



## ZAMBIA & NAMIBIA

MAY 30-JUNE 15, 2020

Southern Africa is unrivaled in its extreme diversity of eco-systems. In Zambia's South Luangwa and Lower Zambezi National Parks, experience an unparalleled safari experience and encounter species rarely seen in other parts of Africa. Watch a large herd of elephant drink from a river as one of Africa's spectacular sunsets plays out behind them, then embark on a night game drive in search of nocturnal species and the elusive leopard. In Johannesburg, explore the evolution of man on a field trip to the 'Cradle of Humankind.' Namibia's Etosha National Park is a literal Noah's ark, with its many life-sustaining waterholes attracting wildlife from miles around including rhino, elephant, lion, zebra and a wide variety of antelope species. The spectacular beauty of Namibia's Namib Naukluft National Park astonishes with its landscape of red dunes, where the ever-changing colors create a photographer's dream.

**GROUP SIZE:** 10-16 guests

**PRICING:** \$15,595 per person double occupancy / \$17,190 single occupancy

**STUDY LEADERS:** **RICHARD WRANGHAM** is the Ruth Moore Professor of Biological Anthropology at Harvard University. His major interests are chimpanzee and human behavioral ecology, the evolutionary dynamics of violence, and ape conservation. He received his PhD in Zoology from Cambridge University in 1975, was a Research Fellow at King's College in Cambridge from 1977 to 1980, and taught at the Department of Anthropology at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor from 1981-1989. Since 1987 he has studied wild chimpanzee behavior in Kibale National Park, Uganda. He has been President (2004-2008) of the International Primatological Society, and Patron of UNEP/UNESCO's Great Ape Survival Project (GRASP).

**ELIZABETH ROSS** is the founder and executive director of the Kasiisi Project, a U.S. based charity supporting conservation of Kibale National Park, Uganda through programs promoting education, health, and care for the environment in rural, forest edge primary schools. She received a PhD in Immunology from Edinburgh University in 1979. In 1980-81 she and Richard Wrangham studied the adaption of farming and hunting peoples in the Ituri Forest, Democratic Republic of the Congo. Since 1987 she has made annual visits to Kibale National Park, Uganda, where she founded the Kasiisi Project in 1997. The project invests in 14 government schools and more than 8000 children. In 2008, Ross and Wrangham edited a book describing the ways in which biological researchers and charity workers can successfully cooperate in the services of habitat conservation, *Science and Conservation in African Forests: The Benefits of Long-Term Research*.

## SCHEDULE BY DAY

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

### SATURDAY, MAY 30

#### DEPART U.S.

Depart the U.S. on overnight flights to Lusaka, Zambia.

### SUNDAY, MAY 31

#### ARRIVE LUSAKA, ZAMBIA / SOUTH LUANGWA NATIONAL PARK

Arrive independently in Lusaka by 2:30pm today. Upon arrival in Lusaka this afternoon, meet your fellow travelers, Harvard study leader, and private specialist guide. As a group, take a scheduled flight to Mfuwe Airport, the gateway to South Luangwa National Park.

Upon arrival at Mfuwe, your local guides will take you by 4x4 vehicles to Mfuwe Lodge.

After settling into your room, join the group for welcome drinks and dinner in the lodge's dining area.

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, 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* (D)

### MONDAY-WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1-3

#### SOUTH LUANGWA NATIONAL PARK

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.

During your stay in the Luangwa Valley, you are likely to see large 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 healthy 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, bush baby, serval, porcupine and aardvark.

A day on safari usually includes game drives in open-air 4x4 vehicles or guided walks twice a day to view the fantastic wildlife and gain deeper understanding of the bush and its inhabitants. There is also the opportunity to take night drives to see nocturnal animals in the area.

On one of the afternoons, an excursion takes you to a nearby school and textiles manufacturing site. Tour the school, learn about its projects, and interact with the children. Afterward, visit a textiles manufacturing shop, where beautiful, African-themed textiles are made by co-op members.

Overnight: *Mfuwe Lodge* (B, L, D)

### THURSDAY-SATURDAY, JUNE 4-6

#### LOWER ZAMBEZI NATIONAL PARK

On June 4th, take a private charter flight from Mfuwe Airport to the Royal Airstrip in the Lower Zambezi. Meet your local safari guide at the airstrip for the transfer in 4x4 vehicles to camp.

Situated on the edge of the great Zambezi River amongst giant tamarind and jackalberry

trees, Baines' River Camp offers elegantly designed, colonial style suites, each named after African explorers. Each suite has a veranda and a unique view over the river.

There are many options of activities during your stay at Baines' River Camp. 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 interesting channels and islands in search of the many photographic opportunities that invariably arise. Fishing for the world-renowned "tigerfish" is also available. You also have the option to take game drives in the Lower Zambezi National Park, which is remote and unspoiled with a diverse range of eco-systems, offering stunning scenery and varied wildlife viewing. This area is home to large herds of elephant and buffalo, and lion are also common. Regular plains game sightings include kudu, zebra, impala, warthog, and bushbuck. There are large pods of hippo in the river, as well as crocodile. Night drives are also an option and leopard, hyena, porcupine, civet, genet, and honey badger are commonly sighted. The area is also well known for its excellent sightings of serval, a medium sized spotted cat.

Overnight: *Baines' River Camp* (B, L, D)

## **SUNDAY, JUNE 7**

### **JOHANNESBURG**

After one last morning safari activity in the Lower Zambezi, board a private charter flight from Royal Airstrip to the Lusaka airport. Here, you connect to a commercial flight to Johannesburg, South Africa where you spend the next two nights.

The Courtyard Hotel Eastgate, a beautifully appointed, Tuscan-themed hotel, is located only 15 minutes from the Johannesburg O.R. Tambo Airport. The hotel overlooks a landscaped greenbelt with walking path.

Overnight: *Courtyard Hotel Eastgate* (B, L, D)

## **MONDAY, JUNE 8**

### **JOHANNESBURG**

Today is a full-day excursion to explore the evolution of mankind, with a visit to Sterkfontein Caves and the Maropeng Museum.

The Sterkfontein Caves were discovered in 1896 by an Italian gold prospector and are now regarded as one of the world's most important archeological sites. The caves lie in the Sterkfontein valley, which, together with the nearby sites of Swartkrans, Drimolen, Kromdraai and Maropeng, make up the World Heritage Site known as the "Cradle of Mankind." Dr. Robert Broom of the Transvaal Museum (now the Museum of Natural History) began excavations at the cave in 1936, and in 1947 discovered a well-preserved skull of a species of early man known as Plesianthropus Transvaalensis; this later became known as the famous "Mrs. Ples."

The Cradle of Humankind, incorporating Sterkfontein Caves and Maropeng, is one of eight World Heritage Sites in South Africa, and the only one in the Gauteng region. It is widely recognized as the place from which all of humankind originated. The 116,000+ acre site has unearthed the best evidence of the complex journey which our species has taken to make us what we are, making the area a place of pilgrimage for all humankind. The exhibit at Maropeng not only shows the ongoing scientific discovery into our origins, but is also a place of contemplation – a place that allows us to reflect on who we are, where we come from and where we are going to.

Please note: the Sterkfontein caves can be physically challenging. Visitors need to descend nearly 200 steps into a cave that can be quite slippery. Some parts of the cave also require you to squeeze through narrow passages. Upon exiting you would also need to climb nearly 200 steps. A small museum and coffee shop at the cave's entrance can be explored, should the physicality of the caves be too much.

Overnight: *Courtyard Hotel Eastgate* (B, L, D)

## **TUESDAY-THURSDAY, JUNE 9-11** **ETOSHA NATIONAL PARK**

A morning commercial flight takes you from Johannesburg to Windhoek, Namibia. After clearing immigration, board a private charter flight to The Fort at Onguma, a luxurious lodge in the heart of the Onguma Game Reserve. Situated on the eastern side of Etosha, bordering Fisher's Pan, Onguma Game Reserve is one of Namibia's best kept secrets. Here you are afforded the opportunity of experiencing Africa in all her beauty and diversity. Onguma Game Reserve has more than 84,000 acres of protected land and wildlife, including a family of black rhinos, three of the "Big 5," and more than 300 species of birds.

Onguma is located on the edge of Etosha National Park, Namibia's premier game viewing area. Etosha National Park is one of Africa's most spectacular wildlife sanctuaries, encompassing 8,850 square miles of African wilderness. It is famous for the vast Etosha pan and its semi-desert habitat and diverse wildlife. Rhino, elephant, lion, cheetah, leopard, oryx, zebra, springbok, red hartebeest, giraffe, and many other species are seen in the acacia and mopane woodland and plains, which dominate the area.

During your stay at The Fort, take twice daily game drives in open-air 4x4 vehicles through Onguma Game Reserve and into the Etosha National Park, accompanied by your local safari expert.

The Fort at Onguma is the only one of its kind in Namibia. It is built in exactly the right spot to give guests one of the best sunset views in all of Namibia – overlooking the beautiful scarceness of the Etosha Pans, decorated only with its wild animals and hundreds of Camel Thorn trees.

Overnight: *The Fort at Onguma* (B, L, D)

## **FRIDAY, JUNE 12** **NAMIB DESERT (SOSSUSVLEI)**

This morning, your local safari guide leads an interpretive nature walk on the Onguma Reserve, seeking out tracks, unique flora and the smaller residents in the bush.

Mid-morning, take a scenic private charter flight en-route to the Namib Desert. Fly from Etosha to the coastal town of Swakopmund, where the plane refuels before taking you south along the coastline. From the air, you can see various shipwrecks, abandoned mining camps and a vast sea of sand before landing at the airstrip near Kulala Desert Lodge, your destination for the next two nights.

Desert-adapted wildlife such as ostrich, springbok and gemsbok eke out an existence and are sparsely distributed here. Smaller creatures such as bat-eared fox and aardwolf can be seen at night in the cool desert air, and one bird, the aptly named dune lark, has its entire global distribution limited to the area, so dependent it is on the area's characteristic sands. Search for all of these animals, the unique desert-adapted plants, and take in the stark desert beauty on a game drive in the private reserve surrounding the lodge.

In the late afternoon, embark on a drive within the Kulala Reserve, seeking out the desert-dwelling animals and reveling in the stillness of the scenery.

Overnight: *Kulala Desert Lodge* (B, L, D)

## **SATURDAY, JUNE 13** **NAMIB DESERT (SOSSUSVLEI)**

Enter through a private gate into the Namib Naukluft Park, for an early morning guided drive to the magnificent towering dunes of Sossusvlei. Sossusvlei is a huge, dried up clay pan with some of the highest sand dunes in the world (900+ feet). This part of the Namib Desert is a photographer's paradise and should be viewed at sunrise when the colors of the dunes come alive and the wonderful shadows cast over the dunes create striking contrasts. A picnic breakfast brought along for the excursion allows you to linger in the park, exploring more of the area.

On the way back to the lodge, stop to explore Sesriem Canyon, one of the very few places here that contains water year-round. After centuries of erosion by the Tsauchab River, the shaded depths of the canyon collect pools of water during the rainy season, and protect

them from the searing heat of the desert. Your local guide will describe the historic importance of the canyon, as well as what the name "Sesriem" means in Afrikaans.

After the midday at leisure to rest, embark on a sundown drive in the private reserve, followed by a farewell dinner at the lodge.

Overnight: *Kulala Desert Lodge* (B, L, D)

## **SUNDAY, JUNE 14**

### **DEPART FOR U.S.**

This morning you have the option of going hot air ballooning over the desert (at additional cost). Following a relaxed morning, take a private charter flight from Kulala to Windhoek, where you connect with international departures home.

## **MONDAY, JUNE 15**

### **ARRIVE HOME**

Arrive back home early this morning.