The Grand Safari
A Private Air Expedition to South Africa, Namibia, Botswana, and Zambia

David Evans, ’92
Professor of Geology and Geophysics

Limited to 24 Travelers • Pre-Trip Extension to Cape Town
Dear Yale Traveler and Friend,

I invite you to join me on a Grand Safari: June 5-19, 2018, and explore the varied terrains of South Africa, Namibia, Botswana and Zambia.

Yale's 15-day journey will span five diverse ecosystems and four countries, a feat only feasible by private aircraft. Our Pilatus PC12 aircraft offers unmatched comfort, safety and flexibility, allowing landings on smaller private airstrips in some of the most pristine areas of southern Africa. Our homes on the ground will be a variety of small intimate lodges, luxurious tented camps, and grand hotels—all with places to relax after a game drive, to savor fine food, and to enjoy the company of fellow Yale travelers.

To introduce myself, I have spent my entire professional career researching the ancient geological history of southern Africa, and discovering its wayward connections with other continental landmasses through the eons. I have found that the best way to appreciate the stark beauty of a landscape is to understand the billions of years of history that transpired to create today's weather-worn mountains and valleys. I'm excited to share these insights with you, on our incredible journey.

There will be ample opportunities to view the “Big Five” game animals and to enjoy the superb birdlife. Unspoiled wilderness, majestic landscapes, and encounters with wildlife found nowhere else on Earth are sure to leave us with memories of a lifetime. Yale will be joined by Smithsonian Journeys, and space will be limited to 24, so please call Yale at 203-432-1952 today to hold your space on this trip of a lifetime.

All the best from Yale,

David Evans
Professor of Geology and Geophysics

Highlights of our Journey:

Experience the luxury of traveling on your own private aircraft, transporting you with ease between remote wildlife destinations and luxurious safari camps, freed from the hassle of commercial flights.

In the company of lecturer David Evans, Professor of Geology and Geophysics at Yale and Head of Berkeley College, observe the water holes of Namibia’s Etosha Pan, which draw a vast array of wildlife, including lion, zebra, wildebeest, and springbok.

Witness the enormity of Botswana’s Okavango Delta and the sheer scale and brilliance of the Namib Desert at Sossusvlei Dunes from the air.

Follow in the footsteps of explorer David Livingstone as you experience the splendor of thundering Victoria Falls.

Enjoy close encounters with the “Big Five”: elephant, rhino, buffalo, lion, and leopard at Sabi Sand Game Reserve, plus a host of other mammals, reptiles, and birds.

―Mary & Bill McNamara, Midland Park, NJ Grand Safari Travelers

Cover: Our epic journey allows bird’s-eye views of wild animals in unique landscapes. Inside spread: Learn about many wildlife species, including kingfisher, elephant, leopard, oryx, and crowned crane.
Magnificent African Landscapes and Extraordinary Accommodations

See landscapes and wildlife found nowhere else on Earth. From bush walks to big game safaris, Africa’s southernmost countries — South Africa, Namibia, Botswana, and Zimbabwe — offer a stunning diversity of wilderness experiences.

At the heart of your journey is your safari “camp,” an essential base for reflecting on the day’s exploration. A variety of small intimate lodges, luxurious tented camps, and grand hotels offer places to relax, savor fine food, and enjoy the company of congenial fellow travelers.

Mount Nelson Hotel
A landmark luxury hotel in Cape Town, the Mount Nelson Hotel was built with the elegance and style of a grand colonial hotel. More than 100 years old, this historic hotel is intertwined with the early history of the Cape. Located on the lower slopes of Table Mountain and set in lush and tranquil gardens, the Mount Nelson Hotel is a wonderful oasis in this busy city.

Little Kulala Camp
Explore Namibia’s spectacular desert ecology as you savor the personal and sumptuous style of Little Kulala. Set among ancient camel thorn trees, the climate-controlled, thatched kulala (meaning ‘to sleep’) merge into the timeless desert landscape and are complemented with bleached wood decks and private plunge pools. Enjoy fine dining under clear Namibian skies.

Onguma Plains Camp
Situated on the eastern side of Etosha National Park, Onguma Private Nature Reserve offers a splendid opportunity to experience Africa in all her beauty and diversity. The region is home to numerous animals and more than 300 bird species. Onguma Plains luxury camp offers a soothing oasis after your days of game viewing.

Sanctuary Chief’s Camp
Located in the heart of Moremi Game Reserve, on Chief’s Island, the Camp offers luxurious and spacious bush pavilions with large private decks, ideal for viewing the abundance of wildlife. In addition to game-viewing drives, discover a labyrinth of lagoons and streams in mokoros, or local dugout canoes, which provides an up close perspective of wildlife as they come to drink. Enjoy the quiet, gentle pace of a mokoro as a way to explore the Okavango Delta.

Victoria Falls Hotel
Located within Victoria Falls National Park, a World Heritage site, this grand Edwardian–style hotel was recently redecorated and refurbished. The first hotel built at Victoria Falls, it is a gracious refuge set in lush tropical gardens a few minutes walk to the falls. Lavishly appointed guest rooms exude the elegance of an earlier age.

Londolozi
Nestled along the Sand River in the heart of the Sabi Sand Game Reserve, Londolozi is one of Africa’s finest game lodges. Here, the game viewing is nothing short of sensational. The reserve has a dense concentration of wildlife and is home to the “Big Five”. Leopard sightings are commonplace. Experience an intimate safari with expert rangers and trackers. Shaded under a cathedral of trees, each luxurious room overlooks spectacular views of the African bush.
The Grand Safari — A Private Air Expedition

Table Mountain offers a stunning landscape.
Experience the thrill of watching two oryx fighting.

Learn about the habitat of the giraffe.
Elephants are frequently seen in Etosha National Park.
Zebras at a waterhole.

The Grand Safari Begins

(Tentative) Tuesday, May 22, 2018
Join the group at 4 PM EST for a pre-trip welcome call with Professor Evans in order to learn more about what to expect and ask any questions you might have.

June 5 & 6 | Home | Cape Town, South Africa
Depart on international overnight flights to Cape Town, South Africa. Meet your fellow travelers at a welcome reception and dinner June 14.
Mount Nelson Hotel (Meals aloft, R, D)

June 7 | Cape Town
With its sweeping bay, mountains cascading to the sea, and dramatic location below the iconic Table Mountain, Cape Town offers an unforgettable travel experience.

Gather for breakfast and an introductory lecture before setting out to explore Cape Town. Take in the spectacular view from Table Mountain, then call at Bo Kaap, a historical center of Cape Malay culture. Spend time at District Six Museum and visit Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens, established as a center for the study and preservation of the indigenous flora of southern Africa.
Mount Nelson Hotel (B, L)

June 8 & 9 | Namib-Naukluft Park, Namibia
Board our private chartered aircraft and journey to the Namib-Naukluft Park, one of the world’s largest and most dramatic national parks.
Our destination is Sossusvlei, an enormous clay pan glanced by red sand dunes that stand out starkly against the blue sky. The dunes have developed over millions of years, and the wind continuously transforms their contours. Venture into this spectacular terrain on guided nature drives and desert walks. The region’s wildlife has made fascinating adaptations to the harsh conditions. It is especially thrilling to glimpse a springbok, gemsbok, ostrich, bat-eared fox, or even the rarely seen aardwolf. Little Kulala Camp (B, L, D)

June 10 & 11 | Skeleton Coast | Etosha National Park
Savor an unforgettable flight over Namibia’s celebrated Skeleton Coast as you head towards Etosha National Park, one of Africa’s largest game parks.
The strikingly beautiful park of Etosha takes its name — meaning “Great White Place” — from the vast, flat depression that was a deep inland lake 12 million years ago. Today, while a few rivers and occasional heavy summer rains can fill the pan, it is usually parched and dry. Animals congregate in large numbers here around the numerous waterholes, wary of lions on the prowl. The endless plains offer breathtaking vistas and an opportunity to spot cheetah and large herds of zebra, wildebeest, and springbok. Birdwatchers delight in the hundreds of species found here.

“[The Grand Safari was the best tour I have ever taken. Not only were we in awe of the natural wonders, the animals in their own habitat at such a close range, and the information we received from our experts, but the thoughtful, intelligent work of the organizers made this our most memorable trip.]”
—Grand Safari Traveler
The Grand Safari — A Private Air Expedition

June 12 & 13 | Okavango Delta, Botswana
Botswana’s treasures are nothing short of miraculous. Some of the last great wilderness areas in the world are here, all astonishing in their magnificence.

After clearing formalities in Maun, continue to Moremi Game Reserve. A profusion of wildlife is found in the ancient mopane forests, seasonal flood plains, and open grasslands well known for large elephant herds as well as concentrations of lion, cheetah, and hippo. This area is also ideal for birdwatchers, and black-backed jackals, bat-eared foxes, kudus, impalas, and ostriches abound in the sweeping expanse of savannah. Sanctuary Chief’s Camp overlooking the vast floodplains of the Moremi Game Reserve, offers a variety of activities and opportunities for viewing wildlife.

Sanctuary Chief’s Camp (B, L, D)

June 14 & 15 | Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe
Awestruck when he stumbled upon the largest, most spectacular curtain of falling water in the world the renowned British explorer Dr. David Livingstone promptly named the falls Victoria, for his queen. The Zambezi River plunges over a 300-foot-high vertical drop at the astounding rate of 2.5 million gallons of water a minute at its highest water volume.

Here, where the crashing thunder of Victoria Falls echoes, enjoy a respite at the splendid Victoria Falls Hotel. The hotel’s attractive colonial buildings are set amid sweeping lawns along the banks of the Zambezi. Hike to the falls for fascinating views and enjoy a cruise on the Zambezi River.

Victoria Falls Hotel (B, L on June 14; B on June 15)

June 16 & 17 | Sabi Sand Game Reserve, South Africa
Sabi Sand epitomizes the magic of Africa. With no fences between the reserve and the vast Kruger National Park, big game abounds, moving freely throughout this unspoiled landscape.

Take a short flight directly to the airstrip in private Sabi Sand Game Reserve, which has one of the highest game populations in all of Africa. Blessed with both a biologically diverse habitat and wildlife, the reserve provides excellent opportunities for close encounters with the “Big Five”— elephant, rhino, buffalo, lion, and leopard — as well as wild dog and cheetah. Expert and congenial safari rangers lead explorations into the bush, and for those who wish, a mid-morning bush walk offers an intimate look at the smaller mammals and prolific birdlife. Our base is the spectacular Londolozi, one of the world’s leaders in conservation and luxury. On our last evening, we celebrate with a gala farewell reception and dinner.

Londolozi (B, L, D)

June 18 & 19 | Return to Home Cities
Fly to Johannesburg airport to connect with individual later afternoon flights, arriving in the USA the following day. (B)

Cost Per Person
Double Occupancy: $29,950
Single Occupancy Supplement: $5,900
Participation is limited to 20 travelers
For more information, please call 203-432-1952
Monday–Friday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Begin your explorations with a Pre-trip Extension in Cape Town.

June 3 & 4 | Home | Cape Town, South Africa
Depart on international overnight flights to South Africa. Upon arrival, check in to the luxurious Mount Nelson Hotel near Cape Town’s iconic Table Mountain.

Mount Nelson Hotel (Meals aloft)

June 5 | Cape Point
Depart for the Atlantic seaboard and the Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve. Visit Cape Point at the southwesternmost tip of the African continent. Continue to Boulders Beach and observe the resident colony of African penguins. After lunch, return to Cape Town along the scenic False Bay coastline.

Mount Nelson Hotel (B, L, D)

June 6 | Stellenbosch Winelands
Travel inland to the Stellenbosch wine-growing area of the Cape. Taste award-winning wines made from grapes grown on the region’s venerable wine estates. During lunch, enjoy a demonstration of sabrage — the cutting off of the top of a champagne bottle with a saber. Return to the hotel to join your fellow travelers for a welcome reception.

Mount Nelson Hotel (B, L)

Cost Per Person
Double Occupancy: $2,290
Single Occupancy: $2,995

Listen for the distinct sound of hippos.

Vibrantly colored kingfishers decorate the landscape.

Experience the spray from magnificent Victoria Falls.
Reservations, Deposits, and Final Payment: To reserve a space on the trip, please mail a deposit of $1,500 per person payable to CRITERION TRAVEL along with the completed registration form, to Yale Educational Travel, Association of Yale Alumni, P.O. Box 209065, New Haven, CT 06520-9065 or by the completed form to (203) 432-0035. Deposits may be charged to a credit card. Reservations are acknowledged in order of receipt. A second deposit of $5,000 per person is due in 6 months prior to departure. Final payment is due 120 days prior to departure.

Cancellations and Refunds: All cancellations must be in writing to Yale Educational Travel.
- Cancellations within 7 days of booking (if not within final payment date): full refund.
- Cancellations after 7 days of booking to 6 months prior to departure: $1,500 per person retained.
- Cancellations after 6 months to 12 days prior to departure: $1,000 per person.
- Cancellations made less than 12 days prior to departure, or absentees, are non-refundable.

There are no refunds for unused portions of the tour, including, but not limited to, meals, accommodations, or other tour features. Understood that there will be no exception to the cancellation policy.

Itinerary Changes: The itinerary presented for this tour is subject to modification and change by Yale Educational Travel and Criterion Travel (the tour operator). Every reasonable effort will be made to operate the tour program as planned; however, should unforeseen world events and conditions require the itinerary to be altered, Yale Educational Travel and the tour operator reserves the right to do so for the safety and best interest of the group. Any extra costs incurred in this situation are the responsibility of the participant.

What Is Included in the Cost: Yale University Lecture, a Tour Manager, and local guides throughout the itinerary to be altered, Yale Educational Travel and Criterion Travel (YET/CT) reserve the right to make changes in the published itinerary whenever, for unforeseen world events and conditions require the itinerary to be altered. Yale Educational Travel and Criterion Travel (YET/CT) reserve the right to make changes in the published itinerary whenever, for unforeseen world events and conditions require the itinerary to be altered. Yale Educational Travel and Criterion Travel (YET/CT) reserve the right to make changes in the published itinerary whenever, for unforeseen world events and conditions require the itinerary to be altered.

Responsibility: Yale is not responsible for any injury, damage, loss, deviation from the scheduled tour • Excess-baggage charges • Depature taxes • Meals not specified in the itinerary • dishes and beverages not part of the included meals • Airfares, tips, or soft drinks except as noted • Laundry or dry cleaning • Room service • Telephone, fax, Internet, and small changes • Other items not specifically mentioned as included.

Insurance: Yale Educational Travel highly recom- mend the purchase of trip cancellation insurance. If participants purchase trip insurance, and we hope that they do, participants are free to purchase the insurance of their choice. Most travel insurance must be purchased within 30 days of paying a dep- osit in order to include certain provisions including pre-existing conditions.

Payment Options: Pay by check made out to “Criterion Travel.” When asked to identify Organizational Affiliation, you may use “YET.”

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Reserve your space today!
Call Yale Educational Travel at 203-432-1952 to reserve by phone, or email margaret.carrnright@yale.edu. You may also reserve online at www.yaleedtravel.org/grandsafari18.
The Grand Safari—A Private Air Expedition to South Africa, Namibia, Botswana, and Zambia • June 5 – 19, 2018

“This was the trip of a lifetime! Far above our expectations. We saw all of the Big 5 during the first three days.”
—Jim and Marion Jordan, Newport Beach, CA
Grand Safari Travelers