

KAFUE NP WILDLIFE & ECOLOGY

At 22 500 km² (8 687 sq. miles), Kafue National Park is one of the largest National Parks in Africa. It is fed by three rivers, the Lufupa in the north-west and the Lunga and Kafue in the north-east. The Lufupa River floods in the summer, creating a large floodplain system that attracts thousands of waterbirds. The Lunga and Kafue rivers are wide and slow-flowing, banded by riverine forest. In the extreme north of the Kafue lie the Busanga Plains – one of Zambia's most significant wetland resources and one of the few areas in the world that remain untouched by development and human activity.

CAMPS

- Shumba
- Busanga Bush Camp



Considered the jewel in the Kafue crown, the Busanga Plains cover an area of approximately 750 km² (290 sq. mi.) with our two Wilderness camps centrally situated within this breathtaking wilderness. The Plains are home to hundreds of red lechwe, ubiquitous puku, stately roan and the diminutive oribi. Lichtenstein's hartebeest, herds of wildebeest, zebra, buffalo and defassa waterbuck are often seen, while hippo come out of their deep-water channels to graze. This wealth of game on the plains is also a big attraction for predators, including wild dog packs, occasional cheetah and a number of lion prides; the last are known for their unusual tree-climbing abilities. Pangolin and caracal are spotted infrequently by the lucky.

The Park has the largest mammal species diversity in Zambia due to its interesting habitat mix, which includes miombo woodland and seasonal open grassy areas called dambos. The Park boasts 55 large mammal species, including 20 ungulate and six cat species! At Busanga Bush Camp, other unusual sightings include leopard, porcupine, water mongoose and side-striped jackal.

The birdlife is thrilling in its diversity and numbers with nearly 500 species recorded. The Busanga plays host to elegant grey crowned cranes and Fülleborn's longclaw is another speciality here. Birding habitats are exciting and include vast floodplains, broadleaved woodland (mopane and miombo), open water and riverine fringe. Other key species include Ross's turaco, Schalow's turaco, African finfoot, half-collared kingfisher, red-throated twinspot, Böhm's bee-eater, black-backed barbet, brown firefinch, sooty chat and western banded snake-eagle. The area is alive with rollers, bee-eaters, kingfishers, herons and large flocks of African openbill and yellow-billed storks. Northern Kafue is also home to myriad other birds like lesser jacana, spur-winged geese, saddle-billed stork, secretarybird, southern ground hornbill and martial eagle to name but a few.