Southern Africa contains some of the most visually stunning, wildlife-rich areas in the world. On this Harvard-exclusive trip, travel by private plane to the most intriguing areas in Zambia, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Namibia and South Africa.

Explore Zambia’s South Luangwa National Park, home to Africa’s largest population of leopard, as well as high densities of lion, hippo, elephant, buffalo, impala, puku, and the endemic Thornicroft giraffe.

In Zimbabwe, stop to see the spectacular Victoria Falls, the largest curtain of water in the world and one of Earth’s Seven Natural Wonders.

Move on to Botswana to discover the Okavango Delta, often referred to as “Earth’s Last Eden,” an appropriate name as Botswana is home to 598 species of birds, Africa’s largest population of elephant, and huge populations of zebra, kudu, countless antelope, lion, leopard, cheetah and the rare wild dog.

Fly across to Namibia’s Sossusvlei Dunes, where the spectacular red-dune landscape makes this a photographer’s paradise which stuns even the most experienced of travelers. At well over a million years old, the Namib is the planet’s oldest desert, and hosts fascinating wildlife from the endangered brown hyena to the elegant oryx and Namib chameleon, all of which have adapted in extraordinary ways to survive in this hostile, but beautiful, eco-system.

End the trip in South Africa’s southern-most tip, exploring the history, culture and unparalleled beauty of Cape Town. Learn about South Africa’s turbulent past and hopeful future, and explore the unique fynbos ecosystem and extraordinary wildlife of the Cape, from whales to fairy penguins.

The journey ends in the luxury of the Cape Winelands for a taste of its delicious gastronomic bounty.
THURSDAY, MAY 21
DEPART FROM THE U.S.
Depart the U.S. on an independent, overnight commercial flight to Lusaka, Zambia.

FRIDAY, MAY 22
LUSAKA, ZAMBIA
Upon arrival in Lusaka, you are met and transferred to the Intercontinental Hotel. This evening attend a private cocktail reception with Zambian leaders and business people before dinner. Zambia is one of the fastest growing economies in Africa and celebrates 50 years of stable democracy in 2014. Learn firsthand from the invited delegates how Zambia managed its success and discuss plans for its future.

Overnight: Intercontinental Hotel Lusaka (or similar) / (D)

SATURDAY-MONDAY, MAY 23-25
SOUTH LUANGWA NATIONAL PARK, ZAMBIA
This morning board a private plane for the flight from 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.

Located between two spectacular lagoons, the Mfuwe Lodge’s open-plan design emphasizes 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.

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 bird 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, rising almost a mile from the valley floor.

During your stay in the Luangwa Valley, you are likely to see large elephant herds (sometimes more than 50 at a time), an abundance of Cape buffalo, up to fourteen antelope species, and also 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, bushbaby, serval, porcupine, and aardvark.

A day on safari usually includes game drives 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 such nocturnal animals such as leopard, bushbabies, genet, civet, serval and spotted hyena.

On one of the afternoons, take an excursion to a nearby school, village, and textiles manufacturing site. Learn about the school’s projects and interact with the children. At the village, meet with locals and learn about their culture. At the textile shop, beautiful African-themed textiles are made by co-op members—a great benefit to the local community.

Overnight: Mfuwe Lodge / (B, L, D)
TUESDAY, MAY 26
VICTORIA FALLS, ZIMBABWE / LINYANTI RESERVE, BOTSWANA

Early this morning your private plane takes you to Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe. Here you visit the magnificent Victoria Falls, one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World. Victoria Falls is where the Zambezi River opens out into an extravaganza of roaring, spray-tumbled water, known to the locals as “Mosi oa Tunya” (the smoke that thunders). Few sights are as awe-inspiring as this when the ground rumbles with the forces of the water. Lunch is taken at the Victoria Falls Hotel, an historic landmark in the town of Victoria Falls. Established in 1904, the hotel is one of the last great colonial hotels of Africa—even the corridors reflect the past glories of the Empire. Enjoy lunch on the hotel’s terrace, featuring views over the Batoka Gorge with the mist from the falls rising in the background.

This afternoon, re-board your private plane for a short flight to Kasane, Botswana, where you clear Botswana’s customs and continue on to the Linyanti Wildlife Reserve and Kings Pool Camp. A late-afternoon game drive is offered following arrival, as time allows. The Linyanti is a vast, private concession in the northern part of Botswana, on the western boundary of Chobe National Park. The accommodation here is luxurious and the wildlife is spectacular.

At Kings Pool, nine well-appointed tents of canvas and thatch each have a large bedroom area, lounge, private plunge pool and ‘sala’. The spacious en-suite bathrooms are tiled with double showers and hand-basins as well as an outdoor shower for those who wish to shower close to nature. Raised walkways allow animals to wander freely through the camp—to and from the water. The lounge, dining room, and pub areas are on expansive raised decks and there is a pool and an open-air ‘kgotla’ for dining under the stars.

Overnight: Kings Pool Camp / (B, L, D)

WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY, MAY 27 & 28
LINYANTI RESERVE, BOTSWANA

Spend your days on safari at Kings Pool Camp in the company of Botswana’s best guides. Learn to identify animal tracks, find rare wildlife, and enjoy some of the best cuisine in the country. The camp overlooks the Linyanti River and the oxbow-shaped Kings Pool Lagoon, apparently named after a Scandinavian monarch who spent a number of nights camping out on the banks of the lagoon, long before any camp was built here. The Linyanti area has a large amount of wildlife with a wide variety of species, but it is most noted for its very large elephant population, which can reach enormous densities during the dry winter months. Other game is abundant, such as impala, lechwe, kudu, zebra, giraffe, buffalo and bushbuck and their predators: lion, leopard, cheetah, wild dog, and spotted hyena. Rarer species such as sable and roan antelope are also spotted on occasion.

Activities include day and night game drives and walks, while boat cruises along the Linyanti River (water levels allowing) offer spectacular viewing. The reed and papyrus swamps are ideally suited for numerous and diverse species of birds and are a magnet for game.

Overnight: Kings Pool Camp / (B, L, D)

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, MAY 29 & 30
OKAVANGO DELTA, BOTSWANA

After one last game drive at Kings Pool, board your private plane for the short flight to Jao Camp, situated in the heart of the Okavango Delta on a densely wooded oval-shaped island overlooking the vast flood plains. A variety of habitats here ensures diverse and interesting game viewing. Jao Camp offers an excellent Okavango experience with game drives, mokoro (dug-out canoe) excursions, short
guided walks, and boating available. Night drives allow guests to view the nocturnally active animals in the area such as the elusive civet cat, bat-eared fox and the genet.

The Okavango Delta qualifies as one of the most unique and beautiful environments on Earth. Hundreds of tiny islands are formed as the Okavango River fans out over the flat Kalahari sands of Northwestern Botswana, creating a verdant, Eden-like utopia for wildlife. The delta covers an area of up to 12,470 square miles. The Okavango River starts in the Angolan highlands where the rainfall ranges from 47 to 80 inches per annum. It then flows about 808 miles, bringing the lifeblood to the Okavango Delta.

Accommodation at Jao Camp consists of unique, contemporary, African-style luxury rooms which were handcrafted by Balinese draftsmen. Jao is considered the jewel in Botswana's crown of beautiful camps. The rooms are raised on wooden decks and each room is constructed of split bamboo and thatch with canvas walls. Private facilities include a shower, flush toilet and basin, as well as an outdoor shower. Each tent has a private day bed/gazebo for afternoon siestas and offers wonderful views of the surrounding floodplains. In addition to the lounge and dining area, there are two plunge pools and an outdoor boma for dining under the stars, complemented by wines from an excellent wine cellar. Jao Camp also has a spa where a wide range of massage therapies are offered in a beautiful setting.

Overnight: Jao Camp / (B, L, D)

SUNDAY-TUESDAY, MAY 31-JUNE 2
SOSSUSVLEI DUNES & NAMIB DESERT, NAMIBIA

This morning, board your private plane for the flight to Maun in order to clear Botswana’s customs, then re-board and continue on to Windhoek, Namibia. In Windhoek, whisk through Namibian customs before continuing on in the private plane to the Namib Desert and Little Kulala Lodge.

Little Kulala, a luxurious desert retreat situated in the private 91,000 acre Kulala Wilderness Reserve, is the gateway to Namibia’s Sand Sea with its towering red dunes and clear starry skies. The lodge offers magnificent views of the famous red dunes of Sossusvlei. The 11 climate-controlled, thatched “kulalas” (the word means ‘to sleep’) merge impeccably into the timeless desert landscape, with exquisite fittings and fixtures, innovative bleached decks each with a private plunge pool. Each kulala has a rooftop ‘skybed’ for romantic stargazing, with both indoor and outdoor showers.

Desert-adapted wildlife such as ostrich, springbok, oryx, and brown hyena 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 is it 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 nature drives in the private reserve surrounding the lodge.

On one of the days, enter through a private gate into the reserve for an early morning game drive to the magnificent towering dunes of Sossusvlei, an expansive, dried-up clay pan with some of the highest sand dunes in the world (984 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 lunch brought along for the excursion allows you to linger in Sossusvlei, exploring more of the area. On the way back to the lodge, explore Sesriem Canyon, a mile-long, 90-ft deep, narrow gorge carved by the Tsauchab River. The shaded cool depths of the canyon allow pools of water
to gather during the rainy season and remain for much of the year round.

In Sossusvlei you also have the option of taking a sunrise hot air balloon excursion, at additional cost.

**Overnight: Little Kulala Lodge / (B, L, D)**

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**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3**  
**CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA**

After a last early-morning safari activity in the Namib Desert, your private plane flies you down the famed Namibian coast—which is littered by ship wrecks—to Luderitz, where you clear customs before re-boarding the plane for the flight to Cape Town, South Africa.

On arrival you are met and transferred to your resort, One&Only Cape Town; the remainder of the late afternoon is at leisure. Dinner is included tonight at a local restaurant where you can sample some of the delicious local cuisine.

Cape Town is a city where old and new harmoniously converge in a very complex history. Cape Dutch architecture, cultural diversity, as well as ancient and modern art, make the city one of dramatic contrast. It is dominated by Table Mountain, one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World, which towers spectacularly over the city. Cape Town is dramatically set on South Africa’s west coast, on a peninsula of soaring, rocky heights, lush valleys, and scenic coastlines. Immense natural beauty and the fast pace and bright lights of a great urban center meld effortlessly here.

The One&Only, situated in the heart of the Victoria & Alfred Waterfront, offers captivating views of Table Mountain and the harbor from the comfort of your private balcony. The hotel also features fabulous restaurants, a wine loft, fitness center, island pool, and a wonderful spa.

**Overnight: One & Only Cape Town / (B, L, D)**

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**THURSDAY, JUNE 4**  
**CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA**

After breakfast, head to Table Mountain where you take a cable car ride up the steep granite slopes (weather permitting) for a splendid view of the city and peninsula; this famed view is often ranked among the most spectacular in the world. A noted naturalist will accompany you on the tour. Afterwards, travel to Cape Point via the coastal route, passing through Camps Bay (South Africa’s best known beach resort), past the Twelve Apostles mountain range, through Hout Bay and dramatic Chapman’s Peak Drive. At the Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve, or Cape Point, the cold Benguela current and the warm Agulhas current meet. Surely one of the world’s most beautiful places, this stretch of rocky mountain juts southward into the sea, forming the southwestern-most tip of the African continent. Here you find pristine beaches, sheltered bays and coves, and a rich array of indigenous flora. The fynbos reserve (a unique vegetation type which dominates the Cape Floral Kingdom) is home to a variety of wildlife and bird species. Southern Wright whales, penguins and seals are frequently spotted from the point. Lunch is a private picnic taken at a scenic spot.

In the afternoon, drive up the east side of the peninsula and stop off at Boulders Beach to view the resident African penguin colony. Nestled in a sheltered cove between Simon’s Town and Cape Point, Boulders is one of the few sites on earth where this vulnerable bird can be observed at close range, wandering freely in a protected environment. Dinner tonight is included at a local restaurant.

**Overnight: One & Only Cape Town / (B, L, D)**
FRIDAY, JUNE 5
CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA

Today visit several grassroots, community-based projects through Uthando South Africa, a non-profit organization that gives back to the community in a very meaningful way. The visits are non-commercialized, authentic, and interactive; and will highlight the complexity of South Africa’s history, struggle through the dark years of apartheid, vibrant vision for today, and hope for tomorrow.

Please note that the specific projects you will visit are yet to be determined, although one of the projects will be the Amy Biehl Foundation. Named after an American student who lost her life while working to make a difference in South Africa, the foundations aims to develop and empower youth in the townships and contribute to community building efforts as a mechanism to reduce the levels of crime and violence in these areas.

Among the other projects you may visit this morning are: Volcano Arts Project, founded by Mandlesizwe Lufele and other concerned community youths who are committed to community development and empowerment through arts, culture and life skills training; Hout Bay Music Project or Jikeleza Dance Project, both of which aim to develop self-confidence, life skills and performance skills in the children; Abalimi Bezekhaya (the Planters of the Home), a non-profit organization working to improve sustainable food production and environmental greening amongst the extreme poor in Cape Town; Neighbourhood Old Age Home (NOAH), where you may spend time with a vibrant group of “oldies” during one of their social gatherings; Home from Home, which provides foster care for orphans and abandoned children; Mandela Park Mosaics or Iziko Lo Lwazi, community-based initiatives where beauty is created out of everyday objects from broken bottles to tin cans.

Following lunch at a local restaurant, the afternoon is free to explore Cape Town on your own or participate in one of the multitude of activities offered in the area. You may take a private art tour or visit Robben Island, where Nelson Mandela spent most of his prison term during the Apartheid era.

Dinner is on your own tonight, giving you a chance to explore one of the many superb local restaurants. Reservations at the Cape’s world-famous restaurants will be made for you on request well in advance.

Overnight: One & Only Cape Town / (B, L)

SATURDAY, JUNE 6
CAPE WINELANDS, SOUTH AFRICA

Transfer out to the Cape Winelands for a chance to explore the charming towns of Stellenbosch and Franschhoek. The wine-producing region around Stellenbosch and Franschhoek is not only the most important wine growing region in South Africa, but Stellenbosch is one of the oldest, most beautiful, and well-preserved towns in South Africa. The vineyards form a patchwork in the fertile valleys and seem to be overshadowed by dramatic mountains. There is an almost European atmosphere with beautiful Cape Dutch architecture seen everywhere.

Franschhoek is where the persecuted French Protestants chose to settle when they sought refuge in South Africa in the late 1600s. The place was called ‘Coin Français,’ the French corner; in Dutch, Fransch Hoek. Today, the French influence in Franschhoek Valley is still strong. It can be seen in the picturesque architecture of the small village, and tasted in the area’s wonderful cuisine and wines, the settlers’ greatest legacy.

This afternoon’s very special lunch is at Bread & Wine, located on the Moreson wine estate. Bread & Wine is a character-filled, rustic restaurant which has won numerous accolades for its fresh, mouth-watering food. The menu changes seasonally and is inspired by the variety of ingredients grown locally. Moreson Wine Farm is owned by Richard Friedman and
his sister, Susan Huxter, who also owns a prominent local hotel. Both are Harvard Alums, and if available will join you for lunch today.

Later in the afternoon, enjoy a wine tasting at one of the numerous local wineries before being driven to Delaire Graff Estate, spectacularly located at the crest of Helshoogte Pass. The elegant wine estate, owned by world-renowned jeweler Laurence Graff, is surrounded by breathtaking lush gardens and serves as a magnificent venue for the owner's extensive art collection.

The farewell dinner is hosted at the estate, accompanied by their delicious wine selection.

Overnight: Delaire Graff Estates / (B, L, D)

SUNDAY, JUNE 7
DEPARTURE

Enjoy breakfast accompanied by the beautiful, panoramic views at the lodge. Transfers are provided as needed to the Cape Town airport for commercial flight departures.

MONDAY, JUNE 8
Arrive Home