

JULY 1-15, 2025

with optional  
Cape Town Pre-Tour

# AFRICAN EXPEDITION

## BY PRIVATE TRAIN









Howdy, Ags!

Join former students and friends on a journey into the wilds of Africa as we explore the diverse sights of four countries during this private train expedition. Our specially curated 16-day tour uncovers a tapestry of cultural wonders, untamed dynamic landscapes and thrilling wildlife encounters in legendary national parks.

Traveling aboard a private train—your haven of comfort—embrace the stunning scenery and on-board luxuries. Enjoy time to unwind in the observation car and delight in three-course dinners prepared by talented chefs using the finest ingredients.

Game drives through Kruger National Park, Makalali Game Reserve, and Hwange National Park provide opportunities to observe the Big Five and other indigenous wildlife in their natural settings. Among other adventures, sojourn through the rugged Drakensberg mountain range, explore archaeological sites in Great Zimbabwe, and experience the raw beauty and power of Victoria Falls.

Aggies are well known for our unmatched passion and camaraderie, and there is nothing better than sharing your adventures with Traveling Aggies. This trip is so popular that we have added this additional date. To reserve, visit [texas-am.orbridge.com](https://texas-am.orbridge.com), call 866-639-0079 or return the attached reservation form.

Gig 'em,

Julie Scamardo  
Manager of Traveling Aggies  
The Association of Former Students

# African Expedition by Private Train | Itinerary and Highlights *(subject to change)*

*Locations selected for this safari promise excellent viewing of wildlife, though spotting specific wildlife cannot be guaranteed. Activities may be dependent on weather and seasonal conditions.*

- Day 1: **EN ROUTE FROM U.S.**

Day 2: **ARRIVE IN JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA** Upon arrival to O.R. Tambo International Airport an Orbridge representative will be waiting to assist with your transfer to the hotel.  
Overnight: DaVinci Hotel and Suites

Day 3: **PRETORIA** Set out for a guided panoramic tour to see Pretoria's iconic landmarks including the Union Building and the Nelson Mandela Statue. As embarkation begins late afternoon, settle into your private sleeping car featuring large windows and en suite bathroom. Venture into the cozy lounge car to admire the passing scenery from its panoramic windows or observation porch. On board, four-course dinners are a highlight. Talented chefs prepare African and European cuisine served in two comfortable restaurant cars.  
Overnight: Private Train (B,L,D)

Day 4: **FULL DAY ABOARD TRAIN** Spend today on the luxurious train. Enjoy informative lectures, marvel at the landscapes and socialize with fellow travelers.  
Overnight: Private Train (B,L,D)

Day 5: **KINGDOM OF ESWATINI** Visit Ngwenya Glass to witness the art of glassblowing followed by time to peruse the showroom. Continue to the village of Mbabane to see a traditional Swazi dance performance. Before returning to the train explore the town of Piggs Peak.  
Overnight: Private Train (B,D)

Day 6: **MAPUTO, MOZAMBIQUE** Set off on a guided panoramic city tour followed by a seafood lunch before returning to the train.  
Overnight: Private Train (B,L,D)

Day 7: **KRUGER NATIONAL PARK** Prepare for an exhilarating full-day game drive through the park to spot for the Big Five and other wildlife. Gather for a traditional African boma dinner this evening.  
Overnight: Kruger Gate Hotel (B,L,D)

Day 8: **DRAKENSBERG MOUNTAINS** After breakfast take a final safari through Kruger National Park before traveling by bus along the panoramic route through the rugged Drakensberg mountain range.  
Overnight: Private Train (B,D)
- Day 9: **MAKALALI GAME RESERVE** Immerse yourself in the untamed beauty of the Makalali Game Reserve, a diverse landscape providing a rich tapestry of habitats for a plethora of wildlife. Spot for the Big Five and an abundance of other species during a game drive, and gain insight into the area's history.  
Overnight: Private Train (B,L,D)

Day 10: **FULL DAY ABOARD TRAIN** En route through the Limpopo Province, pass by the Soutpansberg mountain range and the lands of South Africa's Rain Queen. Enjoy a biltong (traditional spiced jerky) tasting. Embrace time for introspection, listen to a presentation by the tour guide, or partake in stimulating conversation with fellow travelers.  
Overnight: Private Train (B,L,D)

Day 11: **GREAT ZIMBABWE** Following breakfast embark on a bus journey to the ruins of Great Zimbabwe, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and unravel the mysteries of this ancient civilization. The legacy of Great Zimbabwe lives on as one of the largest and most culturally important archaeological sites of its kind in Africa.  
Overnight: Private Train (B,D)

Day 12: **BULAWAYO | MATOBO NATIONAL PARK** Take a guided panoramic city tour of Bulawayo. After lunch visit Matobo National Park—a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Later see the Grave of Cecil Rhodes.  
Overnight: Private Train (B,D)

Day 13: **HWANGE NATIONAL PARK | VICTORIA FALLS** Disembark for a morning game drive through Zimbabwe's largest and most important game reserve.  
Overnight: Victoria Falls Safari Lodge (B,L)

Day 14: **VICTORIA FALLS** Explore Victoria Falls followed by a boat safari down the Zambezi River. Tonight gather for a farewell dinner.  
Overnight: Victoria Falls Safari Lodge (B,D)

Day 15: **VICTORIA FALLS | DEPART FOR U.S.** After breakfast transfer to the airport for flights home. (B)

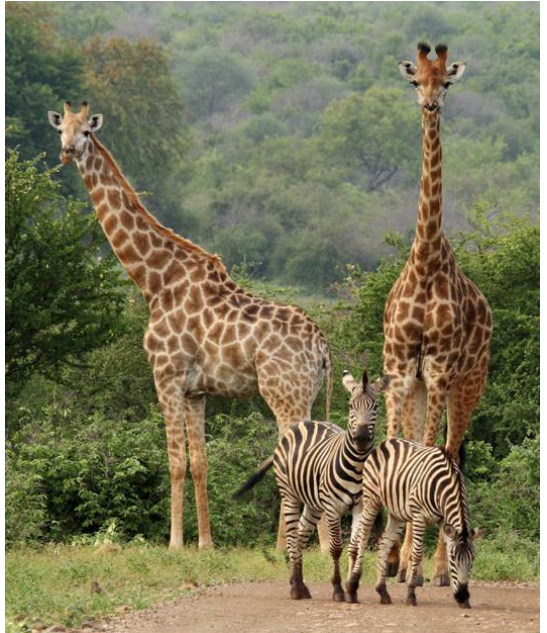
Day 16: **ARRIVE IN U.S.**
- (B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner)





## What's Included

- 9 nights aboard the private train plus 4 nights deluxe hotel/lodge accommodations
- 13 breakfasts, 7 lunches and 11 dinners including a special farewell dinner
- All excursions described in the itinerary including admission and park fees
- Expert naturalist guides throughout including an Orbridge Travel Director Team
- Access to onboard physician
- Transfer and excursion transportation aboard air conditioned buses
- Gratuities for Orbridge Travel Directors, local guides, drivers, porters, attendants and wait staff for included meals
- Airport transfers for guests arriving and departing during the suggested times



**Activity Level:** This safari program requires an ability to board and disembark a train as well as walk safely over uneven and slippery ground without assistance, get in and out of a 4x4 vehicle, and physically tolerate vehicle motion on sometimes bumpy roads.

# Onboard Your Private Train

Evenings include four-course dinners featuring African and European culinary specialties. During leisure time, relax in the bar car with a cool Windhoek lager or one of South Africa's famous wines, listen to an intriguing presentation, or sit back with a book. Take advantage of the open observation platform with uninterrupted views of passing wilderness, providing endless opportunities to take amazing photographs.

## SLEEPING COMPARTMENT CATEGORIES

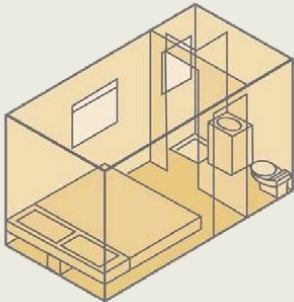
**Giraffe:** approx. 75 sq. ft. accommodating two guests in either two single beds or one double bed

**Lion:** approx. 107 sq. ft. accommodating two guests in either two single beds or one double bed

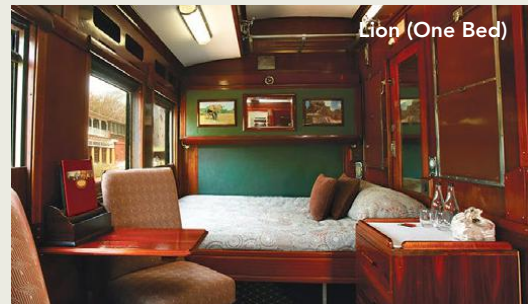
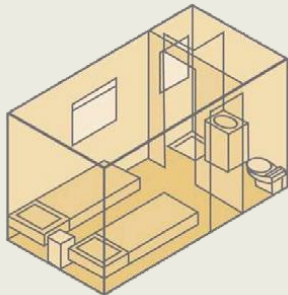
*Single travelers can select from either category. There is no internet access on the train.*



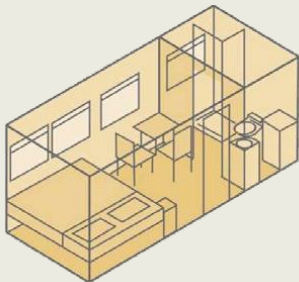
Giraffe (One Bed)



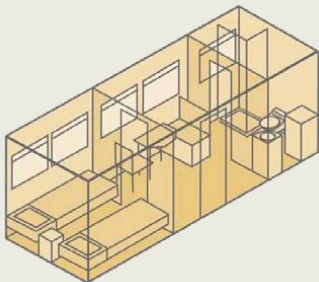
Giraffe (Two Beds)



Lion (One Bed)



Lion (Two Beds)





**SLEEPING COMPARTMENT AMENITIES**

Individual climate control, windows (equipped with blinds and sunshades) that open, 220/230V electrical outlets, safe, closet, bedside cabinets, complimentary bottled water, bathrobes and slippers, and private en suite bathroom with shower, towels, sundries and hair dryer.



*Train car configuration may vary.*



**Hotel Accommodations** *(subject to change)*

**DAVINCI HOTEL AND SUITES**

This property features a private art collection, elegant dining options and an outdoor infinity pool.



**KRUGER GATE HOTEL**

This lodge-style property is famed for its soaring wooden walkways and treetop ambiance.



**VICTORIA FALLS SAFARI LODGE**

This lodge is renowned for its views of a wildlife-rich waterhole visited by herds of elephant, buffalo and kudu.



# Optional Pre-Tour Cape Town

At the southernmost tip of Africa, Cape Town offers a perfect blend of natural beauty, cultural richness and outdoor experiences. Explore this vibrant region's iconic landmarks, sample its exquisite flavors and admire the peninsula's captivating landscape.

**Day +1: EN ROUTE FROM U.S.**

**Day +2: ARRIVE IN CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA** Upon arrival to Cape Town International Airport, transfer to the hotel to enjoy an evening at leisure.  
Overnight: Mount Nelson Hotel by Belmond

**Day +3: CAPE TOWN** Today's first highlight is a cable car ride ascending Table Mountain (weather permitting). At the summit, take a leisurely walk to the various lookout points. Continue with a panoramic tour of the city, passing by some of Cape Town's most iconic landmarks. Afterwards enter the eye-catching Bo-Kaap neighborhood where you'll delve into South Africa's rich and complex food heritage during a food tasting featuring a delicious blend of flavors and techniques.  
Overnight: Mount Nelson Hotel by Belmond (B,L)

**Day +4: CAPE TOWN | CAPE PENINSULA** Set off on a scenic drive south along the Atlantic Seaboard towards Cape of Good Hope. En route, take advantage of brief photography stops at Hout Bay and Chapman's Peak Drive. Immerse yourself in the vibrant atmosphere of Hout Bay Market, a bustling hub of local artisans, craftsmen and food vendors. Journey into the heart of the winelands for an exclusive food and wine pairing experience. Continue to the iconic Cape of Good Hope, a legendary promontory where the Atlantic and Indian Oceans converge. Ascend to the summit aboard the historic Flying Dutchman Funicular. Visit Boulders Beach to observe a charming colony of African Penguins, then return to the hotel for an evening at leisure.  
Overnight: Mount Nelson Hotel by Belmond (B,L)

**Day +5: CAPE TOWN | FLIGHT TO JOHANNESBURG | MAIN PROGRAM BEGINS** After breakfast transfer to the airport for the group flight to Johannesburg to join the main program. (B,D)

## What's Included

- 3 nights at five-star Mount Nelson Hotel by Belmond (or similar)
- 3 breakfasts, 2 lunches and 1 dinner
- Guided Cape Town city tour and food tasting experience
- Guided Cape Peninsula excursion including a market visit, vineyard food and wine pairing experience, and Cape of Good Hope visit
- Admission and fees for included activities
- Transportation for included activities
- Luggage portage
- Gratuities to local guide, driver, porters, hotel staff and wait staff for included meals
- Airport transfers for guests arriving during the suggested times
- Internal airfare from Cape Town to Johannesburg





# AFRICAN EXPEDITION BY PRIVATE TRAIN

JULY 1-15, 2025

Cape Town Pre-Tour: June 28 - July 2, 2025

**Reserve by Credit Card:**

Online: [texas-am.orbridge.com](https://texas-am.orbridge.com)

Phone: 866-639-0079

Fax: 206-452-5655

**Reserve by Check:**

Made payable to **Orbridge, LLC**

Mail to: Orbridge, P.O. Box 1376

Poulsbo, WA 98370

We strongly suggest purchasing travel insurance.  
Travel insurance information will be sent to you with your confirmation letter from Traveling Aggies. For more information, contact Orbridge at 866-639-0079 or you may call Traveling Aggies at 979-845-7514.

**GUEST INFORMATION:**

Guest #1 Name (Title/Salutation): \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Class Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Alt. Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Guest #2 Name (Title/Salutation): \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Class Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Alt. Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**DEPOSIT PAYMENT:**

☐ Check    ☐ ACH (Automated Clearing House)    ☐ MasterCard/Visa    ☐ American Express    ☐ Discover

Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_ CVV: \_\_\_\_\_

Name (as printed on card): \_\_\_\_\_

Billing Address (if different from above): \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

**CATEGORY SELECTION & DEPOSIT:**

Category Preference: 1st choice \_\_\_\_\_ 2nd choice \_\_\_\_\_


Bed Configuration:    ☐ One Bed    ☐ Two Beds

# \_\_\_\_\_ guests joining pre-tour (\$500/person) +

# \_\_\_\_\_ guests joining program (\$2,500/person) = **TOTAL DEPOSIT: \$** \_\_\_\_\_

I/we have read, understand, and agree to the full Terms & Conditions at [terms.orbridge.com](https://terms.orbridge.com); and I/we agree that Orbridge, LLC is authorized to charge my credit card above and/or take my/our deposit for this program.

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

 Orbridge takes seriously the responsibility to minimize our global environmental impact. Each year we plant 100,000 trees in U.S. State Forests with afforestation needs as an ongoing initiative among our evolving sustainability efforts. Learn more at [orbridge.com/going-green](https://orbridge.com/going-green).

Category	Standard Rate	Special Rate*
Double Occupancy		
Giraffe	<del>\$12,499</del>	\$11,995
Lion	<del>\$14,499</del>	\$13,995
Single Occupancy		
Giraffe	<del>\$19,499</del>	\$18,995
Lion	<del>\$21,999</del>	\$21,495

Cape Town Pre-Tour

Category	Standard Rate	Special Rate*
Double	<del>\$3,499</del>	\$2,995
Single	<del>\$4,499</del>	\$3,995

Rates are per person based on double occupancy except where noted as Single, in U.S. dollars.

\*Special group rate; limited offer. Single availability limited. Airfare from Cape Town to Johannesburg is included in the pre-tour rate. Airfare otherwise not included. \*\*A complement to the educational component of this journey, Expedition Libraries are curated collections of reading and resources tailored to this program. Place your deposit on or before the specified date, and one Expedition Library per household will be sent upon receipt of final payment. Libraries may be purchased; please call for details.

Traveling Aggies  
The Association of Former Students  
505 George Bush Drive  
College Station, TX 77840

# AFRICAN EXPEDITION BY PRIVATE TRAIN

JULY 1-15, 2025

Special Traveling Aggies Rate:

Save more than **\$1,000** per couple

**30-day refund guarantee**

Reserve by  
**April 4, 2025\*\***

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No funds donated to The Association of Former Students or to Texas A&M University have been used in the production or mailing of this travel brochure; all such costs are covered by the tour supplier.