Southern Africa aboard Rovos Rail

SOUTH AFRICA, ZIMBABWE AND BOTSWANA AMID EDWARDIAN GENTILITY

July 20 to August 3, 2017

a program of the stanford alumni association
Southern Africa, like all of Africa, is a land of tremendous contrast, as evidenced by its various ecosystems, wildlife and cultures. From the windswept coastline of South Africa’s Cape Peninsula to the majesty of Zimbabwe’s Victoria Falls and from the bushveld subtropical woodland to the open expanses of private game reserves and national parks teeming with animals, every corner reveals an amazing tale of survival and triumph on the continent that is home to the origins of human history itself. Enriching our journey with her insights on biodiversity and human evolution is environmental biologist Elizabeth Hadly. With this combination of game drives, visits to ancient human fossil sites and a three-night journey through the heart of southern Africa on the Rovos Rail luxury train, you’re sure to experience the exploration of a lifetime!

BR ETT S. THOMPSON, ’83, DIRECTOR, STANFORD TRAVEL/STUDY

Highlights

**VISIT** the Cradle of Humankind, a paleo-anthropological and World Heritage site, where what is believed to be a new species of hominin was recently discovered.

**MARVEL** at the “smoke that thunders”—Victoria Falls—and enjoy a sunset cruise along the Zambezi River that includes wildlife viewing.

**SEARCH** for the “Big Five”—elephant, rhino, buffalo, lion, leopard—during game drives in Londolozi Private Game Reserve and Chobe National Park.

**RELIVE** the romance and elegance of a bygone era while aboard the meticulously restored Edwardian-style Rovos Rail luxury train.
ELIZABETH A. HADLY is the faculty director of Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve, a senior fellow at Stanford’s Woods Institute for the Environment, and a professor of biology and of geological sciences (by courtesy) at Stanford. Professor Hadly and her lab conduct research throughout the Americas, Asia and Africa on the ecology and evolution of vertebrates. She is especially interested in the role that environmental change exerts on the biodiversity of mammals around the world.

“I am thrilled to visit Africa again,” enthuses Professor Hadly, “to interact with the African people and to immerse myself in the ecosystems there. Nothing is better than a safari, looking out for animals while bouncing down a dirt track with newly made friends.” During our program, Professor Hadly’s lectures will address the unique history of the African continent and humans’ place in it; the evolution of African biodiversity, with a particular focus on southern Africa; and the future of this precious resource in a changing landscape. Professor Hadly has led previous Travel/Study programs in Africa, including Mt. Kilimanjaro, Kenya, Tanzania, South Africa, Zambia and Botswana.
Itinerary

THURSDAY & FRIDAY, JULY 20 & 21
U.S. / CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA
Depart the U.S. on overnight flights, arriving in Cape Town on Friday. Transfer to our historic hotel, located at the foot of Table Mountain. Gather this evening for an orientation and welcome reception. BELMOND MOUNT NELSON HOTEL (7/21: D)

SATURDAY, JULY 22
CAPE TOWN / CAPE OF GOOD HOPE
Travel along the Atlantic seaboard to the Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve, locale of the Cape of Good Hope and Cape Point promontories. Here the windswept terrain and soaring cliffs are home to rich and diverse fauna and unique flora. Take the funicular to Cape Point, the tip of the reserve and the most southwestern point of Africa. Visit the colony of jackass penguins at Boulders Beach before returning to Cape Town. BELMOND MOUNT NELSON HOTEL (B,L)

SUNDAY, JULY 23
CAPE TOWN
Situated between Table Mountain and the Atlantic Ocean, Cape Town is often described as one of the world’s most beautiful cities. Board a boat to Robben Island, well-known during the struggle against apartheid for its detention of political leaders and activists, including Nelson Mandela, who spent most of his 27 years as a prisoner here. Ride a cable car to the summit of Table Mountain to admire the spectacular view, then visit Bo-Kaap, a neighborhood famous for housing Malay and Indonesian slaves during Cape Town’s formative years. Drive through District Six, a residential area once ravaged by apartheid policies, as we travel back to our hotel. BELMOND MOUNT NELSON HOTEL (B,L)

MONDAY, JULY 24
CAPE TOWN / SKUKUZA / LONDOLOZI PRIVATE GAME RESERVE
This morning catch a flight to Skukuza, whose airport serves Kruger National Park, then drive to Londolozi Private Game Reserve. One of the first private game reserves in South Africa, Londolozi is situated north of the Sabi Sands Private Game Reserve and abuts the western border of Kruger National Park. Check in to our charming lodgings and spend the rest of the afternoon and evening at leisure. VARTY CAMP/FOUNDERS CAMP LONDOLOZI (B,L,D)

WEDNESDAY, JULY 26
LONDOLOZI PRIVATE GAME RESERVE / SKUKUZA / PRETORIA
Depart from Skukuza on a charter flight bound for Johannesburg. Upon arrival, drive to the Cradle of Humankind, a 116,000-acre World Heritage site and the world’s richest deposit of early hominin artifacts, where approximately 40% of the world’s known human ancestor fossils have been found. View the new Homo Naledi exhibition that details the recent discovery of an ostensibly new species of early human ancestor, and explore the Sterkfontein Caves, site of some of the area’s most famous...
discoveries. Continue by road to Pretoria, South Africa’s administrative capital.

SHERATON PRETORIA (B,l,D)

THURSDAY, JULY 27
EMBARK / PRETORIA / MESSINA / BEITBRIDGE, ZIMBABWE

This morning board our luxury train, Rovos Rail, at Pretoria’s colonial-style railway station, and after settling in, enjoy lunch in the dining car as we travel north. We’ll pass through Warmbaths, famous for its mineral waters and Nylstroom, where, in the 19th century, a group of Voortrekkers, or pioneers, discovered a northward-flowing river and decided that it was the source of the Nile (or Nyl in the Afrikaans language). Cross the Tropic of Capricorn en route to Messina, the northernmost town in South Africa’s Limpopo province, then cross into Zimbabwe where our train stops at the border post of Beitbridge for the night. ROVOS RAIL (B,l,D)

FRIDAY, JULY 28
BEITBRIDGE / BULAWAYO / MPOPOMA

Depart Beitbridge and travel to Zimbabwe’s second-largest city and industrial capital, Bulawayo. Continue to the nearby Mpopoma district where we spend the night onboard. ROVOS RAIL (B,l,D)

SATURDAY, JULY 29
MPOPOMA / HWANGE NATIONAL PARK / THOMSON JUNCTION

Travel along the eastern edge of Hwange National Park, Zimbabwe’s largest game reserve, along one of the world’s longest stretches of straight railway line—approximately 70 miles—before traversing the park. Spot animals from the train and stop within the park for a late-afternoon game drive at the Hide Safari Camp to view the park’s rich and diverse wildlife, including herds of elephant and buffalo numbering in the hundreds. Continue by train to Thomson Junction where we overnight onboard. ROVOS RAIL (B,l,D)

SUNDAY, JULY 30
VICTORIA FALLS / DISEMBARK

After breakfast, disembark at the town of Victoria Falls and check in to our lovely Edwardian-era hotel, Zimbabwe’s grandest and oldest, and within walking distance of Victoria Falls. Admire the falls that measure one mile wide and drop from between 295 to 350 feet into the First Gorge. The constant mist that is visible from the winding footpath along the rim and gives the Falls its local name of “the smoke that thunders” creates a tropical rain forest-like environment. After lunch spend the afternoon at leisure, then enjoy a sunset cruise on the Zambezi River. VICTORIA FALLS HOTEL (B,l)

MONDAY, JULY 31
VICTORIA FALLS / CHOBÉ NATIONAL PARK, BOTSWANA

Drive to Botswana and head for the Chobe Game Lodge in Chobe National Park. The only permanent game lodge situated within the park, Chobe Game Lodge is the ideal base from which to explore the park and the Chobe River as it offers both land- and water-based game-spotting experiences. Join an afternoon safari to seek out giraffes, baboons, impalas and elephants, whose numbers make Chobe home to one of the largest wildlife populations in Africa. CHOBÉ GAME LODGE (B,l,D)

TUESDAY, AUGUST 1
CHOBÉ NATIONAL PARK

Spend the day continuing to explore the area. Take an early-morning game drive, delighting in the fact that we are the first visitors to the park today. After breakfast opt to watch the animals come down to the river from the deck of our lodge or to spot wildlife across the floodplains on a mid-morning safari boat cruise. There are also the options of afternoon game drives and a sunset safari cruise. Celebrate the conclusion of our Africa adventure with a farewell reception and dinner this evening. CHOBÉ GAME LODGE (B,l,D)

WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY, AUGUST 2 & 3
CHOBÉ NATIONAL PARK / KASANE / JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA / U.S.

Drive to the airport in Kasane and board a flight to Johannesburg, where we connect to international flights, arriving back in the U.S. on Thursday. (8/2: B)
Rovos Rail

The many pleasures inherent in train travel are grandly amplified aboard the distinguished Rovos Rail, our luxurious home for four days during this program. The rail company conducted an extensive search to find unique, vintage South African Railway coaches that were then carefully and lavishly restored to provide deluxe sleeping accommodations, elegant dining and comfortable sightseeing. Each sleeping carriage has either two Royal Suites, three Deluxe Suites or five Pullman Suites, all with en suite facilities, individual temperature controls, mini-bar, sitting area and wardrobe. Complimentary bar service is provided during our time onboard, and meals feature the finest in continental and local cuisine, including top South African wines.

Program Cost*

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<th>DOUBLE OCCUPANCY</th>
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*Association nonmembers add $300 per person.
**Single accommodations may be limited to as few as 2 cabins.

Pre-trip Extension

**NAMIBIA**
JULY 15 TO 21, 2017 (5 ADDITIONAL DAYS)
Travel to Namibia’s greatest attraction—Sossusvlei, a vast alkali flat surrounded by the world’s tallest red sand dunes in Namib-Naukluft National Park, Africa’s largest game park. Also take exciting game drives and guided bush walks through the dramatic Kulala Wilderness Reserve.

Post-trip Extension

**OKAVANGO DELTA, BOTSWANA**
AUGUST 2 TO 6, 2017 (4 ADDITIONAL DAYS)
Discover the riches of the Okavango Delta, one of the world’s greatest unspoiled wildernesses. On morning and late-afternoon game drives in the heart of the Moremi Game Reserve, view a spectacular range of flora and fauna including hippopotamuses, black rhinos and nearly 500 species of birds.

Details and pricing for both extensions will be provided to confirmed participants.
Information

**DATES**
July 20 to August 3, 2017 (15 days)

**SIZE**
This program can accommodate 37 participants. Single accommodations are extremely limited; please call for availability.

**INCLUDED**
- 5 nights of deluxe hotel accommodations and 4 nights of deluxe bush lodge accommodations
- 3-night train journey aboard Rovos Rail
- 12 breakfasts, 11 lunches, 9 dinners
- Welcome and farewell receptions
- Gratuities to guides, drivers and train crew for all group activities
- All tours and excursions as described in the itinerary
- 3 internal southern Africa flights: Cape Town/Skukuza; Skukuza/Johannesburg; Kasane/Johannesburg
- Transfers and baggage handling on program arrival and departure days
- Zimbabwe visa
- Minimal medical, accident and evacuation insurance
- Educational program with lecture series and pre-departure materials, including recommended reading list, a selected book, map and travel information
- Services of our professional tour manager to assist you throughout the program

**NOT INCLUDED**
- International and U.S. domestic airfare
- Passport fees
- Immunization costs
- Meals and beverages other than those specified as included
- Independent and private transfers
- Trip-cancellation/interruption and baggage insurance
- Excess-baggage charges
- Personal items such as internet access, telephone and fax calls, laundry and gratuities for nongroup services

**AIR ARRANGEMENTS**
International and U.S. domestic airfare is not included in the program cost. Round-trip, economy-class airfare on Delta Air Lines from San Francisco to Cape Town, South Africa, and return from Johannesburg, South Africa, is approximately $1,865 as of September 2016 and is subject to change without notice.

**WHAT TO EXPECT**
We consider this program to be a moderately strenuous program that is at times physically demanding and busy. Daily programs involve one to three miles of walking, often on uneven terrain. Open-air safari vehicles are used for the game drives. Safaris may last several hours at a time and can be dusty and bumpy, as roads in the parks are unpaved. Many days have very early starts. Our busy excursions contrast with the relaxed pace aboard Rovos Rail, time that is enhanced by lectures and leisure time. Onboard Rovos Rail, the corridors through and between cars are very narrow (about 30 inches wide), and one should be able to walk aboard a moving train. We expect that participants will be a self-selecting group who are seeking a true adventure and whose interest in the places we visit far outweighs the need for creature comforts. Participants must be physically fit, active and in good health. We welcome travelers 9 years of age and older on this program.

**Deposit & Final Payment**
A $1,000-per-person deposit is required to hold space on this program. A $200-per-person deposit, per each extension, is required to hold space for the optional pre- and post-trip extensions. Sign up online at alumni.stanford.edu/trip?rovos2017 or call the Travel/Study office at (650) 725-1093. Final payment is due 120 days prior to departure. As a condition of participation, all confirmed participants are required to sign a Release of Liability.

**Cancellations & Refunds**
Deposits and any payments are refundable, less a $500-per-person cancellation fee, until 120 days prior to departure. After that date, refunds can be made only if the program is sold out and your place(s) can be resold, in which case a $1,000-per-person cancellation fee will apply.

**Insurance**
Stanford Travel/Study provides all travelers who are U.S. or Canadian citizens with minimal medical, accident and evacuation coverage under our group-travel insurance policy. Our group policy is intended to provide minimal levels of protection while you are traveling on this program. You may choose to subscribe to optional trip-cancellation and baggage insurance. Information offering such insurance will be provided to travelers with their welcome materials. The product offered in this brochure includes special benefits if you purchase your policy within 14 days of written confirmation of your participation on the trip.

**Eligibility**
We encourage membership in the Alumni Association as the program cost for nonmembers is $300 more than the members’ price. A person traveling as a guest paid for by a current member will not be charged the nonmember fee. For more information or to purchase a membership, visit alumni.stanford.edu/goto/membership or call (650) 725-0692.

**Terms & Conditions**

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**Responsibility**
The Stanford Alumni Association, Stanford University and our operators act only as agents for the passenger with respect to transportation and exercise every care possible in doing so. However, we can assume no liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity in connection with the service of any automobile, motor coach, launch or any other conveyance used in carrying out this program or for the acts or defaults of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger or in carrying out the arrangements of the program. We cannot accept any responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, force majeure or other causes beyond our control. All such losses or expenses will have to be borne by the passenger as tour rates provide arrangements only for the time stated. We reserve the right to make such alterations to this published itinerary as may be deemed necessary. The right is reserved to cancel any program prior to departure in which case the entire payment will be refunded without further obligation on our part. The right is also reserved to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the program. No refund will be made for an unused portion of any tour unless arrangements are made in sufficient time to avoid penalties. Baggage is carried at the owner’s risk entirely. The airlines concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time that passengers are not onboard their plane or conveyance. Neither the Alumni Association, Stanford University nor our operators accept liability for any carrier’s cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a nonrefundable ticket in connection with the tour. Program price is based on rates in effect in September 2016 and is subject to change without notice to reflect fluctuations in exchange rates, tariffs or fuel charges.

**Telephone** (650) 725-1093
**Email** travelstudy@alumni.stanford.edu

California Seller of Travel Program Registration #2048 523-50

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Southern Africa aboard Rovos Rail

SOUTH AFRICA, ZIMBABWE AND BOTSWANA AMID EDWARDIAN GENTILITY

July 20 to August 3, 2017

alumni.stanford.edu/goto/travelstudy

“A trip of a lifetime. The attention to detail made our experience all the more worthwhile.”

JACK AND SHARON ROGERS, SOUTH AFRICA EXAMINED, 2012

STANFORD TRAVEL/STUDY