

UCONN  
OFFICE OF ALUMNI RELATIONS

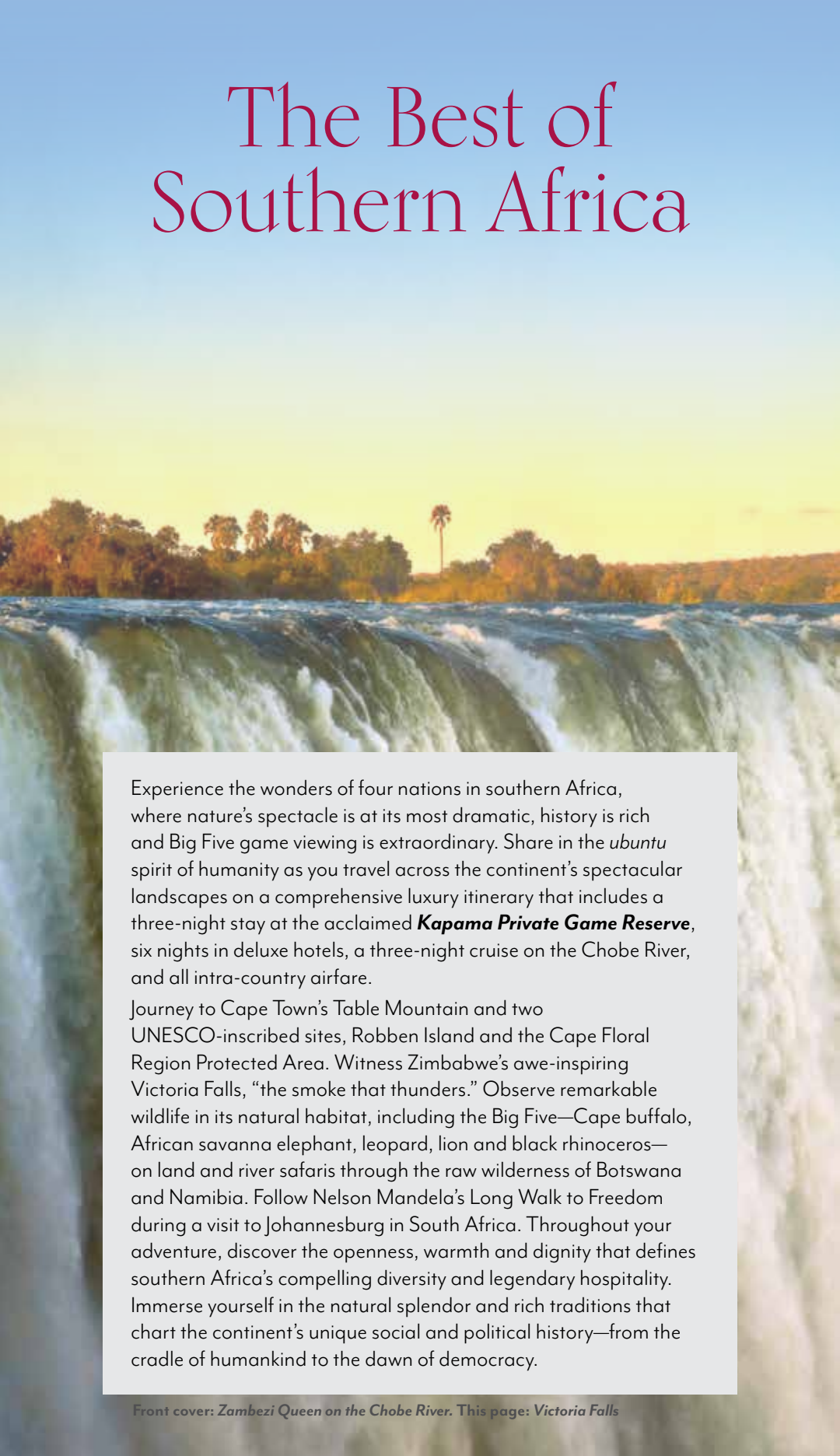
September 2 - 16, 2025

South Africa,  
Namibia, Botswana  
and Zimbabwe

THE BEST OF SOUTHERN AFRICA



# The Best of Southern Africa



Experience the wonders of four nations in southern Africa, where nature's spectacle is at its most dramatic, history is rich and Big Five game viewing is extraordinary. Share in the *ubuntu* spirit of humanity as you travel across the continent's spectacular landscapes on a comprehensive luxury itinerary that includes a three-night stay at the acclaimed **Kapama Private Game Reserve**, six nights in deluxe hotels, a three-night cruise on the Chobe River, and all intra-country airfare.

Journey to Cape Town's Table Mountain and two UNESCO-inscribed sites, Robben Island and the Cape Floral Region Protected Area. Witness Zimbabwe's awe-inspiring Victoria Falls, "the smoke that thunders." Observe remarkable wildlife in its natural habitat, including the Big Five—Cape buffalo, African savanna elephant, leopard, lion and black rhinoceros—on land and river safaris through the raw wilderness of Botswana and Namibia. Follow Nelson Mandela's Long Walk to Freedom during a visit to Johannesburg in South Africa. Throughout your adventure, discover the openness, warmth and dignity that defines southern Africa's compelling diversity and legendary hospitality. Immerse yourself in the natural splendor and rich traditions that chart the continent's unique social and political history—from the cradle of humankind to the dawn of democracy.



Cape Town

# UConn

## ALUMNI

Dear Alumni and Friends,

Immerse yourself in the heart of four southern African nations on a journey of a lifetime that reveals some of the continent's most magnificent natural, historical and cultural wonders. This exclusive, comprehensive land and river safari cruise itinerary provides an incredible opportunity to explore the rich cultural mosaic of southern Africa.

Follow Nelson Mandela's path from Johannesburg's Soweto neighborhood on to his presidency of South Africa. Behold Zimbabwe's awe-inspiring Victoria Falls, one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World, and watch for the Big Five African animals in the Kapama Private Game Reserve and at Chobe National Park. Encounter the penguin colony at Boulders Beach at Cape Point and marvel at the flora and fauna of Table Mountain National Park.

Stay in carefully selected deluxe hotels, including Cape Town's beautiful **Cape Grace Hotel**, Johannesburg's exquisite **Fairlawns Boutique Hotel & Spa** and Zimbabwe's legendary **Victoria Falls Hotel**. Relish three nights at the **Kapama Private Game Reserve**, known as the finest game-viewing destination in the world. Conclude your journey with a three-night Chobe River safari aboard the exclusively chartered, deluxe **Zambezi Queen**. Intra-country air is included in the cost of this tour.

Space is limited and this program sells out quickly, so reserve your place now, while early booking savings are available.

Sincerely,

Mo Cotton Kelly  
Chief People Officer and Senior Vice President for Alumni Relation  
UConn Foundation

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**To secure your spot, call Gohagan and Company at 800-922-3088  
or visit [gohagantravel.com/reserve](http://gohagantravel.com/reserve)**



## The Big Five

When colonial-era hunters descended on Africa in the late 1800s, they were on a quest for adventure and the “trophy” of taking home one of what became known as the Big Five—the Cape buffalo, African savanna elephant, leopard, lion and black rhinoceros. In addition to being deemed the most dangerous, these five African mammal species were considered the most challenging to capture. Of course, the thrill of the modern safari is to witness these spectacular creatures in their natural habitat—photographing some of the most awesome wildlife on the planet. Keep your cameras and binoculars ready for Big Five game viewing and bird watching on our land safaris at the acclaimed Kapama Private Game Reserve and through Chobe National Park, followed by a three-day cruise down the Chobe River to the edge of Namibia.

Experience the awe of this region as we journey from the vast array of habitat types in South Africa to the fertile floodplains of Botswana, a sanctuary for one of Africa’s largest elephant populations. In addition to the Big Five, look for elephants, zebras, giraffes, a multitude of birds, and the rare puku antelope. And don't forget to look down, as the elusive hippo and crocodile have been known to make an appearance in the river itself.



# Long Walk To Freedom



Step back in time to pivotal moments in South Africa's anti-apartheid movement and Nelson Mandela's autobiography, *Long Walk to Freedom*. Inspiring visits and illuminating discussions reveal the historic 20th-century milestones that culminated in the momentous inauguration of South Africa's first Black president—laying the foundation for progressive economic, social and political prosperity. Follow in Mandela's footsteps through Soweto, visiting his former home on renowned Vilakazi Street, and explore UNESCO World Heritage-designated Robben Island, the isolated former outpost for political prisoners off the coast of Cape Town. On April 27, 1995, the first commemoration of Freedom Day—a public holiday celebrating the anniversary of that historic moment—Mandela addressed the people of South Africa with considerable optimism about the “past from which we come as a nation; the great possibilities that we now have; and the bright future that beckons us.” Mandela's legacy as an activist, leader and great humanitarian still resonates today.

Joining us on our Robben Island excursion is **Christo Brand**. He is a South African former prison guard and co-author of “Doing Life with Mandela: My Prisoner, My Friend,” was responsible for guarding Nelson Mandela during his incarcerations at Robben Island and Pollsmoor prisons in the late 1970s and 1980s.



## INCLUDED FEATURES

- ◆ Transfers and luggage handling abroad if you purchased air through Gohagan & Company and your arrival(s)/departure(s) coincide with the scheduled group transfer(s).
- ◆ Experienced, English-speaking local guides for included excursions.
- ◆ Gratuities to local guides and drivers on included excursions and transfers.
- ◆ Complimentary water in your suite or stateroom and on excursions.
- ◆ Experienced Gohagan & Company Travel Directors at your service.
- ◆ Complimentary use of an audio headset during guided excursions.
- ◆ Automatic \$250,000 flight insurance policy for each participant ticketed on flights by Gohagan & Company.
- ◆ Hospitality desk aboard the ship.
- ◆ Meals included as noted in the itinerary (B,L,R,D).



GOHAGAN & COMPANY



## 2025 | 15-DAY/14-NIGHT ITINERARY

Depart Home City

**Day 1 | September 2**

Depart your home city.

Cape Town, South Africa

**Day 2 | September 3**

Arrive in Cape Town and transfer to **Cape Grace Hotel**. Tonight, join your fellow passengers for a Welcome Reception and Dinner. (R,D)

Cape Town

**Day 3 | September 4**

Take a cable car ride to the top of Table Mountain for spectacular views, followed by a scenic drive through the city and the Bo-Kaap and District Six areas. This afternoon, take an included excursion to UNESCO-designated Robben Island, where Mandela and other political prisoners made strides during apartheid. The prison's storied interior and its guides—former prisoners, many of whom served with Mandela—provide an invaluable perspective on

South Africa's social and political transformation. (B,L)

Cape Town/Cape Point

**Day 4 | September 5**

Embark on a panoramic drive with photo stops en route to Cape Point, a nature reserve within Table Mountain National Park. Visit the African penguin colony on Boulders Beach. Arrive at Cape Point and take the Flying Dutchman funicular for incredible views over the Cape of Good Hope. (B,L)

Cape Town/Kapama Private Game Reserve

**Day 5 | September 6**

Kapama Private Game Reserve is located in the heart of South Africa's bushveld and boasts the Big Five—Cape buffalo, African savanna elephant, leopard, lion and black rhinoceros. The reserve is renowned for its extraordinarily up-close wildlife sightings. Ideally located adjacent to Kruger National Park, this

58-square-mile reserve affords exceptional wildlife viewing and knowledgeable guides and trackers. (B,L,D)

Kapama Private Game Reserve

**Day 6 and 7 | September 7 and 8**

Enjoy early morning and late afternoon game drives each day, plus walking safaris. In addition to the Big Five, you may see other animals such as cheetahs, zebras, giraffes, hyenas, kudu, monkeys, hippos and more than 350 species of birds. (2B,2L,2D)

Kapama Private Game Reserve/Johannesburg

**Day 8 | September 9**

After a morning safari, fly to Johannesburg and check in to the **Fairlawns Boutique Hotel & Spa**, a deluxe luxury hotel. Enjoy dinner on your own. (B,L)

Johannesburg

**Day 9 | September 10**

Follow in the footsteps of Nobel Peace Prize laureate

Bo-Kaap neighborhood





*Boulders Beach penguin colony*



*Hippos in Chobe River*

Nelson Mandela along Vilakazi Street and visit the house where he lived from 1946 to 1962, a short distance from the former home of fellow Nobel Peace Prize laureate Desmond Tutu. Visit Johannesburg's poignant Apartheid Museum to trace South Africa's 21st-century journey to democracy. (B,L)

### **Johannesburg/Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe**

**Day 10 | September 11**

Fly to Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe. Walk the jungle-fringed trail along the edge of UNESCO-inscribed Victoria Falls, one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World. Here, the Zambezi River plunges into a narrow, 360-foot gorge—twice the height of Niagara Falls—creating frothy rapids and vaulting a colorful mist into the air. Later, check in to the

elegant and historic deluxe **Victoria Falls Hotel**. (B,L,D)

### **Kasane, Botswana/Namibia/Embark**

**Day 11 | September 12**

Travel to Botswana for a morning game drive in Chobe National Park, home to one of the world's largest elephant populations. In addition, watch for wild dogs, zebras, giraffes and impalas. In the afternoon, embark the **Zambezi Queen**, a deluxe riverboat, for your safari cruise along the Chobe River. (B,L,D)

### **Cruising the Chobe River**

**Day 12 | September 13**

Visit a local Namibian village to experience its unique culture firsthand. This afternoon, view wildlife from a different perspective as the animals venture to the Chobe River, to slake their thirst or just cool off during the afternoon heat. Expert local guides will lead game-viewing

river safaris aboard small excursion boats through this unspoiled ecosystem. (B,L,D)

### **Cruising the Chobe River**

**Day 13 | September 14**

Enjoy up-close views of wildlife, including the Big Five as well as kudus, oryxes and an astounding array of bird species as you cruise. Tonight, enjoy a Farewell Reception, followed by a special dinner and cultural show. (B,L,R,D)

### **Kasane, Botswana/Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe/Return to Home City**

**Day 14 | September 15**

After breakfast, disembark the boat and transfer to the Victoria Falls Airport for your overnight flight home. (B)

### **Arrive in Home City**

**Day 15 | September 16**

Arrive in your home city.



*Elephant on safari*



## Zambezi Queen

The exclusively chartered, deluxe **Zambezi Queen** is a specially designed, stylish “floating lodge” built to provide sophisticated comfort on the Chobe River. This unique, world-class African riverboat offers remarkable opportunities for unobstructed wildlife viewing, whether from the comfort of your bedside or from the contemporary lounge, bar or open-air deck with plunge pool. Each of the 14 tastefully appointed, spacious, air-conditioned staterooms feature en suite bathroom and expansive sliding glass doors that open onto a private balcony.



### 2025 DEPARTURE DATE

**September 2 to 16**

(Tour Begins: September 3)

Category-Description	Standard Rate	Early Booking \$1,000 Savings*
<b>SB</b> Outside standard suite with luxurious amenities, private bathroom with shower, floor to ceiling sliding windows/doors - Balcony. <i>Middle Deck.</i>	\$11,845	<b>\$10,845</b>
<b>SA</b> Outside standard suite with luxurious amenities, private bathroom with shower, floor to ceiling sliding windows/doors - Balcony. <i>Middle Deck.</i>	\$13,445	<b>\$12,445</b>
<b>Master Suite</b> Outside standard suite with luxurious amenities, private bathroom with shower, floor to ceiling sliding windows/doors - Forward Balcony. <i>Lower and Middle Decks.</i>	\$15,645	<b>\$14,645</b>

**\*Early Booking Savings of \$1,000 are available when you book by 2/17/25 and pay in full at time of booking. If you pay only your deposit by early booking date, you still save \$500 per person.**

All rates are in U.S. dollars, per person, based on double occupancy, including taxes. Single supplements at 200% of the cabin fare, plus taxes, with limited availability. Early Booking Savings still apply. (Cabin fare is the standard rate less taxes.)

**Port taxes in the amount of \$50 per person are included in the above prices.** Deck plans available upon request.

Intra-country air is included in the cost of this tour.

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## Deluxe Accommodations

**Kapama Private Game Reserve**—Enhance your safari experience with three nights in Kapama’s River Lodge, with airy design and luxury accommodations ideally located adjacent to Kruger National Park.

**Cape Grace Hotel**—At the heart of the waterfront and the foot of Table Mountain, this newly renovated hotel is elegantly appointed. All rooms overlook the marina, harbor or mountains.

**Fairlawns Boutique Hotel & Spa**—Opulent suites are individually decorated to the highest standard. Indulge in the Balinese Spa, offering the ultimate relaxation with tranquil indoor or outdoor massage and treatment areas.

**Victoria Falls Hotel**—Featuring dramatic views overlooking Victoria Falls, this luxury gem was built to house railway workers. Nowadays the grand Edwardian-era hotel is a member of the Leading Hotels of the World.



## PRE-TOUR EXTENSION

### Cape Town, South Africa

**August 31 to September 3, 2025** (Program Begins: September 1)

Experience the warm sunshine and sunny disposition of the people in Cape Town, a modern metropolis surrounded by natural beauty. Beneath the magnificent Table Mountain, this “Mother City” offers much to discover. Stay at the deluxe luxury **Cape Grace Hotel**, with its lovely waterfront setting. Enjoy the sublime Cape Winelands and visit world-class vineyards for specially arranged wine tastings. At Vergelegen, explore the beautiful gardens and country manor, dating back to the 1700s; at Boschendal Farm, savor a lunch and wine pairing at their iconic restaurant.

**Price per person, based on double occupancy: \$1,565**

**Price per person, based on double occupancy: \$2,035**

*Further details will be provided with your reservation confirmation.*

**Early Booking Savings\* available | Save \$2,000 per couple!**

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