

# African Explorer

JANUARY 28<sup>TH</sup> – FEBRUARY 15<sup>TH</sup>, 2021



Presented by

**GLP Worldwide for  
McMaster University  
Alumni and Friends**

*Travel for  
Travellers*  
BY GLP WORLDWIDE



**ALUMNI**

Dear McMaster Alumni and Friends:

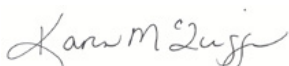
*Immense natural beauty, wildlife encounters, valuable learning opportunities and cultural immersion are waiting for you on this unforgettable land and rail journey through Southern Africa. Your adventure begins in Johannesburg. A short flight then takes you to the beginning of an epic train journey that combines the golden age of rail travel with modern conveniences, traversing some of Namibia's most spectacular landscapes, before finishing off your travels in historical Cape Town.*

*Few countries in Africa can match Namibia's sheer natural beauty. From deep canyons to wide-open plains; the highest sand dunes in the world to lush forests and wild animal sightings, the African Explorer private train is your key to adventure.*

*Visit Etosha National Park, one of Southern Africa's best places to watch wildlife. Indulge in a glass, or two, of world-class South African wine. Breathe in the fresh African air from aboard the outdoor observation platform or relax inside the comforts of the air-conditioned lounge. Whatever your preference is, there is simply no better way to experience the wonders of Africa.*

*Reserve your spot soon on this once-in-a-lifetime travel experience! For more information, or to make a reservation please contact Jessica, McMaster Alumni Officer for the travel program, at (905) 525-9140 ext. 24882.*

Warmest Regards,



Karen McQuigge '90  
Director, Alumni Advancement  
McMaster University



ALUMNI

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# ITINERARY

## AFRICAN EXPLORER

January 28<sup>th</sup> – February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021



Cape Town, South Africa



### DAY 1 | JAN 28 | DEPART TORONTO

Board your overnight flight to Johannesburg.

### DAY 2 | JAN 29 | ARRIVE IN JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA

Upon arrival, transfer to your hotel for overnight stay.

### DAY 3 | JAN 30 | JOHANNESBURG – WINDHOEK, NAMIBIA (B,L,D)

Visit the *Top of Africa* viewing deck, for a panoramic city view, and explore Museum Africa which celebrates the vibrant social and cultural history of Africa. Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant, then transfer to the airport for a local flight to Windhoek, Namibia. Upon arrival, meet your local guide and transfer to your hotel for overnight stay.

### DAY 4 | JAN 31 | DEPARTURE ON THE AFRICAN EXPLORER (B,L,D)

Begin with a Windhoek city tour to learn about its colonial and German-influenced past. View the neo-Gothic Christ Church and the Tintenpalast, or “Ink Palace,” which houses the Namibian parliament. At Windhoek Station, it’s “all aboard!” as the exclusively-private train departs on this incredible journey. Have your cameras ready as you pass through private game farms teeming with giraffes, antelopes and ostriches. Overnight onboard your private train.

**DAY 5 | FEB 01 | ETOSHA NATIONAL PARK***(B,L,D)*

Explore the wonders of Etosha National Park. Ride in comfort on air-conditioned buses across the entire park and observe elephants, gnus and more up close. The Etosha Pan – the largest salt pan on the continent – lies at the heart of the Park. This shimmering “great white place”, as its name says is teeming with wildlife. The unforgettable day ends with an overnight stay in a nearby lodge.

*Etosha National Park***DAY 6 | FEB 02 | ON SAFARI** *(B,D)*

Wildlife and birds will give you plenty of reasons to keep your camera out on this extensive morning game drive. Following the safari, sit back and relax en route to the town of Otjiwarongo where a private train will be waiting to continue your Namibian journey. In the evening, enjoy a traditional African Braai (BBQ) under a starry night sky. Overnight onboard your private train for the next 2 nights.

**DAY 7 | FEB 03 | SPITZKOPPE** *(B,L,D)*

The train stops at Usakos for an excursion to the granite peaks known as the “Spitzkoppe.” Visit a local school to learn about the everyday life of children from the Damara tribe. Back on board, the train continues its journey to Swakopmund where you will arrive in the evening. Visitors to this important Namibian city will discover its intriguing German colonial architecture.

*Spitzkoppe***DAY 8 | FEB 04 | FROM THE ATLANTIC SHORE INTO THE DESERT** *(B,D)*

After breakfast, take an air-conditioned bus to Walvis Bay where, with luck, flocks of flamingos and pelicans will be observed. Then drive to the Skeleton Coast, with views of the Namib Desert and Vogelfederberg Hill, before arriving at the protected Namib Naukluft National Park. Relax at your lodge for the night.

**DAY 9 | FEB 05 | THE HIGHEST SAND DUNES IN THE WORLD** *(B,D)*

Climb the giant sand dunes of the Namib Desert for a panoramic view in the early morning. Open-top vehicles take you along an unpaved sandy track to the vlei, a salt-clay sink surrounded by sand dunes. Watch for oryx antelopes and springboks. As the sun sets, enjoy a romantic ride through the stunning desert landscape. Overnight in a lodge.

*Sand dunes Namib***DAY 10 | FEB 06 | NAMIB NAUKLUFT NATIONAL PARK** *(B,L,D)*

Travel by air-conditioned bus from the lodge in Namib Naukluft National Park to Mariental. Board the train and travel to the tiny village of Maltahöhe for a tasty brunch. Overnight onboard your private train for the next 5 nights.

**DAY 11 | FEB 07 | GHOST TOWN** *(B,L,D)*

In the morning, arrive at Aus station, where you will transfer to a bus and drive to the ghost town of Kolmanskop, the site of Namibia’s first diamond discovery in 1908. Onwards to the harbour town of Lüderitz through the Sperrgebiet (“Restricted Diamond Area”). After crossing the historical Lüderitz peninsula, visit Diaz Point where waves crash against the rocky coastline and fur seals and dolphins can be spotted. Back on board at Aus station, the train continues on its journey south.



*Kolmannskop (Ghost Town)*

#### **DAY 12 | FEB 08 | FISH RIVER CANYON (B,L,D)**

Arrival in Holoog. Begin this special day with a visit to Fish River Canyon, the largest canyon in Africa and the second largest in the world. It is also the second most visited attraction in Namibia. Enjoy a scenic canyon excursion from the comfort of the bus and embrace the stunning views. Hop off the bus and take a short walk along the canyon's edge.



*Fish River Canyon*

#### **DAY 13 | FEB 09 | AUGRABIES FALLS NATIONAL PARK (B,L,D)**

Arrive in Upington in the Northern Cape Province in South Africa and venture off on an excursion to Augrabies Falls National Park. This area is famous for its picturesque waterfalls and abundance of giant aloe trees, or quiver tree as it is known here. The waterfall is 60m high with a deep gorge below. Depart by train in the evening.

#### **DAY 14 | FEB 10 | MATJIESFONTEIN (B,L,D)**

Visit the village of Matjiesfontein, which was originally inhabited by Khoikhoi herders and San hunter-gatherers. Enjoy a leisurely stroll around this quaint Victorian town to discover its charm and history, including the famous Lord Milner Hotel, where Cecil Rhodes the first Minister of the Cape Colony, and the writer Edgar Wallace resided.

#### **DAY 15 | FEB 11 | ARRIVAL IN CAPE TOWN (B,D)**

Arrive in Cape Town in the morning. Say goodbye to the train and its crew, and discover the most famous city in South Africa. Stroll along the Victoria & Alfred Waterfront or take the cableway to the top of the famous Table Mountain on an optional excursion. In the early afternoon, join the city tour through Cape Town. As the sun sets, enjoy the expansive views of the city from Signal Hill. The evening ends with a special dinner. Overnight in a hotel for the next 3 nights.

#### **DAY 16 | FEB 12 | HALF DAY WINE TOUR TO WINE COUNTRY (B,L)**

Enjoy a tour of two wineries in Stellenbosch with wine tasting and lunch.

#### **DAY 17 | FEB 13 | FULL DAY PENINSULAR TOUR (B,L,D)**

Tour Chapmans Peak Drive, Cape of Good Hope, Boulder's Beach (where you might see penguins) and Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens.



*Cape of Good Hope*

#### **DAY 18 | FEB 14 | FREE DAY (B)**

Free time during the day and transfer to the airport in the evening for your overnight flight.

#### **DAY 19 | FEB 15 | FAREWELL SOUTH AFRICA**

Your flight departs early this morning.



# TRAIN INFORMATION



## AFRICAN EXPLORER

The African Explorer, as a rolling hotel, offers sleeping compartments in two categories, two air-conditioned restaurant cars, a bar car and a lounge car with panorama windows and an open platform at the end. The tempting three-course dinners are served in one sitting. The bar car, open around the clock is ideal for relaxing over a beer or a glass of South African wine and is a popular spot for reading as well as the venue for the fascinating on board talks.



*Elephant Compartments*



*Leopard Compartments*



*Restaurant Car*



*Observation Car*

# PRICING & TERMS

CABIN CATEGORY	DOUBLE OCCUPANCY	SINGLE OCCUPANCY
Elephant Category	CAD \$12,250 per person	CAD \$15,590 per person
Leopard Category	CAD \$14,890 per person	Not available

*Note: Single passengers booked in double occupancy cabins are limited to 10% of the total passengers travelling within the group.*

## INCLUSIONS

- Local flight from Johannesburg to Windhoek
- 8 nights on board the African Explorer private train according to the category booked
- 1 night hotel in Johannesburg
- 1 night hotel in Windhoek
- 1 night safari lodge at the entrance to Etosha National Park
- 2 nights lodge stay in the Namib desert
- 3 nights hotel in Cape Town
- Multi-lingual tour director from Windhoek to Cape Town throughout
- English-speaking tour guide
- Doctor on board
- All meals as specified in the itinerary
- Admission fees for all included excursions and sightseeing
- In-train lectures on sights, history, daily life and culture
- All gratuities for train conductor and crew, local guides and drivers for included excursions

## EXCLUSIONS

- Roundtrip international airfare and air taxes for flights from Toronto – Johannesburg, and return Cape Town – Toronto. Currently estimated at CAD \$1,600 per person and subject to change at time of booking.
- Optional travel, health, accident or other insurance

## DEPOSITS AND PAYMENTS

DEPOSIT	CAD \$2,500 per person at the time of booking
SECOND DEPOSIT	CAD \$2,500 per person due on April 24th, 2020
FINAL PAYMENT	Due on September 25th, 2020

*Note:*

1. Passenger names must match passport.
2. Please ensure that passports are valid up until after six (6) months at last destination
3. No visa are required for Canadian passport holders travelling to South Africa and Namibia

## CANCELLATION CHARGES ON TRAIN & LAND

From time of booking to April 23rd, 2020:	CAD \$2,500 per person
April 24th – September 24th, 2020:	CAD \$5,000 per person
September 25th, 2020 – date of departure:	100% of tour cost

*Air cancellation penalties are subject to airline regulations.*

*We strongly recommend the purchase of trip cancellation or comprehensive travel insurance at the time of booking. Please contact GLP Worldwide for a quotation.*

*Prices above are in Canadian Dollars. The program and all related travel services described herein are subject to the detailed terms & conditions of GLP Worldwide which are available at any time upon request and which will be provided with your booking confirmation.*

*McMaster University Disclaimer: All travel services are arranged through GLP Worldwide. McMaster University and the McMaster Alumni Association, its officers and employees do not assume any responsibilities for the financing, arranging or conducting of the tour. They shall not be liable for any damages or financial loss to person or property of any description that might occur in connection with the tour, however arising from the negligence, omission or otherwise of travel service arranged through GLP Worldwide.*



**McMASTER UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**

1280 Main Street West

Alumni House

Hamilton, ON

L8S 4K1

# UPCOMING INFO SESSION! CALL IN TODAY TO REGISTER NOW! **1-866-760-1987**

Other available alumni program:

## Norway & Lapland

**May 8<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020**

Onboard MS Nordkapp



*Travel for  
travellers*

BY GLP WORLDWIDE

**CONTACT GLP WORLDWIDE AT**

26 – 1211 Denison Street, Markham, ON. L3R 4B3

1-866-760-1987 | Monday – Friday | 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM

[travelfortravellers.com](http://travelfortravellers.com)