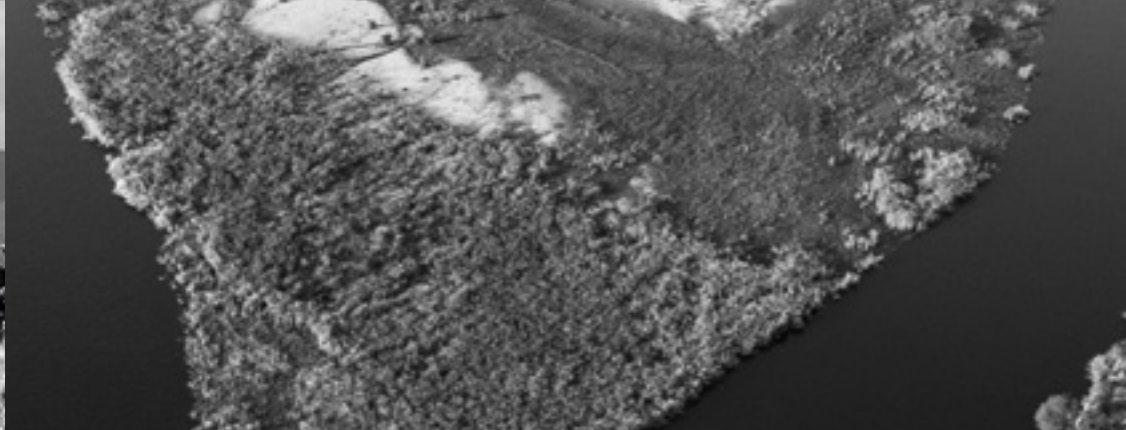


ZIMBABWE & ZAMBIA





Our journeys change lives



Above: early days camping and exploring with friends on the banks of the lower Zambezi River

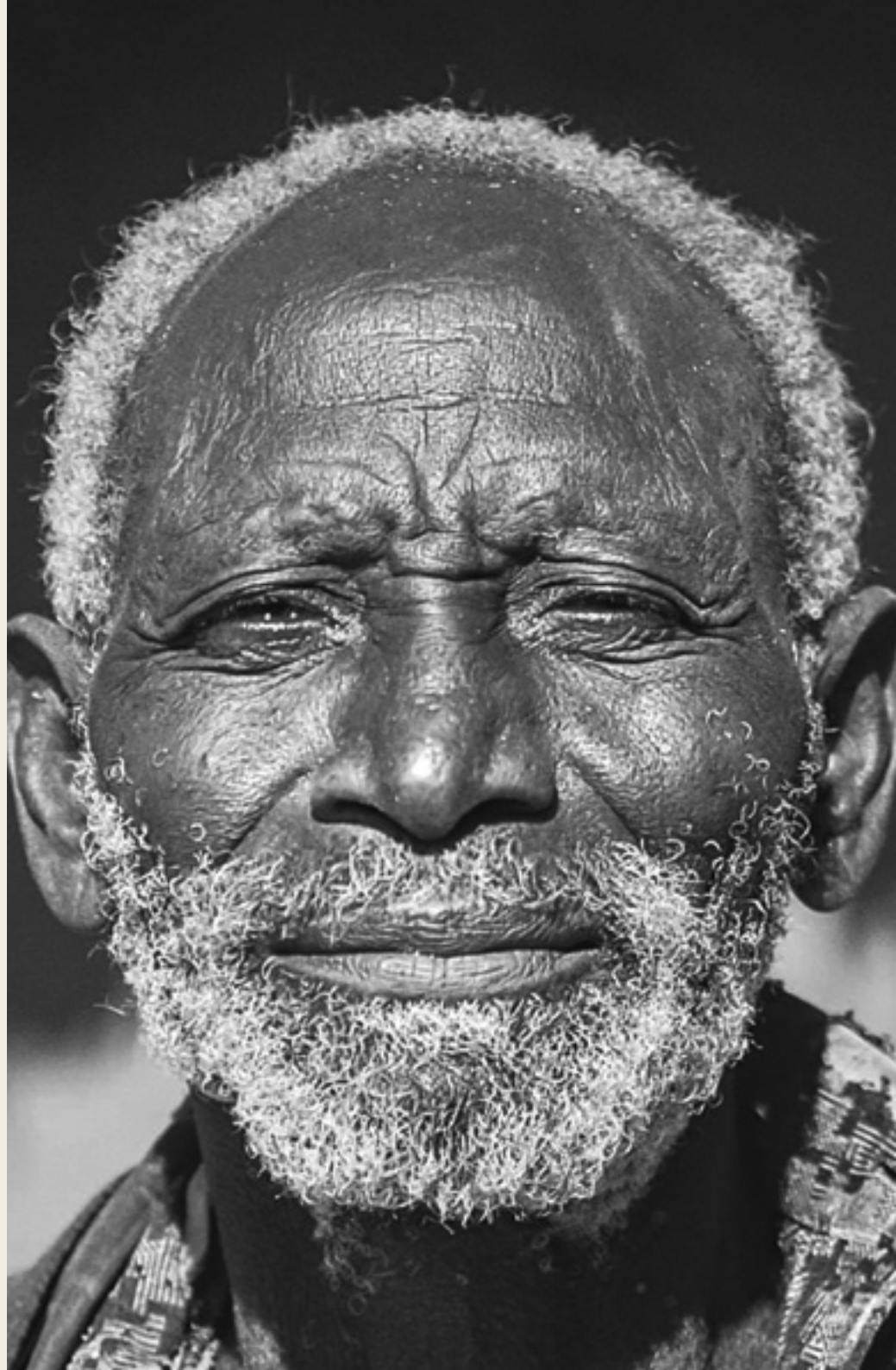
The story of Wilderness

After pioneering ecotourism in Botswana in 1983, we began to venture further afield. By the mid-1990s, we were determined to bring our brand of ecotourism into the spectacular wilderness and wildlife areas of Zimbabwe and Zambia.

We loved the wild, untamed nature of both countries, and the fact that it was often best enjoyed on a walking or canoeing safari. Spending time on foot, in rustic bush camps and around campfires on the floodplains of Mana Pools, in the valleys of Chizarira, the woodlands of Gonarezhou and vleis of Hwange, we soon connected with likeminded souls – many of them among the country's best professional guides – and formed a partnership that by the latter 1990s had established the best portfolio of safari camps in Zimbabwe.

Eventually this included a camp on the banks of the Zambezi upstream of Victoria Falls, not long after which we ventured into the most remote reaches of Kafue National Park further north in Zambia.

Through it all, we have continued to hold dear those early experiences around the campfire and that elusive connection with both the Earth and the self.





Zimbabwe

Cradled between two great African rivers – the Zambezi in the north and the Limpopo in the south – Zimbabwe has an incredible wealth of landscapes, wildlife and a rich cultural heritage going back millennia. Landmarks such as the granite Motobo Hills, the Victoria Falls (most expansive curtain of water in the world), and the remote, beautiful Mana Pools National Park have earned UNESCO World Heritage Site status for the vital role they play in the preservation of Africa’s natural and cultural assets. Zimbabwe’s largest national park, Hwange, is home to some of southern Africa’s last great elephant, buffalo and sable herds and plays an integral role in a network of southern African conservation areas.



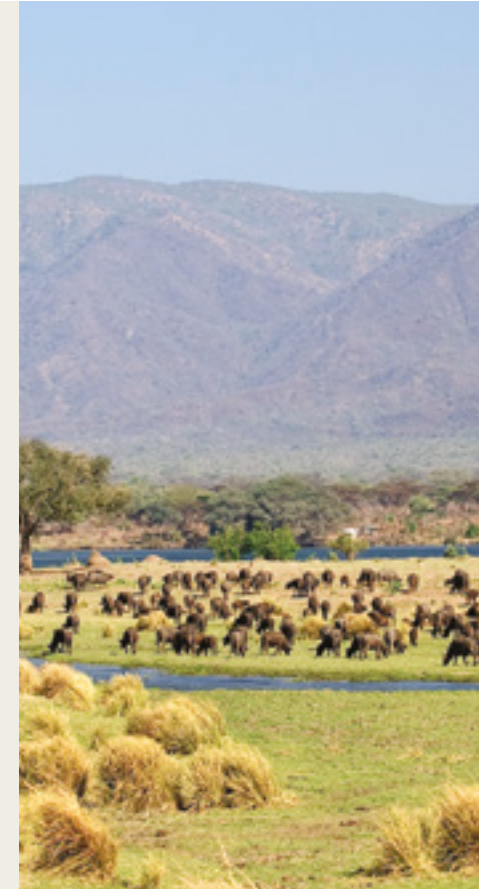
Hwange

Savannah; woodland; elephant concentrations; large lion prides; antelope diversity; community visits

Camps

Davison’s • Linkwasha • Little Makalolo

Pages: 6 – 19



Mana Pools

Zambezi River; ana tree woodland; ancient floodplain; dry season game concentrations

Camps

Ruckomechi • Little Ruckomechi

Pages: 20 – 27



Victoria Falls – Livingstone

Natural Wonder of the World; safari downtime; wellness; cultural excursions; Livingstone tours

Camp
Toke Leya

Pages: 28 – 35



Kafue

Seasonal floodplains; isolated tree islands; hippo pools; lion; rare antelope; hot air ballooning

Camps
Shumba • Busanga Bush Camp

Pages: 36 – 47



Zambia

Zambia is a vast country that remains one of the region's least explored, yet most rewarding wilderness destinations. Named for the mighty Zambezi, it is characterised by immensity of space and gentle horizons and some of the wildest and most remote game areas on the continent. There are innumerable ways of enjoying Zambia's diverse wildlife, birdlife and dramatic scenery, from tiger fishing in the Lower Zambezi to helicopter flips over the Victoria Falls, or drifting over large concentrations of game on the spectacular Busanga Plains in a hot air balloon. This enormous country offers that timeless sense of wilderness and adventure.

HWANGE

Linkwasha Camp • Little Makalolo • Davison's Camp





Dry season game concentrations ... green season abundance

Linkwasha Camp

Ideally situated in one of the most game-rich areas in Hwange, Linkwasha is all about luxury and exclusivity. The private concession's exceptional winter game viewing is complemented by easy access to nearby Ngamo Plains, known for its abundant wildlife in the summer months. The camp's fresh contemporary design echoes the wide-open vistas that stretch out around it, with multi-tier platforms providing a range of vantage points from which to enjoy the continuous parade of wildlife at the camp pan, from herds of elephant to an assortment of plains game, including giraffe, buffalo and zebra.



*Dung Beetle (Subfamily: Scarabaeinae)
Seen on bush walk*

• 9 tents (1 family) • game drives • nature walks • cultural excursions







"Staff at Linkwasha are world class. Very thoughtful, kind and friendly. Luxurious tents. Phenomenal night sky. Great food and excellent sundowners during the safari!"

Linkwasha guest, July 2015







• 6 tents (1 family) • game drives • nature walks • star-bed • log-pile hide • cultural excursions



Little Makalolo

Charming and intimate, Little Makalolo's location in the south-east of Hwange lends it a sense of seclusion and remoteness. Nestled into the treeline, the camp overlooks a productive waterhole that draws large numbers of wildlife, observed up close from the log-pile hide. Elephant, buffalo, giraffe and zebra are regular visitors, while special sightings include sable, roan and eland. The area is best explored on game drives and guided walks, with special extras like an unexpected pizza or a night spent under the stars on the Madison Pan star-bed platform.







"This camp is more than comfortable but what sets it apart from others is the kindness of the staff and their desire to make one's stay memorable. The quality of guiding is extraordinary."

Little Makalolo guest, July 2015



Davison's Camp

Set under a shady grove of ancient false mopane trees, Davison's Camp overlooks grassy plains and a shallow pan that entices a steady stream of plains game and elephant herds in their hundreds, especially in the water-scarce winter months. Named after Ted Davison, the first warden of the Park who devoted 30 years of his life to it, Davison's offers the quintessential Hwange experience combining excellent wildlife viewing with the opportunity to visit a local village and participate in community projects.



*Ted Davison (1906 - 1982)
First warden of Hwange National Park*

• 9 tents (1 family) • game drives • nature walks • cultural village visits • viewing platform









You can't teach a hungry child

Conservation in modern Africa simply cannot survive without the support of local people. They bear the costs of living with and adjacent to wildlife, frequently suffering crop- or stock-raiding by large wild mammals and other forms of Human-Wildlife Conflict. Changing perceptions about wildlife and educating people around alternative livelihoods is one of Africa's most critical conservation priorities. As the famous Senegalese environmentalist, Baba Dioum, said in 1968: "In the end we will conserve only what we love. We will love only what we understand. We will understand only what we are taught."

You cannot teach a hungry child however, something we have learnt over years of engagement with the communities adjacent to south-eastern Hwange National Park, where child nutrition levels were so low as to affect school attendance and performance. As a result, since 2008 – in addition to our Children in the Wilderness programme, teacher training, school infrastructure development and library book supply – we have found it necessary to address issues of nutrition as well. Having initially implemented a feeding programme for schoolchildren, we have subsequently focused additional efforts on school-driven projects around water provision, worm farms, vegetable plots and poultry projects. The results have been dramatic and have allowed us to expand our engagement here into tertiary education bursaries and scholarships.

MANA POOLS

• Ruckomechi • Little Ruckomechi



A herd of elephants is walking across a dry, open floodplain in a savanna landscape. The elephants are in the foreground, moving from left to right. The background features a dense line of green trees and a range of blue mountains under a hazy, golden sky, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The overall scene is a classic African savanna landscape.

Iconic, primordial floodplains of the Lower Zambezi River



Ruckomechi Camp

Overlooking a wide stretch of the Zambezi River, and the dramatic purple-hued escarpment of Zambia in the distance, Ruckomechi's scenic location epitomises Mana Pools National Park in all its abundance. The year-round water draws all manner of wildlife and waterfowl, especially elephant who are regulars in and around camp, feasting on the nutritious pods of the ana tree. The camp boasts an infinity pool and hammocks, an inviting, cushion-strewn star-gazing deck, and a favourite amongst guests: its outdoor 'bath with a view' in a secluded, scenic spot.



*Collared Palm-Thrush (Cichladusa arquata)
Curious bird in camp*

- 10 tents (2 family) • game drives • nature walks • boating • catch-and-release fishing • canoeing • sleep-out







"We've been on over 50 safaris including Sabi Sands, Kruger National Park, Okavango and Serengeti. There is no place as special as Ruckomechi, Mana Pools."

Ruckomechi guest, July 2015







Little Ruckomechi

A little further downstream from its sister camp, Little Ruckomechi is all about the intimacy of being close to nature amongst the iconic albida trees that characterise the area. This authentic, exclusive and stylish bush camp is built on wooden decks and is a reminder of a bygone explorer era. The living spaces and plunge pool all look out over the mighty Zambezi River and the Zambian foothills in the distance. Wildlife here is in its abundance and viewed from a wide range of exciting land and water activities.

*African buffalo (Syncerus caffer)
Often found near the Zambezi*



• 3 tents • game drives • nature walks • boating • catch-and-release fishing • canoeing



"An Amazement of Elephants!"

Ruckomechi guest, September 2015



VICTORIA FALLS

• Toka Leya





Mosi-oa-Tunya ... "the smoke that thunders"





Toka Leya

A safari-style sanctuary situated right on the banks of the Zambezi River, Toka Leya provides a peaceful wilderness experience just 12 km away from the iconic Victoria Falls. It is the perfect place to unwind for a few nights before or after a safari, or visit as a stand-alone destination. With luxurious outdoor baths, a wellness centre complete with yoga/meditation deck and your private veranda overlooking the rushing, roaring river, there is ample space to relax – or set off on one of the many adventurous activities on offer, from white rhino tracking to bungee jumping.



*African Skimmers (Rynchops flavirostris)
Seen skimming on afternoon boat trip*

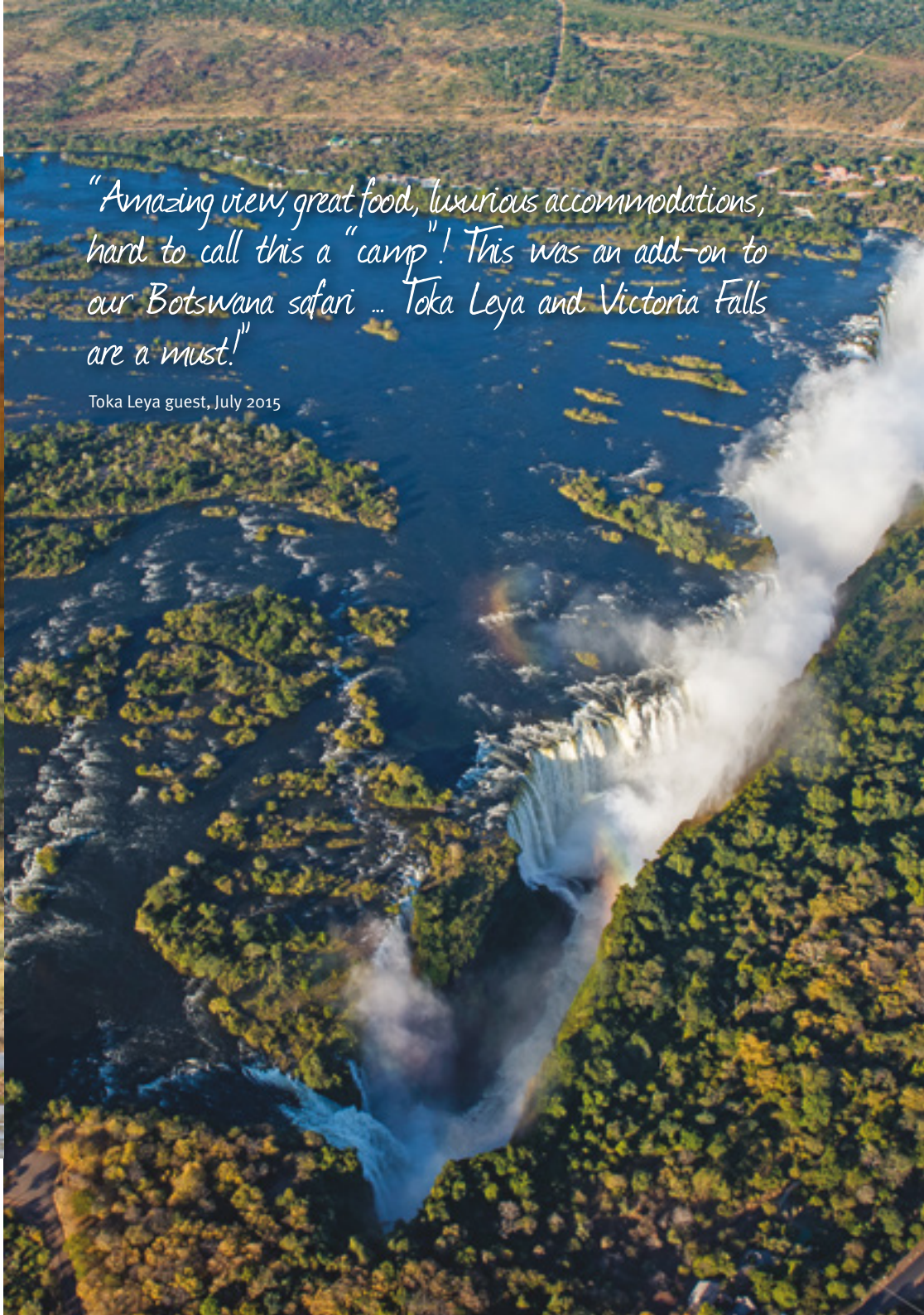
• 12 tents (3 family) • Victoria Falls tour • boating • game drives • rhino tracking • cultural excursions • spa and gym • catch-and-release fishing





"Amazing view, great food, luxurious accommodations, hard to call this a "camp"! This was an add-on to our Botswana safari ... Toka Leya and Victoria Falls are a must!"

Toka Leya guest, July 2015





Behind the scenes at Toka Leya

The “Back of House” is a catchall phrase for everything that happens behind the scenes at a safari camp and which is not normally seen by the guests. Not only don't we mind guests visiting our back of house, at Toka Leya we encourage it.

Over the years, the area suffered significant deforestation, with many trees chopped down for charcoal. To address this, the camp initiated a greenhouse and nursery project to grow seedlings and rehabilitate indigenous flora in the area.

Toka Leya staff have mastered the fine art of growing trees: a delicate balance of the right amount of sand, soil and fertiliser before placing them in the ideal environment to take root. In this way, thousands of trees have been planted in the surrounding Mosi-oa-Tunya National Park.

At Toka Leya, nothing goes to waste. Vegetable peels, teabags, coffee filter papers and eggshells make for fine dining for the worms in our vermiculture bins, in turn producing compost and nitrate-rich ‘worm tea,’ used in the nursery as fertiliser.



KAFUE

Shumba • Busanga Bush Camp



A wide-angle photograph of a vast, open landscape. The foreground is dominated by tall, golden-brown grasses, with a small, dark green bush in the lower right. A thin, shallow stream or ditch runs horizontally across the bottom of the frame. The middle ground is a flat, open plain extending to the horizon. In the distance, a large, dark, rounded tree stands prominently against a clear, light blue sky. The overall scene conveys a sense of vastness and isolation.

Vast, remote and utterly wild!



Shumba Camp

Shumba means 'lion' – an appropriate name for a camp located in the midst of several lion pride territories. Indeed, these prodigious cats prey on the plethora of herbivores that frequent the Busanga Plains on which Shumba is situated. From the raised decks, the view is panoramic and often filled with grazing puku and lechwe; floodplain grasses stretch to the horizon, interrupted only by isolated protrusions of fig and palm trees. Finally, there is no better vantage point from which to absorb the Plains' vast remoteness than from a hot air balloon.



*Serval (*Leptailurus serval*)
Male surprised after dark while hunting*

• 6 tents (1 family) • game drives • nature walks • boating • hot air ballooning





"In addition to the lions, we were impressed with the plains wildlife which sets this place apart from others – endless varieties of antelope including puku, red lechwe, wildebeest, Lichtenstein's hartebeest, roan and sable."

Shumba guest, August 2015





An aerial photograph of a vast, flat, green savanna landscape. The terrain is mostly covered in lush green grass, with a winding water channel or stream cutting through the lower-left portion of the frame. In the distance, there are scattered trees and a low horizon line under a clear sky. A few small, dark spots are visible on the ground, possibly animals or structures.

"A must do at Shumba is the hot air ballooning ... a truly memorable experience to float across the plains observing the wildlife."

Shumba Camp guest, September 2014



Busanga Bush Camp

With just four tents, Busanga Bush Camp offers a truly intimate experience in the heart of the vast Busanga Plains. Hidden on a lush tree-island of sycamore fig trees, it sports an open-air dining area romantically lit by a unique chandelier. Uninterrupted views extend out towards the horizon, with herds of red lechwe and puku regularly feeding on the grassy seasonal floodplains that surround the camp. From this traditional safari camp, guests can explore the Plains and its diverse array of resident wildlife, including unusual antelope such as oribi and roan, along with lion and occasional cheetah and wild dog.



Ficus sycamorus
Detail of leaf and figs

• 4 tents • game drives • nature walks • boating • hot air ballooning





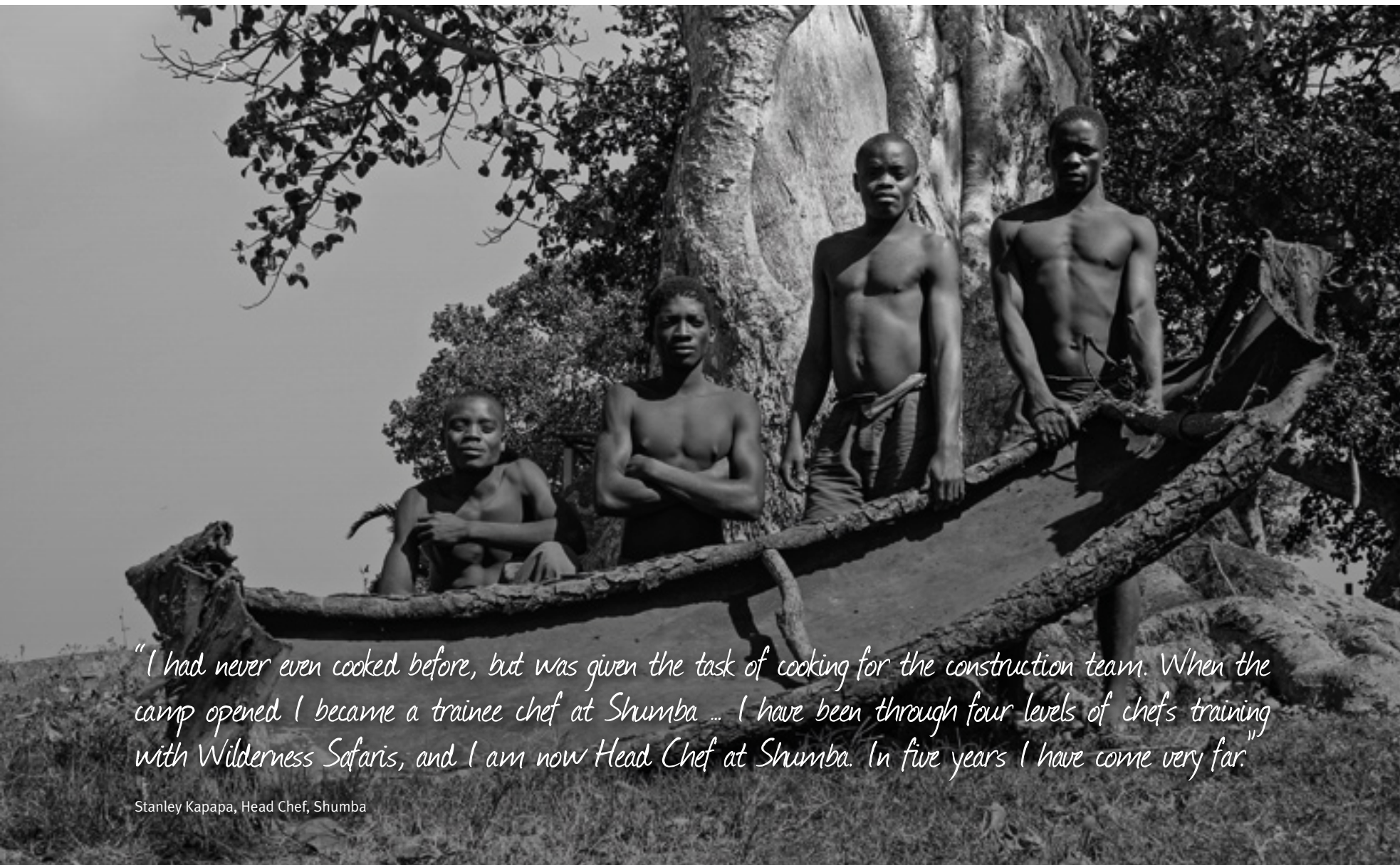


Building sustainable conservation economies

What do we mean by ‘building sustainable conservation economies’? In a nutshell, we attempt to use ecotourism to create an alternative economy in remote, rural areas where either there is no other option, or where other land uses – such as mining or forestry, and even agriculture – are less sustainable. By doing so, we believe we give a monetary value to wilderness areas and, as a result, enhance the possibilities of their long-term conservation.

Our Busanga Plains project is a case in point. We have provided employment, training and other opportunities for local people without alternatives, we pay lease fees that help cover the costs of park operation, we contribute financially and in kind to anti-poaching and other activities, we have initiated and implemented a number of research projects and we have raised the profile of this previously marginalised area. A hugely rewarding part of our investment here has been the growth and development of many people, some of who arrived unannounced on the building site back in 2006 after finding their way on foot, bicycle and makeshift boat through miles of wild country and who are now waiters, housekeepers, chefs and other proud ecotourism employees.





"I had never even cooked before, but was given the task of cooking for the construction team. When the camp opened I became a trainee chef at Shumba ... I have been through four levels of chef's training with Wilderness Safaris, and I am now Head Chef at Shumba. In five years I have come very far."

Stanley Kapapa, Head Chef, Shumba

Clockwise from left: Ferrying building materials to site 2006; teamwork in constructing Shumba 2006; the most celebrated, unannounced arrivals at the construction site with their bark boat; stuck ... again!





Wilderness Air ... connecting you to the wilderness





Privately-guided journeys through the vast, unexplored nature of it all ...





Explorations

Wilderness Safaris began with mobile camping safaris as the cornerstone of our operation, where we sought out prime wilderness areas throughout southern Africa and channelled our passion into guided safaris that were educational and fun filled. Our Explorations represent both a commitment to our origins, as well as a progression in traditional safari concept – that of a guided, original journey through Africa.

Each Exploration is privately guided by one of our superlative guides. Highly trained and noted for their passion and knowledge, they lead each journey from start to finish, creating a seamless and detailed interpretive experience.

Aside from our exciting set itineraries, Tailor-made Explorations – personally-crafted itineraries for private groups – are available.





Hwange Walking Safari

4 nights/5 days

July – September

Set out under the African sun and explore Hwange's most abundant concession on foot and by vehicle. Found in the south-eastern corner of Zimbabwe's largest National Park, our private Linkwasha Concession's diverse range of habitats is a magnet for a variety of wildlife.

"What we will remember the most is the very thoughtful, attentive and personal service we received at all times from all of the staff and our guide."

Hwange Wilderness Safaris guest, 2016



Our people

People are at the heart of Wilderness Safaris. Our staff is made up of individuals who share the beliefs and values of our organisation and who together form the extended Wilderness family. These warm, inspiring and enthusiastic individuals are the vital link and interface between our guests, our partners and the wilderness; their knowledge and passion gives a new meaning to service.

Between Zambia and Zimbabwe, there is a range of cultures and language groups in the camps and the offices. No matter the differences, all are the custodians of what we call the Wilderness Way, which means to have a humble pride in the bigger vision of the organisation and the difference we seek to make.

Our staff are proud of their culture and traditions, and are happy to share them with both our guests and other staff, thus allowing them to learn about Africa's cultural diversity. Staff celebrate their culture, traditions and customs through day-to-day interactions, visits to communities, singing, dancing and story-telling in the camps, adding character and uniqueness to our camp and guest experiences.

Shayne, Johnny and Kim made us feel so at home that it felt like we were leaving family when we left!

Wilderness guest, July 2015











Your journey will make a difference ...

Experiences with wildlife, being in truly remote locations and interacting with our staff are the primary reasons why our guests choose to travel with Wilderness. But more than this; when you journey with us, you are helping make a difference – to Africa, its people and its wildlife.

A portion of every bednight that you book with us is dedicated to conservation. A percentage goes to the Wilderness Wildlife Trust, our non-profit entity that supports a wide variety of projects throughout Africa: from research and conservation to wildlife management and educational bursaries.

Another share is portioned off to be used throughout the organisation in protecting and nurturing the wild places, in uplifting the communities that live adjacent to these, and in ensuring that our camps step with as light a footprint as possible on the Earth. Our pride and joy is our Children in the Wilderness programme, which aims to educate the youth of Africa, inspiring and helping them to appreciate and thus protect their magnificent natural heritage.

We invite you to join us on a journey that makes a difference.



www.wildernesstrust.com



www.childreninthewilderness.com



PLANNING A ZAMBEZI SAFARI



Camps

1. Busanga Bush Camp
2. Shumba Camp
3. Teka Loya
4. Ruckomechi Camp
5. Little Ruckomechi
6. Little Makalala
7. Darison's Camp
8. Linkwasha Camp

Zambia

Population: 14.6 million (2014)
 Country size: 752 618 sq. km / 290 581 sq. mi (more than twice the size of California or Germany)

Capital: Lusaka

Official language/s: English (official), with about 70 additional languages, including Bembe, Nyanja, Tonga, Chewa, Lozi, Nsanga, Tumbuka, Lunda (North Western), Kaonde, Lala

Currency: Zambian kwacha (ZMK)

Ethnic groups: Bemba, Tonga, Chewa, Lozi, Nsanga, Tumbuka, Ngoni, Lala, Kaonde, Namwanga

Zimbabwe

Population: 13.7 million (2014)
 Country size: 390 757 sq. km / 150 871 sq. mi (about the size of California or Germany)

Capital: Harare

Official language/s: English (official), Shona, Sindebele

Currency: US Dollar

Ethnic groups: Shona, Ndebele, Tonga, Zezuru, Kalanga, Lozi, Manyika, Venda

Planning a Zambezi safari

Zimbabwe and Zambia are separated along the entire length of their border by the mighty Zambezi River. As a result the two countries share that iconic Natural Wonder of the World, the Victoria Falls.

With international airports on both sides of the river (Victoria Falls and Livingstone), it is Victoria Falls that is the primary gateway for all safari goers to the region. It offers not only an entry point and an opportunity to experience this World Heritage Site, but also – as the adventure capital of the subcontinent – a diverse array of adrenalin-charged and more sedate activities.

There is far more to these nations than just the Falls however. In order to get the best possible experience from your safari we strongly recommend working with an African travel specialist in your home country to get the best advice. We work with a number of excellent tour operators and travel agents who know our camps and services intimately and will design the perfect safari especially for you.

In our view the most important aspects to consider are diversity and logistics. How will you see as much variety as possible, while still having time to relax, reflect and enjoy your time? It is for this reason that we attempt to provide as seamless a journey as possible ... operating our own meet and greet services, a touring and transfer business and our own 'bush airline' that flies you from camp to camp, and enables the covering of considerable distances most efficiently.

We want a journey with us to change your life, and to change the way you see the world and your place in it.



Images, from top: Wilderness Air: departure briefing • Wilderness Air: Cessna C206 (maximum 5 passengers) • Wilderness Air: Pilot Team • Friendly welcome on arrival at camp

WHERE ELSE IN AFRICA



Botswana
Linyanti • Okavango • Central Kalahari



Kenya
Laikipia





Namibia

*Sossusvlei • Damaraland • Palmwag
• Skeleton Coast • Kunene River*



South Africa

Maputaland



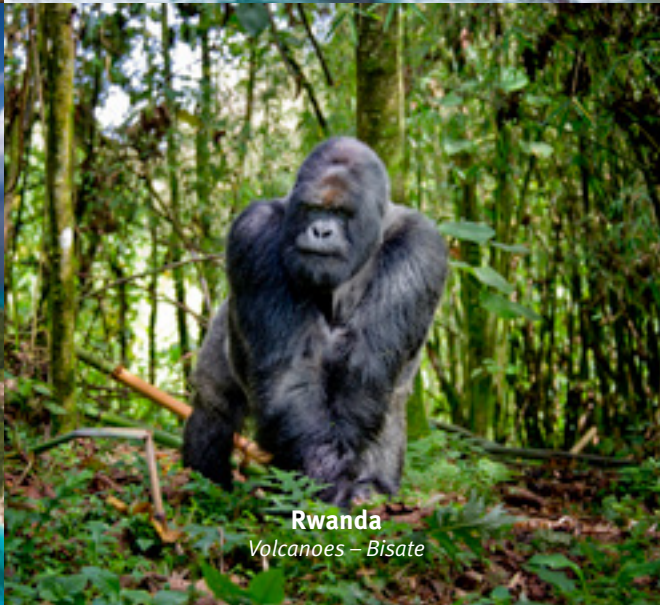
Zambia

Victoria Falls – Livingstone • Kafue



Seychelles

Inner Islands – North Island



Rwanda

Volcanoes – Bisate



Zimbabwe

Hwange • Mana Pools

Our Vision

*To conserve and restore Africa's wilderness and wildlife
by creating life-changing journeys and
inspiring positive action.*



Design and layout: Mary-Anne van der Byl
 Line drawings: Mary-Anne van der Byl
 Copy: Chris Roche & Ilana Stein

We would like to thank all of our staff, partners and guests for allowing us to use their photographs taken in our concession areas.

We are very grateful to: Dana Allen, Grant Atkinson, Martin Benadie, Caroline Culbert, Roger & Pat de la Harpe, Chris Donovan, Olwen Evans, Russel Friedman, Dave Hamman, Mike Myers, Dr Philip Stander, Will & Lianne Steenkamp, Marc Stickler, Mary-Anne van der Byl

NEW TEXT???





www.wilderness-safaris.com


WILDERNESS
SAFARIS

Printed August 2016 on
sustainably sourced paper.

Please recycle.