Botswana, Zimbabwe, and Zambia offer an unparalleled African safari experience. In Botswana, see massive herds of buffalo, a high density of big cats, and close to 1/3 of the entire elephant population on the continent. In the Khwai Concession, embark on a game drive in search of leopards, lions, giraffe, and wildebeest. Journey to Zimbabwe’s northwest corner to see Victoria Falls, one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World. Finish in the heart of Zambia’s remote and extensive South Luangwa National Park, abounding with vast herds of plains game and the predators that follow them.

**GROUP SIZE:** Limited to 15 travelers

**PRICING:** Per person double occupancy: $9,790 / Single supplement: $895

**STUDY LEADER:** JONATHAN B. LOSOS is curator in herpetology at the Museum of Comparative Zoology and Monique and Philip Lehner Professor for the Study of Latin America in the Department of Organismic and Evolutionary Biology at Harvard.

His research focuses on understanding the evolution of biodiversity: how species arise and how diversity is maintained within communities. To investigate such questions, his research integrates field studies of ecology and behavior, laboratory studies of functional capabilities, and molecular studies of DNA. In addition, he has conducted experiments in nature to study natural selection and observe evolution as it occurs. His organisms of choice are lizards, particularly Caribbean and Central and South American lizards in the genus Anolis.

Losos received his undergraduate degree at Harvard and his PhD at Berkeley. He then taught at Washington University in St. Louis before coming to Harvard, where he teaches the General Education course on evolutionary biology and the advanced course on herpetology, as well as freshman and graduate seminars and junior tutorials on topics in evolution and conservation. Losos’s field work has taken him throughout the Caribbean and Central and South America, as well as to Australia, Madagascar, Kenya and South Africa.
SCHEDULE BY DAY
B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner, R=Reception

MONDAY, MAY 14
DEPART U.S.
Depart on an overnight flight to Johannesburg, South Africa.

TUESDAY, MAY 15
JOHANNESBURG
Upon arrival at the Johannesburg International Airport, transfer to the stunning AtholPlace, a boutique hotel located in Atholl, one of the most beautiful parts of Johannesburg. This evening, meet your Harvard study leader, fellow travelers, and private specialist guide for welcome drinks and dinner in the hotel's restaurant.
Overnight: AtholPlace Hotel / (D)

WEDNESDAY, MAY 16–FRIDAY, MAY 18
KHWAI CONCESSION
On May 16th, fly from Johannesburg to Maun, Botswana. Drive to the Khwai Concession and your mobile tented camp. From Maun, the drive takes three to four hours in 4x4 vehicles through typical Botswana woodlands; there is a good chance of seeing game along the way.
Located on the eastern edge of the Okavango Delta, the Khwai Concession, or Khwai River area, abounds with wildlife. It is particularly well known for its predators, especially one of the most endangered carnivores in Africa – the wild dog. Lion and leopard are commonly found as well as herds of buffalo, elephant, and hippo. Game in the Khwai Concession is abundant and varied and includes tsessebe, lechwe, wildebeest, impala, waterbuck, sable, and giraffe. The principal water source here is the Khwai River, which provides the lifeline of support for the wildlife in the area. The scenic beauty adds to the experience of Botswana's verdant Garden of Eden, the Okavango Delta.
Early morning and late afternoon game drives take you through a large variety of different vegetation types, down winding tracks, through mopane forests and across lush grasslands. The waterways are either forded by vehicles or crossed on rustic log bridges. This spectacular area covers 14,000 square kilometers and is a veritable wonderland of African wildlife. Thousands of tiny islands are surrounded by shallow channels that teem with animals and are home to hippo, crocodile, and over 400 species of birds.
An authentic, tented safari camp is set up in a private location with “Hemingway-style” safari tents. Each tent has two beds with linens and an attached bathroom with long drop toilet and bucket shower (hot water on request). The tents have plentiful floor space and are tall enough to stand up in. The back wall is zippered and connects to the bathroom area, so you do not exit the tent in order to access the shower and toilet. Tent walls have large screens allowing for ventilation and views; screens can be covered for privacy and warmth. All meals are taken in casual safari style near the campfire and shaded by many large trees.
Overnight: Mobile Tented Camp / (B, L, D)

SATURDAY, MAY 19–MONDAY, MAY 21
IMBABALA CONCESSION
On May 19, take a charter flight from Khwai to Kasane, the gateway to Chobe National Park. After you land, embark on an afternoon boat cruise on the Chobe River.
Explore the Chobe River, where you may come face to face with the elephant, buffalo, and other wildlife that gather on the banks of the river. Immerse yourself in the unique environment, viewing numerous birds including sacred ibis, blue heron, goliath heron, saddle-billed storks, marabou storks, and little egrets. Following the Chobe boat cruise, you are driven across the Zimbabwe border to Imbabala Lodge, where you have a chance to settle in and enjoy the riverfront scenery.
The Imbabala Zambezi Safari Lodge is a beautiful thatched lodge resting by the Zambezi River in Zimbabwe. Due to its border with the Chobe Forest Reserve, Imbabala is a regular stop for elephant herds. The lodge features a lounge, dining room, and bar area but meals are often served outside. Rooms are stone and thatch mini-lodges with breathtaking views of the Zambezi River and a watering hole where animals often congregate.
During the day, guests can take advantage of morning and afternoon game drives, river safaris, fishing safaris, and more. Game drives here are taken in open-air safari vehicles in the early morning and late afternoons into evening, moving through the plains searching for predators and other game.

Overnight: Imbabala Zambezi Safari Lodge (B, L, D)

TUESDAY, MAY 22
LIVINGSTONE (VICTORIA FALLS)

A morning departure takes you to Victoria Falls, where you have a chance to view the falls on the Zimbabwean side. Viewing the falls from this side provides numerous overlooks and truly gives you a feel for the full majesty of this natural wonder. Here your guide shows you how through the millennia the forces of nature have created this marvelous spectacle, Africa’s greatest waterfall. Afterward, transfer over the Zambian border via the stunning bridge that spans the Batoka Gorge just downstream from the Falls.

The afternoon is free to explore the area as you would like. There are a multitude of activities offered in the area including cultural tours, helicopter flights over the falls, boat cruises on the Zambezi, white water rafting, and adrenaline activities such as bungee jumping and a zip line (all optional activities are at additional cost).

Thorntree River Lodge is wonderfully situated on the banks of the Zambezi River. The newly built fabric-covered chalets are raised on elevated structures to enhance the connection with the surroundings, and include private bathrooms as well as an upper deck with views over the river. The wide sweeping panorama of the river lends a special magic to the location.

Overnight: Thorntree River Lodge (B, L, D)

WEDNESDAY, MAY 23–SATURDAY, MAY 26
SOUTH LUANGWA NATIONAL PARK

On May 23, fly on scheduled flights via Lusaka to Mfuwe airport, located in the South Luangwa Valley. Upon arrival at Mfuwe, you are met by your local guides and taken by 4x4 vehicles to Mfuwe Lodge.

South Luangwa National Park is located in the eastern part of the country and covers an area of 3,500 square miles. It is renowned for its unspoiled beauty and its varied habitats which support one of Africa’s richest concentrations of game and birdlife. Over 50 species of large mammal and some 400 species of birds thrive in this wild haven. The meandering Luangwa River with its many ox-bow lagoons and shady ebony groves forms the eastern boundary of the park while the western horizon is dominated by the spectacular Muchinga escarpment.

During your stay in the Luangwa Valley, you are likely to see elephant herds of more than 50 individuals, an abundance of Cape buffalo, fourteen antelope species, and Thornicroft’s giraffe, unique to the valley. This area is also known for its population of leopard and lion. There are few, if any, rivers in Africa that contain such a high concentration of hippos and crocodiles. Night drives may reveal many fascinating mammals including civet, genet, mongooses, bushbaby, serval, porcupine, and aardvark. A day on safari usually includes game drives or guided walks twice a day.

On one of the afternoons, an excursion takes you to a nearby school and textiles manufacturing site. At a local school, learn about the school’s projects and have the opportunity to interact with the children. Afterward, visit a textiles manufacturing shop, where beautiful, African-themed textiles are made by co-op members, a great benefit to the local community.

Located between two spectacular lagoons, the Mfuwe Lodge’s open-plan design keeps the comfort and relaxation of guests in mind, but also emphasizes the blend of colors, textures, sounds, aromas and sights that are the African wilderness experience. Each chalet has a large private deck overlooking one of the lagoons. From the comfort of the lodge, you are able to view some of Africa’s majestic wildlife as animals come down to drink. Elephant, hippo, many antelope species and crocodiles are plentiful in this area, and it is not uncommon to view predators hunting directly in front of the lodge.

Overnight: Mfuwe Lodge (B, L, D)

SUNDAY, MAY 27
DEPARTURE

Take a morning scheduled flight from Mfuwe to Lusaka, where you connect with a commercial flight
to Johannesburg. Upon arrival in Johannesburg, proceed to your international flight home.

MONDAY, MAY 28
ARRIVE HOME