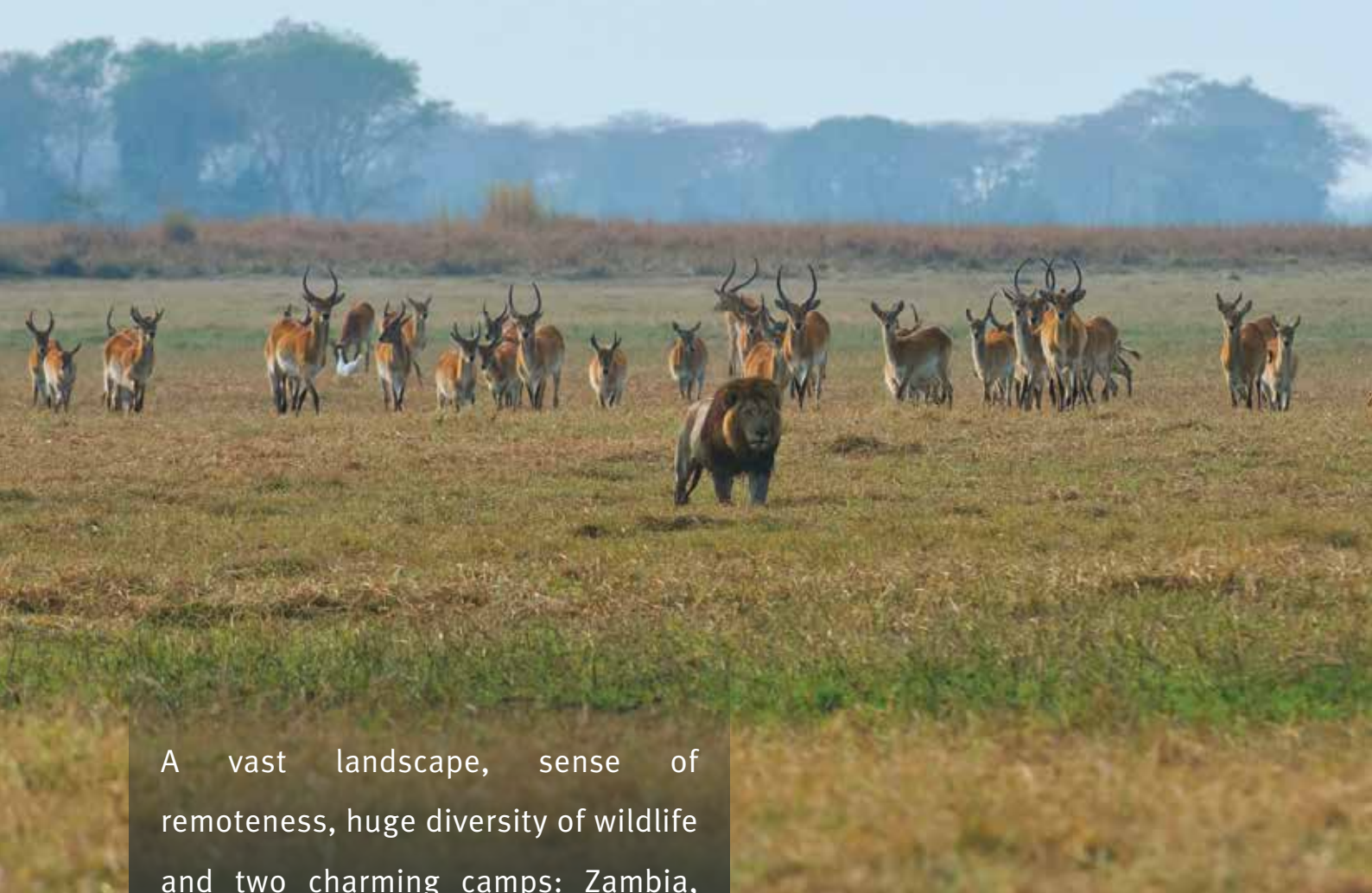


# BUSANGA

## Zambia's Plains of Plenty



A vast landscape, sense of remoteness, huge diversity of wildlife and two charming camps: Zambia, “the real Africa”, is one of the hidden gems on the continent and perfect for Wilderness Safaris guests.

# Activities and Wildlife



Cape Buffalo



Lichtenstein's Hartebeest



Elephant and Puku



### **Game Drives**

The mainstay of our game-viewing activities, day and night game drives take place throughout the season and cover large areas of the plains and the tree-line edge in search of wildlife. The vast open landscape allows for excellent visibility and game viewing, whether of large predators or the herds of plains game that occupy specific niches in this environment.

### **Hot-air Ballooning**

During the second half of each season (August, September and October), we operate hot-air balloon safaris on the Busanga Plains. Drifting silently aloft over the expansive plains as the sun rises is a spectacular experience. This unique experience is available free of charge on a three-night stay.

### **Boating**

At the beginning of the season (June and sometimes even into July), it is possible to traverse parts of the Busanga Plains by boat. Specially-adapted motor boats can be used in very shallow waters allowing excellent birding, as well as viewing of hippo, lechwe, puku and more.

### **Spectacular Herbivore Diversity**

Kafue is home to fantastic concentrations of common antelope species such as puku, lechwe and wildebeest, but also comparative rarities not easily seen in most other places in Africa: the stately roan, nimble oribi, secretive sitatunga and unusual Lichtenstein's hartebeest.

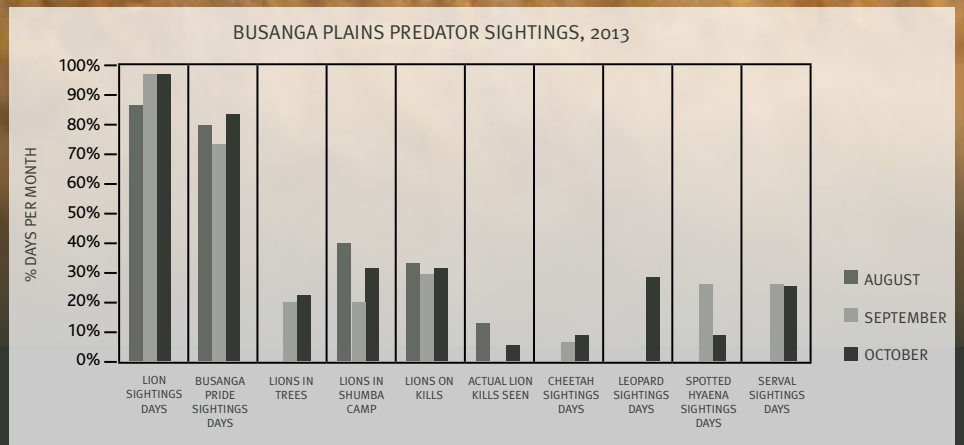


Roan Antelope

# Busanga's Swamp Lions



Side-striped Jackal



The lion is the dominant carnivore of the Busanga Plains, with a number of prides patrolling the area. The territory of the six-strong Busanga Pride centres on both Busanga Bush Camp and Shumba Camp, while the eight-member Papyrus Pride occurs to the north, and the larger Treeline Pride (10+ lions) to the south. The two very large Busanga Boys – the dominant male coalition – move across the central and northern parts of the Plains while the two equally impressive Musanza Males dominate the south. The ongoing clashes between the Musanza Males and Busanga Boys make for riveting viewing; keep an eye on the camp newsletters on the website to follow their story.

Aside from their impressively stocky physiques, these lions are celebrated for their climbing of stately fig trees (to catch the cooling breeze and get a good vantage point) as well as for their ability to survive the inundated summer months on this floodplain. For guests of Shumba Camp, it is not unusual to find one of these big cats relaxing in the shade under one of the raised rooms, or even catching the breeze on one of the walkway decks!

Some of the unique features of lion viewing in this part of Africa include:

- In these very flat and open surroundings, the lions have taken to using raised points for the cooling breeze more than other populations, climbing both fig trees and the raised decks of the camps.
- The open terrain also means that lion hunts – unusually – can often be watched from start to finish as the pride chases and brings down either red lechwe or puku (their two most common prey species here).



Cheetah



African Wild Dog



Serval

# Camps and People



Idos Mulenga – Senior Guide



Chipasha Mwamba – Camp Manager



Isaac Kalfo – Senior Guide



**Shumba Camp** has six luxurious safari tents on raised platforms under a shady tree canopy, overlooking spectacular surrounding plains – the ideal staging post from which to absorb the special diversity and richness of the area. Evening meals are often created over an open fire in front of guests, and served either in the elegant dining area or in the cosy confines of the traditional boma, where elements of local Zambian culture come to the fore.

Wilderness Safaris' Shumba and Busanga Bush Camps are ideally situated to experience this region in all of its magnificence, each offering a slightly different aspect and each with its own allure for a small, intimate lodge experience. Both are totally immersed in the sensation of completely untrammelled wilderness.



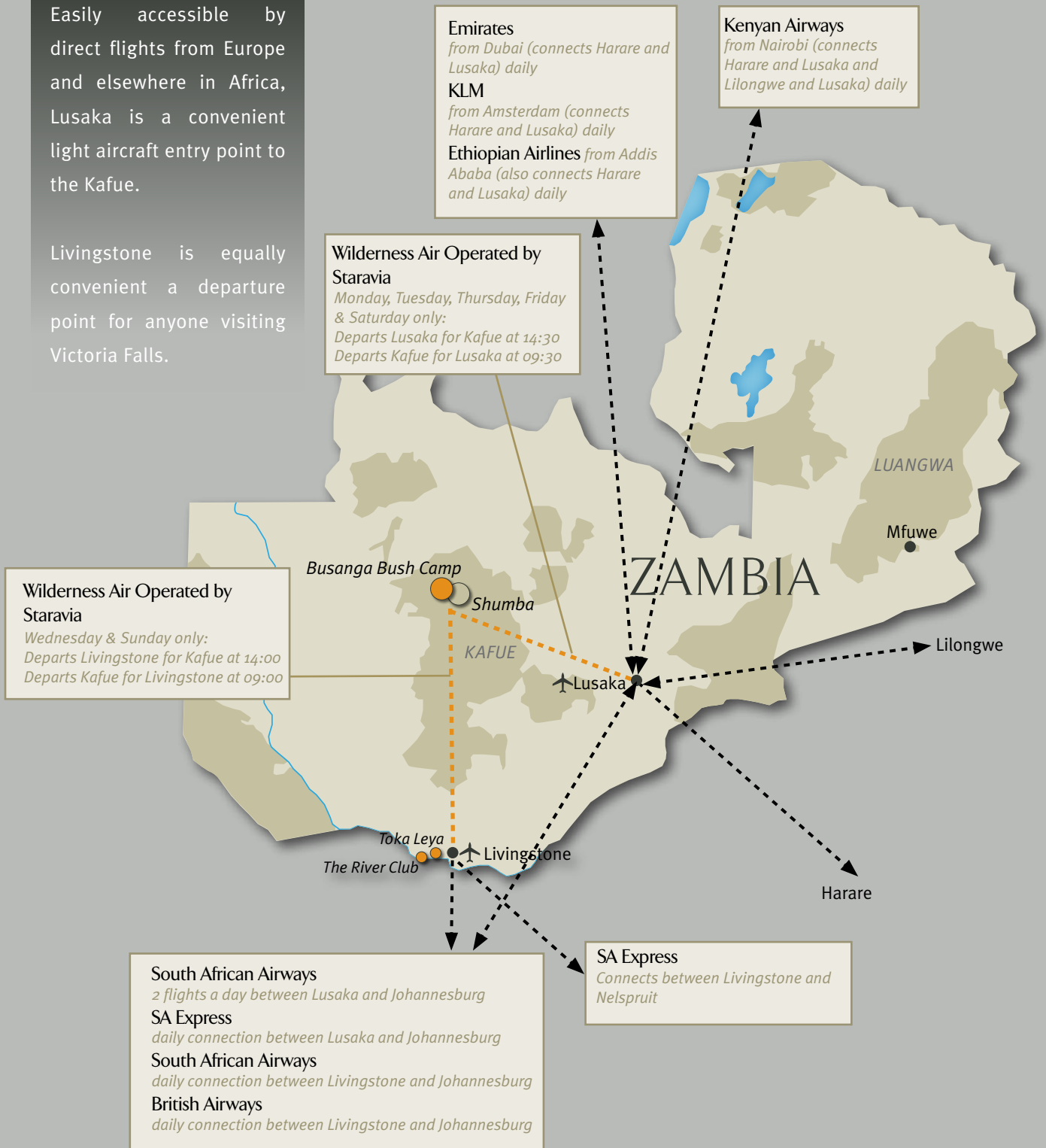
**Busanga Bush Camp** provides the most authentic and intimate safari experience in Kafue without compromising on comfort. Consisting of only four well-appointed tents, the camp is nestled in a grove of sycamore fig trees overlooking a plain teeming with game. Sunrise breakfasts are served here as the ethereal mists rise off the plains in winter.



# Getting There ...

Easily accessible by direct flights from Europe and elsewhere in Africa, Lusaka is a convenient light aircraft entry point to the Kafue.

Livingstone is equally convenient a departure point for anyone visiting Victoria Falls.



Watch the Busanga Pride and the other lions of our plentiful plains in the award-winning **Swamp Lions** documentary, featured by National Geographic Wild and other broadcasters.