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Nature & Cultural Journeys  
for the Discerning Traveler

## *DESERT SUNSET, DELTA DAWN*

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO JOIN

**HOUSTON ZOO**

ON A DISCOVERY JOURNEY TO

**BOTSWANA**

**MAY 24 TO JUNE 3, 2012**



## YOUR ITINERARY

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### DAY 1~THURSDAY~MAY 24

#### HOUSTON/WASHINGTON, D.C./EN ROUTE

Your journey begins as you board your South African Airways overnight flight via Washington. (Meals Aloft)

### DAY 2~FRIDAY~MAY 25

#### JOHANNESBURG

Upon arrival at the Johannesburg International Airport this afternoon, you will be met and escorted to your hotel. Often called Jo'burg, Johannesburg is the country's largest city and financial center with ultra modern skyscrapers and a bustling way of life. It is the city of gold, as its claim to fame is the gold that was discovered close-by.

The D'Oreale Grande is situated near Johannesburg International Airport, boasting luxurious accommodation, with palatial buildings set in a display of gardens, fountains and statues. Richly cloaked surroundings such as marble floors, plush carpets, magnificent stained glass domes, highly decorated murals and frescos, sculptures, intricate mosaics and Roman columns and arches contribute to an atmosphere of intimacy, classical elegance and lavish opulence. Overnight at D'OREALE GRANDE. (Meals Aloft)

### DAYS 3/4~SATURDAY/SUNDAY~MAY 26/27

#### MAUN/CENTRAL KALAHARI GAME RESERVE

Today you will fly to Maun, Botswana, where upon arrival you will board your light aircraft for your flight to the Central Kalahari Game Reserve – one of the most remote and unspoiled experiences on the African continent. At over 20,000 square miles this reserve is one of the largest in the world. The abundance of herbivores and their prey is perfectly complemented with lush green landscapes, floral displays and beautiful skies. At this time of year these verdant flatlands are alive with aggregations of gemsbok, springbok and blue wildebeest. As a result of these populations on the fossil riverbeds, predator concentrations are also high and sightings of the almost mythical black-maned Kalahari lions are complemented with some of the best cheetah viewing in Africa. Wild dog and leopard are seen on occasion and black-backed jackal, bat-eared fox also occur. Other mammal possibilities include southern giraffe, steenbok, red hartebeest, and the charismatic ground squirrels.



After sunset the Kalahari is alive with the sounds of roaring lions, White-faced Scops-Owls and the garrulous calls of barking geckos. The avifauna in the reserve is equally diverse with over 220 species recorded to date. There are significant healthy populations of regionally threatened species like Kori Bustard and Lappet-faced Vulture, but birders will enjoy the opportunity to see a variety of arid-west endemic species such as Burchell's Sandgrouse, Grey-backed Sparrowlark, Kalahari Scrub-Robin and African Wren-Warbler. The vivid colors of birds such as Crimson-breasted Shrike and Violet-eared Waxbill provide a startling contrast to the sometimes stark surroundings.

Prime wildlife viewing areas include places with evocative names such as Deception Valley and Sunday Pan, made famous by Mark and Delia Owen in their book "*Cry of the Kalahari*." The former is all that remains of an ancient riverbed which today is a 50 miles-long gentle valley floor covered with short palatable grasses interspersed with picturesque tree islands. The name 'Deception' is derived from the mirage effect caused by the dry surface of the pan halfway along its length which often appears misleadingly full of water.



Your home for the next two nights will be in the rustic 12-tented camp situated in a remote part of this productive and diverse protected area. The camp is beautifully situated on a low sandy ridge fringing a typical Kalahari pan. Guided wildlife drives and walks will unlock the fascinating wildlife treasures found in this wonderful area.

Overnights at the KALAHARI PLAINS CAMP. (All Meals Daily)  
[www.wilderness-safaris.com](http://www.wilderness-safaris.com)

**DAYS 5/6/7~MONDAY/TUESDAY/WEDNESDAY~MAY 28/29/30**

#### **OKAVANGO DELTA/BANOKA BUSH CAMP**

Board your light aircraft once again for your flight to one of the world's most distinctive regions, the Okavango Delta – earth's largest inland water systems. Its headwaters start in Angola's western highlands, with numerous tributaries joining to form the Cubango River, which then flows through Namibia (called the Kavango) and finally enters Botswana, where it is then called the Okavango. Millions of years ago the Okavango River used to flow into a large inland lake called Lake Makgadikgadi (now Makgadikgadi Pans). Tectonic activity and faulting interrupted the flow of the river causing it to backup and form what is now the Okavango delta. This has created a unique system of water ways that now supports a vast array of animal and plant life that would have otherwise been a dry Kalahari savannah.



The Banoka Bush Camp is situated in the Khwai Community Concession in a private area in the north eastern parts of the beautiful Okavango Delta. Accommodation consists of ten tented units with en-suite facilities. The main camp area boasts a lounge as well as a dining area offering beautiful views. The camp is named in honor of the River San, or Banoka, ancestors of the Khoi and the earliest settlers of the Okavango Delta. The magnificent location of Banoka Bush Camp offers fantastic wildlife viewing opportunities. The narrow Khwai Channel is home to large mammals such as hippo and crocodile with buffalo and red lechwe grazing along the fringe. Elusive roan antelope often come to the river to drink. Mopane woodland and permanent water attract large numbers of elephants to the area.

Larger predators include lion, wild dog and spotted hyena and birdlife found here is just as varied thanks to the wide array of habitats. Some 450 bird species can be seen in the area.

Overnights at BANOKA BUSH CAMP. (All Meals Daily) [www.wilderness-safaris.com](http://www.wilderness-safaris.com)

**DAYS 8/9~THURSDAY/FRIDAY~MAY 31~JUNE 1**

#### **OKAVANGO DELTA/MOREMI GAME RESERVE/XIGERA CAMP**

This morning's flight takes you to your home for the next two nights Xigera Camp (pronounced *keejera*), situated in the heart of the Okavango on Paradise Island, within the Moremi Game Reserve. The camp consists of ten luxuriously furnished walk-in tented rooms, each with en-suite facilities and outdoor showers. All rooms are raised off the ground and are built within a shady grove offering superb views of the floodplain to the east of camp and its attractive waterhole that is frequently visited by lechwe. Meals are taken in the dining room overlooking the main river, which along with the pub and lounge is under a thatch roof. You may also choose to take a beautifully prepared picnic onto one of the nearby islands for a more secluded and intimate experience.

Activities focus mainly on mokoro (small, dugout canoes) rides through the quiet waterways, as well as short walking safaris. You may get lucky enough to get good views of the elusive sitatunga antelope along the way – with its webbed feet, the sitatunga seems to walk on water. Drives are also offered (if water levels are low enough) as well as boat trips on the river (if water levels are high enough). Game drives are best here in the summer months. Birding in the area is excellent, with Pels Fishing Owl, Slaty Egret and Wattled Crane amongst the many species of birds regularly sighted. One very unique feature that Xigera offers is the footbridge in front of the camp. It is the only way predators can cross from island to island without having to swim. A "long-jump pit" has been built with soft sand, which each animal is forced to walk over when they use the bridge. Every evening the sand is raked smooth. Each morning guests are able to read the "newspaper" and see what animals have walked through camp. Almost every night lion, hyena and leopard stroll through camp.



Overnights at XIGERA CAMP. (All Meals Daily) [www.wilderness-safaris.com](http://www.wilderness-safaris.com)

#### DAY 10~SATURDAY~JUNE 2

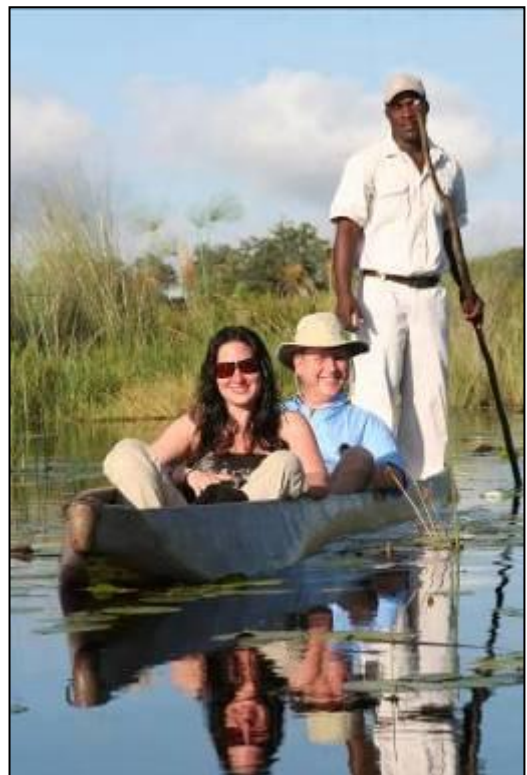
##### MAUN/JOHANNESBURG/EN ROUTE

Enjoy a last wildlife run this morning and a hearty breakfast before flying back to Johannesburg via Maun where you connect with your South African Airways overnight flight to the U.S.A. (B, Meals Aloft)

#### DAY 11~SUNDAY~JUNE 3

##### WASHINGTON, D.C./HOUSTON

This morning you land in Washington and connect with your flight home, bringing with you the memories of all the wonderful sights of Southern Africa. (Meals Aloft)



## OPTIONAL PRE-EXTENSION TO CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA

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### DAY 1~SUNDAY~MAY 20

#### HOUSTON/WASHINGTON, D.C./EN ROUTE

Your journey begins as you board your South African Airways overnight flight via Atlanta. (Meals Aloft)

### DAY 2~MONDAY~MAY 21

#### JOHANNESBURG/CAPE TOWN

Upon arrival at the Johannesburg International Airport you will connect with your flight to Cape Town, South Africa's "Mother City". Upon arrival, you will be met and escorted to your hotel. The provincial capital, Cape Town, is a sophisticated city with plenty to see and do, particularly around the Victoria and Alfred Waterfront area, where delightful buildings of the Cape Dutch and Victorian-era architecture have been restored as shops, restaurants, museums and pubs, as the busy water traffic of the docks goes on unabated. Cape Town, which faces north across Table Bay, has thrived from its birth, first as a Dutch settlement in 1652 when Jan van Ribeeck established it as a supply station for ships of the Dutch East India Company, and later, under the British as a port supplying ships with food and fresh water from the perennial mountain streams.

Your home for the next four nights will be at Winchester Mansions, situated on Cape Town's Platinum mile and overlooking the Atlantic Ocean. This exclusive, privately-owned 4 star hotel sets itself apart among other hotels in and around Cape Town with its spectacular beachfront location, stylish elegance and personalized service. Each of the 51 guestrooms and 25 suites has been exquisitely furnished by one of Cape Town's leading interior designers. All rooms and suites have stocked mini-bars, satellite television including international channels, direct dial telephones, tea & coffee making facilities, hairdryers, electronic safes and beautifully furnished bathrooms with separate walk in showers. All rooms



have air conditioning. Each elegantly appointed room or suite has breathtaking views of either the Atlantic Ocean or historic Signal Hill. After your long flights, Winchester Mansions is a welcome retreat.  
Overnight at WINCHESTER MANSIONS. (Meals Aloft)



**DAY 3~TUESDAY~MAY 22**  
**CAPE TOWN/CAPE PENINSULA**

Your luxury motorcoach takes you on a breathtaking coastal drive to the Cape of Good Hope. You are surrounded by spectacular mountains, rugged shorelines, and the blue sea below. See Devil's Peak, Lion's Head, Table Mountain and the Twelve Apostles. Pass quaint seaside towns as you continue to Cape Point where the stormy waters of the Atlantic meet up with the calm waters of the Indian Ocean. At Cape Point, climb the steps or ride a funicular to the top where you can explore a lighthouse, enjoy the views or even indulge in a bit of shopping. Take a close look at the

ocean where you may see southern right whales in the spring and early summer as well as dolphins and a variety of seabirds. You will also have the chance to explore the Cape Point Nature Reserve which is host to approximately half of the 2,700 species of indigenous plants contained in the Cape Peninsula. Look for the distinctive orange found in leucospermums, one of the rarest types of proteas – the mimites, marvel at the helicrysums and pelarganium calcullums, and enjoy the ericas, phenacomias and fine bush which the Dutch called “fynbos.” There are 250 species of birds in the reserve, ranging from ostriches to minuscule sunbirds. Caracal, chacma baboon, a wide variety of buck and various other mammal species may be seen, including Cape Mountain zebra and the bontebok which is endemic to this part of the world. The baboons feed occasionally on marine foods which they garner at low tide. At Olifants Bay, look for Oystercatchers, and enjoy some superb birding.



Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant, and continue to Boulders Beach where the African



(Jackass) Penguins can be seen – also known as the Black-footed Penguins. These flightless seabirds are found only on the coast of Southern Africa and the only penguins found on this continent. Enjoy a delightful walk on a specially-built platform onto the little sheltered beach where they nest among the rocks, and "waddle" up and down into and out of the sea. Since the penguins are accustomed to human presence you can safely get within a few feet of them as you stand on the platform, and it is sometimes possible to view them nesting behind rocks and bushes.

Return to Cape Town in the evening, where you have another chance to discover one of the numerous restaurants that Cape Town has to offer.

Overnight at WINCHESTER MANSIONS. (B,L)

#### DAY 4~WEDNESDAY~MAY 23

##### CAPE TOWN: WINELANDS

Today you will venture off on a full day expedition to the wine lands region situated below the spectacular Boland Mountains only 50 minutes from the city. Discover the internationally acclaimed vineyards of Stellenbosch, Paarl and Franschhoek on the Western Cape, along a most scenic route. You will visit the historic estate of Boschendal with some of the most brilliantly preserved Cape Dutch buildings in the Cape, and its collection of priceless period furniture. You will also visit Franschhoek with its lovely antique shops and gardens, nestled in the "Valley of the Huguenots" where the French first settled in 1688. All the wine estates you will be visiting in the region offer tastings and cellar tours and you will enjoy lunch in one of them. This afternoon, explore the university town of Stellenbosch, the oldest town in South Africa after Cape Town, undoubtedly the most scenic and historically-preserved town in Southern Africa. Oak-lined streets next to water furrows compliment the many fine examples of elegant Cape Dutch, Victorian and Georgian architecture - all part of this unique "Town of Oaks". Overnight at WINCHESTER MANSIONS. (B,L)



#### DAY 5~THURSDAY~MAY 24

##### CAPE TOWN: KHAYELITSHA (NEW HOPE)/KIRSTENBOSCH GARDENS & ROBBEN ISLAND



Today you will visit the settlement of Khayelitsha, on the Cape Flats. Khayelitsha means "new hope" and was established in 1984 during the tribal war outbreak in informal settlements. Like many other townships, it was created during the apartheid era as a dormitory area for the working class. Today residents continue to face challenges of HIV/AIDS and poverty in post-apartheid South Africa.

You will meet your guide, founder Vivian Zilo, and spend time with her gaining a personal insight into her work in the community and learning more about the area in which they live. Vivian established the Iliso Care Society in June 2005 when she solicited the help of four other women to begin providing services to her community. The mission of the Iliso Care Society is to fight poverty, encourage community empowerment, organize workshops for youth, provide safety and care for orphans and vulnerable children, the elderly and school children. ICS started giving meals to over 100 beneficiaries once a day from Monday through Friday, but the numbers were increasing each and every day. Today, Vivian brings new hope to the people of Khayelitsha and you will get a chance to experience this first hand.

Enjoy lunch in a local restaurant, sampling typical African food and hospitality in an authentic setting.

Get a feel of what Cape Town is all about by taking the cable car to the top of Table Mountain, the signature of this city, easily one of the most recognizable mountains. This tour is very dependent on the wind factor, as well as the clouds. Many a times a cloud covers this flat-topped mountain, which rises to 3,563 feet above sea level and the locals affectionately say it's a white tablecloth. Legend has it that a retired pirate, on climbing the mountain met up with the

devil. In order to preserve his soul, the pirate challenged the devil in a smoking contest. So they stoked up their pipes and have been smoking ever since. For centuries Table Mountain has been a guiding beacon to mariners rounding the Cape of Southern Africa. Sir Francis Drake described it as "the most stately thing and the fairest cape we saw in the whole circumference of the earth." Despite its formidable appearance, it is possible to hike up Table Mountain. The first recorded ascent was in 1503 by the



Portuguese navigator Antonio da Saldanha who, confused by the Cape Peninsula geography, climbed to the summit via the frontal cleft, now known as Platteklip Gorge. For nature lovers, the birding is awesome, and the wild flowers include agapanthus, watsonias and red nerines which poke out from rock crevices amid a scrub of ericas and gnarled proteas. More than 1400 species of flowering plants have been recorded on the mountain which makes it a spectacular sight in the spring. Cute guinea pig-like creatures known as rock dassies, or hyraxes, (genetically, the closest living relatives to elephants) scuttle everywhere. They are not afraid and scamper among the tourists seeking to be fed.



Your day draws to a close as you visit one of the most symbolically significant and moving sights in South Africa, Robben Island. For nearly 400 years, Robben Island was a place of banishment, exile, isolation and imprisonment. It was here that rulers sent those they regarded as political troublemakers, social outcasts and the unwanted of society. During the apartheid years Robben Island became internationally known for its institutional brutality. The duty of those who ran the Island and its prison was to isolate opponents of apartheid and to crush their morale. Some freedom fighters, including former President Nelson Mandela, spent more than a quarter of a century in prison for their beliefs. Those imprisoned on the Island succeeded on a psychological and political level in turning a prison 'hell-

hole' into a symbol of freedom and personal liberation. In 1997 Robben Island became a National Museum and National Monument. The Museum is a dynamic institution, which runs educational programs for schools, youths and adults, facilitates tourism development, conducts ongoing research related to the Island and fulfills an archiving function. It was listed as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1999. Tours are conducted by former prisoners of Robben Island, who bring to life this South African heritage, which speaks of heroic endurance and triumph of the human spirit in the face of enormous hardship and adversity.

Overnight at WINCHESTER MANSIONS. (B,L)

## DAY 6~FRIDAY~MAY 25

### CAPE TOWN/JOHANNESBURG

The day is at your own leisure to relax or take advantage of the excellent shopping opportunities nearby. Later today, you will be transferred to the airport for your flight back to Johannesburg to meet up with the group arriving from the USA this evening. (B)

## OPTIONAL POST-EXTENSION TO VICTORIA FALLS, ZAMBIA

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**DAYS 10/11~SATURDAY/SUNDAY~JUNE 2/3**

**LIVINGSTONE/VICTORIA FALLS, ZAMBIA**

Bid farewell to the rest of the group returning to the USA today and get set for a new adventure as you fly to Kasane where you will cross by ferry to Zambia and continue by vehicle to Livingstone, located on the Zambian side of Victoria Falls. At more than twice the size of Niagara Falls it's no surprise that Victoria Falls are among the Seven Wonders of the



World. Mosi-oa-Tunya - *The Smoke that Thunders*, derived from the towering column of spray when the Zambezi River runs high, is the name that Zimbabwe's local people have given to this awesome natural phenomenon. The name is probably more appropriate and descriptive than "Victoria", which has a far too calm and composed ring to it to do justice to the masses of thundering, swirling water of these spectacular falls. But all Dr. David Livingstone probably thought of when he named the falls after his Queen in 1855 was his royal duty. Five separate falls make up this incredible spectacle that plunges more than 300 feet into a sheer-sided chasm which

separates Zimbabwe from Zambia. The awe-inspiring abyss is spanned by a 1905 Edwardian bridge which links the two countries and many adventurers now use to bungee jump. The masses of water plunging down the falls and into the gorge below originate from the mighty Zambezi River that meanders through more than 1,677 miles of African countryside.

Your visit will include a tour of the falls on the Zambian side. An afternoon sundowner cruise on a private boat will be a highlight as you glide along the Zambezi River, watching hippos snort, elephants drink on the riverbank, monkeys jump from branch to branch, birds fly overhead or pose for a photograph on the branches, and much more. Enjoy your gin and tonic, cool beer, or drink of choice, and see a panoramic sunset as the sun dips below the horizon, painting the whole area in unbelievable colors of brilliant reds, yellows, purples and mauves.

Enjoy a visit to an authentic native village to see how the local people live. You will be escorted by your English-speaking village guide, seeing a culture and ways of life that remains virtually unchanged through the ages. View their daily rituals, from the women cooking and mending their huts, to the artistic woodcarvings created right in front of you by the village artisans. Children scatter about and you are welcome to mingle and take photographs. Long after you've left, this cultural visit will remain with you, as you'll feel as though you've experienced a different part of Africa, quite essential if you're to understand the complexity of this continent.



Overlooking the mighty Zambezi River and some of its islands, under a shady canopy of jackal berry and water berry trees lies Toka Leya, your accommodation for the next two nights. The islands in front of camp are intriguing and part of the braided channel of the Zambezi with some rapids, a main channel and fringing dense vegetation. The camp consists of 12 safari-style tents, each en-suite with a view of the magnificent Zambezi River and some of its islands. The camp's dining and bar area is set beneath a shaded canopy of trees overlooking the River and a swimming pool.



Overnights at TOKA LEYA CAMP. (B, L, D Daily)

[www.wilderness-safaris.com/zambia\\_victori\\_falls/toka\\_leya\\_camp/introduction/](http://www.wilderness-safaris.com/zambia_victori_falls/toka_leya_camp/introduction/)

**DAY 12~MONDAY~JUNE 4**

**VICTORIA FALLS/JOHANNESBURG/EN ROUTE**

Last chance to photograph the incredible Falls, visit the Mosi-oa-Tunya National Park which also features rhino, or shop at Livingstone, before transferring to the airport for your flight to Johannesburg. Here, connect with your overnight flight back to the USA on South African Airways. (B, Meals Aloft)

**DAY 13~TUESDAY~JUNE 5**

**WASHINGTON, D.C./HOUSTON**

This morning you land in Washington and connect with your flight home, bringing with you the memories of all the wonderful sights of Southern Africa. (Meals Aloft)



## INCLUSIONS

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- All flights between the Botswana camps.
- Flight between Livingstone and Johannesburg, on the post extension.
- Superior accommodations throughout as indicated or similar.
- All meals while on safari. Other meals as specified in itinerary.
- All wildlife viewing by private 4X4 open vehicles, driven by professional driver/guides.
- Specialist Guide will accompany the group with a minimum of 10 passengers on the main program and on either extension.
- Zoo escort will accompany the group with a minimum of 10 passengers on the main program and on either extension.
- Laundry and all local beverages during safari in Botswana except for Champagne and imported spirits.
- Complimentary bottled water in vehicles throughout.
- All applicable hotel and lodge taxes and gratuities for baggage handling.
- All park entry fees and sightseeing as specified.
- Baggage tags and passport wallet.

## EXCLUSIONS

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- Roundtrip air transportation from Houston to Johannesburg. (Quoted separately).
- Flight between Johannesburg and Maun round trip. (Quoted separately).
- Flight between Johannesburg and Cape Town round trip, on the pre-extension. (Quoted separately).
- U.S. and foreign airport taxes.
- Passport and visa fees and service charges for obtaining visas. No visas are required for South Africa or Botswana.
- Excess baggage charges levied by airlines.
- Meals and beverages, other than specified.
- Laundry, other than specified and other items of a personal nature.
- Gratuities to driver/guides, specialist-guide and other conveyance attendants.
- Personal and baggage insurance.
- Cost for anything not specifically mentioned in the listing above.
- Optional insurance coverage is available for Baggage, Accident and Trip Cancellation/Interruption at special low cost group rates.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE ITINERARY SEQUENCE IS CORRECT AT THE TIME OF WRITING,  
BUT IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

## CLASSIC ESCAPES CONSERVATION FUND

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In keeping with our mission to provide exciting, educational, and fun-filled experiences that nurture and directly support the diverse wildlife and cultures we visit around the world, Classic Escapes has established the Classic Escapes Conservation Fund to ensure that a percentage of all profits go to support conservation and wildlife researchers performing their critical work in the field. Project support has included environmental education efforts in India and Bhutan, wild dog and cheetah conservation in Botswana, Kenya and Namibia, and global Earth Day education via school internet programs. By traveling with Classic Escapes, you are supporting travel as a tool for building the mutual respect, awareness and understanding that are vital to preserving this planet for future generations.

## THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT SOUTHERN AFRICA

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### Participants

- Participants must be able to climb in and out of safari 4x4 vehicles or small aircraft and boats/mokoros unassisted. They should also be able to tolerate riding on uneven, bumpy dirt roads for long periods of time, as well as some off-road experiences when opportunities allow.
- Participants should also be able to stand and / or walk moderate distances at an easy pace for up to a few hours at a time when visiting villages, towns or other sites. Some, if not most, of this walking may be on uneven ground or uphill, often at higher elevations and altitudes that many people are not used to.

### General

- True adventure in travel can sometimes be accompanied by unexpected changes in conditions, itineraries and occasionally your accommodations. Participants should travel with a spirit of adventure and flexibility. Remember to pack your patience and sense of humor! Be willing to look past self-imposed ideals of Western amenities and do not compare these new experiences with your life back home.
- Travel often includes visiting destinations with modest infrastructures and a bending definition of comfort. That being said, some locations are nestled in absolute luxury where pampering is the norm.
- Participants should generally be in good health and prepared to travel in locations without medical facilities.

### Air Schedules

Choosing the best possible air arrangements for our travelers is always a challenge. We work with many airlines that offer the best level of service, routings and value for our programs. While there may indeed be more direct routings available with another airline, the cost of these flights may not be within the budget that allows us to give you the best value possible. If you prefer to purchase your own international air, please feel free to choose the "land only" rate for this program. **The start city and end city is Johannesburg.**

*Upon registration, you must provide your full legal name as it appears on your passport. In the event an airline ticket is issued with incorrect information you have provided, you will be responsible for charges associated with reissuing the ticket.*



# YOUR JOURNEY AT A GLANCE

**INCLUDING:** JOHANNESBURG, MAUN, CENTRAL KALAHARI GAME RESERVE & OKAVANGO DELTA

OPTIONAL PRE-EXTENSION TO CAPE TOWN

OPTIONAL POST- EXTENSION TO VICTORIA FALLS, ZAMBIA

**SPONSORING ORGANIZATION:** THE HOUSTON ZOO

**ESCORTED BY:** A REPRESENTATIVE FROM HOUSTON ZOO

**DATES:** MAY 24 TO JUNE 3, 2012

<b>COST: PER PERSON, DOUBLE OCCUPANCY</b>	<b>MAIN PROGRAM TO BOTSWANA BASED ON 10 TRAVELERS</b>	<b>PRE EXTENSION TO CAPE TOWN BASED ON 10 TRAVELERS</b>	<b>POST EXTENSION TO VICTORIA FALLS BASED ON 10 TRAVELERS</b>
LAND PACKAGE & INTERNAL AIR WITHIN AFRICA	\$6,295 PER PERSON	\$2,395 PER PERSON	\$2,495 PER PERSON
SINGLE ROOM SUPPLEMENT*	\$1,995 PER PERSON ADDITIONAL	\$495 PER PERSON ADDITIONAL	\$495 PER PERSON ADDITIONAL
ESTIMATED INTERNATIONAL ECONOMY AIR FROM HOUSTON	\$2,400 PER PERSON	N/A	N/A
ESTIMATED TAXES & FUEL SURCHARGES, CURRENTLY	\$450 PER PERSON, ADDITIONAL	N/A	N/A
INTERNAL AIR WITHIN AFRICA IF PURCHASING OWN AIR	\$700 PER PERSON	N/A	N/A
AIRFARE BETWEEN JOHANNESBURG & CAPE TOWN, ROUNDTRIP	N/A	\$400 PER PERSON	N/A

\*SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: RATE IS VALID FOR FIRST TWO SINGLE ROOMS BOOKED. IF MORE THAN TWO SINGLE ROOMS, ADDITIONAL SUPPLEMENT WILL APPLY. SINGLES ARE ASSIGNED ON A FIRST COME/FIRST SERVE BASIS.

\*\*ALL INTERNATIONAL AIRFARES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AND BASED ON MINIMUM NUMBER OF TRAVELERS. TAXES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE UNTIL TICKETED.

**DEPARTURE CITY:** HOUSTON (OTHER DEPARTURE CITIES AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST)



## CONDITIONS OF TRAVEL:

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**HOW TO BOOK:** Fill out the reservation form below and send it to Classic Escapes, 58-25 Queens Blvd., Woodside, NY 11377, together with a deposit of \$750 per person for the main program and \$250 per person for either extension as well as your insurance payment if you wish to take advantage of the pre-existing medical condition exclusion. On receipt of your signed reservation form and deposit, we will, subject to availability, reserve your place on your safari. When we send off your confirmation invoice, your booking is confirmed and accepted by us. Final payment is due not later than 95 days prior to departure (February 19, 2012). Final documents will be sent to you approximately two weeks prior to departure.

**AIR TRANSPORTATION:** Roundtrip economy-class jet transportation from HOUSTON via SOUTH AFRICAN AIRWAYS and/or other IATAN carriers. Rates based on special promotional fares and cancellation fees apply once tickets are issued. Departures from other cities in the USA are possible at additional cost. Kindly inquire at the time of reservation. Please note that these promotional fares are subject to 10 passengers traveling together on the same airline routing and itinerary. If this minimum is not met, the special group rates are not applicable and it might become necessary to issue instant purchase tickets earlier than when final payment is due in order to take advantage of airfares that are similar to the group rates. Should this occur, you will be contacted with the details.

**DEPARTURE TAXES:** Please note the amount of departure tax reflected on the Reservation Form is subject to change, at the discretion of governments and airlines, and with no advance notice. Should this occur, you will be invoiced prior to departure for any additional taxes imposed.

**AIRLINE SEATING:** For South African Airways, we request seats together for the group. All planes are non-smoking. We can request a seating preference on your behalf, however this is only a request and not guaranteed. Requests should be made in writing no later than 60 days prior to departure. Bulkhead and/or emergency row seats can only be requested at airport check-in on the day of departure. Boarding passes will only be issued at the airport on the day of departure. You may inquire during check-in to have a seating change made, however this change is based on availability and is at the sole discretion of airport staff.

**FREQUENT FLYER MILEAGE:** At time of publication, **South African Airways** is partners with Air Tanzania, Air Canada, Air New Zealand, ANA, Asiana, Austrian, BMI British Midland, El Al, Emirates, Lufthansa, Qantas, South African Airlink, South African Express Airways, SAS, Singapore Airlines, Spanair, SriLankan Airlines, Swiss Air, Thai Airways, United Airlines and Virgin Atlantic. Therefore you can attempt to obtain frequent flyer mileage. Present your frequent flyer card for all flight

**BAGGAGE:** International flights from the U.S. allow two pieces of checked luggage, each not exceeding 50 lbs. However we recommend you travel as light as you can manage. Local charter flights between the camps in Botswana allow the weight limit of 20 kilos (44 lbs.) total. (Including carry-on bag and camera equipment.) Also, the size and the structure of the bag is limited. Soft duffel bags are ideal. Large suitcases are virtually impossible to stow on smaller aircraft and vehicles and therefore should not be used. **WE HIGHLY RECOMMEND THAT YOU OBTAIN THE OPTIONAL INSURANCE POLICY.**

**ACCOMMODATIONS:** You will marvel at the wonderful accommodations provided throughout your tour. All rooms have private facilities, and all rates are based on double occupancy. Most rooms are twin-bedded, but king size beds are occasionally available and should be requested in advance. Accommodations listed in this itinerary are correct at time of writing, but on rare occasions can change for similar lodging.

**SINGLE SUPPLEMENT** Rate quoted is valid for first two single rooms booked. If more than two single rooms, additional supplement will apply. Singles are assigned on a first come/first serve basis. Single accommodations are not guaranteed, but will be provided at additional cost if available (see reservation form for cost.) The single room supplement pays for privacy, not better accommodations. On occasion, in smaller lodges and camps, you may be required to share with other members of your tour group if single rooms are not available upon check-in. If this is the situation, appropriate per diem refunds are made to passengers in the event they paid for a single room but had to share during any portion of their trip. For passengers who are traveling alone and wish to share a room with another tour member, we will do our best to provide a roommate. However, if this is not possible, you will be required to pay the single room supplement prior to your departure from the USA.

**MEALS:** All meals while on safari. Breakfast daily and lunch during full-day tours in Cape Town. Bottled water and soft drinks during touring in cities.

**WILDLIFE VIEWING:** Your tour will be conducted in private 4x4 vehicles throughout.

**TRANSFERS:** Roundtrip transfer of travelers between airports and hotels are included in the tour when arriving on group flights. If travelers make their own air arrangements, they will be subject to extra transfer fees.

**TIPS AND TAXES:** Gratuities for baggage handling, service charges and taxes imposed by hotels, lodges and tented camps, and entrance fees to all reserves as outlined in the itinerary are included. U.S. and foreign airport taxes are not included and will be billed prior to your departure. Tips to drivers, guides, specialist guide, and lodge staff are NOT included.

**INOCULATIONS:** We would suggest you contact your personal physician or local health department for their recommendations as to inoculations. At the time of printing, no vaccinations are required for entry into Southern Africa. However, **it is a sensible precaution for visitors to take one of the preventive pills that are in common use against malaria.** Water is NOT safe to drink throughout and it is always advisable to drink bottled water which will be provided for you free of charge in the vehicles and during safari.

**RATES:** All rates quoted are based on tariffs and value of foreign currencies in relation to the U.S. dollar in effect as of April 27, 2011 and are subject to change. Rates are based on a minimum of 10 passengers traveling together (plus Zoo escort). The right is reserved to levy a surcharge if

Schedules, accommodations and prices are accurate at the time of writing. They are subject to change



minimum is not met, but that is rarely done. We will do our utmost to keep to the prices as published. Should increases be forced on us by airlines, exchange rates, etc., we reserve the right to surcharge.

**ESCORT:** Group will be accompanied by a Houston Zoo representative with a minimum of 10 passengers throughout the program.

**TRIP INFORMATION:** Upon receipt of your application, instructions will be sent to you concerning all aspects of your trip, such as itinerary, photographic equipment, documents, clothing, insurance, etc.

**INVOICING:** Final invoicing of your trip will be done approximately four months prior to departure. Final payment is due 95 days prior to departure (February 19, 2012).

**FINAL DOCUMENTS:** Final documents and tickets will be sent to you approximately two weeks prior to departure. We regret to advise that no documents can be released if final payments are not received.

**PAYMENT SCHEDULE:** A deposit of \$4,000 per person must be submitted with each application, as well as your insurance payment if you wish to take advantage of the pre-existing medical condition exclusion. Deposits may be paid by check or charged to American Express, MasterCard, Visa or Discover. Final payment is payable by check or money order ONLY and is due no later than 95 days prior to departure (February 19, 2012).

**CANCELLATIONS:** Cancellations are only effective on receipt of written notification. The following per person fees are applicable on this tour:

- Up to 95 days prior to departure, less \$250 handling fee, plus \$250 non-refundable deposits given to overseas suppliers.
- 94-75 days prior to departure, less 50% of tour cost on both the main trip and the extension.
- Less than 75 days prior to departure, refund is dependent on amount recoverable from overseas suppliers.

These cancellation fees are also in addition to any imposed by airlines. **WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT YOU OBTAIN THE OPTIONAL TRAVEL INSURANCE. INFORMATION WILL BE SENT TO YOU UPON RECEIPT OF RESERVATION FORM.**

**DEVIATIONS:** Should additional reservations be required, including extensions in Europe or in Africa, we will happy to make all the arrangements. However, there will be an extra charge of \$150 per person for such deviations, over and above the cost of the services required.

**CHANGE FEES:** Once you reserve your tour, changes are possible subject to availability of air or land space at the time of request. Should there be any change fees imposed by airlines or ground operators, or additional costs incurred due to availability of any space, this cost will be invoiced to you.

**NOT INCLUDED:** Cost of passport and visa fees, and service charges for obtaining visa fees; excess baggage charges levied by airlines; meals other than specified; beverages and meals not specified in itinerary; laundry and other items of a personal nature; gratuities not imposed by hotels and/or restaurants for included services; optional personal, baggage and tour cancellation insurance policy; U.S. and foreign airport taxes; cost for anything not specifically included in listing above.

**WILD ANIMALS:** Please be aware that this safari may take you into close contact with wild animals. Attacks by wild animals are rare, but no safari into the African wilderness can guarantee that this will not occur. Neither the company, nor their employees, nor agents can be held responsible for any injury or incident on the safari. Please note that not all camps are fenced.

**PASSPORT & VISAS:** The onus is upon the guest to ensure that passports and visas are valid for the countries visited. The company, their staff and their agents cannot be held liable for any visas, etc. not held by the guests, nor the cost of visas. Visa information will be forwarded upon receipt of reservation.

**RESPONSIBILITY:** Neither Classic Escapes (the Company) nor any person or agent acting for, through or on behalf of the Company shall be liable for any loss or damage whatsoever arising from any cause whatsoever and without restricting the generality of the foregoing shall particularly not be responsible for loss or damage arising from any errors or omissions contained in its brochure or other literature, loss or damage caused by delays, sickness, theft, injury or death. In addition the Company shall have the right at any time at its discretion to cancel any safari or the remainder thereof or make any alteration in route, accommodation, price or other details and, in the event of any safari being rendered impossible, illegal or inadvisable by weather, strike, war, government or interference or any other cause whatsoever, the extra expenses incurred as a result thereof shall be the responsibility of the passenger. The Company may at its discretion and without liability or cost to itself at any time cancel or terminate the guest's booking and in particular without limiting the generality of the foregoing it shall be entitled to do so in the event of the illness or the illegal or incompatible behavior of the guest, who shall in such circumstances not be entitled to any refund. The person making any booking will, by the making of such booking, warrant that he or she has authority to enter into a contract on behalf of the other person included in such a booking and in the event of the failure of any or all of the other persons so included to make payment, the person making the booking shall by his/her signature thereof assume personal liability for the total price of all bookings made by him/her.

**PHOTOGRAPHY:** The Company reserves the right without further notice to make use of any photograph or film taken on the safari by our photographers without payment or permission. We guarantee that no photographs of a compromising nature will be used.

**CHANGES TO SCHEDULES:** Although every effort is made to adhere to schedules it should be borne in mind that the Company reserves the right and in fact is obliged to occasionally change routes and camps on safaris as dictated by changing conditions. Such conditions may be brought about by seasonal rainfall on bush tracks, airfields and in wildlife areas, by wildlife migrations from one region to another, or airline or other booking problems, etc.

Schedules, accommodations and prices are accurate at the time of writing. They are subject to change



**REFUNDS:** While the company uses its best endeavors to ensure that all anticipated accommodation is available as planned, there shall be no claim of any nature whatsoever against the Company for a refund either in the whole or part, if any accommodation or excursion is unavailable and a reasonable alternative is not found. If the guest is unable to use any service provided in the itinerary, then there are no refunds due.

**AIRLINE CLAUSE:** The airlines concerned are not to be held liable for any act, omission or event during the time the passengers are not on board their planes or conveyance. The passengers' tickets in use by the airline or by other carriers concerned when issued shall constitute the sole contract between the airlines and the purchaser of these tickets and/or passengers.

**DELAYS:** We cannot be held liable for any delays or additional costs incurred as a result of airlines not running to schedule.

This agreement is made subject to and shall be governed by and construed according to the laws of the country in which the safari takes place. Classic Escapes act merely as an agent for the operating companies.

To the best of our knowledge the itinerary is correct at the time of printing. We cannot be held responsible for any inaccuracies or changes that may occur after printing.

**CONSENT:** The payment of the deposit OR any other partial payment for a reservation on a safari constitutes consent by all guests covered by that payment to all provisions of the conditions and general information contained in this brochure whether the guest has signed the booking form or not. The terms, under which you agree to take this safari, cannot be changed or amended except in writing signed by an authorized director of the Company.

**INSURANCE:** It is a condition of booking that the sole responsibility lies with the guest to ensure that they carry the correct comprehensive travel and medical insurance to cover themselves, as well as any dependants/traveling companions for the duration of their trip. This insurance should include cover in respect of, but not limited to, the following eventualities: cancellation or curtailment of the program, emergency evacuation expenses, medical expenses, repatriation expenses, damage/theft/loss of personal baggage, money and goods. Classic Escapes, including their representatives, employees and agents will take no responsibility for any costs, losses incurred or suffered by the guest, or guest's dependants or traveling companions, with regards to, but not limited to, any of the above mentioned eventualities. Guests will be charged directly by the relevant service providers for any emergency services they may require, and may find themselves in a position unable to access such services should they not be carrying the relevant insurance cover. **PLEASE NOTE INSURANCE PREMIUMS ARE NON-REFUNDABLE SHOULD TOUR BE CANCELED BY PARTICIPANT.**

**INSURANCE PACKAGE:** Classic Escapes offers a comprehensive insurance package, which allows the Pre-Existing Condition Exclusion to be waived if purchased within 7 days of the initial trip payment. Details can be found on our website at <http://www.classicescapes.com/insurance.html>. or call our office for more details (800-627-1244). If obtaining this pre-existing condition waiver is not of importance to you, you may opt to wait until you receive your pre-departure packet of information which will include details on the insurance package.

**INSURANCE PREMIUM:** See premium schedule below, or call us for the exact amount and information on the policy. This is applicable to all coverage contained in the policy. You must be medically able to travel when you pay your premium. In the event that a claim is filed, the injury or illness must be substantiated to the Claims Department.

The cost of your insurance premium is based on the TOTAL cost of your trip including: the main itinerary, airfare, airline taxes, single supplements, optional excursions and optional extensions. The premium for your tour will be calculated as follows:  
Please contact Classic Escapes if you have any questions or need assistance calculating your premium.

TOTAL TOUR COST	PREMIUM PER PERSON
\$6,001 - \$6,500	\$488
\$6,501 - \$7,000	\$522
\$7,001 - \$8,000	\$585
\$8,001 - \$9,000	\$662
\$9,001 - \$10,000	\$ 738
\$10,001 - \$ 11,000	\$ 813
\$11,001 - \$ 12,000	\$ 893
\$12,001 - \$ 13,000	\$ 970
\$13,001 - \$ 14,000	\$1,047
\$14,001 - \$ 15,000	\$1,125
\$15,001 - \$ 16,000	\$1,205
\$16,001 - \$ 17,000	\$1,283
\$17,001 - \$ 18,000	\$1,360

**PLEASE NOTE INSURANCE PREMIUMS ARE NON-REFUNDABLE SHOULD TOUR BE CANCELED BY PARTICIPANT.**

# RESERVATION FORM:

HOUSTON ZOO BOTSWANA

12AFZ0524/HOUSTON

Enclosed is my deposit for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (\$750 per person, plus \$250 for either extension) to hold \_\_\_\_\_ place(s) on the on the Botswana Safari departing on May 24, 2012. Cost is \$6,295 per person, double occupancy, land only. Additional international air from Houston is \$2,400, plus \$450 in departure taxes & fuel surcharges. (Currently - subject to change)

Final payment due date is: February 19, 2012

Please make check payable to CLASSIC ESCAPES and mail to 58-25 Queens Blvd., Woodside, NY 11377

OR

Charge deposit to:  MasterCard  Visa  American Express  Discover

(Credit Card Authorization form needs to be completed and returned to Classic Escapes via mail or fax to 718-204-4726)

Deposits can be made by credit card; however, all final payments are required to be made by check or money order only.

1) NAME (As appears on passport):  Mr.  Mrs.  Ms. \_\_\_\_\_

2) NAME (As appears on passport):  Mr.  Mrs.  Ms. \_\_\_\_\_

NAME FOR NAME BADGE IF DIFFERENT FROM ABOVE: 1) \_\_\_\_\_ 2) \_\_\_\_\_

STREET ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONES: HOME: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ OFFICE: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ MOBILE: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ FAX: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

- I certify that I have not recently been treated for, nor am I aware of any physical or other condition or liability that would create a hazard to myself or the other members of this tour.
- The two of us above are sharing a room and, where possible, would like a room with:  ONE  TWO Beds (Make one selection only)
- I am sharing with \_\_\_\_\_ (form sent separately)
- I need assistance in securing a roommate. I understand if the Houston Zoo or the tour operator cannot locate one for me by final payment date, I agree to pay the additional single supplement I prefer to share with:  Smoker  Non-smoker
- I/We wish to participate in the optional extension(s) at an additional per person cost of:  
 \$2,395 for the Cape Town pre-extension PLUS  \$400 for the roundtrip flight Johannesburg/Cape Town  
 \$2,495 for the Victoria Falls post-extension
- I desire single accommodations, if available, and will pay the single supplement additional cost of:  
 \$1,995 for the main trip  \$495 for Cape Town pre-extension  \$495 for Vitoria Falls post-extension

- Please make my/our round trip air reservations on the group flights from Houston via South African Airways.
  - Please make domestic round-trip air reservations for me from my home city: \_\_\_\_\_ to connect with the group flights and let me know the additional cost.  
  
Please send me information on air upgrades for:  Business/First Class (only one class - business/first - exists)  
Airline Seating Preference  Aisle  Window Frequent Flier # \_\_\_\_\_
- \*\*We can request a seating preference on your behalf, however this is only a request and NOT guaranteed, as some seating assignments may be airport check-in only. Requests should be made in writing no later than 60 days prior to departure. Bulkhead and/or emergency row seats can only be requested at airport check-in on the day of departure. Also note that even if we do obtain your preferred seat, it is not guaranteed that the seat will be provided during check-in as there might be equipment changes that nullify our selection.*
- I/We will make own air arrangements and will provide you with an itinerary before trip departure. I understand I will be billed (\$700) for the internal flights for the Johannesburg/Maun roundtrip.

- Optional Insurance - See attached schedule for exact cost and include with your initial deposit if you wish to take advantage of the pre-existing medical condition exclusion.  Yes, I wish to purchase insurance now  No, I will purchase insurance at a later date or provide my own through another source.

All rates quoted are based on tariffs and value of foreign currencies in relation to the U.S. dollar in effect as of April 27, 2011, and are subject to change. Up to 95 days prior to departure, deposit is refundable, less \$250 handling fee, plus \$250 non-refundable deposits given to overseas suppliers. Afterwards, see cancellation penalties applicable as outlined on Conditions of Travel. **WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT YOU OBTAIN TRAVEL INSURANCE. RESERVATIONS ARE ACCEPTED SUBJECT TO TOUR CONDITIONS AND WILL BE CONFIRMED ONLY IF ACCOMPANIED BY COMPLETED FORM SIGNED BY THE TOUR PARTICIPANT(S).**

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

CLASSIC ESCAPES INC.  
58-25 Queens Blvd., Woodside  
New York, NY 11377

(We recommend that you keep a copy of your selections as noted above for your future reference)



58-25 Queens Blvd., Woodside,  
NY 11377  
T: (718) 204-7077; (800) 627-1244  
F: (718) 204-4726  
E: info@classicescapes.com

CREDIT CARD PAYMENT AUTHORIZATION

*Please Note: If you wish to charge your deposit to Visa, MasterCard, American Express or Discover, this authorization form MUST be completed and returned to us along with your reservation form before we can process your application.*

I authorize (Classic Escapes Inc.) to charge my VISA/MASTERCARD/DISCOVER/AMEX listed below:

Name appearing on credit card \_\_\_\_\_

Card number \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration date \_\_\_\_\_

Card Verification Number\* \_\_\_\_\_ Card Type \_\_\_\_\_

Billing address of credit card \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Amount of transaction \_\_\_\_\_

Services rendered/Items purchased \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**\*How To Locate Your Card Verification Number:**

(**Visa, MasterCard, Discover:** Locate the credit card number on the back of the card above the signature box. Enter the 3 digit number which follows the credit card number. **American Express:** Enter the 4 digit number found directly above and to the right of the credit card number.)

I understand that all rates quoted on this tour I'm making a payment on are based on tariffs and value of foreign currencies in relation to the U.S. dollar in effect as of April 27, 2011, and are subject to change. Deposit is non-refundable. Deposit is non-refundable – see cancellation penalties applicable as outlined on Conditions of Travel.

- Up to 95 days prior to departure, less \$250 handling fee, plus \$250 non-refundable deposits given to overseas suppliers.
- 94-75 days prior to departure, less 50% of tour cost on both the main trip and the extension.
- Less than 75 days prior to departure, refund is dependent on amount recoverable from overseas suppliers.
- These cancellation fees are also in addition to any imposed by airlines.

PLEASE NOTE: At times, our bank requires photocopy of credit card (both sides) and driver's license or document showing signature of cardholder, in order to process the charge. While it is not required at this time that you include these materials with your deposit, if our bank requests it, we will contact you for these copies.