



HARVARD

Alumni Association

SOUTHERN AFRICAN ODYSSEY

OCTOBER 19-NOVEMBER 5, 2017

Journey into the heart of Southern Africa to capture the magnificence of four distinct nations: South Africa, Namibia, Botswana, and Zimbabwe. Start your 18-day tour in Johannesburg and tour the home of the late Nelson Mandela. Continue to Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe and embark on a rhino safari and a game drive in Victoria Falls National Park. In Botswana, take a safari excursion to Chobe National Park. Next, see the towering sand dunes of the Namib Desert in Namibia. Conclude in beautiful Cape Town, with visits to the Winelands, South Africa's renowned wine-growing region, and Robben Island, where Nelson Mandela was imprisoned. Optional post-tour extension at Kruger Kapama Private Game Reserve.

GROUP SIZE: 12-24 guests

PRICING:

- Air inclusive from BOS, JFK or Wash DC: \$8,654 (\$7,295 air & land inclusive plus \$1,359 airline taxes and fees)
- Land only: \$7,295
- Single supplement: \$1,495

OPTIONAL KRUGER NATIONAL PARK POST EXTENSION: NOVEMBER 4-8, 2017

- Per person double occupancy: \$1,695
- Single supplement: \$445

SCHEDULE BY DAY

B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19

DEPART U.S. FOR JOHANNESBURG,
SOUTH AFRICA

Depart on an overnight flight to Johannesburg.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20

ARRIVE IN JOHANNESBURG

Upon arrival in Johannesburg, transfer to the hotel in Rosebank. As guests' arrival times may vary greatly, this evening is free to relax. Enjoy dinner on your own in the "City of Gold."

Overnight: *54 on Bath*

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21

JOHANNESBURG/SOWETO

Embark on a tour of Johannesburg's renowned district of Soweto. The "Southwest Townships" (from which the "Soweto" acronym is derived) gained acclaim for its inhabitants' resistance to apartheid. Here, see the home of former

Archbishop Desmond Tutu and visit Nelson Mandela's home, now a museum. Next, see the Hector Pieterse Memorial – a monument to the Soweto Uprising which figured prominently in the struggle against apartheid. Meet a local Sowetan who will share personal stories of the uprising and what life is like today in this township. Afterwards, enjoy lunch at a local restaurant before returning to the hotel for an afternoon at leisure. Tonight, toast the adventure ahead at a welcome dinner.

Overnight: *54 on Bath (B, L, D)*

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22

JOHANNESBURG/VICTORIA FALLS,
ZIMBABWE

This morning, return to the airport for a flight to Victoria Falls. Upon arrival, board a motorcoach to the deluxe Victoria Falls hotel, located in Victoria Falls National Park. With its 300-foot-deep gorge and thundering spray, Victoria Falls, known locally as "the smoke that thunders," is a wonder of the natural world. Hippos, elephants, crocodiles, and other animals roam freely in the surrounding jungle. This afternoon's tour is in a protected area

(free from wildlife); you'll be able to walk and photograph safely. Tonight enjoy dinner at the hotel.

Overnight: *The Victoria Falls Hotel (B, D)*

MONDAY, OCTOBER 23

VICTORIA FALLS

Experience local life on a visit to a community grade school. Meet with teachers and students, who treat you to a performance of traditional music and dance. Your tour director will facilitate the donation of any school supplies or books you may choose to bring as a greatly appreciated gift. Following the school visit, spend some time walking through Victoria Falls town and visiting artisan shops. Lunch is on your own today. Late afternoon, embark on a "Sundowner" cruise on the mighty Zambezi River. Enjoy dinner on board before returning to the hotel.

Overnight: *The Victoria Falls Hotel (B, D)*

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24

VICTORIA FALLS

This morning, set out on a rhino safari for sightings of the most endangered of the "Big Five" species. Late afternoon, a guest speaker will discuss the trials and travails of David Livingstone, who "discovered" The Falls and claimed them for Queen Victoria in 1855. Dine together tonight at the hotel.

Overnight: *The Victoria Falls Hotel (B, D)*

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25

BOTSWANA/CHOBE NATIONAL PARK

Journey to Chobe National Park in Botswana for both a morning game drive and an afternoon game cruise through this exceptional reserve. Search for antelope, zebra, buffalo, and hundreds of species of birds. Chobe is renowned for its predator population, including lions, zebras, hippos, and the rare puku, a species of antelope indigenous to the area. Expect to see many elephants since Chobe is home to the world's largest elephant population. Enjoy lunch in Botswana today; dinner tonight is at the hotel in Victoria Falls.

Overnight: *The Victoria Falls Hotel (B, L, D)*

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26

VICTORIA FALLS/WINDHOEK, NAMIBIA

Today you are in transit, flying via Johannesburg to Windhoek, Namibia's capital and largest city (pop. 150,000). Upon arrival this evening, board a motorcoach for the one-hour transfer to the hotel. Lunch and dinner are on your own today.

Overnight: *Windhoek Country Club (B)*

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27

WINDHOEK/NAMIB DESERT/SOSSUSVLEI

After a brief tour of Windhoek, set out on a journey through spectacular mountain passes en route to the 130 million-year-old Namibian

desert. Visit the Central Namib, which stretches for some 700 miles along the coast and is covered with huge dunes. Along the way, eat a quick lunch en route to the western part of this scenic country. Late this afternoon, reach the lodge, where you dine tonight.

Overnight: *Sossusvlei Lodge (B, L, D)*

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28

NAMIB DESERT/SOSSUSVLEI

Embark on an early morning excursion to the dramatic red sand dunes at Sossusvlei. Here the dunes seem to be "alive" – they constantly undulate as a result of the desert winds. Despite their barren look, the dunes support a rich system of wildlife, including the blind golden mole, a large spider known as the "white lady," geckoes, and lizards. You may choose to climb on the velvety sands of Big Mama, as the locals refer to the largest dune. Return to the lodge for lunch and time to relax and enjoy the stunning scenery and pool. Tonight dine at the lodge.

Overnight: *Sossusvlei Lodge (B, L, D)*

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29

SOSSUSVLEI/SWAKOPMUND

Travel through the Namib Desert en route to German-accented Swakopmund, Namibia's main port, a fishing center, and resort. Arrive in Swakopmund in time for a late lunch, then visit the Natural History Museum and the Crystal Gallery, which together offer insight

into Namibia's colonial past and rich natural resources. This evening enjoy dinner together at the hotel.

Overnight: *Swakopmund Hotel (B, L, D)*

MONDAY, OCTOBER 30

SWAKOPMUND/SKELETON COAST

Set out for a half-day cruise and lunch along Namibia's famed Skeleton Coast, named for the many shipwrecks its rocks and fog have caused and for the bones on its beaches from whaling and seal hunting. Setting out on a catamaran to witness some of the shipwrecks as well as the Cape Fur Seals, pelicans, and other sea birds native to these waters. After the cruise, return to Swakopmund, with the remainder of the day at leisure to explore on your own. Options abound: visit the National Marine Aquarium or the Swakopmund Military Museum, venture to the beach, or browse the outdoor crafts market or one of the many shops. This evening, enjoy dinner together at a local restaurant.

Overnight: *Swakopmund Hotel (B, D)*

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 31

SWAKOPMUND/WALVIS BAY/CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA

En route to the Walvis Bay airport, stop to see a slice of unspoiled Africa, where a host of water birds come to refresh themselves. Arrive in Cape Town, South Africa early afternoon and transfer to the hotel on the Victoria &

Alfred Waterfront. Enjoy the afternoon at leisure to explore Cape Town and the waterfront. Lunch is on your own today. Enjoy dinner at a local restaurant tonight.

Overnight: *The Table Bay Hotel (B, D)*

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1

CAPE TOWN/ THE WINELANDS

Experience a full-day excursion through the Cape Winelands region, which has been producing wine since 1679. Travel through the historic town of Paarl and the village of Franschhoek; then stop at a winery for lunch. Next, venture to Stellenbosch, the second oldest town in South Africa. Return to the hotel late this afternoon; the remainder of the day is at leisure. Dine on your own tonight in this cosmopolitan city.

Please note: the order of sightseeing Nov. 1-3 may vary so that we can visit Table Mountain during the best possible weather.

Overnight: *The Table Bay Hotel (B, L)*

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2

CAPE TOWN/ CAPE OF GOOD HOPE

On today's full-day excursion to the Cape Peninsula, visit the Cape of Good Hope. Pass by Hout Bay before reaching the Cape Point Nature Reserve, with some 19,000 acres of protected parkland. Here, mountains drop into the sea, unique flora thrives, and bird life is abundant. A funicular takes you to the summit of the Nature Reserve for a stupendous ocean

view. After a seafood lunch, drive through historic Simons Town, headquarters of the South African Navy; then continue to Boulders Beach to visit a penguin colony. Today's final stop is at Kirstenbosch National Botanical Gardens, considered among the finest in the world. Dinner tonight is on your own.

Overnight: *The Table Bay Hotel (B, L)*

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3

CAPE TOWN/ROBBEN ISLAND

On February 11, 1990, Nelson Mandela was released after 27 years of imprisonment, and in April 1994 he was elected the nation's president in South Africa's first free elections. This morning, come face to face with an indelible aspect of both Mandela's and South Africa's history: the notorious 17th-century prison at Robben Island that once held Mandela, Walter Sisulu, and other noted opponents of apartheid. Travel by boat to the island for an in-depth guided tour of the prison, often led by former prisoners who openly share their views. Following the tour, return to Cape Town for a visit by cable car (weather permitting) 3,500 feet to the top of Table Mountain. Mid-afternoon return to the hotel; tonight, toast your Southern Africa Odyssey together with a farewell dinner.

Overnight: *The Table Bay Hotel (B, D)*

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4

CAPE TOWN/DEPART FOR U.S.

This morning, transfer to the Cape Town airport for an overnight return flight to the United States. (*B*)

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5

CAPE TOWN/ ARRIVE U.S.

Arrive in the U.S. today and connect with domestic flights home.

Optional Extension: Kruger: Kapama Private Game Reserve

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4

KAPAMA PRIVATE GAME RESERVE

This morning, transfer to the Cape Town airport for the flight to Hoedspruit or Mpumalanga, then transfer to the lodge in the Kapama Private Game Reserve. Here, the magic of Africa begins to unfold as you embark on a game drive. This wildlife region, adjacent to Kruger National Park, boasts an abundance of bird and mammal species, including the "Big Five": elephant, lion, leopard, buffalo, and rhino. Experienced rangers accompany you in open Land Rovers for close-up encounters with the animals; they also tell you about the surrounding flora and fauna. As you're staying at a private lodge, enjoy the opportunity for longer game-viewing hours than guests in adjacent Kruger National Park. Additionally, vehicles can go off-road anywhere in the private reserve and guests are allowed to explore on foot, both of which are not allowed in the national park.

Lunch today is on your own; dinner is at camp upon return to the lodge.

Overnight: *Kapama Southern Camp (B, D)*

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5

KAPAMA PRIVATE GAME RESERVE

Embark on game drives at morning's first light and again in the late afternoon, when the

animals hunt for their dinners. In between, return to the lodge to rest, relax, and refresh.

Back in camp, you're free to relax amidst the splendid setting, cool off in the swimming pool, visit the library, gym, or spa, or observe wildlife from the lodge's private elevated viewing decks. All of the meals today and tomorrow are served at the lodge.

Overnight: *Kapama Southern Camp (B, L, D)*

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 6

KAPAMA PRIVATE GAME RESERVE

You have in store another full day of game drives and relaxing at the lodge, savoring the natural splendor of this amazing habitat.

Overnight: *Kapama Southern Camp (B, L, D)*

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7

KAPAMA/JOHANNESBURG/DEPART FOR U.S.

We return to the airport early this morning for the flight to Johannesburg where we will board our connecting flights to the United States.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8

ARRIVE IN U.S.

We arrive in the U.S. today and board our connecting flights home.