

EXPERT ADVICE

Best African Safaris

A cultural safari, Kenya

By Pam Grout



John Warburton Lee / Getty Images

Make room on your Christmas card list, because a new Kenyan tour, set to debut in early 2014, is hosted by no fewer than five different local families.

Rafiki means "friend" in Swahili, and that's exactly what you'll have – five new ones – after staying in a series of rare bush homes and camps while on the new Rafiki trip from **Micato**, a high-end safari company popular with celebrities and heads of state. This safari is intended to be a throwback to the turn of the twentieth century, when Africa was only open to adventurers with connections. It so happens that the staff at **Micato** know people, too. This one-of-a-kind journey comes with an invitation to the personal camp of Anna Trzebinski, the well-known Nairobi-based fashion designer, and

her husband, Loyaban Lemarti, a Samburu warrior who knows how to throw a spear and might serenade you on the guitar he built from bicycle brake cables. You'll also meet Luca Belpietro and Antonella Bonomi, a successful Italian couple that moved with their three kids to Kenya's Chyulu Hills in 1999. Along with 65 Maasi, they started the Maasai Wilderness Conservation Trust.

More information: The 15-day Rafiki safari in Kenya includes accommodations, meals, transfers, activities, gratuities, 24/7 concierge, and portage. It starts at \$19,245 and, like all Micato safaris, gives you the satisfaction of knowing you placed a needy child in school through the company's **One for One Commitment** charitable program.