



Journey
to Southern

Africa

LUXURY SAFARIS | ROVOS RAIL | CAPE TOWN

SPONSORED BY



ALUMNI

University of Illinois Alumni Association

October 4-19, 2026

I ALUMNI

Dear **EXPLORERS** and Friends,

Encounter incredible landscapes and untouched natural wonders on this awe-inspiring journey through South Africa, Zimbabwe and Botswana. Search for exotic wildlife while on safari in three world-class parks: Hwange National Park, Chobe National Park and Kapama Private Game Reserve. Plus, experience a bygone era as you wind through the colorful countryside aboard the luxurious Rovos Rail.

From the vibrant cities of Cape Town and Johannesburg to spectacular safari destinations to one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World, each day of this once-in-a-lifetime adventure invites discoveries and memorable moments. Follow the path of Nelson Mandela on Robben Island, and talk with the friendly locals of Soweto township. Marvel at brilliantly colored birds, monkeys and elegant giraffes, and search for the big five: lions, leopards, rhinos, elephants and buffalo. As you journey through this sun-soaked land, you'll uncover a melting pot of cultures, customs and fascinating landmarks steeped in history, experiencing the best this remarkable region has to offer!

This exclusive program combines unbeatable value and luxury. Space is limited to ensure maximum comfort, so we encourage you to make your reservation today.

Sincerely,



David Bambrey
President

The EXPLORERS program is open to alumni of the University of Illinois, their families, and friends.

UNESCO World Heritage

1. **Robben Island**, South Africa
2. **Cape Floral Region Protected Area**, South Africa
3. **Victoria Falls**, Zimbabwe
4. **Human Rights, Liberation and Reconciliation: Nelson Mandela Legacy Sites**, South Africa





Discovery begins here



Encounter an extraordinary land of contrasts, from exotic wildlife to vivacious Cape Town, thundering Victoria Falls to legendary game reserves. Trace a compelling route to Robben Island and fascinating towns that hold powerful history lessons. With expert guides leading the way, discover the density and diversity of animals in southern Africa's most incredible safari destinations. Plus, journey through grassy plains on a bespoke train journey aboard the elegant Rovos Rail.

Top: Victoria Falls | Above: Hippo

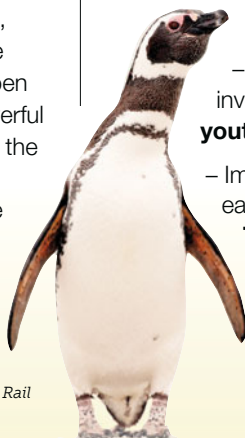
Cover: Lion | Mail panel: Nelson Mandela mural | Rovos Rail

Right: African penguin, Boulders Beach

Inspiring Moments



- Experience the **thrill of safari** and marvel at incredible wildlife in South Africa, Botswana and Zimbabwe.
- Delight in the awe-inspiring power and grand cascades of **Victoria Falls**.
- Surround yourself in classic luxury and stirring scenery aboard **Rovos Rail**.
- Walk in the historic footsteps of Nelson Mandela on **Robben Island**.
- Meet the young people involved in projects at a **Soweto youth center**.
- Immerse yourself in the easygoing lifestyle of **Cape Town**, South Africa's oldest city.



- Experience four **UNESCO World Heritage sites**.



Victoria & Alfred Waterfront, Cape Town

Days 1 & 2 | In Transit

Depart for Cape Town, South Africa. 🌐 You may depart on Day 2 or have a layover at an international airport along the way.

Day 3 | Cape Town, South Africa

Upon arrival in Cape Town, transfer 🚗 to the Belmont Mount Nelson Hotel.

Later, join us for a Welcome Reception.

Day 4 | Cape Town

Cape Peninsula. Your adventure begins! Set out to discover the region's alabaster beaches and sleepy fishing villages. Take a scenic drive to Cape Peninsula, passing the buttresses of the Twelve Apostles and see a colony of adorable African penguins at Boulders Beach. Enjoy the flavors of local cuisine during lunch.

Enrichment: South African History.

Day 5 | Robben Island | Cape Town

Cape Town. Hop on a ferry to Robben Island and tour the jail where Nelson Mandela was incarcerated. Your guide, a former prisoner of Robben Island, offers first-hand insight. After, discover the many highlights of South Africa's Mother City. Drive through the Company's Garden district, see the Castle of Good Hope and stroll along a bustling harbor.

Day 6 | Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe

Fly to Victoria Falls. Upon arrival, transfer to the Victoria Falls Hotel.

Victoria Falls. Feel the mist as you revel in the planet's largest water curtain. The falls cast a spray that can be seen up to 50 miles away!

Day 7 | Chobe National Park, Botswana

Safari: Chobe National Park is a spectacular destination for birdwatchers, and the Chobe River gives life to many animals, birds and reptiles. Watch birds swooping down to catch a fish, hippos swimming and elephants playing in the water. You may also glimpse hyenas, warthogs, rare puku and more!

Day 8 | Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe | Embark Rovos Rail

Free Time: The morning and early afternoon are at leisure to enjoy the hotel's amenities.

This afternoon, embark Rovos Rail at Victoria Falls Station and begin your luxury train journey. Settle in your suite and enjoy the ambience of a train journey recapturing the Golden Age of Travel. Change for dinner, which is announced by a gong. Meals aboard Rovos Rail are always a treat! The train overnights at Kennedy Siding.

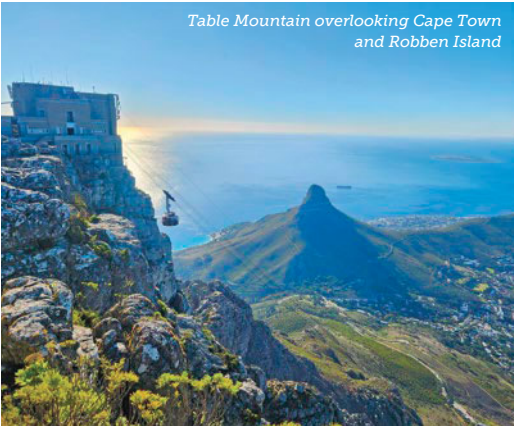
Day 9 | Hwange National Park

Safari: Rise early for a sunrise safari at The Hide, a private concession in Hwange National



Mandela's house

Table Mountain overlooking Cape Town and Robben Island



Hwange National Park

Park. This park, known for its natural beauty, is home to more than 100 mammal and 400 bird species. Visit one of the most popular watering holes to see some residents.

Back on board, gather for brunch on your way to Bulawayo, Zimbabwe's second-largest city.

Day 10 | South Africa

Start another beautiful day with breakfast and watch outside for the famous baobab trees.

Today, the train passes through Bela-Bela and Modimolle, a town once known as Nylstroom.

Day 11 | Disembark Rovos Rail | Pretoria | Soweto | Johannesburg

After breakfast, disembark the train in Pretoria and continue your adventure in Soweto.

AHI Connects | Soweto. During your tour of Soweto, see the homes of Nelson Mandela, Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Winnie Mandela. In historic Kliptown, one of the oldest townships, learn about a youth program that offers tutoring and opportunities to play sports and participate in the arts. See a dance performance during your visit. Check in to 54 on Bath in Johannesburg.

Day 12 | Hoedspruit | Kapama Private Game Reserve

Fly to Hoedspruit this morning. Upon arrival, transfer to Kapama Private Game Reserve.

Safari: Meet your ranger and tracker, who will accompany you on each game drive. Climb aboard your safari vehicle and get the lay of the African bushveld during a game drive in Kapama Private Game Reserve. Which amazing mammal will you see first?

Day 13 | Kapama Private Game Reserve

Safari: It may seem quiet as the sun starts its journey across the sky, but there is plenty of animal activity. As you journey through the stunning veld ecosystem, delight in the joy of nature and animals in their natural habitat.

Free Time: Time at leisure allows you to enjoy the wellness center or settle in with a book.

Enrichment: *The Animals of Kapama.*

Enjoy tea before the afternoon drive.

Safari: Get a different perspective as you see diurnal animals settling down for the evening and nocturnal animals beginning theirs.

Rovos Rail | The Pride of Africa

Discover the glamour of the Golden Age of train travel aboard the luxurious Rovos Rail. Ride in vintage carriages, restored to mint condition and impeccably appointed. Spend your days in the Observation Car or mingle with fellow travelers in the lounge. Expertly prepared cuisine showcases local ingredients and regional specialties, and all beverages are included. Each morning, take in the scenic splendor of the passing landscapes during a sumptuous breakfast. Three-course lunches and dinners, announced by a gong, include a selection of South African wines.



Deluxe Suite with a double bed and a lounge area



Included Features



Accommodations (with baggage handling)

- **3 nights** in Cape Town, South Africa, at the Belmont Mount Nelson Hotel.
- **2 nights** at Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, at The Victoria Falls Hotel.
- **3 nights** aboard Rovos Rail.
- **1 night** in Johannesburg at 54 on Bath.
- **3 nights** in Kapama Private Game Reserve at the Kapama River Lodge.

Transfers (with baggage handling)

- All transfers in the Land Program: flight, train and deluxe motor coaches.

Extensive Meal Program

- 12 breakfasts, 8 lunches and 7 dinners, including a Farewell Dinner; tea or coffee with all meals, plus wine with dinner.

Your One-of-a-Kind Journey

- **Visit 3 countries** during this program.
- **Small group:** Sized just right at 28 guests.
- **Enrichment by expert speakers** enhances your insight into the region.
- **Engaging excursions** showcase the local culture, heritage and history.
- **Electives** and free time to pursue your individual interests.
- **AHI Connects:** Local immersion.
- Welcome Reception to mingle with fellow travelers.
- A personal VOX headset to hear your English-speaking guide clearly.
- Tipping of guides and drivers.
- **AHI Sustainability Promise:** We strive to make a positive impact wherever we travel.

Day 14 | Kapama Private Game Reserve

Safari: Every game drive is a unique experience forged by the time of day, the weather and the locale. As you search the open veld where zebra graze, feel free to ask the guides questions about the animals. They are eager to share their passion with you!

Free Time: Dip in the pool, catch up with friends or relax in the sunshine.

Safari: During this afternoon's safari, you may scout out popular watering holes.

Celebrate your journey at a Farewell Dinner, a sumptuous meal seasoned with tales.

Day 15 | In Transit

All passengers depart for Hoedspruit airport, where the land program ends. AHI FlexAir passengers board flights to Johannesburg.

Day 16 | In Transit

Arrive in your gateway city.

Note: Itinerary may change due to local conditions.

Flights and transfers included for AHI FlexAir participants.

Elective experiences available at an additional cost.

Active Travel

This **Active Program** is designed for people who are in good health and can comfortably participate in a demanding daily schedule of physical activities. For more details, please call or visit our website.

Excursions on this program require:

- walking on unpaved paths and/or uneven surfaces
- getting on/off motor coaches, boats and/or trains
- walking through train corridors whether the train is in motion or stopped
- climbing in and out of safari vehicles

Youth of Soweto



Life on Safari

Each day on safari begins with new discoveries and ends with a reinvigorated respect for nature. With an expert tracker leading the way, see exotic animals in their natural habitat, and watch the drama of their day-to-day struggle for survival. Experience the thrill of up-close encounters with lions lazing in the grass or elephants quenching their thirst by a watering hole.

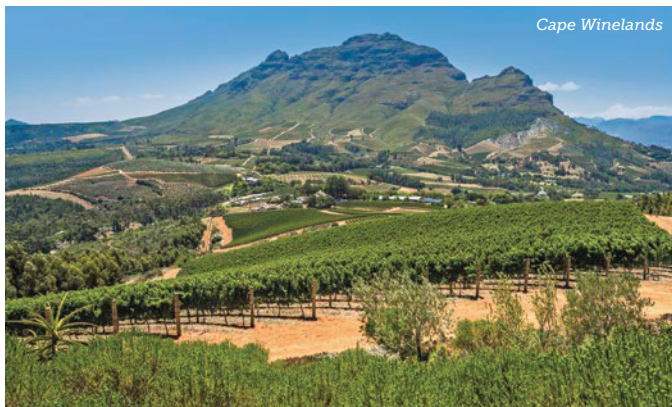
On this luxury safari, discover the landscapes and ecosystems of three outstanding wildlife parks.

The Big Five

The opportunity to see as many of the Big Five animals as possible is a highlight for safari goers. This majestic group of animals encompasses (pictured clockwise) elephant, rhino, leopard, Cape buffalo and lion (pictured on cover).



EXTEND YOUR STAY



Cape Town | 2 Nights

{ Elective PRE-Trip Extension at an additional cost }

Enjoy more of vibrant Cape Town. Unwind at the deluxe Belmond Mount Nelson Hotel. The exciting extension features a full-day tour of the Cape Winelands. Visit a premier wine estate for a wine tasting followed by lunch. Continue to Stellenbosch and Franschhoek, two delightful and historic towns in South Africa's wine country.

\$1,295 per person, double occupancy | \$1,990 single occupancy

2026 | Departure Details

Program Dates

Travel dates † **October 4-19, 2026**

† Travel dates include any overnights required for international travel. These dates may vary depending on air schedules.

Tour dates* **October 6-18, 2026**

* Tour dates begin on the scheduled arrival date at your destination and end on the scheduled departure date from your destination.

Land Program

Category	Full Price	Special Savings Price*
B-Pullman Suite (76 sq. ft.)	\$10,045	\$9,295
A-Deluxe Suite (106 sq. ft.)	\$11,245	\$10,495

***This Special Savings Price includes our \$250 Early Booking and \$500 Pay-in-Full discounts and is valid if you book by the date on the address panel and pay in full at booking.**

Deposit amount is \$750 per person.

Final Payment is due at least 120 days prior to departure.

Price includes applicable program taxes (such as VAT and port charges).

All prices quoted are in USD, per person, based on double occupancy and do not include air transportation costs (unless otherwise stated).

Special offers, promotions and discounts cannot be combined.

The Pullman Suite single supplement is an additional \$3,995.

The Deluxe Suite single supplement is an additional \$4,995.

There is a limited availability for all single accommodations.

Please note: Program-specific terms and conditions are available at <https://il.ahitravel.com/destinations/1942A?schooldd=69>.

AHI FlexAir

Let us arrange your flights

Our experts are ready to assist you in booking flights. Our personalized air program offers the following advantages:

- **price guarantee** to protect you from fuel surcharge increases after ticket purchase
- arrival and departure **transfers** on group dates
- **flexibility** to change or cancel your reservation before departure on most flights (Fees may apply.)
- **assistance** in the event of schedule changes or delays

AHI Travel Expertise

Travel Consultants assist with the reservation process.

Travel & Air Coordinators offer their personalized assistance with flights, electives and special requests.

Travel Information provides pre-departure details and enrichment about your destination.

Your Travel Director, a seasoned, multilingual professional, manages daily logistics so you enjoy a seamless experience.

Handpicked Expert Guides and **Knowledgeable Lecturers** deepen your appreciation for the region and its history, culture and current events.

Accommodations



Belmond Mount Nelson Hotel | Cape Town



The Victoria Falls Hotel | Victoria Falls



54 on Bath | Johannesburg



Kapama River Lodge | Kapama Game Reserve



Book your journey today!

844-414-0369

<https://uiaa.org/explorers/>

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University of Illinois Alumni Association
EXPLORERS Office
Alice Campbell Alumni Center
601 S. Lincoln Avenue
Urbana, IL 61801

SAFRICA26 77



Natural wonders, diverse cultures, exotic wildlife & more!

Committed to connecting travelers
to the people, places and cultures
of the world for more than 62 years.



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