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— TRANSFORMING DREAMS INTO MEMORIES —

15 Day Bespoke African Safari Meticulously Customized Just For You



Hand-Tailored & Private Sojourns

CUSTOM ITINERARY – YOUR DATES – FLEXIBLE INCLUSIONS – 7-15 Day ITINERARY

Sometimes, one size simply doesn't fit all.

Are you the sort of person who always seems to head off in your own direction while others take a more conventional path? Do you regularly seek adventures or experiences that are beyond the pale? Perhaps you just like your privacy, or maybe you simply have a very clear vision of what your ideal safari looks and feels like.

And honeymooners regularly ask us to invent a dreamy escape for just the two of them—we relish weaving these romantic journeys, from sunset cocktails in Zanzibar to carriage rides through South Africa's wine country!

Then there are the active travellers, who long to ride elephants through the pristine wilderness, safari on camel or horseback, hike up mountains, or roar across the savannah on ATV's. We can even wing you to remote

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If this sounds familiar, then the Micato Bespoke Safari is for you.

A Bespoke Safari is an entirely customized experience. We take all the pieces of safari that you desire and expertly stitch them together—the common thread being Micato’s impeccable service and style.

Some travellers design an entire safari itinerary from beginning to end, while others simply modify an existing safari, perhaps switching to a private “bush home” for a few nights. Another popular option is to book a regular safari programme, but make it a private party of friends, departing on the date of your choice.

Families frequently like to travel by themselves, and we enjoy crafting an experience that caters to all ages, making the occasion a bonding memory that you’ll all look back on fondly for years.

game parks tucked away in the heart of Africa—regions the average traveller never sees. Trust us to discover the interesting and the off-the-beaten path.

No request is too difficult, no detail too small and no luxury is ever overlooked. Explore our Bespoke Collection for Southern and East Africa by clicking on the links above, and your perfect African sojourn will begin to take shape. Whether following in the footsteps of celebrities to secluded beach hideaways or composing an itinerary of exotic locales inspired by explorers of yore, the planning is half of the pleasure.

The lodges and camps mentioned are only a fraction of the properties available, and we’re adding to this collection all the time.

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15 Day Micato Grand Safari



CUSTOM ITINERARY – YOUR DATES – FLEXIBLE INCLUSIONS – 7-10 Day ITINERARY

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—be sure to see our praise for *Flying Over Africa* on page 49—make travel between game preserves and luxury camps a seamless, time-saving joy. And our stays in places like the airy Tortilis Camp in Amboseli; Bateleur or Governor’s Il Moran camps in the Maasai Mara; the charmingly luxe Four Seasons Safari Lodge in the Serengeti; and,

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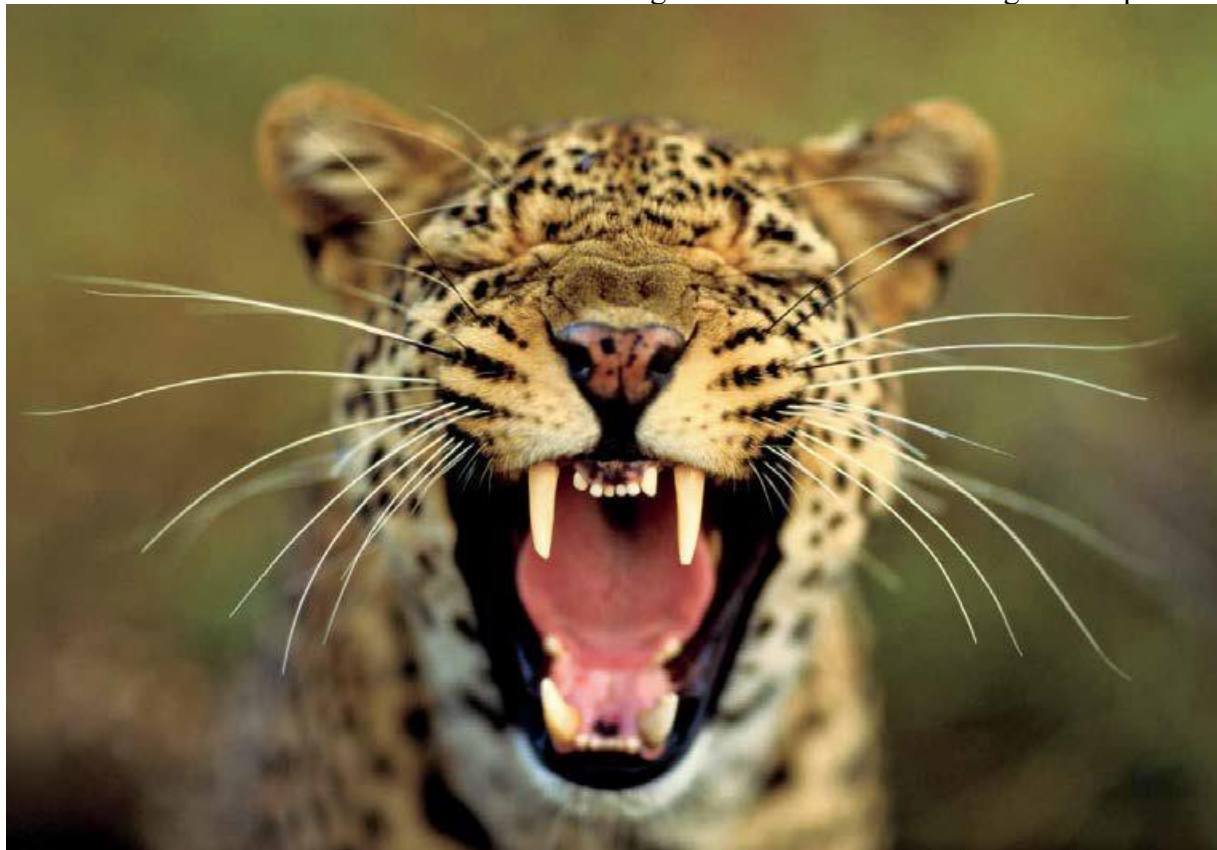
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of course, the Fairmont Mount Kenya Safari Club bring us into close and comfortable contact with some of Africa's richest game lands and most stirring landscapes.

15 Days door-to-door

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Safari Highlights

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East Africa's most luxurious tented camps and lodges, including splendid Bateleur Camp, much-celebrated Four Seasons Safari Lodge Serengeti, and the elegantly eclectic Ngorongoro Crater Lodge.

Guided rhino-tracking treks; tree-top canopy walks in the Ngare Ndare Forest; Samburu-led camel rides on the plains; horsebacking; and graceful hot air ballooning at sunrise followed by al fresco breakfast.

Touchdown to takeoff services of your Micato Safari Director, and 24-hour access to our one-of-a-kind Concierge Service.

Spectacular views and incomparably fascinating ecosystems: regal Mount Kilimanjaro; the Serengeti Plains; the famed Mara River; the Laikipia Plateau and jagged Aberdare mountains; and the Lost World of the Ngorongoro Crater.

Lunch at home with Micato founders Felix and Jane Pinto.

Itinerary

Day 1 En Route: US - Nairobi

Your adventure begins today as you enplane for Africa.

Upon arrival in the Kenyan capital, we'll be met by our Micato Safari Director and driven to the Fairmont Norfolk Hotel, where most—if not all—of those potentates and royals stayed, dined, and chummed around before setting out on safari.

Day 2-3 Nairobi: Nairobi, Kenya's Bustling, cosmopolitan capital

The next day, we'll tour the occasionally spellbinding, always excellent National Museum, 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 nearby home of Felix and Jane Pinto, Micato's founding couple, for a hearty, familial, and story-flavoured lunch.

Day 4-5 Amboseli: Nairobi - In the shadow of Kilimanjaro

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."

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Tortilis Camp is our base for visits to Maasai villages 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.”

Day 6-7 Lewa Safari Camp: Classic Gameviewing at 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 terrains support 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 11 thatched roof tents are classically airy and simply, easefully luxurious.

Each has a modern en suite bathroom and a large private verandah overlooking one of the continent’s vastest and most vibrant African landscapes.

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Day 8-9 Maasai Mara : **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 Governor's Il Moran Camp, we'll game 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 the “true world” Ms. Dinesen wrote her mother about, 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.

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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 champagne 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.



Day 10-11 The Serengeti: The Serengeti – Iconically vast and golden

We fly to the Serengeti via Nairobi and Arusha, Tanzania. Three million or more large mammals—elephants, cheetahs, gazelles by the gazillions, wildebeest, zebras, giraffes “floating across the plain” (thanks again, Ms. Dinesen), lions, rhinos, and going on 60 more species—inhabit the great grassland, its riverine forests, and bustling, set-piece kopjes, rock islands that pop up from the plain.

We'll spend our two Serengeti nights in either the Four Seasons Safari Lodge Serengeti or Grumeti Serengeti Tented Camp.

The magnificently conceived Four Seasons is set on a fine collection of kopjes, looking out at what seems to be a golden eternity, with sunrise skies “banded with rose and lemon and the colour of flamingo wings,” as Elspeth Huxley wrote. Grumeti is a chic, 10-tent camp set along

the banks of river, bustling with stunningly sizable crocs and hippos, always heftier than we remember. These are the kinds of African places that Micato loves to introduce our guests to, places that seduce us into slowing down.

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Day 12-13 lake Manyara: The lost world of the 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 Manyana 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 unlikeliness of an elephant, your old sadness at never having seen a dinosaur will be lightened.

Day 14 Nairobi: Nairobi

After breakfast and a last look at the Edenic lands below, we’ll drive to Lake Manyara and hop on our flight to Nairobi, where we’ll have a day room at the Norfolk or the near-the-airport

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Boma Nairobi, and get a bite to eat before being driven to the airport for our late flights back to the Northern Hemisphere.

Day 15 Nairobi: Nairobi - Europe Airport – US & Home

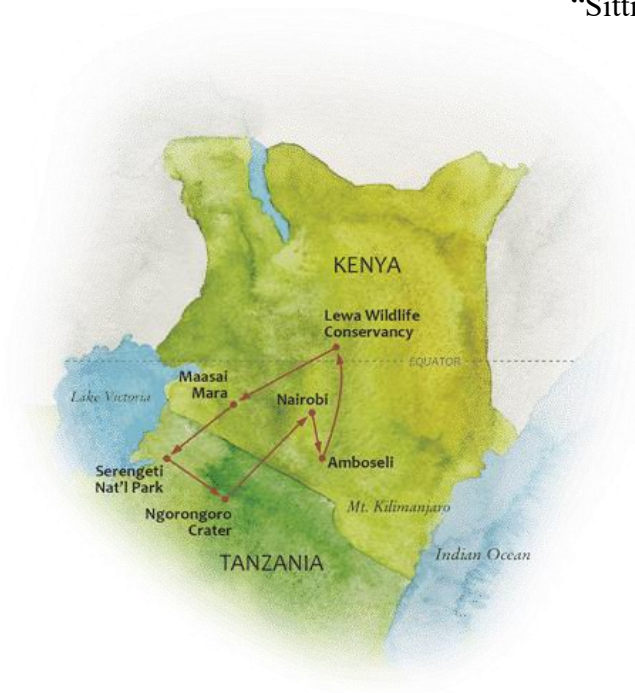
Connect in Europe with homeward flights.

End of Services.

“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



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Why Consider A Bespoke Safari?

Bespoke is a good old British word, derived from the verb *bespeak*, “to give order for it to be made.” It brings to mind custom craftsmanship, finicky attention to detail, and, above all, a fruitful collaboration between client and purveyor, with an eye toward creating a unique product . . . in this case, a safari whose memory will warm the coldest night.

- For the privacy: We’ve created especially enjoyable private Bespoke Safaris for eager first-timers, connoisseurs, celebrities, college buddies, friends-since-kindergarten, big bubbly families, and avid parties of one.
- For the service: Every Bespoke Safari is accompanied from beginning to end by a highly-credentialed Safari Director. Our unique Micato Concierge Service is at your beck and call 24 hours a day, seven days a week. And behind all this is the Pinto family’s celebrated commitment to open-hearted, unstinting service.
- For the flexibility—Completely personalized Micato Bespoke Safaris can include everything from hiking in mystic cloud forests, fishing, rafting, scuba diving, horsebacking amidst giraffes, and jogging with Maasai warriors to hammock-lazing, long picnics in the shade of acacia trees, and leisurely—or highly focused—game drives.
- If you’re enticed by a particular camp or lodge, a famed or lesser-known place, or a specific safari theme (predators, tribal cultures, geography, let’s say) we’ll make it happen for you. Some people go on safari in search of serenity and refreshment. Some seek strenuous adventure. A Bespoke Safari can accommodate either or both approaches. Our experts will construct a safari that meets your interest and energy levels, day—by—day, hour—by—hour.
- Bespoke or Classic? Our small-group, guaranteed-departure Classic Safaris operate with the same deep dedication to service and comfort as our private Bespoke Safaris.
- Classic Safaris are also a bountiful source of inspirations for your Bespoke Safari—in fact, this entire website is a grand grab bag of ideas for places to safari, lodges and camps to luxuriate in, and activities to be astounded by.
- For instance, you might look at the 15-day, 45-guaranteed-departures-a-year Micato Grand Safari and tell us, “That looks great for my family, let’s do it,” turning the small group safari into your own private safari. Or you might want to tinker with the itinerary a bit or a lot. Our Bespoke experts will work alongside you to create a customized itinerary that fits your needs exactly.

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- You may want to research some more, or you may be inspired to get your dream safari rolling right now by looking at some of the great regional destinations below. Either way, make the adventure-launching decision today. Contact Celebration Escapes Bespoke Safari creators.

Bespoke experts are, in hour-to-hour touch with the ins and outs, the ups and downs, and the soaring possibilities for private safaris.

They have created epically enjoyable Bespoke Safaris for eager first-timers, connoisseurs, celebrities, college buddies, friends-since-kindergarten, big bubbly families, and avid parties of one.

So whether you've always dreamed of going on safari, or if you woke up the other day with the sudden urge to visit Africa, we will tune in to your wishes, your schedules, your budget, your interests and inclinations, and we will work with you to create a Bespoke Safari that will surpass your dreams and—as a safari so often does—ignite the urge to return one day to bask again in Africa's golden joys.

East Africa Regional Destinations

- Mount Kenya
- Chimpanzee Tracking
- Ngorongoro Crater
- Mt. Kilimanjaro
- Maasai Mara Game Reserve
- Amboseli National Park
- Samburu National Reserve
- Serengeti National Park

Southern Africa Regional Destinations

- Cape Town
- The Cape Winelands
- Victoria Falls
- Namibia's Sand Dunes
- Kalahari Desert
- Okavango Delta
- Kruger National Park
- Sossusvlei

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The Classic Safaris



Classic Safaris are group safaris designed to be as non-group-like as possible. Our groups are small—from a maximum of 24 to as few as 2 (they can be that nicely underpopulated because of the next item). We have *never*, in all our years, cancelled a safari. At the end of each safari's description, you'll see a long list of departure dates. *So*: if you sign up and pay a deposit for the September 30 departure of,

say, the *Hemingway Wing Safari*, it will proceed very happily even if you and your spouse (or family or buddies or whomever you're safaring with) are the only guests. Guaranteed.



Each East African Classic Safari has its own Safari Director per country, who will be with you— gently guiding, natural historying, story telling, and taking care of whatever you need taking care of—from the moment the curtain rises to the warm applause (to be honest, it's usually an emotional ovation) at safari's end. (And of course, our unique Concierge Service is on round-the-clock call.)

Remember: there is *no tipping*, anywhere, anytime, on a Celebration Escapes & Micato trip, Bespoke or Classic, not even the traditionally sizable gratuities to guides and drivers at safari's end. And all your meals are included, everywhere, all the time. And all portorage fees, park fees, this-that-or-the-other fees are paid.

We're travelers, too, and we know what a balm it can be to have these nagging concerns raised from our vacationing consciousness.

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