



PILGRIMAGE TO AFRICA UNIVERSITY/SOUTHERN AFRICA
Led by Bishop L. Jonathan Holston & Mrs. Felecia Holston
January 5 – 14, 2024

(Zimbabwe: Harare, Mutare and Victoria Falls | Botswana: Chobe National Park | South Africa: Johannesburg)

See and experience once again a ministry born of radical generosity and faithfulness. Affectionately known as “*the school of dreams in the valley of hope*”, [Africa University](#) has emerged as the cornerstone institution for The United Methodist Church’s missional engagement in Africa.

You’ll fly from the USA via Atlanta, GA (Hartsfield Jackson International Airport) and Johannesburg, South Africa (O. R. Tambo International Airport) to Harare, Zimbabwe. From Harare, Zimbabwe’s capital city, you will travel by road to the Eastern Highlands of Zimbabwe to visit Africa University’s main campus. Your time in the Mutare area will be spent with the students, faculty, and administrators of Africa University as well as local church leaders as they highlight the progress and vitality of ministry/mission in Zimbabwe.

Together with the campus community, you will celebrate African culture, connection, worship, and the evolving story and impact of Africa University.

Your detailed draft itinerary follows. In the South Carolina Conference, your point of contact is Ms. Lollie Haselden, executive assistant to Bishop Jonathan Holston. Email Ms. Haselden at lhaselden@umcsc.org or call 803.786.9486.

If you have additional questions about the trip, contact: Andra Stevens, Africa University Development Office, telephone: 615-340-7438; or email: astevens@africau.org.

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

AFRICA UNIVERSITY

10-day Itinerary | International Departure/Gateway Airport: Atlanta, GA

Friday, January 5, 2024: Leave your originating city (*in South Carolina or elsewhere*) for travel to Zimbabwe via Atlanta, GA and Johannesburg, South Africa. DL200 departs Atlanta at 7:05PM for 15½-hour nonstop flight to Johannesburg (*next day arrival*).

Saturday, January 6: Arrival at Oliver R. Tambo International Airport (Johannesburg, South Africa), currently scheduled with Delta as 5:35pm. Arrival meet & greet, transfer to Johannesburg hotel for overnight stay.

Sunday, January 7: Breakfast, check out of the hotel and transfer to the airport. Check in on South African Airways flight SA#22, departing at 10:00am, with arrival in Harare at 11:35AM. Airport meet and greet, with immediate transfer by road to the Africa University main campus at Old Mutare (*4-hour trip duration*), with comfort/refreshment break at halfway point. Expect to arrive on the campus around 5:00PM, settle in and have dinner at Ubuntu Retreat Center. Evening devotions/debrief and overnight at the Ubuntu Center.



Monday, January 8: Breakfast at the Ubuntu Center. Tour the AU main campus, including the farm. Lunch at the university. Leave campus around 1:00pm for a drive across the road to the Old Mutare UMC Mission Center to visit the Old Mutare Hospital and Fairfield Children’s Home. Return to campus in the late afternoon to prepare for dinner. Evening devotions/debrief, dinner and overnight at the Ubuntu Center.

Tuesday, January 9: Q & A session with the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Peter Mageto, deans and senior administrators exploring Africa University’s evolving priorities and impact. After the lunch break, group members will spend the afternoon auditing classes or assisting in the various colleges, the law school, and administrative departments. Meet with beneficiaries of scholarships from South Carolina sources over dinner. Overnight at the Ubuntu Center.

Wednesday, January 10: Worship with the campus community in the Kwang Lim Chapel from 8:00AM to 9:00AM. Mid-morning check out from the Ubuntu Center, depending on the activities that take place on Wednesday. Leave the campus for Harare (*road trip of about 4 hours duration*). On arrival in Harare, check in for dinner and an overnight stay at the Cresta Lodge Harare.

Thursday, January 11: Breakfast at the hotel, then proceed to the Harare International Airport to check in for flight to Victoria Falls, which departs at 11:30AM. On arrival at Victoria Falls International Airport, the group will be met by Batoka Safaris staff and transferred from the airport to the A'Zambezi River Lodge. 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. Overnight at the A'Zambezi River Lodge.

Friday, January 12: You will be up before sunrise for a trip across the border into Botswana's Chobe National Park for game viewing on and along the banks of the Chobe River. You'll lunch at the Mowana Safari Lodge, then cross back into Zimbabwe in the late afternoon. 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.

Saturday, January 13: Breakfast at hotel, prepare for departure. Check out at 10:00AM and proceed to Victoria Falls International Airport. Check in and fly from Victoria Falls to Johannesburg on South African Airways flight SA041, departing at 1:10PM. Check into Johannesburg hotel, free afternoon/evening and overnight stay.

Sunday, January 14: Enjoy an early breakfast at the hotel. Check out and load luggage. At 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. 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!



Return and drop off at Johannesburg Airport, international departure terminal.

Check in for Delta Airlines flight DL201, and onward travel to Atlanta, GA. Your Delta flight leaves Johannesburg's O. R. Tambo International Airport at 9:55PM and arrives at Atlanta's Hartsfield Jackson International Airport at 7:15AM on January 15 (*next day*).

Monday, January 15: Following the international arrivals process (immigration, collect and recheck baggage), you'll board your Delta Airlines connecting flight to your originating city.

Please note the following: **The total cost of the trip is \$4,900***

Trip cost includes:

- Airline tickets – transatlantic and within Africa.
- 4-star accommodation for eight (8) nights. Housing is booked double occupancy, bed and breakfast, unless uneven numbers make a single room necessary. (***N.B. Single supplement fees apply for persons who specifically request single occupancy rooms.***)
- Ground transportation in luxury 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 in cash 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.