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Classic Journeys Blazes New Trail Through Zambia's Bushveld

10-day safaris offer guests a walk on the wild side within extraordinary national park system

November 12, 2008 – La Jolla, CA – Meeting elephants on their daily trek to a mud-filled watering hole and spotting rainbows in the billowing mist of Victoria Falls are two of the many treats in store on a walking safari of Zambia, new from Classic Journeys for 2009.

“Zambia is the perfect match for our signature style of adventure travel – exploring exotic locales on foot,” says Edward Piegza, president and co-founder of Classic Journeys. “We’ve wanted to add a true walking safari to our roster of trips ever since our first visit to Africa in 1995. But we knew the key to a successful program was in having personal relationships with the right local contacts, ranging from the best safari guides to local chieftains.”

Piegza knew the time was right when colleague Natalie Messelt joined the Classic Journeys team last year. A native of Wisconsin, Messelt was stationed in Africa for seven years as a coordinator for U.S. Ambassadorial outreach programs in Gabon, Senegal and Zambia. As a representative of the American embassy in Zambia, she came to know the country intimately. Among her many personal contacts was the family of world-renowned conservationist Norman Carr, father of the walking safari and a great promoter of peace and harmony among the peoples of Africa.

As Tour Operations Coordinator for Africa and Classic Journeys’ in-house expert on Zambia, Messelt returned to the country last May to scout and dry-run the company’s new 10-day [Zambia - Victoria Falls, Villages & Wildlife](#) Cultural Walking Adventure and [Zambia Family Journey](#).

Named a World's Best Tour Operator by Travel + Leisure Magazine

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Both tours take full advantage of Zambia's highly acclaimed national park system. Within the boundaries of Mosi-O-Tunya, South Luangwa and Lower Zambezi National Parks, guests on Classic Journeys' daily walking safaris share the right of way with everything from elephants and hippos to impalas and lions, learning firsthand from expert guides how to track, observe and conserve big game.

"In Zambia, the national parks and wildlife sanctuaries don't have fences," Messelt explains. "The animals are free to roam, which makes them even more accessible to us, sometimes when we least expect it."

With their own professionally certified native guides as interpreters, guests also pay visits to village schools and colorful markets for a behind-the-scenes look at Zambian culture. Luxury accommodations provide a welcome respite in between walks and reflect the best the region has to offer, including five-star lodges and tent encampments like Chiawa Camp on the banks of the Lower Zambezi (voted one of Africa's Top 10 Safari Camps by *Conde Nast Traveler*).

The [Zambia Family Journey](#) takes parents, kids and even grandparents to new heights. The Zambezi River (home of the thundering Victoria Falls) has cut a deep gorge into the earth nearby that's now a mecca for adventurers. On the aptly named Flying Fox, guests run at full tilt to launch themselves on a zip-line ride out over the river and across the gorge. Abseiling is another option, with guests rappelling in leaps and bounds down the rugged cliffside. Only the bravest tackle the Swing, a bungee-like drop that leaves hangers-on hurtling from one side of the gorge to the other. All in all, it makes for an action-packed outing where the adrenalin never stops flowing.

Classic Journeys' Zambia Cultural Walking Adventure departs in April, June, July, October and December, with Family Journey departures geared toward school breaks in April, July, November and December. Tour price is from \$6995 per person, double occupancy, land-only, with internal air fare of approximately \$930 per person extra. On its Zambia Family Journey, the company offers significant discounts for children staying in the same room with two full-paying adults.

For detailed daily itineraries and departure dates, travelers may visit www.classicjourneys.com/zambia and www.classicjourneys.com/zambiafamily, or consult with a Classic Journeys Tour Coordinator at (800) 200-3887.

About Classic Journeys:

Classic Journeys offers cultural walking adventures, culinary tours and family journeys in North America, Latin America, Europe, Africa, Asia and the South Pacific. Guests enjoy luxury accommodations and gourmet meals that reflect the best of each region, coupled with soft adventure activities, daily interactions with locals, and native guides who make countries and cultures come alive. Tours are six to 12 days long with two to four hours of easy-going walking per day. Land-only tour prices range from \$2395 to \$6995 per person (with discounts for small groups and children traveling with parents). Average tour size is 10, limited to a maximum of 18 guests per departure. Full details and links to itineraries are available online at www.ClassicJourneys.com.