

WILDERNESS AND WINELANDS

Southern Africa

*So geographers
in Afric-maps . . .*

Place elephants for want of towns.

—Jonathan Swift, *On Poetry: A Rhapsody*



Dear Friends,

Little did we think 50 years ago that the small enterprise we had just inaugurated would become one of the world's premier safari companies. (In our minds, of course, Micato is unquestionably the world's absolute *best* safari company—fortunately, many well-informed minds agree, as our awards and accolades indicate.)

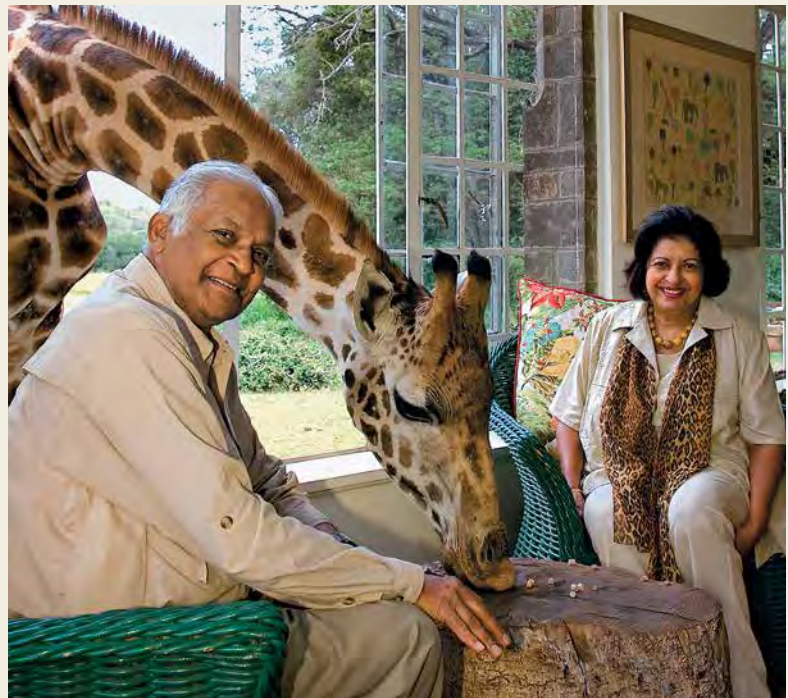
From the beginning we knew Micato would be unique. We are third generation Africans, and we began and built our company here in the well-known, well-loved land of our birth. We raised our children on a farm in Kenya, quite close to Karen Blixen's famous coffee plantation, seven or eight miles from the Ngong Hills. So, you see, when you travel with Micato you're travelling with more than just a company—you're travelling with our family.

Indeed, that's what sets Micato apart and makes our safaris feel so different. You'll find yourself charmed by Africa's generous spirit, spellbound by the peace and beauty of its natural world, delighted by the gentle luxury of life on safari, and you'll be enveloped in warmth and friendship. Every member of the Micato affiliate companies—the Safari Director who'll accompany your safari, your Driver Guides, all our Africa staff, our son and daughter at Micato USA, and many others in Africa and America—will become your family. This is how we have conducted our lives, this is how we built our company, this is why we say, please join us at home in Africa, for a safari that will surpass your most eager dream.

Sincerely,

Felix and Jane Pinto

Founders, Micato Africa



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, 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





Why
Choose
Micato?





Here Are 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.

- Exclusive access to people, places, and experiences available only through the Pinto family's longtime connections.
- Small-group, boutique safaris of fewer than 18 travellers, and only 12 in Southern Africa.
- 100% guaranteed departures, even for parties of two.
- 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 included. In Southern Africa, spirits are often included, too.
- Unique Micato Moments abound on every safari, from bush cocktails to walking safaris.
- Free Wi-Fi and valet laundry service included everywhere.
- Luxurious camps and lodges—obsessively, continually curated.
- Itineraries perfected by generations of experience and local knowledge.
- Safari Directors who accompany every East Africa safari. And exceptionally well-versed Driver-Guides.
- A wonder-working Concierge Team, at your beck and call every moment of the day and night.
- Surprises. We're famous for them. You'll be amazed.
- The Pinto family, at your service, in Africa and in the U.S.
- And—this could well be at the top of the list—we pay for an African child's education for every safari we sell.



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

— *Travel+Leisure*



A Day on Safari





Early-Morning Game Drive

The sun rises early and eagerly on the savannahs, and after some tea, coffee, and pre-breakfast snacks, we venture into what the great lover of Africa Peter Beard called “a paradise caressed by light and air in their most special forms.”

Back at the lodge, we tuck into an English-style breakfast, or perhaps we enjoy an acacia-shaded picnic in the bush.

Exploring Africa's Intimate Landscapes

“Whole landscapes seem alert,” Peter Matthiessen wrote about Africa in *The Tree Where Man Was Born*. He may well have been thinking of *our* alertness in these landscapes, a charged, joyous concentration “like a marvelous childhood faculty restored.”

We roam the savannahs and forests with our eyes, searching for their treasures—*Look! There, a cheetah!*—and the land is no longer mere scenery, an object to look at and admire, but a living thing that invites intimacy and engagement. We know about our species that the more we engage with something, the more likely we are to develop a fiery affection for it.



Sundowners and Sunsets

After a festive lunch, with talk of sightings and amazements (high on the list of safari surprises: the fresh and tasty food), we have time for reading, music, maybe a profound nap followed by a swim, and then it's off for an afternoon game drive.

After a lovely dinner back at camp, and some time around the campfire, we're off to bed. And in the morning we may agree with author Elspeth Huxley that there is no “sleep so perfect as that stirred but not broken by the thrilling vibrance of a lion's roar.”

Africa always brings us something new.

—Pliny the Elder, *Historia Naturalis*

Flying Over Africa

You may remember—it's hard to forget—the scene in the film version of *Out of Africa* when Denys Finch Hatton (played by Robert Redford) lands his Gipsy Moth near Karen Blixen's (Meryl Streep's) farm. She rushes out to the spiffy little biplane, and Finch Hatton doesn't take off his flying goggles, he barely throttles back his engine, he just says, "Get in," and thus begins one of cinema's great moments: a heart-firing poem of a swooping flight over the incomparably eloquent landscapes of East Africa.*

Isak Dinesen, Blixen's nom de plume, remembered her many African flights as "the most transporting pleasure of my life. . . . Every time I have gone up in an aeroplane and looking down have realized that I was free of the ground, I have had the consciousness of a great new discovery. 'I see,' I have thought, 'This was the idea. And now I understand everything.'"

It's as true today as it was in the 1920s: flying low and easily over the continent in small planes

is a matchlessly intimate way to appreciate its subtle and dramatic colours, its tectonic dramas, and its cavalcade of creatures. We fly over villages, waving to their residents, and in a few moments, we're on the ground, shaking their hands. One of our guests said it well: "For me, flying over Africa is about as *flying* as flying gets."

Our Custom Safaris offer as many flights as your personalized itinerary calls for, and we—and our guests over the years—think the flights that link lodges and camps on our Classic Safaris (six on *The Micato Grand Safari*, for instance, and five on *The Stanley Wing*) are safari highlights, airy dalliances with Africa's incomparable landscapes.

* Before she climbs into the plane, Blixen asks Finch Hatton, "When did you learn to fly?" And he answers with a Redfordian grin, "Yesterday." Rest assured our pilots have hundreds upon hundreds of times more experience than that—and many of them have movie-star smiles. (As for the welcome practicality of flying in Africa, see *Bush Flights with a Difference*, page 31.)



WILDERNESS AND WINELANDS

12 days door-to-door Includes days en route to/from Cape Town

South Africa prides itself on its many spectacular and varied worlds, from Cape Town's urban verve to wild, sun-lit dominions like the famed Sabi Sand Game Reserve, to pastoral (and culinary and oenophilic) masterpieces like the sublime Cape Winelands.

Wilderness and Winelands pays superbly paced tribute to those worlds in a mere but bountiful 12 days. We begin at one of Sir Richard Branson's most thrilling creations, Ulusaba Safari Lodge in the Sabi Sand. Then we're off to an idyll at Branson's Mont Rochelle, in the heart of the cheery and pacifying Winelands. We end in a jazzy upbeat at Cape Town's glamorous One&Only, named Africa's number one hotel in a recent *Condé Nast Traveler* Reader's Choice poll.

I never knew of a morning in Africa when I woke up that I was not happy.

—Ernest Hemingway,
True at First Light





DAY 1 *En route*

DAYS 2 *Johannesburg*

Upon arrival in Johannesburg, we'll be met and escorted to O.R. Tambo Airport's **InterContinental Hotel** for an overnight stay. After a relaxing dinner, we'll have a trip briefing.

DAYS 3–5 *Sabi Sand Game Reserve*

"At Ulusaba, we have set out to create the most beautiful game reserve in Africa," says Sir Richard Branson. You're holding a brochure brimming with beautiful safari lodges, camps, and game reserves, and we have our own favourites, but there's no doubt that Branson & Co are giving **Ulusaba** their best effort, which—as you know—entails a lot of creative, sumptuous, high-spirited *best*.

We fly to Ulusaba Private Game Reserve—in the vast Sabi Sand Reserve, adjacent to Kruger National Park—on a short scheduled charter flight and immediately begin to savor its distinctive mix of down home hospitality and thoughtful luxury. Our rooms at Ulusaba are designed to give us an intimate feel for life

in the bush (some are built tree-house style); we watch from our private veranda as animals stroll by on their way to the nearby watering hole, we swim in the lodge's pool, dine al fresco (or restaurant style, or in our room), pay visits to Ulusaba Reserve's well-populated animal troupes and solo stars by four-wheel drive vehicle or on guided walks, and maybe amble over to the the Lodge's Aroma Boma Spa, which specializes in "Africology," using time-honoured local materials like rooibos, aloe, marula and African potato.

DAYS 6 & 7 *The Cape Winelands*

We fly from Ulusaba's private airstrip to Cape Town via Johannesburg and drive due west into the Winelands and our hotel, **Mont Rochelle**, another picture-pretty Branson gem, luxuriously well-wrought, serene and welcoming, with the promise of "...a soft and golden morning, alert with the praise of birds," as the great Elspeth Huxley wrote about a different, but wonderfully similar African place.



Ulusaba



We spend the next couple of days exploring the Winelands, South Africa's scenic treasure, graced with bang-up views that—with all due respect—out-drama Napa and Sonoma. We wander in the sparklingly kempt Dutch colonial towns of Stellenbosch and Franschhoek, dropping in on family-owned vineyards, lunching at the renowned Delaire Graff Estate and indulging in inspired pairings of locally-sourced fare and wines whose grapes are so expertly ripened Delaire has achieved South Africa's coveted First Growth status. We might also wish to ogle the spectacular floral gardens with more than 350 indigenous plants and stop by the estate's boutique for a look at the exquisite Graff Diamonds. And we'll spend an afternoon at the Waterford Wine Estate in the gorgeous Blaauwklippen Valley, followed by—depending on our mood—a little more wine or chocolate tasting, or a visit to the Franschhoek Motor Museum.

DAYS 8–10 *Cape Town*

Cape Town has proudly vaulted to the top tier of the world's favourite cities. In 2014 it was ranked the world's number one Place to Go in the *New York Times*' annual list. Cape Town's cultural, artistic, and culinary life is perhaps Africa's most bubbly, and our hotel, the magnificent **One&Only**, right on the fizzy Victoria & Alfred Waterfront, is stage center on one of the continent's greatest shows.

The great city is graced with a theatrical setting in a natural amphitheater giving way to Table Bay, ringed with Devil's Peak, Signal Hill, Lion's Head, and the massively regal, ever-enchanted Table Mountain, the viewful top of which we'll reach via one of the planet's most astonishing aerial cableways. We'll give Cape Town a thorough and fascinated look—and drop in for a hands-on visit to one of Micato-AmericaShare's projects in what

Up close and personal encounters with the animals and people of Africa are just a few of the highlights of a Micato tour. . . . Part of the allure of travelling with Micato is that the company, through its One for One program, pays one child's school fees, all the way through high school, for each client who books a trip.

—Michael Shapiro, *The Oberoi Group Magazine*



locals like to call the Mother City. And we'll make the magnificent drive down the Cape Peninsula, traveling through the Cape Floristic region, a unique bit of natural magic, home to more than 6,000 plants found nowhere else in the world, ending at the imposing and world-historic Cape of Good Hope, for more than half a century one of the world's most important waterways. Along the way, we'll pay our respects to the the gaily tottering penguins at Boulders Beach, and enjoy lunch at Harbour House, on the shores of Kalk Bay, looking up an impressive 6,500 feet at Du Toits Peak.

And throughout our Cape Town stay, our Micato Safari Director will be close by, introducing us to the city's iconic and lesser-visited sights, proudly showcasing a city and region that, as the *Times* says, "takes your breath away."

DAYS 11 & 12 *Departure and arrive home*

After a great O&O breakfast, we'll have ample time to pack and freshen up at leisure before we're escorted to Cape Town International for our flights homeward, arriving on Day 12.

The entire trip rated a "10" in every respect. Micato's people are able, knowledgeable and sociable. John was the ideal Safari Director, and he related perfectly with each member of our family, from age 9 to 74!

—Nancy and Rusty Sharp

I am hard pressed to think of any reason why one would not use Micato. Their vehicles are absolutely the finest and their guides are considered the best in the business, even by other operators. It is a company that does not use third parties, but has its own organization to answer every wish, provide special opportunities, and resolve any emergency.

—Priscilla Alexander
Former President, Protravel

Make Your Safari a Private Classic, Or Add an Amazing Extension

Wilderness and Winelands can easily be transformed into a fully Private Classic Safari, with your own Safari Director, vehicles etc. Why not jump over to spectacular Victoria Falls or amazing Namibia, since you're not far, or visit the mountain gorillas of Rwanda?



Tariff 2019

Land arrangements, per person

	December 15-31	Balance of Year
Double Occupancy	\$16,950	\$13,950
Single Supplement	5,550	3,650
Internal Flights on Safari	1,500	1,500

(Johannesburg / Ulusaba / Johannesburg / Cape Town)

Connections may apply.

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

2019 Dates

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

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

2020 Dates

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

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

THE WORLD'S
Most Awarded
SAFARI COMPANY





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

Travel+Leisure Hall of Fame



Travel+Leisure
World's Best Value



Tourism Cares
Legacy in Travel
Philanthropy Award



Unprecedented
Five-Time Winner of *Condé Nast*
Traveler World Savers Award
Three Education, Two for Doing It All

Member of the World Savers
Hall of Fame



Travel+Leisure
Trips of a Lifetime



Travel+Leisure
Global Vision Award
Development, Youth Education
Micato One for One Commitment

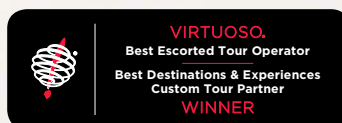


Porthole Cruise Magazine
Best African Safari
Tour Operator

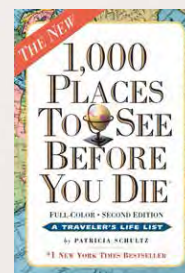


Best Tour Operator
Africa/Middle East

TravelAge West WAVE
Best Tour Operator
Africa / Middle East



Virtuoso
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
Tour Operator

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

World Tourism Award, 2017 • Travvy Awards: Gold, Best Escorted Tour Operator, Africa, 2016, 2018; Silver, Best Escorted Tour Operator, Adventure, 2016, 2018; Silver, Best Escorted Tour Operator, Family, 2016; Silver, Best Escorted Tour Operator, Luxury, 2016 • Travel Weekly Magellan Awards: Gold, Best Tour Operator, 2017, 2015; Silver, Best Tour Operator, 2016; Gold, Best Marketing Campaign, 2009, 2011, 2015; Gold, Best Consumer Brochure, 2009, 2012-2013, 2016-2017; Gold, Best Trade Brochure, 2009-2012, 2016-2017; Silver, Best Trade Brochure, 2010-2011, 2013-2014; Gold, Best Travel Website, 2012, 2014, 2017; Silver, Best Travel Website, 2013, 2015 • Hospitality Sales and Marketing Association International's (HSMIA) Adrian Awards: Gold, Best Trade Brochure, 2012, 2014-2016; Gold, Best Consumer Brochure, 2012, 2014-2016; HSMIA and National Geographic Traveler Gold Winner, Leader in Sustainable Tourism, 2013 • 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.

If you can't feed a hundred people, then feed just one.

—Mother Teresa

An unimaginable number 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. The Micato One for One Commitment sends a child to school—year after year—for every safari we sell.

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

The Boy Who Started it All...

It all began with one little boy, thirty 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. 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, "Micato-AmericaShare is the why of why we exist."



The Harambee Centre

The heart of Micato-AmericaShare's Kenya operation is Harambee Centre, a multi-building oasis of calm and purpose in the midst of Mukuru, one of Nairobi's largest slums (where a staggering 60,000 or more children can't attend school).

Harambee Centre—made possible by our dear friends Bernard Wharton and Jennifer Walsh and scores of caring safari-goers—comprises a Community Centre for Mukuru residents; a beautiful, 13,000-volume library for all of Mukuru (made possible by Suzie and Bruce Kovner through a grant by The Kovner Foundation); a digitally up-to-the-minute Computer Centre (also enabled by the Kovner Foundation); a basketball court; a special-needs classroom; a fresh-water well (Mukuru has no assured water supply); the Gorretti Nursery School, which cares for upwards of 150 children (Micato-AmericaShare contributes to the students' daily meals for these children, which is often their only meal for the day); and a cottage factory for Huru International.

For much more on **Micato-AmericaShare** and all our efforts to **give back** to our home continent, visit Micato.com and click **About Micato**



Huru International

Girls in East Africa who can't afford sanitary pads very often avoid school during their periods, losing as much as an entire month each school year. Micato is a major donor and supporter of Huru International, founded in 2008 by AmericaShare founder Lorna Macleod. Huru manufactures reusable sanitary pads, which have been distributed in Huru Kits to more than 150,000 girls in Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda. Each kit consists of a colourful drawstring backpack with eight reusable pads; underwear; detergent-grade soap for washing pads; a resealable waterproof bag for the safe storage of used pads; and educational materials on HIV/AIDS prevention and sexual and reproductive health. Huru Kits have saved girls 3.5 million school days that otherwise would have been lost.

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 a child to obtain a high school diploma. Many lives, on both sides of the Atlantic, have been changed by this programme. Email Inquiries@AmericaShare.com to learn more.

More Milestones

The Harambee Centre Library was recently awarded the Best Community Library in Nairobi by the Kenya Library Association.

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.

A wide-angle photograph of an African savanna landscape. In the foreground, tall, golden-brown grasses are in sharp focus, swaying slightly. Beyond them, a vast expanse of green and yellowish-brown grassland stretches out, dotted with numerous small, dark green trees and shrubs. In the middle distance, a small, calm blue pond is visible. The background features rolling hills under a soft, hazy sky with a few wispy clouds. The overall lighting suggests late afternoon or early morning, with a warm, golden glow.

Join us at home
in Africa