



**H A R V A R D | B U S I N E S S | S C H O O L**

**PAN-AFRICAN EXPLORATION:  
FOLLOWING THE GREAT RIFT VALLEY BY PRIVATE PLANE  
SEPTEMBER 15-OCTOBER 4, 2015**

GROUP SIZE: 8-15 GUESTS/ PRICING: \$59,995 DOUBLE; \$4,995 SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

Join your fellow Harvard Business School alumni on an incredible, expansive journey along the entire Great Rift Valley— the continuous geographic trench of approximately 3,000 miles that runs from Ethiopia to the Limpopo Valley in South Africa. Travel by private jet and plane to six African countries: Ethiopia, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Botswana and Cape Town, South Africa; and visit some of the most iconic sites of the continent.

The itinerary covers the most exciting destinations in Africa from north to south— from Ethiopia to South Africa. Ethiopia, known as the Cradle of Humankind, is one of the oldest locations of known human life and is home to Africa's first Christian church. Today Ethiopia reveals a fascinating culture and strong bond with its ancient past. Visit the sacred cities of Axum, where legend says the Ark of the Covenant and palace of the Queen of Sheba reside, as well as the ancient monasteries and monolithic churches of Lalibela, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Travel south to Tanzania's Serengeti, a vast and extremely beautiful plain known for its magnificent herds of animals, providing an unparalleled safari experience.

Explore the remote and unspoiled Lower Zambezi area in Zambia, offering a diverse range of eco-systems, stunning scenery, and a variety of wildlife. Also visit Victoria Falls, one of the world's Seven Natural Wonders, where the Zambezi River tumbles dramatically into an extravaganza of roaring, spray-tumbled water, covering an expanse of just over one mile.

Fly on to Botswana's Okavango Delta, home to the largest density of elephants in the world, as well as large predator and antelope populations.

Finish in Cape Town, a city where old and new converge in history, architecture, traditional and contemporary culture, and the complex mix of humanity. The Cape's landscape is fantastically dramatic, dominated by the towering Table Mountain, rocky heights, lush valleys, and scenic coastline.

All along the way meet with special speakers and guests to help you understand the 'real Africa' of today.

## SCHEDULE BY DAY

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

### TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

DEPART FROM THE U.S.

Depart the U.S. on an independent, overnight commercial flight to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

### WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

Upon arrival in Addis Ababa you are met by your private guide and local driver and transferred to the Sheraton Hotel. Founded in 1887, Addis is the third highest capital city in the world at 7,726 feet above sea level. Situated in the center of Ethiopia, Addis Ababa (literally “New Flower”) is the bustling capital of this developing nation.

This evening you meet your fellow travelers and private specialist guide for welcome drinks followed by dinner and authentic traditional folk dancing at a local restaurant.

*Overnight: Sheraton Hotel (Or Similar) / (D)*

### THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

Today is filled with special experiences. You have the opportunity to meet with the legendary Sir Richard and Rita Pankhurst, both of who are pre-eminent scholars on Ethiopian studies and have been at the forefront of Ethiopia’s evolution towards democracy. Learn about the complex and rich history of Ethiopia, and the religious beliefs and traditions which run deep in the Ethiopian culture. Cap the day off with an exclusive private reception at the National Palace, the official residence of the President of the Federal Republic of Ethiopia. Enjoy drinks and light appetizers in the company of a special guest from the highest levels of

government. Following the reception, dinner is on your own account to explore local Ethiopian fare.

*Overnight: Sheraton Hotel (Or Similar) / (B, L)*

### FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

LALIBELA, ETHIOPIA

After breakfast board a private charter to Lalibela, the medieval capital of Ethiopia.

Upon arrival in Lalibela you are met and driven to the Mt. View Hotel, perched on the edge of the beautiful Lasta Mountains.

The town of Lalibela is famed for its monolithic rock-hewn churches of King Lalibela (1181-1211), which are part of UNESCO’s World Heritage List. Known as the “Eighth Wonder of the World,” it is believed that these eleven churches required 25,000 people and 24 years to complete. Some Ethiopians still believe the rock-hewn churches were built by angels.

This afternoon visit the first group of churches: Holy Savior Church, St. Mary’s Church, the House of the Cross, the House of the Virgins, and the twin churches of Bete Gologota and Bete Debrasina. The churches are laid out in a cluster and connect to each other through an underground stone tunnel. View many fantastic ancient relics, such as icons, gold and silver crosses, and manuscripts written in the ancient language of Geez.

*Overnight: Mountain View Hotel / (B, L, D)*

### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

LALIBELA, ETHIOPIA

This morning you may ride a donkey to Asheten Marium for a visit of the hilltop monastery built into a cave on the far side of the same mountain (alternative visits will also be available). The climb offers wonderful views of the surrounding area and town of Lalibela.

In the afternoon visit the second and third group of churches in Lalibela, including the spectacular Bete Giorgis (St. George), which is carved from the earth's surface two stories directly down in the shape of a cross. St. George's Church is considered the most beautiful, completely monolithic cruciform church, and is a symbolization of Noah's Ark.

Overnight: *Mountain View Hotel / (B, L, D)*

## **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20 AXUM, ETHIOPIA**

This morning board a private charter flight to Axum, Ethiopia's most sacred city. Upon arrival you are transferred to the Sabean Hotel, located in the center of Axum. The hotel boasts large spacious rooms and modern bathrooms.

Axum was once the capital of the powerful Axumite Empire, described as one of the last great civilizations of antiquity. Legend has it that it is the ancient capital of the Queen of Sheba. The area is littered with massive stelae, ruined palaces, underground tombs and inscriptions rivaling the Rosetta Stone itself, and is listed as one of UNESCO's World Heritage sites. Pilgrims still journey to the ancient sites and many Ethiopians believe passionately that the Ark of the Covenant resides here to this day.

This afternoon visit the archeological museum, the obelisk park, Queen of Sheba's bath, the excavated Queen of Sheba's palace, King Kaleb's palace, and the trilingual inscriptions of King Ezana from the 4<sup>th</sup> century A.D.

Continue to the famous church of St. Mary of Zion, the mother church of Ethiopia. It is here that the Ark of the Covenant is said to be guarded by one priest for his entire life. Legend says that the Ark was brought to Axum by Menelik, the son of the Queen of Sheba and King Solomon, in the 10<sup>th</sup> century B.C. Supposedly it was kept in secret in one of the monasteries of Lake Tana until it was brought to Axum.

The cathedral is a repository for crowns belonging to some of Ethiopia's former emperors and other treasures including some illuminated manuscripts. Here, you also see the book on the miracle of St. Mary from the 18<sup>th</sup> century, which is illuminated and written in ancient Geez script.

Overnight: *Sabean Hotel / (B, L, D)*

## **MONDAY-WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21-23 NORTHERN SERENGETI, TANZANIA**

This morning depart on a private charter to Addis Ababa to clear Ethiopian customs, and then switch to your private jet for the flight to Kilimanjaro, Tanzania. After clearing Tanzanian customs, board your private charter to the northern Serengeti and Singita Grumeti Reserve.

The Singita Grumeti Reserve forms part of the famed Serengeti-Mara ecosystem. Its concession spans a vast 350,000 acres of relatively untouched wilderness; it is an extension of the vast western corridor of the world-renowned Serengeti National Park. The absence of fencing allows for free migration of game between the park and private concession, providing spectacular game viewing opportunities. The reserve is home to varying habitats, including open plains, rugged rocky outcrops, woodlands, and riverine forests.

Here you enjoy the luxury of the magnificent Singita Faru Faru Lodge. Beautifully appointed, the lodge also maximizes access to the river and waterholes. The stone and canvas design blends in seamlessly with the environment. The organic lines of two rim-flow swimming pools echo those of a watering hole that lies just below. The elevated viewing decks over the watering hole allow guests to view game without even leaving their lodge, and a Swahili-inspired "beach" offers the opportunity for some serious rest and relaxation.

Game drives and walks are taken twice daily with excellent professional guides—heading out in the early morning and late afternoons when the wildlife is most active. Other activities include archery, lawn croquet, mountain biking, equestrian pursuits, and hot air ballooning. Exclusivity promises thrilling game viewing in classic vintage cars or open four-wheel drive vehicles. You may also explore the great Serengeti savannah, riverine and montane habitats by walking, cycling, or horse riding accompanied by guides.

Overnight: *Singita Faru Faru Lodge / (B, L, D)*

## **THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24** **LUSAKA, ZAMBIA**

After a last morning game drive in the Serengeti, return by private charter to Kilimanjaro in order to clear Tanzanian customs. Then switch to your private jet for the flight to Lusaka, Zambia.

Upon arrival in Lusaka, you are met and transferred to the Intercontinental Hotel. This evening attend a private cocktail reception with Zambian leaders and business people before dinner. Zambia is one of the fastest growing economies in Africa and celebrates 50 years of stable democracy in 2014. Learn firsthand from the invited delegates how Zambia managed its success and discuss plans for its future.

Overnight: *Intercontinental Hotel Lusaka (or similar) / (B, L, D)*

## **FRIDAY & SATURDAY,** **SEPTEMBER 25 & 26** **LOWER ZAMBEZI, ZAMBIA**

After breakfast, board your private jet to the Royal airstrip in the Lower Zambezi, where you are met and transferred to Royal Zambezi Lodge.

The Royal Zambezi Lodge is a striking combination of contemporary style and

comfort in a completely unspoiled bush environment, situated directly across from the famed Mana Pools World Heritage Site. Royal Zambezi offers large, elegant villa-like canvas tents built under thatched canopies, which feature king-size beds, full mosquito netting, and airy verandahs. The main lodge area boasts comfortable sofas in front of roaring open fires overlooking the magnificent Zambezi River. During the day, the decks overlook a reed bed, a fascinating micro-ecology affording close study of bird and fish life as well as elephant, hippo, and buffalo.

There are many options during your stay—motor boat or canoeing safaris are available from the camp anytime, and are manned by expert guides who steer you as you explore the numerous channels and islands. Fishing for the world-renowned "Tiger fish" is also available. The lodge's Royal Spa was voted "Best Spa in Africa" in 2013.

Experience game drives in the adjacent Lower Zambezi National Park. Until recently it was the private reserve of Zambia's president, so the park is unspoiled as well as remote. It boasts a diverse range of eco-systems and offers stunning scenery and varied wildlife viewing including large herds of elephant and buffalo, lion, and leopard. Regular plains game sightings include kudu, zebra, impala, warthog, bushbuck and baboons. Large pods of hippo reside in the river directly in front of the lodge, as well as crocodile and a vast variety of colorful birds. Wild dog also occur in the Lower Zambezi National Park, but are not often sighted.

Overnight: *Royal Zambezi Lodge / (B, L, D)*

## **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27** **VICTORIA FALLS, ZIMBABWE /** **LINYANTI RESERVE, BOTSWANA**

Early this morning your private jet takes you to Lusaka to clear Zambian customs, and then on to Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe. Here you visit the magnificent Victoria

Falls, one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World. Victoria Falls is where the Zambezi River opens out into an extravaganza of roaring, spray-tumbled water, known to the locals as “Mosi oa Tunya” (the smoke that thunders). Few sights are as awe-inspiring as this when the ground rumbles with the forces of the water. Lunch is taken at the Victoria Falls Hotel, an historic landmark in the town of Victoria Falls. Established in 1904, the hotel is one of the last great colonial hotels of Africa—even the corridors reflect the past glories of the Empire. Enjoy lunch on the hotel’s terrace, featuring views over the Batoka Gorge with the mist from the Falls rising in the background.

This afternoon, re-board your private jet for a flight to Maun, Botswana, where you clear Botswana’s customs then board a private charter to the Linyanti Wildlife Reserve and Kings Pool Camp. A late-afternoon game drive is offered following arrival, as time allows. The Linyanti is a vast, private concession in the northern part of Botswana, on the western boundary of Chobe National Park. The accommodation here is luxurious and the wildlife is spectacular.

At Kings Pool, nine well-appointed tents of canvas and thatch each have a large bedroom area, lounge, private plunge pool and ‘sala’. The spacious en-suite bathrooms are tiled with double showers and hand-basins as well as an outdoor shower for those who wish to shower close to nature. Raised walkways allow animals to wander freely through the camp—to and from the water. The lounge, dining room, and pub areas are on expansive raised decks and there is a pool and an open-air ‘kgotla’ for dining under the stars.

Overnight: *King Pools Camp / (B, L, D)*

## **MONDAY & TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28 & 29**

### **LINYANTI RESERVE, BOTSWANA**

Spend your days on safari at Kings Pool Camp in the company of Botswana’s best guides. Learn to identify animal tracks, find rare wildlife, and enjoy the best cuisine in the country. The camp overlooks the Linyanti River and the oxbow-shaped Kings Pool Lagoon, apparently named after a Scandinavian monarch who spent a number of nights camping out on the banks of the lagoon, long before any camp was built here. The Linyanti area has a large amount of wildlife with a wide variety of species, but it is most noted for its very large elephant population, which can reach enormous densities during the dry winter months. Other game is abundant, such as impala, lechwe, kudu, zebra, giraffe, buffalo and bushbuck and their predators: lion, leopard, cheetah, wild dog and spotted hyena. Rarer species such as sable and roan antelope are also spotted on occasion.

Activities include day and night game drives and walks, while boat cruises along the Linyanti River (water levels allowing) offer spectacular viewing. The reed and papyrus swamps are ideally suited for numerous and diverse species of birds and are a magnet for game in the dry winter months.

Overnight: *King Pools Camp / (B, L, D)*

## **WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30**

### **CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA**

After a last early-morning safari activity in the Linyanti, your private charter takes you to Maun, Botswana where you clear customs before re-boarding your private jet for the flight to Cape Town, South Africa. On arrival you are met and transferred to Ellerman House. The remainder of the late afternoon is at leisure. Dinner tonight is on your own account to explore the many restaurants in the area.

Cape Town is a city where old and new harmoniously converge in a very complex history. Cape Dutch architecture, cultural diversity, as well as ancient and modern art, make the city one of dramatic contrast. It is dominated by Table Mountain, one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World, which towers spectacularly over the city. Cape Town is dramatically set on South Africa's west coast, on a peninsula of soaring, rocky heights, lush valleys, and scenic coastlines. Immense natural beauty and the fast pace and bright lights of a great urban center meld effortlessly here.

The Ellerman House is a distinguished mansion and historical landmark built in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Known as the most elegant accommodation in Cape Town, the hotel is situated on the panoramic slopes overlooking the sea in upscale Bantry Bay, just minutes from the center of Cape Town and the bustling Waterfront. Once the home of a shipping magnate, the historic residence has been transformed into a refined 11-room oasis and meticulously restored to its original splendor while offering every modern convenience. Art and antiques decorate the stylish parlor and library, while a handsome bar is trimmed in rich leather, polished woods and granite. Each of the spacious Edwardian-style rooms exemplifies luxury and the traditional comfort and elegance for which South Africa is known.

Overnight: *Ellerman House* / (B, L)

## **THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1**

### **CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA**

After breakfast on the patio overlooking the Atlantic, head to Table Mountain where you take a cable car ride up the steep granite slopes (weather permitting) for a splendid view of the city and peninsula; this famed view is often ranked among the most spectacular in the world. You are accompanied by a noted naturalist on the tour. Afterwards, travel to Cape Point via the coastal route, passing through Camps Bay (South Africa's best known beach

resort), past the Twelve Apostles mountain range, through Hout Bay and dramatic Chapman's Peak Drive. At the Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve, or Cape Point, the cold Benguela current and the warm Agulhas current meet. Surely one of the world's most beautiful places, this stretch of rocky mountain juts southward into the sea, forming the southwestern-most tip of the African continent. Here you find pristine beaches, sheltered bays and coves, and a rich array of indigenous flora. The fynbos reserve (a unique vegetation type which dominates the Cape Floral Kingdom) is home to a variety of wildlife and bird species. Southern Wright whales, penguins and seals are frequently spotted from the point. Lunch is a private buffet taken at a scenic spot.

In the afternoon, drive up the east side of the peninsula and stop off at Boulders Beach to view the resident African penguin colony. Nestled in a sheltered cove between Simon's Town and Cape Point, Boulders is one of the few sites on earth where this vulnerable bird can be observed at close range, wandering freely in a protected environment.

Dinner tonight is at Ellerman House, including a wine tasting from the extensive cellar and a tour of the famed African art collection compiled by Ellerman House's owner and noted businessman, Paul Harris.

Overnight: *Ellerman House* / (B, L, D)

## **FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2**

### **CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA**

Enjoy a morning of art and culture during a private visit to Jochen Zeitz's renowned African art collection, which will form the founding collection of the new Zeitz Museum of Contemporary Art Africa opening in Cape Town, before exploring the Cape Winelands in the afternoon.

The wine-producing region around Stellenbosch and Franschhoek is not only the most important wine growing region in South Africa, but Stellenbosch is one of the

oldest, most beautiful and well-preserved towns in South Africa. The vineyards form a patchwork in the fertile valleys and seem to be overshadowed by dramatic mountains. There is an almost European atmosphere with beautiful Cape Dutch architecture seen everywhere.

This afternoon's very special lunch is at Bread & Wine, located on the Moreson wine estate. Bread & Wine is a character-filled, rustic restaurant that has won numerous accolades for its fresh, mouth-watering food. The menu changes seasonally and is inspired by the variety of ingredients grown locally. Moreson Wine Farm is owned by Richard Friedman and his sister, Susan Huxter, who also owns a prominent local hotel. Both are Harvard Alums, and if available will join you for lunch today. Later in the afternoon, enjoy a wine tasting and panoramic views of the valley at Delaire Graff Estate, spectacularly located at the crest of Helshoogte Pass.

The farewell dinner is hosted at a prominent local restaurant.

Overnight: *Ellerman House* / (B, L, D)

## **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3**

### **DEPARTURE**

Breakfast is provided at the hotel, but no activities are planned due to the variety of departure times available out of Cape Town. Transfers to the airport are provided, to coincide with commercial flight departure times.

## **SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4**

### **ARRIVE HOME**