



# 2023

## HARVARD ALUMNI TRAVELS

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### The Pride of South Africa, Botswana, Namibia, and Zimbabwe

March 11 - 27, 2023

with Study Leader **Bence P. Ölveczky**



**HARVARD**  
Alumni Travels





Cape Town, set beneath Table Mountain

**Follow Nelson Mandela's "Long Walk to Freedom" and witness** the breathtaking beauty of southern Africa, where "Big Five" game viewing is extraordinary. This trip of a lifetime features visits to four countries, five-star hotel accommodations, a three-night guided safari cruise on Namibia's Chobe River, and two nights at the acclaimed MalaMala Private Game Reserve, an extension of Kruger National Park and an unforgettable five-star African safari experience.

*The safety and well-being of our travelers remains our highest priority. Cruise lines and some other providers of services (as well as, potentially, some countries) require all passengers traveling on our programs to present confirmation of a full COVID-19 vaccination, and, as well, passengers may have to produce evidence of a recent negative COVID test. All our staff are committed to adhering to all health and safety protocols from the start of your trip to the end as directed by the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, overseas health officials as well as those protocols mandated by your cruise company (if applicable) and other suppliers of services. Detailed protocol information tailored to your travel program will be mailed to you along with additional pre-departure information.*

## Activity Level 4:

Generally, the river safaris and game drives are not physically demanding, and participation in these activities is optional and at your discretion. Excursions may involve some walking over stone floors, brick streets, or uneven terrain, and may require climbing stairs. You must be able to step into and out of safari vehicles and excursion boats alone or with minimal assistance from your travel companion. The itinerary involves long, bumpy drives over very rough, dusty terrain. This program also includes several flights, and you must be able to go up and down stairs to board and deplane the airplanes. South Africa, Botswana, Namibia, and Zimbabwe are located in a malaria zone. It is strongly recommended that you discuss this risk with your personal physician immediately to determine your need for an anti-malaria regimen no later than four months prior to departure.

## Study Leaders



**Bence P. Ölveczky** is a Professor of Organismic and Evolutionary Biology at Harvard University. He holds a PhD in

Neuroscience from Harvard and heads a lab studying the neural circuit mechanisms that underlie different aspects of motor skill learning and execution. He has received several awards, including the McKnight and Klingenstein Fellowships. He lives in Cambridge, Massachusetts, with his wife Daniele and their three young children, Oscar, Eva, and Camilla.

Professor Ölveczky plans to lecture on animal migration, collective intelligence in animal groups, and signals and communication in animals. He will talk about the evolutionary and mechanistic explanation of these phenomenon in general as well as some recent research that is advancing understanding of these topics.

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## Schedule by Day

SATURDAY, MARCH 11  
AND SUNDAY, MARCH 12

### **U.S./ Johannesburg, South Africa**

Depart the U.S. and arrive the next day in cosmopolitan Johannesburg, known colloquially as “Joburg,” and check into the five-star FAIRLAWNS BOUTIQUE HOTEL & SPA.

MONDAY, MARCH 13

### **Johannesburg for Pretoria**

North of Johannesburg, vibrant Pretoria is South Africa’s administrative capital, known for its distinctly *Afrikaans* culture, stunning architecture, and ubiquitous purple-blossomed jacaranda trees.

Visit the monolithic Voortrekker Monument, honoring the mid-19th century Dutch *voortrekkers* (pioneers) who migrated from the British-controlled Cape Colony to the inland

Highveld region. See the sandstone Union Buildings and the formal garden where Nelson Mandela delivered his historic presidential inauguration speech in 1994. Attend the Captain’s Welcome Reception and Dinner. (B,L,R,D)

TUESDAY, MARCH 14

### **Johannesburg for Soweto**

Follow in the footsteps of Nobel Peace Prize

South Africa’s 21st-century journey to democracy, and gain insight into the realities of township life through powerful artifacts, photographs, and film footage. (B,L)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15

### **Johannesburg/ Victoria Falls**

Arrive in Victoria Falls and check into the elegant and historic VICTORIA FALLS HOTEL. (B,D)



*Admire picturesque Cape Dutch architecture and taste acclaimed wine at the historical Vergelegen Estate.*

laureate Nelson Mandela along Vilakazi Street and visit the house where he lived from 1946 to 1962, a short distance from the former home of fellow Nobel Peace Prize laureate Desmond Tutu. At Johannesburg’s poignant Apartheid Museum, trace

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16

### **Victoria Falls**

Walk the jungle-fringed trail along the edge of UNESCO-inscribed Victoria Falls, one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World. Here, the Zambezi River plunges



Admire the brightly-hued buildings of Cape Town's Bo-Kaap neighborhood.

into a narrow, 360-foot gorge—twice the height of Niagara Falls—creating frothy rapids and vaulting a colorful mist into the air. (B)

FRIDAY, MARCH 17

## Victoria Falls/ Kasane, Botswana/ Namibia

Watch for elephants, wild dogs, zebras, and giraffes on a game drive in Chobe National Park. In the afternoon, embark the ZAMBEZI QUEEN, a five-star river boat, to prepare for your cruise along the Chobe River. (B,L,D)

SATURDAY, MARCH 18  
AND SUNDAY, MARCH 19

## Cruising the Chobe River

Enjoy up-close views of wildlife, including elephant, giraffe, kudu, oryx, and an astounding array of bird species. Discover the unique symbiosis between species such as the Oxpecker and Cape buffalo in this unspoiled ecosystem.

Expert local guides will lead game-viewing river safaris aboard small excursion boats. (2B,2L,2D)

MONDAY, MARCH 20

## Kasane/Cape Town, South Africa

Disembark the river boat in Kasane and transfer to the airport. Fly to Cape Town, South Africa, and check into the iconic, five-star BELMONT MOUNT



A Cape buffalo and oxpecker in symbiosis

NELSON HOTEL at the foot of Table Mountain. (B,L)

TUESDAY, MARCH 21

## Cape Town/ Table Mountain/ Robben Island

Enjoy a cable car ride to

the top of Table Mountain for spectacular views, followed by a scenic drive through the city and view the Bo-Kaap and District Six area.

This afternoon, tour Robben Island, a UNESCO World Heritage site, where Mandela and other political prisoners made strides during apartheid. The prison's storied interior and its guides—former prisoners, many of whom served with Mandela—provide an invaluable perspective on South Africa's social and political transformation. (B)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22

## Cape Town/ Cape Point

Experience a panoramic drive to Cape Point, visit an African Penguin Colony on Boulders Beach, and journey to Cape Point, a nature reserve within the Table Mountain National Park. Take the FLYING DUTCHMAN FUNICULAR for incredible views over the Cape of Good Hope. (B,L)





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ONLINE**  
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# Trip Registration Is Easy

**Step 1:** Visit:

<https://alumni.harvard.edu/travel/trips/zambezi-2023>

**Step 2:** Click the Blue “**Register Today**” button and fill out the online form.

**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).

THURSDAY, MARCH 23

## Cape Town/ Cape Winelands

Drive to the world-class estate of Vergelegen for a wine tasting. Explore the picturesque formal gardens and historic Cape Dutch manor house, then continue on to Bonshendal for lunch. (B,L,R)

FRIDAY, MARCH 24

## Cape Town/ MalaMala Private Game Reserve

Check out of the hotel and transfer to Cape Town

International Airport for your flight to Skukuza. Arrive at the MalaMala Private Game Reserve and check into your lodge. Enjoy a safari game drive this afternoon. (B,D)

SATURDAY, MARCH 25

## MalaMala Private Game Reserve

MalaMala is South Africa's largest private Big Five game reserve, renowned for its extraordinarily up-close wildlife sightings and elusive leopard viewing.

Enjoy early morning and late afternoon game drives

aboard four-wheel drive safari vehicles to observe well-habituated lion, cheetah, impala, warthog, giraffe, painted wolf and Cape buffalo. (B,L,D)

SUNDAY, MARCH 26

AND MONDAY, MARCH 27

## MalaMala Private Game Reserve/ Johannesburg/U.S.

After an early morning game drive and breakfast, check out of the lodge and transfer to Tambo Airport in Johannesburg for your return flight to the U.S., which arrives the next day. (B)

*Visit breathtaking Boulders Beach, home to a colony of African penguins.*



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Exclusive five-star hotels have been specially selected to enhance your experience in each fascinating destination we visit.

**FAIRLAWNS BOUTIQUE HOTEL** provides extraordinary luxury, tranquility, and a stately ambiance in Johannesburg.

**BELMOND MOUNT NELSON HOTEL** is a timeless garden estate in Cape Town's cosmopolitan center at the foot of Table Mountain. Enjoy stylish accommodations, modern amenities, and colonial grandeur in this world-renowned hotel of choice for visiting dignitaries. Exclusive five-star hotels have been specially selected to enhance your experience in each fascinating destination we visit.

**THE VICTORIA FALLS HOTEL** features dramatic views looking toward the mist of Victoria Falls. Originally built to house railway workers, this grand Edwardian-era hotel is a member of the Leading Hotels of the World.

**MALAMALA PRIVATE GAME RESERVE** is the safari industry's blueprint to the luxury photographic safari. In existence since 1927, this massive thriving tract of land produces the most exciting wildlife experience this side of the equator. Comprising 33,000 acres, MalaMala shares a 19 km (12 mile) unfenced border with the world-renowned Kruger National Park.

*Observe Southern Africa's wildlife up close on small-group game drives in MalaMala Private Game Reserve.*



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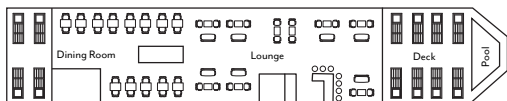




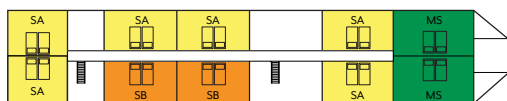
## MS ZAMBEZI QUEEN



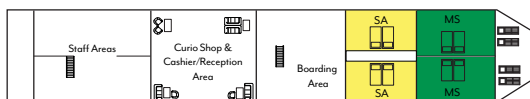
Upper Deck  
Middle Deck  
Lower Deck



Upper Deck



Middle Deck



Lower Deck

The exclusively chartered, five-star ZAMBEZI QUEEN is a specially designed, stylish “floating lodge” built to offer sophistication on the Chobe River. The ZAMBEZI QUEEN was named the *World’s Leading Boutique Cruise* by the World Travel Awards in 2021. This unique, world-class African river safari offers remarkable opportunities for unobstructed viewing of wildlife, whether from the comfort of your bedside or from the contemporary lounge, bar, or open-air deck with plunge pool.

Each of the 14 tastefully appointed, spacious, air-conditioned staterooms features expansive sliding glass doors that open onto a private balcony, one queen bed or two twin beds, and private bathroom with shower.

Regional cuisine is prepared by the South African-trained culinary staff with fresh, local ingredients and an international flair; the spacious dining room has windows on threesides for optimal game viewing as animals gather at the water’s edge. Onboard meals include early-risers’ coffee, American buffet breakfast, lunch, and three-course dinner. Complimentary wine and beer are served with lunch and dinner.

The environmentally sensitive ZAMBEZI QUEEN meets inland water safety standards and is specially designed to prevent damage to the riverbed. It is fuel efficient with low-emission generators and features solar-heated hot water and an onboard water purification system. There is no doctor on board.



## Rates Per Person

CATEGORY/DECK

**SB \$10,495**

Outside standard suite with two lower beds, private bathroom with shower, floor to ceiling sliding windows/doors - Balcony, Middle Deck

**SA \$10,995**

Outside standard suite with two lower beds, private bathroom with shower, floor to ceiling sliding windows/doors - Balcony, Middle Deck

**MASTER SUITE \$11,595**

Outside standard suite with two lower beds, private bathroom with shower, floor to ceiling sliding windows/doors - Forward Balcony, Lower and Middle Decks

*\*Please note: Internal program air (Johannesburg / Victoria Falls, Kasane / Cape Town, Cape Town / Skukuza, and Skukuza / Johannesburg) is required and is purchased individually at an additional cost.*

*Taxes and gratuities to ship personnel are included.*



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