden of Tsavo National Park. For more than four decades Dame Daphne was a recognised authority on successfully raising, and re-integrating into the wild, infant elephant and rhinoceros orphans.

An elephant will be "adopted" in your name, allowing you a special visit to the orphanage after the general public has departed. You'll enjoy watching the antics of the calves who kick footballs to each other and play tag.



### *Laikipia and Explorations of the Northern Frontier*

Today's transfer to our next destination is so much more than a mere transfer. We climb aboard our private AS 350 B3 Eurocopter – considered the Bentley of helicopters – and an exclusive Africa unfolds at our whim. This morning's excursion affords truly singular views of Mt. Kenya (where we can linger for glacier hiking and fishing if we wish), the dramatic sand dunes and volcanoes of the Great Rift Valley, and the zesty pink flamingos of Lake Bogoria. We dip and curve throughout the landscape as we take in sights that can only be described as breathtaking from above.

With cliffs and escarpment surrounding the awe-inspiring views of snow-capped Mount Kenya in the south, and the Ewaso N'giro and Engare Narok rivers flowing below, the Laikipia Plateau possesses one of the largest elephant populations in East Africa (over 5000) and is one of the last strongholds of the endangered Black Rhino.

Since its ranch days, the plateau has reverted to wilderness, a wildlife refuge supporting huge numbers of game. It is the only place to view the endangered Jackson's Hartebeest. Other game includes lion, cheetah, leopard, wild dog, impala, gazelle, reticulated giraffe, Grevy's zebra, Somali ostrich, Beisa oryx (endemic to the north of Kenya) and gerenuk. Well off the beaten path, the plateau will surely stun you with its untamed beauty.



### *Jochen Zeitz's Personal Retreat*

Our helicopter exploration of the Northern Frontier concludes by midday when we touch down at Segera Retreat.

Presided over by Mount Kenya, Segera is a lush oasis that affords delicious views of the surrounding savannah. Cascading waterfalls, flowing from the Segera River as well as natural springs, will draw herds of elephant, buffalo, and giraffe, and many other creatures while we're here.

While Segera itself is a retreat, we will be enjoying a couple retreats within the retreat: the stone-clad Segera House, a roomy villa kitted out with art and fine antiques, a private garden and plunge pool at our disposal. And one of our overnights will be in a lantern-lit tower, cossetted in the Nay Palad Bird Nest, a very large open-air nest with luxe linen-covered beds.



### *Lots To Do in a Relaxing Oasis*

As Segera lies at the heart of Laikipia, it serves as part of the migratory corridor for elephant and is also the permanent home of many endangered species. Preserving these creatures and the surrounding environment is a priority for Segera, which not incidentally is owned by Jochen Zeitz, founder of the Zeitz Foundation. The foundation's goal is to improve and promote the integrity of ecosystems, so naturally, guests at Segera play a part in helping to conserve the landscape and its precious resources.

**If we're so inclined we might pick up a shovel and help plant trees in a nearby forest**, or ride with Segera's conservation rangers as they monitor and track wildlife on their watch list. Likewise, we might take a game drive with the underpinnings of a dramatic narrative – for instance, how removing miles of game fencing has helped vital elephant migratory routes open up in the area.

We'll explore the sculpture gardens and galleries on property, with evocative, contemporary African art ranging from etchings and bronzes to video installations. And while we might hesitate to quit the grounds **we likely can be persuaded to venture off for several hours for a wine tasting or take the air for a biplane excursion, seeing wondrous Laikipia in a way few ever will.**

Like all our meals, dining here will be highly personalized and impossibly creative. We may take our meals privately or in one of Segera's dining areas. Either way, we're free to choose a bottle of wine from the singular Wine Tower, which houses Segera's vast collection of African wines and, for good measure, plenty of bubbly.

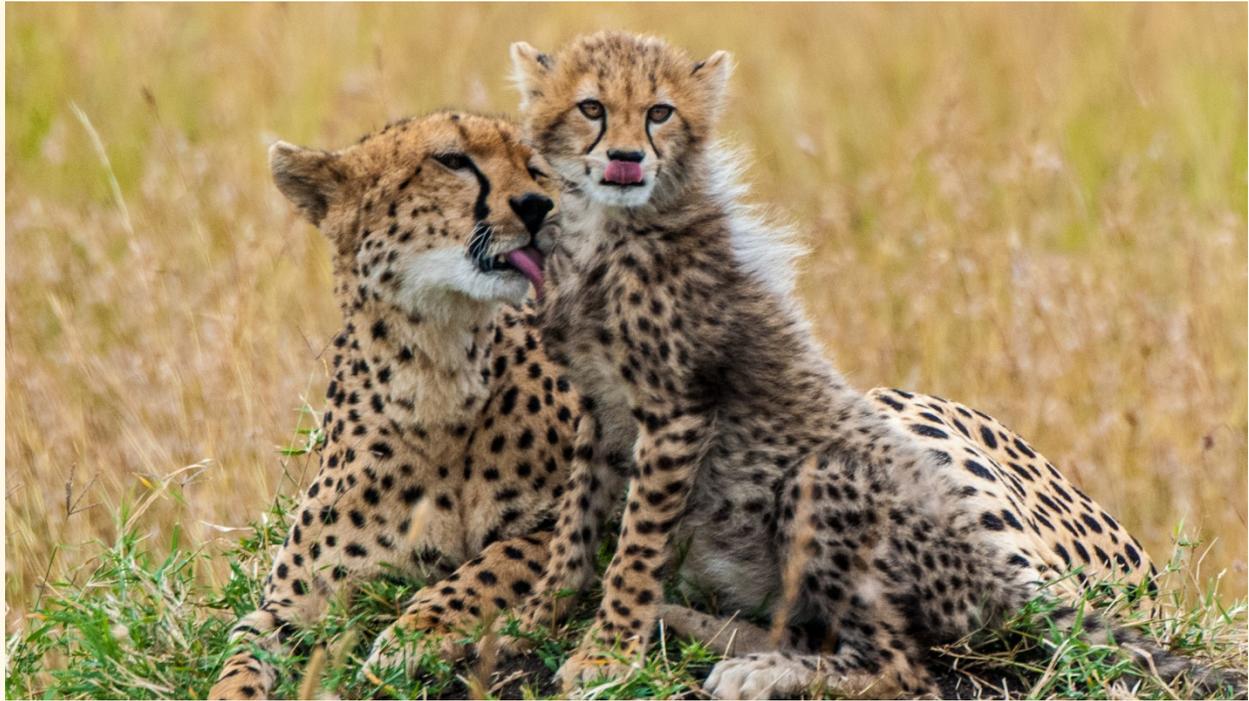


*By Special Arrangement: Fossil Hunting with the First Family of Archeology*

**After breakfast we channel our inner Indiana Jones — let's face it, we all have one — flying off to join the researchers at the Turkana Basin Institute Research Station and the Leakey family, the world-renowned paleoanthropologists whose discoveries of new branches of early man have forever altered human history.**

Louis Leakey, Louise's grandfather, first found the dig site in Olduvai, Tanzania. Richard (his son) was sent by Louis on expedition by boat to the Lake Turkana Basin. Richard and Meave found a few fossils and set up camp, sifting through 1.8 million year old fossils nestled like buried treasure between layers of sand and time.

**Our hosts on the shores of Lake Turkana are the dynamic, brainy, charming and illustrious mother-daughter team of Meave and Louise Leakey whose company is spellbinding.** You will examine the skulls in their vaults, the hominid bones being pieced into skeletons, and marvel at the 3D spatial technology they're using. But best of all, you will spend the afternoon with them walking across endless fields of desert containing all manner of fossils dating back millions of years from giant crocodiles to enormous elephants, hippo and, of course, early man.



## *Maasai Mara*

Excitement and expectations build as we fly to the Maasai Mara, with its myth-like stories of bountiful wildlife.

The Maasai Mara is the Africa of our imagination. Rolling grasslands, expressive acacia trees, sweeping vistas teeming with wildlife, and one of Africa's common and unforgettable sights: "the cumulus clouds that drift all day long across a sun-filled sky," Elspeth Huxley wrote in *The Flame Trees of Thika*, "reminding me of huge swirls of whipped cream."

The Serengeti-Maasai Mara ecosystem is a world treasure, the single most salubrious wildlife habitat on this or any known planet (a single natural realm, its two names reflect the two countries, Kenya and Tanzania, that lay claim to it). Up here in the system's Kenyan north, the landscapes are grandly varied, but the Mara's lushly wending rivers give it a greener tint, with somewhat less savannah than in the south.

The Big Five (lion, leopard, Cape buffalo, rhino, and great rumbling caravans of elephants) are much in evidence, along with nearly 500 bird species (70 of them raptors), a few dozen other big mammal species, including half a million subtly exquisite Thomson's gazelles ("as finely constructed as luxury watches, their coats as shiny as any best in show," as we say in the Micato brochure) and the 1,300,000 wildebeest and 200,000 zebras whose famous migration more or less constantly churns its way around the Serengeti-Maasai Mara, following the shifting rains.



## *Your Safari Camp in the Maasai Mara*

With just seven rooms, Mara Plains Camp is perhaps the most intimate camp on the Mara. It is set in the cool shade of riverine forest and is designed to be as low-impact as possible while still providing a luxury camp experience. Spend your nights under canvas on raised platforms above a creek that hosts families of hippos. Wildlife surrounds you—giraffe munching on grass, elephant rolling in mud, baboons tussling on the ground—and the view from your own verandah will simply blow you away.

And Mara Plains is also a triumph of conservation and community development, partnering with the neighbouring Maasai communities to preserve the land and its wildlife through a groundbreaking organization called Great Plains Conservation.

Mara Plains has exclusive, privileged access to all the main areas within the Mara eco-system. This means we have unfettered permission to cross over conservancy boundaries, offering unrivalled opportunities for game-viewing. In a region replete with predatory cats, this freedom means one thing: we can go where the action is.



## *The Marvelous Mara*

Here, we move to the rhythm of the bush. Meal times are flexible, and guides are ready for a night game drive, a bush walk, or a stop for cocktails at the drop of a hat. It is our whim—and that of the varied game we seek—that decides what we do each day.

An invigorating way to start the day is with a long morning trek across the savannah...ending in a splendid breakfast under the spreading boughs of an acacia tree, of course. We may also set out for a brisk birding session on the river, while our guide provides a primer on a variety of subjects: botany and ornithology, geology and wildlife tracking and amphibian identification.

Whatever we do, at the end of the day, a spectacular scene awaits in the bush: sundowners. Beside a glowing campfire, cocktails are served with panoramic views of the plains as a breathtaking backdrop. The flaming African sun sinks slowly...the skyscape becomes luminous, resplendent.



## *Serengeti National Park*

Board your charter flight to Serengeti National Park, Tanzania.

The Maasai Mara-Serengeti ecosystem is unquestionably earth's greatest haven for large mammals, more than 70 species of which go about their business in its vast grasslands, "as warm with life as the water of a tropical sea," as the great African roustabout and writer Beryl Markham wrote.

We're in the southern part of this planetary treasure (which goes by two names only because it's in two countries, Kenya and Tanzania). The Serengeti is amazing in its enormity, its long, golden reaches, its million-year quiet, and, as Cyril Connolly wrote, "the magic of the animals as they existed before man."

We'll make prairie-schoonering forays onto the plain, on the lookout for lazing lions, rhinos, "loping giraffes," as Elspeth Huxley wrote, "like tiger lilies bending with dignity before a gusty breeze," cheetahs, sauntering elephants, gazelles by the gazillions, wildebeest (forever and famously looking like a collection of cast-off parts), and zebras. We'll explore grasslands and riverine forests, and maybe picnic under an acacia tree next to one of the Serengeti's iconic, set-piece kopjes, rock islands that pop up from the plain like inspired bonsai arrangements. And we won't neglect some serene sky-gazing, appreciating the Serengeti's theatrically billowing afternoon clouds and its stunning sunsets and sunrises (one memorable dawn we saw a cloud on the horizon lit so incandescently by the still-hidden sun that it was almost too bright to look at directly).



### *Four Seasons Safari Lodge Serengeti*

Your home in Serengeti National Park will be the Four Seasons Safari Lodge Serengeti. The spacious rooms are lavishly decorated with local artwork and materials from across the continent. When not enjoying the views from your private teak deck, you may wish to take a dip in the lodge's infinity pool, peruse the art gallery and gift shop, or indulge in a visit to the spa.

Delicious meals are created "theatre-style" in open kitchens, and you can enjoy lighter fare at the pool bar, food and wine pairings in the wine cellar, or an al fresco experience in the boma. In the evenings, unwind and share stories of your adventure over a fine cognac in the bar.



## *Experience True Wilderness*

Your main activity here will be twice daily game drives. The game is so plentiful in the Serengeti that you may want to be on the hunt all the while, but if you desire relaxation you may choose to wind down at the spa.

The day ends with a banquet under vast-spreading tree branches, the lanterns hanging from them adding a fairyland touch to an already enchanting evening, the richness of simmering sauces layering with the eerie calls of owls, bushbabies and hippos.



## *Ngorongoro Conservation Area*

After a morning game drive and breakfast on Sunday we fly to Lake Manyara and then we make a memorable drive west, to the fabled “lost world” of the Ngorongoro Crater.

Making the zigzag drive up the lush slopes of the old volcano to the rim of Ngorongoro’s 100-square-mile caldera is a great moment in any traveller’s life.

As geologic masterpieces go, Ngorongoro has had quite a career. It’s been a gigantic peak—perhaps a rival of Kilimanjaro—and, after it blew its snowy top in what must have been a rather impressive explosion (our forefathers over at the nearby Olduvai Gorge, busy getting their humanoid act together, probably saw it), Ngorongoro spent many millennia as an alternately quiet and occasionally bubbling lava lake. Now in an extended pacific mood, the crater is home to upwards of 25,000 personality-rich animals, who roam—as we will—over a sweetly lush area larger than 76 Central Parks.



### *On the Rim of a Crater*

Wake to an expansive view—miles upon miles of untrammelled wilderness, thick with wildlife. Still in bed, sip your fresh-ground coffee (or cocoa!) and nibble a piece of shortbread while you contemplate the adventures of the day ahead. Yes, you're at home on the edge of the crater: **Ngorongoro Crater Lodge.** The elegantly eclectic Lodge consists of three adjacent, glamorous camps. The suites, perched on stilts at the crater rim, resemble a magical Maasai village from the outside. The crater is almost constantly visible, even from the bathroom. Your personal butler is on hand to care for your every need—from stoking your fireplace to bringing you a cup of tea in bed.



## *The Cradle of Mankind*

This particular portion of the Great Rift Valley is called the 'Cradle of Mankind' thanks in part to the discoveries of the Leakey Family at Olduvai Gorge, where human fossils, dating back two million years, have been found.

Explore the forest, swamp and grassland in a 4x4 vehicle. The small forest patches on the crater floor are home to the leopard, monkey, baboon, jackals, spotted hyena and dark-maned lion, to name a few, while the swamp is patrolled by the mature bull elephant, hippo and serval cats. Lake Makat is an excellent place to take cover and watch zebra and Grant's and Thomson's gazelle. Enjoy a picnic lunch on the salt-whitened shores of Lake Magadi, the surface of which is pastel pink in colour due to the thousands of flamingos that make this lake their home.



## *Return to Nairobi, AmericaShare, Huru, Departure for Home*

Today, upon your return to Nairobi, you'll set out for an experience that many of our guests cite as the highlight of their journeys. Your Safari Director will take you to the heart of Nairobi's Mukuru Slum, where you will come to learn that Micato has a somewhat unconventional view of sustainability: We believe that the most powerful tool for sustainable change in Africa is education. And we came to that realization through a chance encounter.

It all started with one little boy, more than 30 years ago. He was 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. And so we gave that bridge a name: AmericaShare.

And with the help of travellers like you, we've been helping to change lives for the better ever since. Here are just some of the educational programmes and community outreach you enable, which you'll learn more about during your visit to Mukuru.



## *Your safari sends a child to school*

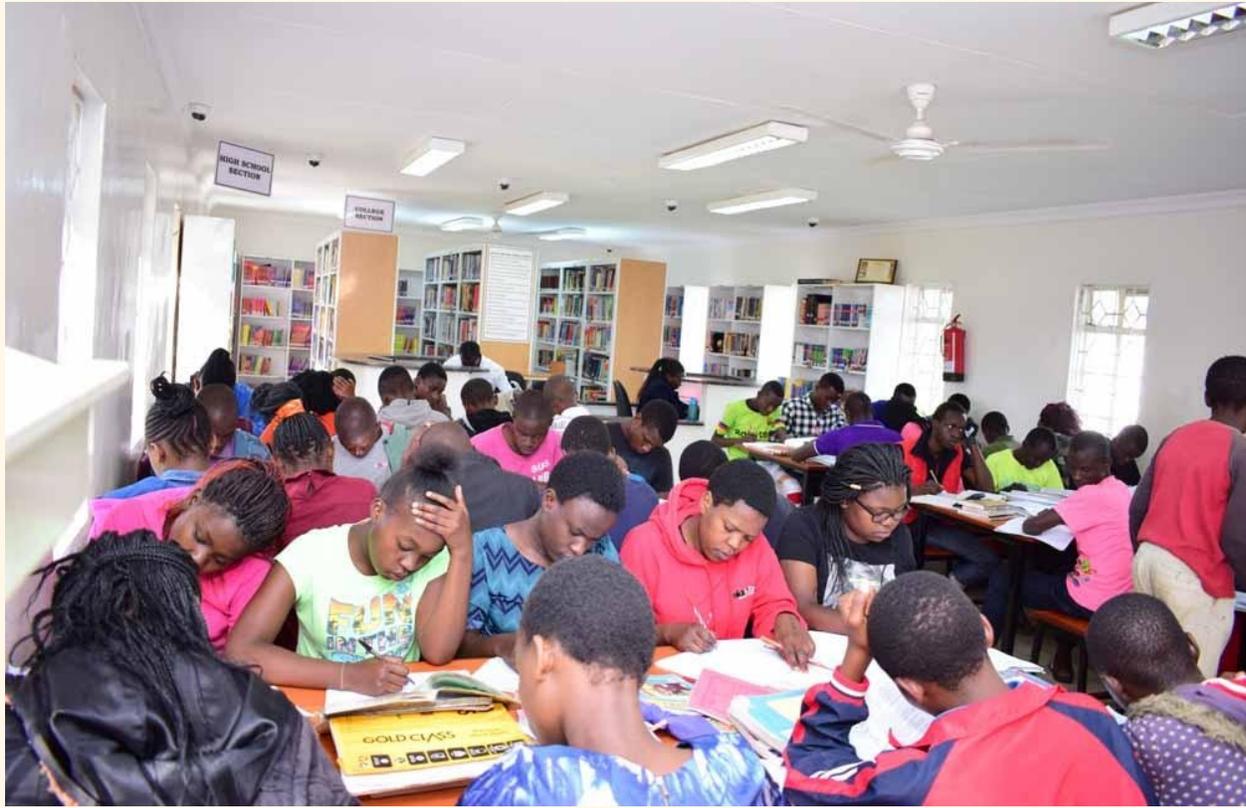
The cornerstone of Micato-AmericaShare's philanthropic work is **The Micato One for One Commitment**, which means that for every safari we sell, we pay the school fees required to send an African child to school – a child who would otherwise stay home due to extreme poverty.

In short, your safari will change a child's life.

A second core initiative, our **School Sponsorship Programme**, matches orphaned or vulnerable children—many of whom have lost one or both parents to the HIV/AIDS epidemic—with generous Micato travellers who sponsor the children to attend boarding school, usually for the duration of their high school years and sometimes into university.

These and other educational programmes are administered by a full-time staff in New York and Nairobi and at the **Micato-AmericaShare Harambee Community Centre**, which will be our destination today.

The Harambee Centre is a peaceful enclave in the heart of Mukuru offering modern, state-of-the-art learning resources and tools for children, allowing them to cultivate interests, foster a passion and then pursue it with all of the tools they need along the way. Our visit here will be a life-affirming experience.



### *An oasis of calm and hope, a place to learn and play*

A highpoint here will be a walk-through of **The Harambee Centre Library** opened in 2010 thanks to funding from Micato Travellers Bruce and Suzie Kovner, becoming Mukuru's first community lending library. Expanded over the years, the library is now stocked with more than 20,000 books. The library was voted Nairobi's Best Community Library.

In 2014 a **computer lab** with six computers was launched, allowing users to access the Internet and learn basic computer skills. In 2018 the lab was expanded and completely refurbished to house 34 computers, thanks to a generous donation from the Korsisaari-Rossi family.

Along the way you may wish to see the **borehole** we drilled at Harambee Centre, one of the few places in Mukuru with a regular supply of fresh water; more than 4 million gallons are provided to residents each year.

The Harambee Centre also offers a safe place to play. A **basketball court**, donated by young Micato travellers who raised money during their bar mitzvahs, is a popular spot for an afternoon game.

And **Lacrosse** was introduced to Kenya in 2014 by Ian Macleod, who brought the game to Mukuru. In 2015, the Kenya Lacrosse Association became the 54th member of the Federation of International Lacrosse. More than 200 students from local schools participate. An AmericaShare School Sponsorship graduate student coaches students every day after school and coordinates matches every week.



## *Empowering Girls, One Huru Kit at a Time*

Today we also pay a visit to the cheery, bustling headquarters of Huru International, of whom Micato is a major donor and proud supporter. Founded in 2008 by AmericaShare's co-founder Lorna Macleod. Huru manufactures reusable sanitary pads—more than 1,300,000 to date—which have been distributed in free Huru Kits to more than 170,000 girls in Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda.

East African girls who can't afford sanitary pads 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.

Huru Kits have proven to be a simple, sustainable way to alleviate this worldwide 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. Bottom line: Huru Kits have saved girls 4.5 million school days that otherwise would have been lost.

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. During our visit of Huru's offices and production facility, we'll no doubt meet several of these remarkable individuals.



## *Farewell to Africa...*

As you recall your splendid sojourn—wilderness and wildlife, villages and cities—your fondest safari memory may very well be the warmth and kindness of the African people. Be assured that you live in their memories too, and all of us look forward to welcoming you back to Micato's Africa someday....

*"The charm of Africa is a painful one: it gives you pleasure when you are out there, but when you are back here it gives you pain by calling you... Come back, come back, this is your home."—Mary Kingsley*