

2025

HARVARD ALUMNI TRAVELS

DISCOVER • LEARN • CONNECT • EXPLORE



THE BEST OF SOUTH AFRICA, BOTSWANA, NAMIBIA & ZIMBABWE

Aboard the *Zambezi Queen*
October 14–29, 2025



HARVARD
Alumni Travels



Victoria Falls

The Best of South Africa, Botswana, Namibia & Zimbabwe

Immerse yourself in the majesty and magic that is southern Africa. This southern African adventure features wildlife and natural history encounters across four countries, highlighted by a three-night Chobe River cruise in Namibia and Botswana, offering uninterrupted views of Chobe National Park. Experience the thrill of up-close encounters with animals during safari excursions at Mala Mala Private Game Reserve, renowned for its five-star African safari experience. Discover Victoria Falls, a World Heritage site and one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World, during a two-night stay at the historic Victoria Falls Hotel.

Cruise the Chobe River onboard the *Zambezi Queen*, a small luxury ship designed to navigate the Chobe and Zambezi Rivers. The ship features 14 five-star, air-conditioned suites with floor-to-ceiling windows, private balconies, and upscale amenities. Enjoy panoramic views from the restaurant, where you can see animals gathering at dusk, or relax on the open-air deck with a plunge pool. Game-view from small excursion boats, try fishing for tiger fish, or simply enjoy the luxurious surroundings.

Immerse yourself in Cape Town's rich cultural heritage and follow Nelson Mandela's "Long Walk to Freedom" with a tour of Robben Island prison, where Mandela and other political dissidents advanced the cause for equal rights. This journey combines the majesty of southern Africa's natural beauty with its profound historical significance.

Study Leader



Brian D. Farrell is professor of biology in the Department of Organismic and Evolutionary Biology and curator of Entomology in the Museum of Comparative Zoology. He works on the coevolution of insects and plants and is a specialist on the biology of

beetles. He is interested in understanding whether the variety of species on Earth is a result of, or the cause of, the different roles they play in ecosystems. Current writing projects include a focus on the impacts of biophilia and social connectivity on personal and public health.

Brian was director of the David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies from 2014–2020 and in 2018 he was named the Monique and Philip Lehner Professor for the Study of Latin America for his significant academic contributions to the development and understanding of Latin America. Brian and his spouse Irina Ferreras were also Faculty Deans of Leverett House from 2018–2022.

Brian plays jazz drums and Afro-Cuban percussion in weekly ensembles, and he supports the Jazz Combo Initiative of the Office for the Arts. Brian cycles and rows for exercise and is passionate about nature and sharing experiences with students and others. He is the faculty sponsor of the Harvard Pops Orchestra and the Harvard Outing Club.



Close encounter with an elephant from a boat at the Chobe River.

Highlights

- **Cruise** the Chobe River onboard the *Zambezi Queen* for three nights.
- **Experience** the thrill of up-close encounters with animals in the wild during safari excursions from Chobe River and in Mala Mala Private Game Reserve, where lion, leopard, buffalo, elephant and rhino are commonly spotted.
- **Follow** Nelson Mandela's "Long Walk to Freedom". Tour Robben Island prison where Nelson Mandela and other political dissidents made strides in attaining equal rights.
- **Feel** the awesome power of Victoria Falls, a World Heritage site and one of the Seven Wonders of the Natural World, during a two-night

Activity Level 3:

A LITTLE MORE TO IT

This is a full, moderately strenuous program that is at times physically demanding and busy and requires you to be in good health and able to keep up with the group without assistance from tour staff. In order to make the most of what each locale has to offer, days will generally be long, with the daily program often beginning early in the morning and continuing into the early evening. We will cover rugged terrain and walks on daily excursions can range from one to two miles, often on uneven terrain in the warm sun, where handrails are not available. During the time in Johannesburg and Cape Town, travel will be by modern, air-conditioned motor coaches on paved roads. Land-based game drives will take place in open-air safari vehicles, which can be dusty and bumpy, and require travelers to climb in and out of them. The time spent at the game park includes early morning and late afternoon game drives, but there will be time midday to relax and enjoy a slower pace. Water-based game drives will be from small watercraft with chair-style seating; you will need to be able to get into and out of small watercraft with the assistance of tour staff and crew. Aboard the *Zambezi Queen*, there is no elevator, and you should feel comfortable walking on a rocking surface at times.



Artistry of handcrafted wooden bowls.



Young lions drink from the Chobe river.

Schedule by Day

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14

Depart U.S.

Begin with an overnight flight to Johannesburg, South Africa.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15

Johannesburg, South Africa

Upon arrival, enjoy the day at your leisure, acclimating to the time zone and exploring the vibrant city at your own pace. Gather for a welcome reception at the Fairlawns Boutique Hotel, known for its luxurious amenities and tranquil setting. Fairlawns Boutique Hotel (R)

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16

Soweto

Embark on a journey through Soweto, delving into South Africa's rich history with visits to Nelson Mandela's former home, the Hector Pieterse Memorial, and the Apartheid Museum. These sites offer profound insights into the struggle for freedom and equality. In the evening, savor dinner at your convenience at your hotel. Fairlawns Boutique Hotel (B,L,D)

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17

Johannesburg / Kasane / Chobe River, Botswana & Namibia

Fly to Kasane, Botswana, and transfer to the Chobe River, crossing into Namibia. Board the elegant *Zambezi Queen* for a river cruise, where you can enjoy game viewing and take in the stunning natural beauty of the region. *Zambezi Queen* (B, L, D)

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18

Chobe River

Spend the day immersed in river-based safaris along the Chobe River. A wide variety of wildlife are drawn to the river shore for a drink and are readily viewable from the boat. This area is renowned for its large elephant herds and diverse birdlife. Continue your stay on the *Zambezi Queen*, relishing the luxury of your riverfront accommodation. *Zambezi Queen* (B, L, D)

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19

Chobe River

Choose from a range of activities today, including guided water-based game viewing, birding excursions, a cultural tour, and a photographic safari offering further opportunities to spot wildlife and enjoy the serene environment of the Chobe River. Return to the *Zambezi Queen* for a comfortable and relaxing evening. *Zambezi Queen* (B, L, D)

MONDAY, OCTOBER 20

Chobe River / Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe

Transfer to Chobe National Park before heading to Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe. Check into the Victoria Falls Hotel, a historic property with spectacular views of the falls. This evening, you can relax and reflect on your experiences in this iconic location. Victoria Falls Hotel (B,L)

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 21

Victoria Falls

Experience Victoria Falls, one of the world's most magnificent natural wonders, during a morning excursion. Spend the remainder of the day enjoying the local area independently or simply relaxing at the Victoria Falls Hotel. Dinner will be served at the hotel. Victoria Falls Hotel (B,D)

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22

Victoria Falls / Cape Town, South Africa

Fly to Cape Town and get acquainted with the city through an introductory discussion and tour led by David Bristow, a renowned local guide. Enjoy the comfort and convenience of the V&A Waterfront Hotel, situated in the heart of Cape Town's bustling waterfront area. V&A Waterfront Hotel (B)

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23

Cape Town

Discover the historical significance of Robben Island, where Nelson Mandela was imprisoned, and take in breathtaking views from Table Mountain. This day combines historical insight with natural beauty. V&A Waterfront Hotel (B)

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24

Cape Point

Visit Boulders Beach to see the charming African penguins and explore the dramatic landscapes of Cape Point, where the Atlantic and Indian Oceans meet. Enjoy lunch and dinner with stunning coastal views. V&A Waterfront Hotel (B,L,D)

REGISTER

alumni.harvard.edu/

CALL US

800-422-1636

EMAIL US

haatravels@harvard.edu

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

alumni.harvard.edu/



Views from the Zambezi Queen.



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25

Cape Winelands

Journey through the Stellenbosch Wine Route, renowned for its world-class vineyards. Enjoy a wine tasting experience and a specially arranged lunch with wine pairings that highlight the region's exceptional offerings. V&A Waterfront Hotel (B,L)

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26

Mala Mala

Fly to Skukusa Airport and transfer to the Mala Mala Private Game Reserve. Experience an afternoon game drive in one of South Africa's premier wildlife reserves, known for its rich biodiversity. Look for elephant, lion, leopard, rhino, cape buffalo and cape hunting dog, among many other species that reside here. Stay at Mala Mala, where the focus is on immersive wildlife experiences. Mala Mala (B,L,D)

MONDAY, OCTOBER 27

Mala Mala

Enjoy both morning and afternoon game drives, where you'll have abundant opportunities to observe diverse wildlife in their natural habitat. Mala Mala (B,L,D)

TUESDAY OCTOBER 28

Johannesburg

After a final morning game drive, transfer to Skukusa Airport for your flight to Johannesburg. Connect to your international flight back to the U.S. (B)

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 29

Home

Arrive back in the U.S.

Zambezi Queen

Whether game-viewing from one of the small excursion boats, attempting to land a tiger fish, or watching through the restaurant's panoramic windows for the animals to gather at the water at dusk, guests experience Botswana's exotic Chobe National Park—from a luxury small ship specifically designed to navigate the great Chobe and Zambezi Rivers.

This exclusively chartered, environmentally sensitive "floating lodge" offers 14 five-star, air-conditioned suites ranging from 211 to 340 square feet (including balcony). Each has floor-to-ceiling windows with full-length sliding shutter doors and a sliding glass door that opens onto a private balcony, private bathroom with shower, one queen that converts to two twin beds, fans/AC, safe, hairdryer, and bath robes. (Note that AC works only when the generator is on during the day and shuts off from 10pm-6am.) Onboard dining features full English breakfast and regional cuisine combined with international tastes. Comfortable public areas include a lounge, bar, and open-air deck with plunge pool.



Fairlawns



Mala Mala



Victoria Falls

Accommodations

Two Nights at the **Fairlawns Boutique Hotel** / Johannesburg, South Africa

Three Nights aboard the **Zambezi Queen** / Chobe River

Two Nights at the **Victoria Falls Hotel** / Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe

Four Nights at the **V&A Waterfront Hotel** / Cape Town, South Africa

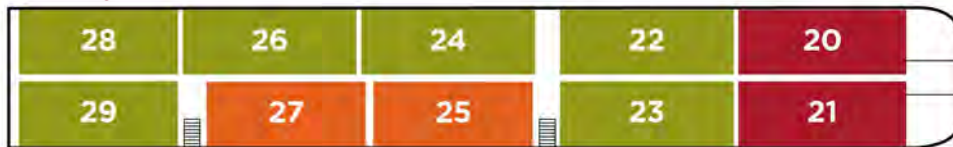
Two Nights at **Mala Mala** / Mala Mala Private Game Reserve



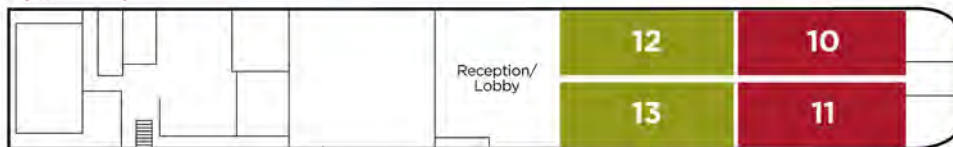
UPPER DECK



MAIN DECK



LOWER DECK



Details

PROGRAM RATES INCLUDE: All accommodations, meals, and excursions as specified in the itinerary, including thirteen breakfasts, nine lunches, eight dinners, ten hotel nights and three nights aboard *Zambezi Queen* • Comprehensive program of briefings, lectures and presentations • Group transfers for all participants on group arrival and departure dates • Baggage handling • Gratuities to porters, waitstaff, guides and drivers • Gratuities to shipboard personnel • Port charges • Entrance fees • Welcome and farewell wine receptions • House wine, beer, and soft drinks with all group lunches and dinners • Filtered water for water bottles on motorcoaches • Complete packet of pre-departure information • Professional tour manager throughout the program

NOT INCLUDED: U.S. domestic and international airfare • On-tour flights Johannesburg/Kasane, Victoria Falls/Cape Town, Cape Town/Skukuza, Skukuza/Johannesburg (estimated at \$1,250 per person, subject to change) • Passport/visa expenses • Medical expenses and immunizations • Private airport transfers or airport transfers outside of group arrival and departure days • Travel and trip cancellation insurance • Excursions that deviate from the scheduled tour options • Airline baggage charges • Meals not specified in the itinerary; dishes and beverages not part of the included meals; liquor or soft drinks except as noted • Laundry or dry cleaning • Telephone, fax, internet, and email charges • Room service • Other items of a personal nature

Rates per Person

CATEGORY/DECK	DOUBLE	SINGLE
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A	\$12,795	---
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Suite: Private balcony, 211 sq. ft.
including balcony
Main Deck (25, 27)

B	\$12,995	\$19,490
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Suite: Private balcony, 233-247 sq. ft.
including balcony
Main Deck (22, 23, 24, 26, 28, 29) and
Lower Deck (12, 13)

C	\$14,595	---
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Luxury Suite: Private balcony, 283-340 sq. ft.
including balcony.
Main Deck (20 & 21) and Lower Deck (10, 11)

On-tour flights are priced separately and are estimated at \$1,250 per person (subject to change).



AIR ARRANGEMENTS Domestic and international airfare is not included in the program rates. Valerie Wilson Travel, Inc., can help with airline arrangements for this trip and can be reached at 877-376-1754. You are also welcome to book your air transportation through your local travel agent, an online travel site, or the airline of your choice. Further information about making flight arrangements will be sent to confirmed participants.



BOOK ONLINE
TO REGISTER



Trip Registration is Easy

Step 1

Visit: alumni.harvard.edu/travel/trips/southern-africa-zambezi-2025

Step 2

Click the Blue “**Register Today**” button and fill out the online form with your contact information and payment details.

Step 3

Look for an **email confirmation** from Harvard Alumni Travels.

All bookings are conducted online only.

Find complete trip-specific terms and conditions on the trip web page (link above).

Malachite Kingfishers



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800-422-1636

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haatravels@harvard.edu

TERMS AND CONDITIONS
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