

*Pinto Grandchildren Approved!*

## THE FAMILY TO FAMILY SAFARI

16 DAYS – DEPARTS MONDAY, RETURNS TUESDAY

Priceless memories are made when the family goes on vacation. The challenge is finding a trip that appeals to the *whole* family—one that captures the imagination of adult and child alike. At Micato, we provide just such a getaway—an extravagant safari experience that will amuse, educate, entertain, and enthrall the entire clan.

The Family Safari is more than just your average foray into the African wilds. Activities abound for every age....Maasai- and Samburu-style traditional beaded necklace making. Swahili mask-making. Nightly star-gazing. Safari Directors teaching the basics of big-game tracking—whether it's identifying an animal's footprints or (less desirably) its dung. There are even special gifts and equipment provided for children. Plus, staff is on hand to keep the younger guests engaged—allowing Mom and Dad to get away on their own for a while.

Each lodge is family-friendly, with swimming pools and diversions for tyke and teen alike. We stay at each location for two to three days, truly experiencing each locale and avoiding a rushed feeling. And of course, we offer our family safaris during ideal family travel times, designed to coincide with school vacations. Even the food is customized—simple, fun foods for the kids and gourmet cuisine for discerning adults.

While this itinerary caters to the family—designed by specially-trained Children's Safari Directors, all parents themselves—it is a true adventure into a land untamed, a zoo uncaged.

We start in Nairobi at the venerable Norfolk Hotel and our exploration begins in earnest as we take in the highlights of this energetic capital. We enjoy a presentation by a Maasai Elder before making our way to fascinating Karen Estates and the educational Giraffe Center.

In the evening we visit the Pinto family home, where we'll enjoy the hospitality of Micato Kenya's founders. It is in this welcoming environment, surrounded by myriad family photos—many of which were taken of Felix and Jane with their grandchildren on safari—that a true esprit de corps begins to develop. The children will enjoy the house and gardens, complete with talking parrots and a tree-house, while parents will enjoy warm Kenyan hospitality.

Next, we drive to papyrus-fringed Lake Naivasha, a cool and peaceful escape from Nairobi's big-city bustle. With over 400 species of bird, this freshwater lake is a birding paradise. Along the lake's fabled waters, we are bound to see some of the area's more intriguing species—hippos, giraffes, buffalo and even the arboreal colobus monkey.

Rolling grasslands, dense thickets and groves of acacia trees greet us at our next stop—the incomparable Maasai Mara. Children can Learn to Be a Game Ranger<sup>SM</sup> here, getting an insider's view of what it takes to be a steward of this rugged and timeless land. The largest population of lions in Africa roams this sweeping savannah and we may see hippos and crocodiles basking riverside in the afternoon sun. Imagine the giddy awe of a young one at this wealth of majestic wildlife—they won't know where to look first!

The Serengeti, our next stop, is the Africa of countless tales.... and its legend is well-earned. A balanced region of vast grasslands, open woodlands and tree-lined streams, the Serengeti is one of the most wildlife-rich regions in all of Africa. Children can embark on a "Kids and Safari Director Only" game drive and our Safari Director will

make it their mission to see that everyone has an exceptionally good time and learns something in the process.

We move on in the morning—never too early, since the younger generation requires a bit more sleep—to Ngorongoro Crater. As the largest unbroken caldera in the world and a UNESCO World Heritage Site, the crater is not only visually magnificent but also a premier locale for wildlife viewing. Over 20,000 species thrive here, from wildebeest to hyenas. These astounding sights are sure to be recounted around the dinner table at home.

We return to Nairobi, which may be the highlight of the trip, when we visit local children at the AmericaShare home for orphans in the poignant Mukuru slum. As we recount these two weeks in our minds, we are astonished: our teenagers have been engaged every minute of the day (even without computers, friends and text messages!) and our younger children have been besotted by every creature, great and small. And now they have African friends. This was more than just this year's vacation...indeed, it was a family experience to treasure for years.



# THE FAMILY SAFARI

16 DAYS – DEPARTS MONDAY, RETURNS TUESDAY

## Day 1

### *United States - Europe*

We set off today for Nairobi, pondering the wonders that await us.

## Day 2 - Day 3

### *Nairobi*

Micato seamlessly whisks family members from the airport to the Norfolk Hotel, historic centerpiece of Nairobi and epitome of luxury since 1904. Of interest in Nairobi will be a meeting with a Maasai Elder and lunch at a tea plantation hosted by descendants of the original settlers—vibrant, living history that can't be found in textbooks. We follow this with a tour of *Out of Africa* author Karen Blixen's home and the opportunity to feed rare Rothschild giraffes. After an enriching day, we depart for dinner at the home of Felix and Jane Pinto, Micato Kenya's founders. In the warmth of hearth and home, we'll immediately feel welcome in this foreign land. (And the family's dogs love visiting youngsters!)

## Day 4 - Day 5

### *Lake Naivasha*

We drive through bucolic countryside to Lake Naivasha, a temperate escape from Nairobi's pulsing streets. Our destination is Chui Lodge, set in the private 20,000 acre Oserian Wildlife Sanctuary. The Mau escarpment provides a dramatic backdrop as we roam this wilderness in complete privacy, seeing an array of wildlife difficult to find elsewhere, including leopard, white rhino, Beisa oryx and greater kudu. Picnics at the lake tempt, while early morning walks around its shore equally appeal.

Even amidst all of these possibilities, Mom and Dad may wish to lounge by the pool admiring the view of zebras and waterbuck just outside the fence while the kids explore with their Safari Director. In the evenings, guided stargazing helps youngsters locate the Southern Cross while toasting marshmallows and telling tales around the fire. Later we retire to our delightful rooms with their four-poster beds of local woods and the ever-stoked fireplace. It is indulgent luxury that is thoroughly African.

## Day 6 - Day 8

### *Maasai Mara Game Reserve*

We spend three nights here, giving us the luxury of time to appreciate the region's rich wildlife by game drive or even Hot-Air Balloon. Zebra, wildebeest, topi and hippos are



THE PINTO GRANDCHILDREN, SASHA AND TRISTAN

common, as are leopards, lions and cheetahs. We'll also immerse ourselves in the Maasai culture by visiting villages and schools, witnessing rituals and activities that have survived innumerable generations. Our game drives are colored with bush lore courtesy of our expert guides, who also explain the dynamics of the wild and the importance of conservation. Young travellers can enjoy a Bush Treasure Hunt, while teens check out the Swahili pop music disco. Meanwhile, adults will appreciate Bush Sundowners—a civilised cocktail party staged in the untamed wilds of Africa—and a gourmet dinner. Kids, on the other hand, will feast on *their* favorites like pasta! Karen Blixen or Mara Intrepid tented camps also delight.



**Day 9 - Day 11**  
**Serengeti National Park**

The planet's most amazing wildlife is on display here and the daily drama of this famous savannah will enrapture even the most stoic (translate teenage) observer. Its landscapes evoke storybook Africa—wide and wild, a golden wonderland.

This is the safari that you've read about, yet it is better than you've ever imagined. The Mbalageti Lodge, our home here, is ideal for adventure and relaxation alike—rock-hewn pool, luxurious rooms, a deck with a jaw-dropping 360 degree view of the Serengeti. Children will not only learn how to shoot an arrow, but how to make their own bow. If you aren't feeling adventurous, bring the clan inside for some board games—the wilderness will be there when you're ready.

**Day 12 - Day 13**  
**Ngorongoro Crater**

We make a stop in the Great Rift Valley, the noted "Cradle of Mankind" where the Leakey family discovered human fossils which date back almost two million years, before continuing to Ngorongoro Crater. This massive caldera, at over twelve miles across and 2,000 feet deep, is worthy of its unofficial "Eighth Wonder of the Natural World" mantle. In addition to its jaw-dropping physical beauty, the Crater is also replete with wildlife. We stay at Lemala Tented Camp, a secluded enclave of great charm and luxury, in a prime location on the crater's rim.

**Day 14 - Day 16**  
**Nairobi, AmericaShare Visit - United States**

Returning to Nairobi, an amazing day is in store when families travel to the poignant yet joyful Mukuru slum to visit our home for orphaned and vulnerable children. First we'll stop at the local mega-shop for treats—a fascinating errand in and of itself—select a tree from the nursery to plant at the home, then head to Mukuru bearing gifts. We'll match our young visitors with African youngsters of similar ages, tour the home, maybe work on a project together, share a meal and even a game of soccer. This may very well be the most important afternoon that your family spends in Africa. Or anywhere.

We depart late evening of Day 15 and arrive home on Day 16... reflecting the entire time on a family vacation that exceeded even our highest expectations in every way.

**Tariff 2009: Per Person**

**Land Arrangements (per person)**

Double Occupancy	\$11,975
Single Supplement	\$2,850
Internal Airfare	\$1,775
Child under 12 sharing with two parents	\$8,975
Child under 12 sharing with one parent	\$10,980
Internal Airfare for child under 12	\$1,355

(Naivasha/Maasai Mara/Serengeti/Manyara; Manyara/Nairobi) Connections may apply.

**Private-Use Vehicle Supplement**

Per person from	\$1,915
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**Sample Airfare from New York**

Economy Class from	\$1,450
Business Class from	\$4,985

The airfares listed above are provided *only* as indications of fares that might be available when booking your flights. Micato does not supply international air tickets, only the "Internal Airfare" flights within Africa during the safari. Travellers should purchase international flights through travel agents or via the Micato preferred air purveyor—complete details will be provided upon booking. Airfares are subject to change, carry penalties and seasonal surcharges. Add-on fares are generally available from major U.S. cities.

**Options that complement this safari:**

Ballooning in Maasai Mara:	\$450	Zanzibar:	\$2,300
Kilimanjaro:	\$5,890		

**Tour Dates: Every date is a guaranteed departure.**

**2009 Departure Dates (From USA)**

Depart	Return	Depart	Return	Depart	Return	Depart	Return
Mar 02	Mar 17	Jul 06	Jul 21	Aug 03	Aug 18	Dec 21	Jan 05*
Jun 08	Jun 23	Jul 13	Jul 28	Aug 10	Aug 25		
Jun 15	Jun 30	Jul 20	Aug 04	Aug 17	Sep 01		

**2010 Departure Dates (New rates and dates may apply)**

Depart	Return	Depart	Return	Depart	Return	Depart	Return
Mar 01	Mar 16	Jul 05	Jul 20	Aug 02	Aug 17	Dec 20	Jan 04*
Jun 07	Jun 22	Jul 12	Jul 27	Aug 09	Aug 24		
Jun 14	Jun 29	Jul 19	Aug 03	Aug 16	Aug 31		

\*Holiday supplement may apply.