



# HARVARD

## Alumni Association

### SOUTHERN AFRICA ODYSSEY

OCTOBER 18 – NOVEMBER 4, 2018

On this journey of astonishing beauty and supreme adventure, experience the magnificence of four contrasting nations: South Africa, Zimbabwe, Botswana, and Namibia. In southern Africa, diversity reigns from ocean to mountains, from desert to plains, and from waterfalls to extraordinary wildlife. Marvel at the spectacular Victoria Falls, with its 300-foot-deep gorge and thundering spray. Set off on a safari through the bush, followed by a rhino safari in open-top vehicles. Rise with the sun to see the world's highest crested dunes at Sossusvlei, their red-orange hues constantly changing in the early morning light.

**GROUP SIZE:** To be announced

**PRICING:**

- \*\$8,554- Air inclusive from Boston, JFK, or Washington, DC (includes airline taxes and fees)
  - \*\$7,195- Land only
  - \*\$1,495- Single supplement
- \*Please note, pricing for this tour is tentative

**STUDY LEADER:** James Hanken

James Hanken is Alexander Agassiz Professor of Zoology and Director of the Harvard Museum of Comparative Zoology. He received B.A. and Ph.D. degrees in zoology from the University of California, Berkeley. After a postdoctoral stint in developmental biology at Dalhousie University in Nova Scotia, Canada, he assumed a faculty position at the University of Colorado, Boulder. He moved to Harvard in 1999, where he also is a professor in the Department of Organismic and Evolutionary Biology and a member of the Biological Sciences in Dental Medicine Program, Harvard School of Dental Medicine. He has authored more than 130 scientific publications and edited four books, and he is an accomplished nature and scientific photographer; his photographs appear in several books, field guides, and magazines, including *Natural History*, *Geo*, *Audubon*, *National Geographic World*, and *Playboy*. Hanken is Past-president of both the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists and the International Society of Vertebrate Morphologists; former Chair, International Board of Directors, of the Declining Amphibian Populations Task Force; and former Co-chair of the Scientific Advisory Board of the Consortium for the Barcode of Life. He currently serves on the Executive Committee of the Encyclopedia of Life. Honors include the von Hofsten Lecture (Uppsala University, Sweden), the Gompertz Lecture in Integrative Biology (University of California, Berkeley), "Chief Guest" of the 2014 International Peradeniya University Research Sessions in Sri Lanka, and an undergraduate teaching award from the University of Colorado Student Organization for Alumni Relations.

## SCHEDULE BY DAY

*B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner*

### THURSDAY, OCTOBER 18

DEPART THE U.S. FOR JOHANNESBURG,  
SOUTH AFRICA

### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 19

ARRIVE JOHANNESBURG

Upon arrival in Johannesburg, South Africa's largest city and Africa's fourth largest, transfer to your hotel located in the suburb of Rosebank. As guests' arrival times may vary greatly, no group activities are planned. This evening is free to rest and relax and to enjoy dinner on your own in the "City of Gold."

*Overnight: 54 on Bath*

### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20

JOHANNESBURG / SOWETO

Embark on a tour of Johannesburg's renowned district of Soweto. Originally a collection of townships established by segregationists in the early 20th century to house black laborers, the "Southwest Townships" (from which the "Soweto" acronym derived) gained acclaim for its inhabitants' resistance to apartheid and today is a vibrant residential area. Here see the home of former Archbishop Desmond Tutu and visit Nelson Mandela's home, now a museum. Next visit the Hector Pieterse Memorial – a monument to the Soweto Uprising which figured prominently in the struggle against apartheid. It was here that 13-year-old Hector was among those shot and killed in June 1976 while protesting the government's order that school instruction be delivered in Afrikaans. Meet a local Sowetan who shares personal stories of the Soweto uprising and discusses what life is like today in this township. Afterwards, eat lunch together at a local restaurant then return to the hotel, where the remainder of the afternoon is at leisure. Tonight, toast the adventure ahead at a welcome dinner.

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

### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 21

JOHANNESBURG / VICTORIA FALLS,  
ZIMBABWE

Fly to Victoria Falls this morning. Upon arrival, travel to your deluxe hotel located in Victoria Falls National Park. Victoria Falls, known locally as Mosi-oa-Tunya (the smoke that thunders), plunges some 300 feet into the Zambezi Gorge below, forming the single largest cascade of water on earth. It is a wonder of the natural world, especially as 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 safely and photograph as you wish. Tonight enjoy dinner together at the hotel.

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

### MONDAY, OCTOBER 22

VICTORIA FALLS

This morning encounter local life up close on a visit to a local 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; you may choose to remain in town or return to the hotel. Late afternoon, travel a short distance to embark on a "Sundowner" cruise on the mighty Zambezi River, where, as the sun sets, keep your eyes peeled for wildlife along the river's banks. Dine on board the boat before returning to the hotel.

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

### TUESDAY, OCTOBER 23

VICTORIA FALLS

Set out on a rhino safari for sightings of the most endangered of the "Big Five" species, as well as other game. Late afternoon, listen to a guest speaker discuss the trials and travails of David Livingstone, the 19th century Scottish medical missionary and explorer. Livingstone is one of the most popular figures of the Victorian era, and he is

well-known as the man who discovered Mosi-oa-Tunya and named them for Queen Victoria in 1855. After this informative and fascinating session, dine together tonight at the hotel.

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

## **WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 24** BOTSWANA / CHOBE NATIONAL PARK

Early this morning, journey to spectacular Chobe National Park in neighboring Botswana for both a morning game drive and an afternoon game cruise through this exceptional reserve. Since many animals congregate along the river that runs through Chobe, you'll search for antelope, zebra, buffalo, and hundreds of species of birds. Thanks to a varied terrain and plentiful water supply, Chobe is renowned for its predator population, including lions. You can also 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 your hotel in Victoria Falls.

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

## **THURSDAY, OCTOBER 25** VICTORIA FALLS / WINDHOEK, NAMIBIA

Today you are in transit, flying via Johannesburg to Windhoek, Namibia's German-influenced capital and the country's largest city. Upon arrival this evening, transfer to your hotel. Lunch and dinner are on your own today.

Overnight: *Windhoek Country Club (B)*

## **FRIDAY, OCTOBER 26** WINDHOEK / NAMIB DESERT / SOSSUSVLEI

After a brief tour of Windhoek, set out on a journey through spectacular mountain passes en route to the Namibian desert of vast gravel plains and sand dunes that rise more than a thousand feet high. Your destination today is the Central Namib, which stretches for some 700 miles. Along the way, stop for a quick lunch en route to the western part of this scenic country. Late this afternoon, reach your lodge, where you dine tonight. You're in the heart of

the Namibian desert, a kaleidoscope of color and mesmerizing sands at their most breathtaking during sunrise and sunset.

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

## **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 27** NAMIB DESERT / SOSSUSVLEI

Venture out on an early morning excursion to the dramatic red sand dunes at Sossusvlei. Here the dunes seem to be "alive" – they constantly change and undulate as a result of the desert winds. Despite their barren look, the dunes actually support a rich, complex system of wildlife that includes the blind golden mole, a large spider known as the "white lady," and 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 a leisurely lunch during the heat of the day and time to relax and enjoy the stunning scenery and pool here. Tonight dine at the lodge.

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

## **SUNDAY, OCTOBER 28** SOSSUSVLEI/SWAKOPMUND

Travel through the Namib Desert en route to German-accented Swakopmund, Namibia's main port, a fishing center, and resort. During your journey you might spot oryx, springbok, and ostrich in the wild. Arrive in Swakopmund in time for a late lunch, and then get acquainted with the town by visiting the Natural History Museum, which occupies a former harbor warehouse; and the Crystal Gallery, which together offer insight into Namibia's colonial past and rich natural resources. This evening dine together at the hotel.

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

## **MONDAY, OCTOBER 29** SWAKOPMUND / WALVIS BAY / SKELETON COAST

This morning set out from nearby Walvis Bay for a half-day cruise and lunch along Namibia's coastline. "Walvis" is the Dutch word for whale, and the Dutch

who first named the bay did so due to the large numbers of Southern right whales that grazed the harbor. Setting out to sea on a catamaran, witness some of the shipwrecks the coast has claimed, as well as the Cape Fur Seals, pelicans, and other sea birds native to these waters. After lunch aboard the cruise, take a short tour of the Walvis Bay Lagoon, a protected area home to many species of water birds, including flamingoes. Return to Swakopmund, where you have the remainder of the day at leisure to explore this charming coastal city on your own. Options abound: visit the National Marine Aquarium or the Swakopmund Military Museum, venture to the main beach area, or spend your time browsing at one of the many shops or outdoor crafts market. This evening enjoy dinner together at a local restaurant.

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

## **TUESDAY, OCTOBER 30** SWAKOPMUND / CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA

Fly to Cape Town, South Africa, arriving early afternoon. Transfer to your hotel on the Victoria & Alfred Waterfront and have the remainder of the afternoon and evening at leisure to enjoy Cape Town and the waterfront. Lunch is your own today; dinner is at a local restaurant tonight.

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

## **WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 31** CAPE TOWN / THE WINELANDS

South Africa is one of the finest wine-producing countries in the world. Embark on 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 one of the region's wineries for lunch. Next travel to Stellenbosch, a former frontier town on the banks of the Eerste. The town square is one of the "newest" sections of town, with buildings from 1777 and several fine examples of Cape Dutch architecture. Return to the hotel late this afternoon; the remainder of the day is at leisure and you dine on your own tonight in this cosmopolitan city.

Please note that the exact order of sightseeing today and over the next two days may vary so that you can visit Table Mountain during the best possible weather during your stay in Cape Town.

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

## **THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 1** CAPE TOWN / CAPE OF GOOD HOPE

On today's full-day excursion to the Cape Peninsula, visit the Cape of Good Hope. Pass by lovely Hout Bay before reaching the Cape Point Nature Reserve. 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 on to Boulders Beach to visit a unique penguin colony. Your final stop of the day is at Kirstenbosch National Botanical Gardens, considered among the finest in the world. The gardens planted here are almost exclusively devoted to the indigenous plants of South Africa – approximately 9,000 of the nation's 22,000 species. Dinner tonight is on your own.

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

## **FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 2** CAPE TOWN / ROBBERN 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. Take a guided tour of the prison, often led by former prisoners who openly share their views. The prison is now a national museum chronicling a chapter of South Africa's painful past. Following your tour, return to Cape Town for a visit by cable car (weather permitting) 3,500 feet to the top of Table Mountain. The views from the summit are phenomenal, so be sure to bring your camera. 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 3**  
CAPE TOWN / DEPART FOR U.S.

Transfer to the Cape Town airport and your return flight to the United States. (B)

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 4**  
ARRIVE U.S.

**Optional Extension:**  
**KRUGER: KAPAMA PRIVATE GAME RESERVE**

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3**  
KAPAMA PRIVATE GAME RESERVE

This morning fly to Hoedspruit or Mpumalanga and transfer to your lodge in the Kapama Private Game Reserve. Here, the magic and mystery of Africa begin to unfold as this afternoon you embark on your first game drive. This wildlife region, which sits adjacent to the enormous 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 to ensure you enjoy close-up encounters with the animals; they also teach you about the flora and fauna that surrounds you. As you're staying at a private lodge, you have the opportunity to enjoy 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 get out of the vehicle and go on foot, both of which are not allowed in the national park. Lunch today is on your own en route from Cape Town. Upon arrival to the lodge, refresh before your first game drive. Dinner is at camp upon your return to the lodge.

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

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 4**  
KAPAMA PRIVATE GAME RESERVE

At morning's first light and again in the late afternoon, when the animals hunt for their dinners, embark on game drives. 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 your meals today and tomorrow are served at the lodge.

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

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 5**

**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 6**

**KAPAMA / JOHANNESBURG / DEPART FOR U.S.**

Return to the airport early this morning for the flight to Johannesburg where you will board your connecting flights to the United States. *(B)*

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 7**

**ARRIVE U.S.**