

UPPER NEW YORK CONFERENCE VISIT TO AFRICA UNIVERSITY / SOUTHERN AFRICA JANUARY OR FEBRUARY 2025

(Zimbabwe: Harare, Mutare and Victoria Falls | South Africa: Soweto/Johannesburg Add-On)



The Upper New York Conference pilgrimage to Africa University, led by Dr. Roger Ellis and Mrs. Claudia Ellis , is your opportunity to see and experience a ministry born of the radical generosity and faithfulness of United Methodists and others. Affectionately known as “*the school of dreams in the valley of hope*”, [Africa University](http://www.africau.edu) has been described as the most exciting ministry of The United Methodist Church in this century.

You will fly from the USA to southern Africa and spend ten days visiting Africa University’s main campus, interacting with the students, faculty, administrators and local church leaders, and learning more about the vitality of the church on the African continent. Together with the campus community, you will celebrate



African culture, connection and the evolving story and impact of Africa University. This trip itinerary includes a two-day safari to Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe and Chobe, Botswana for unparalleled game viewing in the Zambezi River Valley. Your southern Africa sojourn ends in Johannesburg, South Africa with tours of Soweto’s Mandela House Museum and the Apartheid Museum.

Your detailed itinerary follows. If you have additional questions about the trip, contact: Andra Stevens, Africa

University Development Office, telephone: 615-340-7438; or email: astevens@gbhem.org.

You can also visit www.support-africauniversity.org and www.africau.edu for more information about Africa University.

AFRICA UNIVERSITY

10-day Itinerary | Gateway Airport: Washington-Dulles International (IAD) (Tentative flight itinerary using United Airlines and Ethiopian Airlines)

Day One: Leave home city for travel to Harare, Zimbabwe via Washington, DC and Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. (Next day arrival at Harare International Airport: Typically, travelers connect on ET501, departing IAD for ADD at 11:00am, arrives at Bole International/Addis Ababa at 7:15am. Layover of 2 hours, 10 minutes, before boarding ET 863 which departs for Harare at 9:25am. This flight has a passenger pick up/drop off stop but no change of airplane in Lusaka, Zambia of about one hour, before proceeding to Harare. Arrival at Harare International Airport in Zimbabwe is scheduled for 2:35pm.)

Day Two: Arrival at Harare International Airport (Zimbabwe). Late afternoon, meet & greet, transfer to Harare hotel for check in, dinner and overnight stay at the [Cresta Lodge Harare](#).

Day Three: *Transfer by road from Harare to Mutare:* You will be picked up at your hotel after breakfast (around 9:00am) by a driver and vehicle for transfer by road (3.5-hour trip duration) to Mutare, where Africa University is located. On arrival at the campus, you will check into the Ubuntu Retreat Center and have lunch. Following lunch, the group will have a brief orientation to the campus. The rest of the afternoon is free for members to rest/get acclimated. Dinner/overnight at Ubuntu Center.



Day Four: *At Africa University campus:* Spend the morning auditing lectures in the various colleges (*Office of Advancement and Public Affairs (OAPA) will select and assign visitors to various lectures based on specified areas of interest*). Lunch at the Ubuntu Retreat Center with the Vice Chancellor, senior administrators, and faculty deans. (*Visits with faculty members or departments can be organized for the afternoon, if desired*). Alternatively, a special public lecture, seminar or colloquium featuring a panel that includes persons from the delegation can be scheduled. (*This would allow for sharing/in-depth discussion of a topic of common interest.*) Fellowship dinner with AU student leaders and students receiving scholarship support from Upper New York Conference churches and individuals. Overnight at the Ubuntu Center.



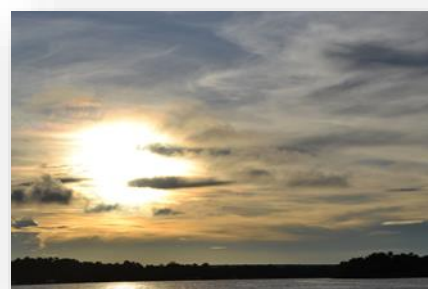
Day Five: Breakfast at the Ubuntu Center. Tour the main campus, including the AU Farm, from 8:00am to 10:30am. Proceed to the [Old Mutare UMC Mission](#)—a 120-year-old mission center that is home to a hospital, dental clinic, primary and secondary schools, and children’s home. Visit with Hospital staff as well as youngsters at the children’s home. Return to the Ubuntu Center around 1:30pm for lunch. Following lunch, group will proceed to the Mutare city center and Sakubva township for a briefing on the area’s history/development, community concerns and ministry at the local church level. Dinner/overnight at Ubuntu Center.



Day Six: Sunday: Group will breakfast at the Ubuntu Retreat Center, check out and proceed to Sunday worship service with a local congregation. *(Opportunity to preach for the clergy members of the delegation, if interested.)* After church, enjoy lunch/fellowship with church leaders. At 2:30pm, depart from the campus/Mutare area and travel to Harare by road. Dinner and overnight stay at the **Cresta Lodge Harare**.



Day Seven: Travel from Harare to Victoria Falls / In Victoria Falls
Group will breakfast at the hotel, then proceed to the Harare International Airport for domestic flight to Victoria Falls. On arrival at Victoria Falls International Airport, the group will be met by Batoka Safaris staff and transferred from the airport to the hotel. After a brief period for check in and freshening up/changing into more comfy clothing, the group is scheduled for a walking tour of the majestic [Victoria Falls—a UNESCO World Heritage site](#). That evening, guests will enjoy a leisurely sunset cruise on the Zambezi River. A two-night stay at the [A’Zambezi River Lodge](#) in Victoria Falls begins. Dinner and overnight at the A’Zambezi River Lodge.



Day Eight: Game viewing in the Chobe National Park, Botswana: Venture across the border into Kasane, Botswana to the Chobe National Park for a full day safari, offering unparalleled game viewing on and along the banks of the Chobe River. Lunch at the Chobe Safari Lodge. Return to Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe at 4:00pm. That evening, enjoy dinner at the [Boma](#) restaurant, featuring exotic meats and a lively, interactive demonstration of African drumming. Overnight at the A’Zambezi River Lodge.

Day Nine: Travel from Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe to USA via Ethiopia. Rise before sun up and head into the [Stanley and Livingstone Game Reserve](#) for an early morning game drive, followed by a scrumptious bush breakfast cooked in the open air over wood fires. Return to the hotel at 10:30am, check out and proceed to the Victoria Falls International Airport. Check in and fly from Victoria Falls to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, with connecting flight from Addis Ababa to Washington Dulles, USA.



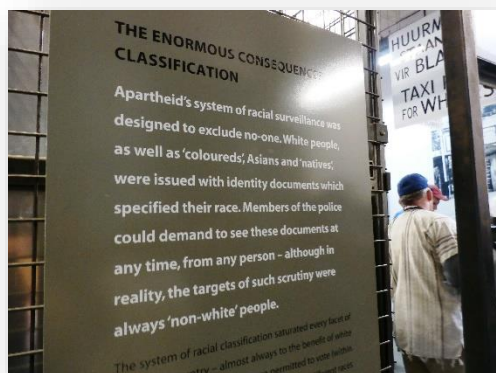
Day Ten: Arrival in Washington, DC in the morning, with onward travel to home city.

ESTIMATED TRIP COST – OPTION ONE: NO SOUTH AFRICA ADD ON:

Please note the following: **Estimated overall trip cost is \$4,500**, with **current cost** of flexible economy class airline tickets for all flights in the itinerary. Business class airline tickets can be purchased for interested travelers who request them. Pricing for business class will be provided upon request but expect Ethiopian Airlines Cloud Deluxe seats to cost around \$8K per person. You will need to add the one-way ticket cost from Harare to Vic Falls.

**12-day Itinerary | Gateway Airport: Washington-Dulles International (IAD)
Two-day add on – to include Johannesburg, South Africa**

Day Nine: (Instead of boarding a flight direct from Victoria Falls to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia): Check in and fly from Victoria Falls to Johannesburg, South Africa. Airport meet and greet, transfer to Protea Hotel – O. R. Tambo International Airport. Dinner and overnight stay at [Protea Hotel Johannesburg Airport](#)



Day Ten: In Johannesburg, you will explore the turbulent history of Africa’s “rainbow nation” at the Apartheid Museum. Visit the Southwest Township, otherwise known as Soweto—a community that features prominently in the struggle against Apartheid—and walk along Vilikazi Street, once home to two Nobel Peace Prize winners!

Breakfast at hotel. (9:00am): Leave hotel for Day Tour of Johannesburg—includes Sandton area and [Soweto: Nelson Mandela House, Tutu House](#), and the [Apartheid Museum \(Full day tour\)](#), with lunch in Soweto. Return and drop off for second night’s stay at **the Protea Hotel Johannesburg Airport**.

Day Eleven: *Travel back to USA on Ethiopian Airlines via Addis Ababa.* Breakfast at hotel. Free morning with late check out, pack and preparation for departure from Johannesburg. (12:00 Noon) Transfer from the hotel to the international departure terminal at O. R. Tambo. Check in and leave Johannesburg on ET 808, departing Johannesburg at 2:25pm for Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Arrival in Addis at 8:40pm. Layover in Addis Ababa of two hours, before the departure of ET 500 at 10:40pm bound for Washington, DC (IAD).

Day Twelve: *Arrival in Washington, DC in the morning, with onward travel to home city.*

Please note the following: **Estimated overall trip cost is \$5,800**, with **current cost** of flexible economy class airline tickets for all flights in the itinerary. Business class airline tickets can be purchased for interested travelers who request them. Pricing for business class will be provided upon request but expect Ethiopian Airlines Cloud Deluxe seats to cost around \$8K per person. You will need to add the one-way ticket cost from Harare to Vic Falls and the one-way ticket cost from Vic Falls to Johannesburg as well.

Regardless of the option selected, the estimated trip cost includes:

- All tours and safari activities.
- Travel insurance cover (*emergency medical, trip interruption/cancellation, and repatriation*).
- 4-star accommodations. Housing is booked double occupancy, bed and breakfast, unless uneven numbers make a single room necessary. (***N.B. Single supplement fee applies for persons who specifically request single occupancy rooms.***)
- Ground transportation in air-conditioned buses.
- All the lunches and dinners that are specifically referenced in the itinerary. Meals include bottled water, juice, soft drinks and/or coffee/tea.
- Special dietary and mobility issues are addressed as appropriate.

Exclusions:

- Visitor's visa/entry fees for Zimbabwe (*\$45 double entry visitor's visa required*). Paid on arrival, direct to Immigration/Customs officers on issue of entry visa.
- Personal services or items such as laundry, telephone calls, alcoholic drinks.
- Gratuities/tips for tour guides, drivers and hotel staff in Harare, Victoria Falls and Johannesburg.

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