On this journey through Southern Africa, visit quintessential destinations in South Africa, Botswana and Zambia. Explore the political past, natural history, and beautiful art of Cape Town. Continue to Botswana, the most highly conserved country in Africa, known for its massive herds of buffalo and elephant, and a high density of big cats. During game drives and boat safaris in Chobe National Park, search for zebras, giraffes, lions and leopards, and witness elephants drink and bathe in the river. Crossing the border into Zimbabwe, marvel at the power and beauty of Victoria Falls, one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World, before continuing on to Livingstone, Zambia for a chance to track white rhino. Finish the journey in the famed Sabi Sands Reserve, part of the greater Kruger National Park in South Africa. This area is known for its density of wildlife, including the Big Five as well as cheetah, wild dog, several species of antelope and a myriad of colorful birdlife.

GROUP SIZE: 13-18 GUESTS

PRICING: $12,495 per person double occupancy / $13,970 single occupancy

STUDY LEADERS: Hopi E. Hoekstra is the Alexander Agassiz Professor of Zoology in the Departments of Organismic & Evolutionary Biology and the Molecular & Cellular Biology. She is the Curator of Mammals in the Museum of Comparative Zoology, an Institute Member at the Broad Institute and an Investigator at the Howard Hughes Medical Institute. Her research focuses on understanding the evolution of morphological and behavioral diversity in mammals – from identifying genes contributing to coloration to those that affect complex behaviors. Her research has taken her around the globe, including studies of grizzly bears in Yellowstone, rodents in Chile and Argentina, and mammals in the Kuril Islands. She has received many awards for her scientific contributions, most recently the Lounsbery Medal from the National Academy of Sciences. She also teaches in Harvard’s introductory Life Science course: Genetics, Genomics and Evolution to approximately 500 freshmen each year, and has been awarded the Fannie Cox Prize and a Harvard College Professorship for teaching excellence.

James Mallet, an evolutionary biologist who uses South American butterflies to study speciation, hybridization, and the evolution of mimicry. He developed Heliconius and other Lepidoptera as model genetic systems to investigate hybridization and speciation. He co-founded the Heliconius Genome Consortium, which published the first chromosome-mapped butterfly genome in 2012. His multidisciplinary work combining genetics, evolution and ecology has transformed our understanding of the process of speciation and the concept of species. for the Heliconius Genome Consortium’s publication in Nature, which documented genomic evidence for promiscuous gene flow among multiple species of Heliconius.

HIGHLIGHTS OF SOUTHERN AFRICA:
CAPE TOWN, VICTORIA FALLS, CHOBE NATIONAL PARK, AND SABI SANDS
AUGUST 22–SEPTEMBER 3, 2019
THURSDAY, AUGUST 22
DEPART U.S.
Depart the U.S. (or other gateways) on an overnight flight to Cape Town, South Africa.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 23
CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA
Upon arrival at Cape Town International Airport, transfer to the Belmond Mount Nelson Hotel.

This evening, meet your Harvard study leader, fellow travelers, and private specialist guide for welcome drinks and dinner in the hotel restaurant.

Overnight: Belmond Mount Nelson Hotel (D)

SATURDAY, AUGUST 24
CAPE TOWN
This morning you have a chance to interact with local residents in the townships outside of Cape Town. Start the morning in Langa Township at the cultural center, where disadvantaged local residents are taught how to make various types of arts and crafts in order to help support their families; you have a chance to learn how important these skills are to the workers, as well as be shown how to make some of the crafts that are made at the center. In addition, a local resident gives you background on the Langa Township, as well as a glimpse into what life is like in the community. From the community center, you proceed to a local home for the elderly, where you have the opportunity to interact with some of the residents there; many of them lived through the apartheid era and have fascinating stories that they like to share.

Lunch today is a home-hosted buffet meal in the townships, featuring local dishes. In addition to enjoying some traditional cuisine, you have a chance to discuss what life is like in the area with the local hosts.

From the townships you make your way to Zonnebloem, originally called District Six, for a visit to the District Six Museum. Established in December 1994, the museum incorporates memories of District Six, its residents, and the forced removals. You meet a former resident of District Six, who speaks about the social and psychological effect that forced removals had on families in District Six, as well as have time to explore the museum and its exhibits.

Later in the afternoon, you continue to the picturesque and colorful Bo-Kaap neighborhood, a historic area that became home to many Muslims and freed slaves after the abolition of slavery, and the only region of the city where people of color were not forcefully removed. Here you have time to explore the neighborhood, including the small Bo-Kaap museum, which provides a history and overview to the community and its culture.

Dinner tonight is at a local restaurant which features a 14-dish Cape Malay and African inspired meal, accompanied by entertainment from local dancers and singers.

Overnight: Belmond Mount Nelson Hotel (B, L, D)

SUNDAY, AUGUST 25
CAPE TOWN
This morning visit Kirstenbosch Gardens, one of the world’s leading botanical gardens. Set against the eastern slopes of Table Mountain, Kirstenbosch was established in 1913 to promote, conserve and display the diverse flora of southern Africa. There are 7,000 species in cultivation at this UNESCO World Heritage Site, including many that are rare and threatened.

Enjoy lunch at the restaurant on-site at the garden, followed by a transfer to the V&A Waterfront for a private visit to the Zeitz Museum of Contemporary Art Africa. The recently-opened museum features over 100 galleries of cutting edge, contemporary art from around Africa and its diaspora.
MONDAY, AUGUST 26-
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 28
CHOBE NATIONAL PARK

In the early morning of August 26, drive to the airport for your flight to Kasane, Botswana. Upon arriving in the early afternoon, transfer to Chobe National Park and the Chobe Game Lodge.

Chobe National Park remains one of Africa’s prime game-viewing areas. Here, you can find four of the “Big Five” and the largest population of elephants in the world (note that seasonality makes a big difference in how much game one will see. If it’s dry, larger herds gather; if it has recently rained, the animals will be more dispersed). The Chobe region is best known for its vast river and floodplains filled with grazing herds of big game. Buffalo, sable, lion, leopard, hippo, hyena, and many species of antelope find safety in this huge national park. Chobe is one of Africa’s most pristine ecosystems and greatest wildlife refuges.

Your three days at the lodge are filled with early morning and late afternoon safari activities. Early morning game drives are conducted in specially-built, open-air 4x4 vehicles, and take you through Chobe National Park, moving slowly through the bush and along the river, seeking out the large herds of elephant and buffalo for which the park is known. Late afternoon safari is either a game drive or safari boat cruise, where you slowly cruise along the Chobe River searching for the myriad of wildlife that gathers on the river’s banks to drink and bathe.

Midday each day is at leisure, and the recently built boardwalk has added a new dimension to game-viewing. Simply find your favorite spot along the 820-foot, elevated platform, and settle down to watch the ever-changing wildlife parade across the river, islands, floodplains, and even as far away as Namibia.

All meals are taken at the lodge, including traditional high tea.

Overnight: Chobe Game Lodge (B, L, D)
Undoubtedly the most prestigious game park in South Africa, the Sabi Sand Reserve is known for the best “Big Five” game viewing in Southern Africa. There are no restricting fences, allowing the animals to roam freely as nature intended. The 65,000-hectare reserve offers a spectacular African safari experience with superb guides. Apart from the “Big Five,” cheetah and wild dog may also be seen. General game, including giraffe, zebra, and wildebeest, along with a variety of antelope and nocturnal animals such as civet, genet, honey badger and mongoose, are common residents.

Overnight: Sabi Sabi Bush Lodge (B, L, D)

SATURDAY, AUGUST 31-SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 1
KRUGER NATIONAL PARK (SABI SABI PRIVATE RESERVE)

Your days on safari in Sabi Sabi are spent on early morning and afternoon-into-evening game drives in specially-built, open-air Land Rovers. After dusk, a spotlight is used to search for the nocturnal species resident in the bush. Guided bush walks are also offered mid-morning, where the safari guide provides insight into tracking, local flora, and any wildlife seen, as well as points out the smaller residents in the bush. All meals are taken at the lodge, including traditional high tea.

The larger Sabi Sand area, within which the private Sabi Sabi Reserve is located, is known to have one of the greatest diversifications of animal species on the African continent. Over 200 different species occur in abundance, while the ever changing birdlife provides even the most experienced ornithologist with rare finds. Safari in this area is sure to delight even the most seasoned African traveler.

Overnight: Sabi Sabi Bush Lodge (B, L, D)

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 2
DEPART AFRICA

Enjoy an early morning game drive and brunch at the lodge, before being driven through the reserve to Skukuza airport (drive time 45 minutes) for an early afternoon flight to Johannesburg. Upon arrival, proceed to your international flight home. (B)

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3
ARRIVE HOME

Early morning arrival home.