



DOING IT CAUSE FOR TRAVEL

GO

Limousine transfers, transatlantic perks such as 79-inch flat beds, and stopover-Shangri-la at the 8,000-square-foot Clubhouse in London's Heathrow Airport (think spa, gourmet fare, and cocktail bar) — they're all part of the Upper Class Experience from **Virgin Atlantic**. If it all sounds slightly indulgent, rest assured: Change is in the air. In-flight donations collected by the airline garner an average of \$70,000 each month for charities such as Free the Children, which helps fund education projects throughout Kenya. *Your Virtuoso travel advisor has additional details on Virgin Atlantic seating classes, services, and flights.*

SEE

Globetrotters can give back with **Micato Safaris** by volunteering in sustainability programs such as tree planting or by delivering much-needed supplies to women and children at the Harambee Centre. Having hosted the likes of Indira Gandhi and Robert Redford, Micato owners Jane and Felix Pinto are also well versed in providing VIP experiences for each of their guests, along with their signature brand of "home hospitality," which begins with dinner at their family residence in Nairobi. From the country's capital to the indulgent solitude of Shompole, a safari with Micato includes stays in luxe hotels and bush lodges that are also committed to positive change. *Contact your Virtuoso travel advisor to create a customized journey with Micato Safaris suited to your unique interests and needs.*

From left: A bird's-eye view at Mount Kenya Safari Club's animal orphanage; high above the Masai Mara in a hot-air balloon (top); poolside at Shompole Lodge (bottom); and a proud caretaker stands before a white rhino near the Mara Safari Club.

STAY

At the forefront of hospitality and philanthropy in Kenya stands **Fairmont Hotels & Resorts**, beginning with the classic **Norfolk Hotel** in Nairobi, where the city's past can literally be read on the hotel walls. Signature suites are embellished with artifacts from influential colonial icons, including Karen Blixen, whose novel *Out of Africa* helped put Kenya on the tourist map (visits to her homestead are just a jaunt away). Six dining venues — including the legendary Tea Room and Lord Delamere Terrace — are headed by Executive Chef Hubert Des Marais, who sources all menus at Fairmont's three Kenyan properties from local farmers and small-scale producers.

Equatorial elegance reigns at the **Mount Kenya Safari Club**, where visitors clear their minds in the English labyrinth, ride horseback through Mount Kenya National Park, and stroll the rose gardens that bloom directly on the equator. Established by Club founder and former actor, William Holden, the onsite animal orphanage serves as a breeding and rehab center for endangered African fauna. Toward empowering the community, the Club's farming coop provides local children with chickens, and pays members for their free-range, organic eggs. Reforestation initiatives here have also helped school kids plant and foster more than 10,000 trees.

Call it creature comforts: Wild times meet tented luxury at the **Mara Safari Club**, where, from four-poster, pillow-top beds, guests can listen to a chorus of hippos bellowing from the Mara River below. Nighttime game drives and morning hot-air balloon rides over the Masai Mara are a must, as are visits to the local Masai village and bazaar. Proceeds from the Club support education, medical facilities, and water treatment for villagers. The property also helps fund sustainability programs and a local animal refuge where intrepid souls can stand mere feet from wrestling white rhinos. **VI**