



Zimbabwe
MANA POOLS

RUCKOMECHI



Explore



Exclusive, authentic wilderness experience





Ruckomechi – an introduction

Mana Pools National Park is a ‘must do’ on many a safari-goer’s list; the private Ruckomechi Concession on its periphery the perfect place for that classic wilderness experience.

Our concession has the advantage of offering a range of activities not offered in the park, as well as of course exclusivity and privacy. Our Ruckomechi Concession remains true to the Wilderness Safaris promise of offering authentic journeys in the best wild areas of Africa.

Within this secluded enclave, on two of the most scenic and well-placed locations that look out over the Zambezi River, lie our two camps.

Allow us to introduce you to Ruckomechi and Little Ruckomechi.





Ruckomechi Camp

a favourite renewed

Ruckomechi Camp is a much-loved favourite of many that has been operating for a number of years. Totally rebuilt and revamped, it will still overlook the same wide stretch of the Zambezi River, with the dramatic purple-hued escarpment of Zambia in the distance. All the tents as well as the central dining, bar and lounge areas face this evocative scene.

Why do people love it?

- Being in the private concession, the safari experience is one that is low density and more exclusive than others in the Lower Zambezi area
- Its authenticity as a camp and the warmth and loyalty of its staff
- Its back-to-nature feel, yet with all the amenities
- The scenic location on the Zambezi River
- The pool, hammocks and star-gazing deck
- That bath with a view...
- Its very own "in-house" elephant herd!
- The excellent game viewing both around camp as well as further into the concession
- The diversity of activities to experience the area: boating, canoeing, walking and game drives – and the Parachute Pan sleep out

Ruckomechi is open seasonally between May and mid/late November each year.



Classic Camp • 10 tents (2 family to be open by August 2016) • game drives • nature walks • boating • catch-and-release fishing • canoeing • sleep out deck

Ruckomechi Concession evokes that intangible feel of real wilderness



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Little Ruckomechi

a new favourite

Of the abundant life and scenic wonders that characterise the Lower Zambezi area, two icons stand out and are to be celebrated at Little Ruckomechi: the trees and the carmine bee-eaters. The camp will be slightly raised on wooden decks, its en-suite tents airy and elegant; this creates the feeling of being virtually in the tree canopy, taking advantage of its leafy shade. The colours of the bee-eaters combine beautifully with that explorer sensation of a bygone era: vibrancy blends with tradition.

The small size of the camp allows for an intimate, owner-run impression and this sense is continued through the personal attention that can be lavished on just six guests, as well as through the wide range of activities to create that overall bush camp experience.

Why will people love it?

- Small, intimate style
- Explorer safari sensation
- Authentic nature of the camp experience
- Wide range of activities: boating, canoeing, walking and game drives
- Can be booked as sole use for your own private group experience
- Experienced guide and manager in camp

**Only three tents are available for FIT bookings (max 6 guests), while all four tents may be used when booking sole use of camp (max 8 guests). One tent can also be booked by private guides/agents wanting to have a separate host on the trip.*

Little Ruckomechi opens in July this year, but will run seasonally from May to mid/late November each year.



Classic Camp • 3 or 4 tent* • game drives • nature walks • boating • catch-and-release fishing • canoeing



The Colour of Ruckomechi

The largest of Africa's bee-eaters is the southern carmine bee-eater. Easily the most beautiful too, this scarlet-and-blue bird adds much colour and vivacity to the Zambezi River between August and November. At this time, the riverbanks are adorned with spectacular wheeling displays of these aerial masters as they catch fast-flying insects like bees, wasps and dragonflies, mostly hawking from a perch.





Star gazing



Game drives



Canoeing



Things to do...

Boating



Catch-and-release fishing



Guided walks



Sleep out under the tree canopy





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About Mana Pools

On the middle reaches of the Zambezi River, 100km below Lake Kariba, lies the magnificent Mana Pools National Park. The four large pools after which the Park is named (mana means ‘four’ in Shona) are remnant channels of the Zambezi River now separated from the main flow. They and smaller seasonal pools dotted inland hold water year-round, drawing all manner of wildlife and waterfowl during the dry season.

Our Ruckomechi Concession

Our Concession has exclusive access to a spectacular stretch of the Zambezi River, which includes a range of habitats, from a productive floodplain and permanent inland pans, to ana tree woodland, ‘jesse’ (diospyros thicket) and gallery mopane forest.

Here, the river is wide and sandy, with islands and sandbanks protruding from its flowing waters. On its banks, terraces rich in alluvial soils support a mixture of enormous riverine forest and floodplain grasslands, attracting varied mammal life in considerable numbers. Its languid waters hold impressive concentrations of hippo and Nile crocodile and good populations of tigerfish and bream.

On the banks are extensive groves of majestic albida and Natal mahogany trees; during the dry season, the former shed protein-rich pods, a vital resource which, together with the permanent water, attracts numbers of herbivores.

Our Conservation Support

As Ruckomechi camps are only open for seven months of the year, we concentrate on supporting a number of projects while we are in camp, or over the years, financially via the Wilderness Wildlife Trust. These include:



Painted Dog Conservation Project

This initiative looks into the population status of wild dog in Zimbabwe as well as the human to wild dog conflict. Its mission is to protect and increase the range and number of wild dog through research, education and community involvement.



Zimbabwe Cheetah Conservation Project

Despite the importance of the Zimbabwean cheetah population, little is known about their population status. Wilderness camps are involved in this project, which is carrying out a countrywide cheetah population.



World Heritage Site

Mana Pools National Park plays an important role in protecting what is considered to be one of the great wildlife spectacles on the continent and in preserving a feel of real wilderness, both elements recognised in its World Heritage Site status. In addition, it is considered to be an important refuge for a number of plants, birds and threatened species such as elephant, wild dog, lion and cheetah.



The Wild Dogs of Ruckomechi

The Lower Zambezi is one of the more important locations for African wild dog conservation in Africa with a small but healthy population in both Zimbabwe's Mana Pools National Park and Zambia's Lower Zambezi National Park. The dogs are even able to cross the Zambezi River on occasion and certainly use the surrounding Game Management Areas, indicating that this is an important link between the Zambian and Zimbabwean populations and thus a critical population for the conservation of the species.



Combine with...

The perfect safari is one that combines the lushness of the riverine vegetation and the enormous Zambezi River views of Ruckomechi with the open plains on which the large herds graze of Hwange National Park. Our private concession in the south-east region of Hwange is home to three camps, each of which offers the quintessential savannah safari with a variety of guest experiences. Ruckomechi Camp blends well with Linkwasha Camp, while the small bush camp feel of Little Makalolo is the perfect complement to Little Ruckomechi.

Extend your exploration of this beautiful country with a visit to the spectacular Victoria Falls, one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World; our Toka Leya Camp on the Zambian side of the Falls is a wonderful spot in which to relax before or after a safari, or enjoy a plethora of adventures around the roaring “Smoke that Thunders.”

It is also possible to combine Ruckomechi with our areas in the neighbouring countries of Zambia, South Africa, Botswana and Mozambique.



Guests staying three nights or more at Ruckomechi will qualify for a discount on our Wilderness Air flying circuit.





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