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## 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. Spending time on foot, on the water, in rustic bush camps and around campfires on the floodplains of Mana Pools, on the Zambezi River, in 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, 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 we are proud that we have stayed true to our vision to conserve and restore Africa's wilderness and wildlife by creating life-changing journeys and inspiring positive action.



*In the early-1990s, we proudly brought our pioneering ecotourism model to Zimbabwe and Zambia, offering life-changing safaris with Purpose. Photos above circa 1993-1998.*









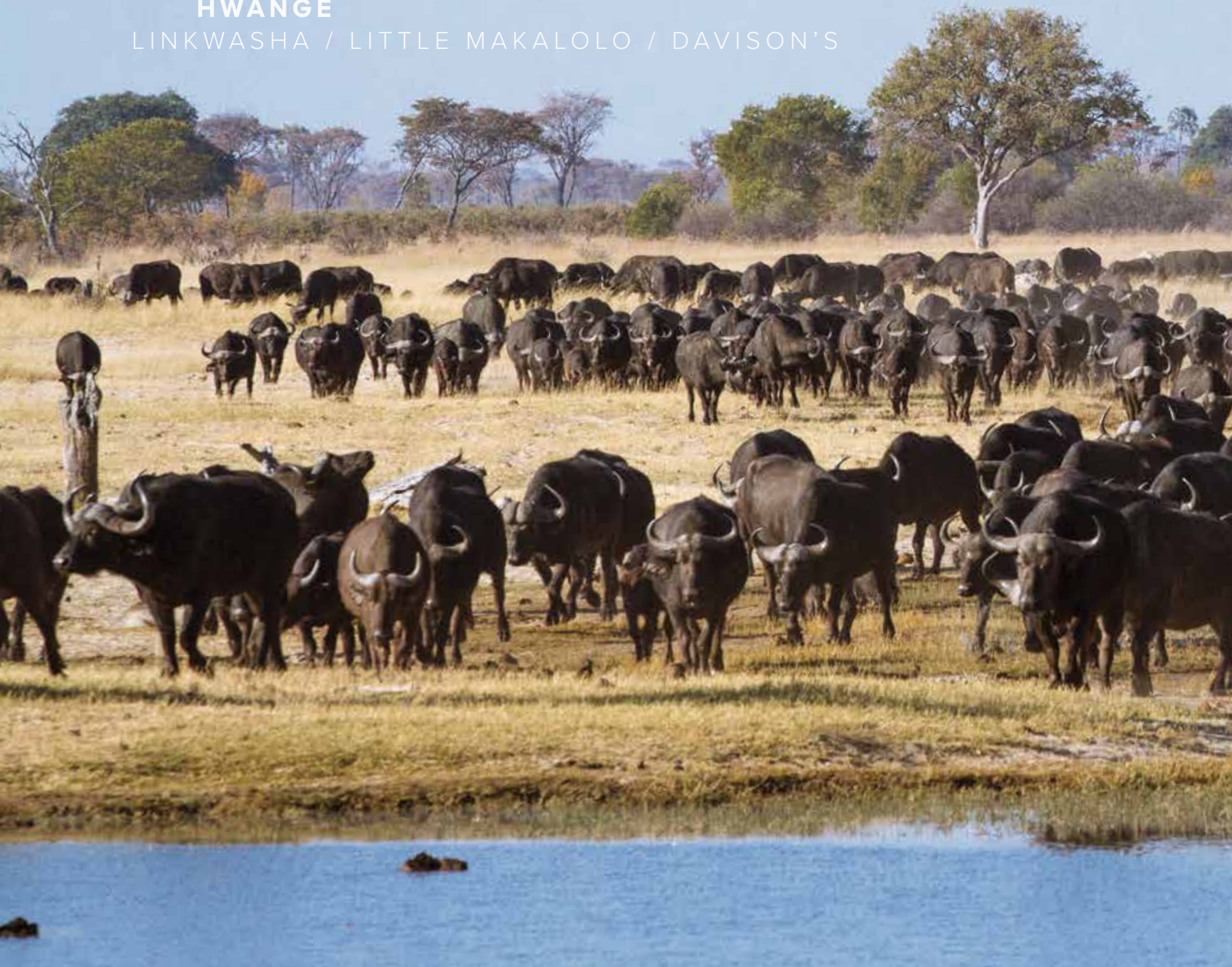
## Zimbabwe

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 Matobo Hills, the Victoria Falls (the 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

LINKWASHA / LITTLE MAKALOLO / DAVISON'S







*Dry season game concentrations ... green season abundance*







## Linkwasha

Ideally situated in one of the most game-rich areas in Hwange, Linkwasha is dedicated to conservation and community enrichment while offering a luxurious and exclusive safari experience. 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 neighbouring pan, from herds of elephant to an assortment of plains game, including giraffe, buffalo and zebra.

- 9 tents (1 family) • Star Bed • no Wi-Fi • game drives • guided walks • cultural excursions • sunken hide • Olympus photography

CLASSIC

















*“From the warm welcome, to the exciting wildlife to be seen, this was one of our favourite stays during our multiple safaris in Africa.”*

## *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 newly-refurbished camp overlooks a productive waterhole that draws large numbers of wildlife, which can be 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 while a visit to the Scorpion Anti-Poaching Unit provides unique insight into our conservation support of Hwange. A night spent at the Star Bed is an immersive – and thrilling – wilderness adventure.

- 6 tents (1 family) • Star Bed • no Wi-Fi • game drives • guided walks • cultural excursions • log-pile hide • Olympus photography

CLASSIC






















A blurred background of a savanna landscape with a large, weathered log in the foreground. The log is dark and textured, with some small holes and a bird's nest visible. The background shows a mix of brown and green tones, suggesting a natural, outdoor setting.

*“We loved Little Makalolo. The staff was friendly and welcoming ... the attention to detail made us feel special, and the game viewing was phenomenal. Little Makalolo is a gem.”*





## PROTECTING THE *Wildlife of Hwange*

Through funding, assisting patrols and snare removals, our partnership with the Scorpion Anti-Poaching Unit has gained huge ground in reducing poaching levels in Hwange over the last eight years. Supported by the Wilderness Trust, Wilderness Safaris, Panthera and SATIB, the Unit provides manpower and resources to assist Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management in reducing levels of poaching in the boundary areas of Hwange. While the Unit's presence on the ground has been invaluable, our efforts to engage the community has seen a marked shift in the appreciation of tourism and its benefits, and hence a value for wildlife. .

*"In Africa, wildlife has evolved among people. Conservation that does not involve them will not work!"*

Arnold Tshipa – Conservation Ecologist, Wilderness Safaris Zimbabwe



## *Davison's*

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.

- 9 tents (1 family) • no Wi-Fi • game drives • guided walks • cultural excursions • viewing platform

ADVENTURES



















*“Highlights were the village tour, all of the game drives and the variety and quantity of animals observed along the way.”*








## YOU CAN'T TEACH A *Hungry Child*

Conservation in modern Africa 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.

But, you cannot teach a hungry child, something we have learnt over years of engagement with the communities next to south-eastern Hwange, 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 addressed 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.



A photograph of two elephants in a pool of water. The elephant on the left is smaller and has its trunk raised. The elephant on the right is larger and also has its trunk raised. The background is filled with lush green trees and some fallen branches. The lighting is soft, suggesting early morning or late afternoon.

**MANA POOLS**

RUCKOMECHI / LITTLE RUCKOMECHI / CHIKWENYA



*Iconic, primordial floodplains of the Lower Zambezi River*









## Chikwenya

Situated on the eastern boundary of Mana Pools National Park, Chikwenya enjoys a rich Wilderness history as one of our first camps in Zimbabwe, which we recently reopened – much to the delight of those who have stayed here before. A photographer's paradise, Chikwenya overlooks an open floodplain and the broad Zambezi River, with a backdrop provided by the mountains of the Rift Valley escarpment. Game is plentiful with large concentrations of buffalo and elephant, while predators such as lion, wild dog, leopard and cheetah are often sighted. In between a variety of activities, the camp's main area offers shady spaces to sit back and enjoy the spectacular scenery and passing wildlife.

- 7 tents (2 family) • no Wi-Fi • game drives • guided walks • canoeing
- catch-and-release fishing • boating

CLASSIC



















## Ruckomechi

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. Facing this evocative scene, the camp's beautifully decorated rooms are a spacious sanctuary for quiet contemplation, as is the camp's scenically located "bath with a view," while the main area includes a substantial viewing deck with a pool area and fire pit. The presence of Ruckomechi, since 1999, has enabled us to conserve this magnificent and iconic wilderness area.

• 10 tents (2 family) • Star Bed • no Wi-Fi • game drives • guided walks • boating • catch-and-release fishing • canoeing • Olympus photography

CLASSIC









*“The safaris were mind blowing, with the wet season in full swing – lots of animals were out and about for us to see. An adventure of a lifetime which exceeded all my expectations.”*







## *Little Ruckomechi*

A little further downstream from its sister camp, set amongst the iconic albida trees that characterise the area, Little Ruckomechi celebrates one of Zimbabwe's great wilderness areas. This authentic and exclusive camp, with its elegant en-suite tents, conveys the romance of a bygone explorer era. The stylish living spaces, including a dining room and lounge as well as a plunge pool, all look out over the great Zambezi River and the Zambian hills in the distance. The prolific and diverse wildlife is enjoyed through a variety of activities and experiences that contribute to the conservation and preservation of this idyllic ecosystem.

- 3 tents • no Wi-Fi • game drives • guided walks • boating
- catch-and-release fishing • canoeing

CLASSIC





















*“A place that one should visit at least once in a lifetime. The views, wildlife and atmosphere are astounding. During the night you may be awakened by a lion roaring or the grunting of a hippo. Words cannot describe this experience.”*















## 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.

**KAFUE**  
SHUMBA / BUSANGA BUSH CAMP







*Vast, remote and utterly wild*







## Shumba

*Shumba* means 'lion' – an appropriate name for a camp located in the midst of a lion pride territory. Indeed, these impressive 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 a hot air balloon and from which to marvel at how Wilderness' presence has positively impacted this unique ecosystem.

- 6 tents (1 family) • no Wi-Fi • game drives • boating
- hot air ballooning • Olympus photography

CLASSIC







A herd of wildebeest is running across a vast, open savanna plain. The animals are dark grey with curved horns, and they are captured in motion, running from left to right. The ground is covered in dry, yellowish-brown grass. In the background, there are scattered trees and a hazy horizon under a clear sky. The overall scene is a classic African savanna landscape.

*“The most amazing wilderness, wide open spaces, loads of game and birds, great guide and staff, comfy accommodation with views of the plains, animals and sunrises a special trip that should be on the bucket list of those who love wild Africa.”*





## *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 an unusual 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. This traditional safari camp is an intimate base from which one can discover the unique Busanga 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. Here you can learn about how our support of conservation and communities has changed lives both within the Park and beyond its borders.

• 4 tents • no Wi-Fi • game drives • boating • hot air ballooning

CLASSIC



















## BUILDING SUSTAINABLE *Conservation Economies*

By “building sustainable conservation economies,” 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 heard that there is a company called Wilderness Safaris which is building in Kafue National Park ... They said, "Do you know anything about waitering or housekeeping?" I said, "No I don't know anything - unless you teach me." ... I am helping my younger brothers, paying some school fees from the time I joined Wilderness, things are changing for the better."*

Chrispin Kabinda, Senior Waiter – Shumba Camp (second from left)







An aerial photograph of Victoria Falls, showing the dark, turbulent water of the Zambezi River cascading over a rocky edge. The water is dark blue and black, with white foam and spray at the base of the falls. The surrounding landscape is lush green with dense vegetation and scattered trees. In the bottom right corner, a faint rainbow is visible, partially obscured by the mist from the falls. The text 'VICTORIA FALLS' and 'TOKA LEYA' is overlaid in white, sans-serif font on the left side of the image.

**VICTORIA FALLS**  
TOKA LEYA





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

## *Toka Leya*

A safari-style sanctuary situated 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, participate in the camp's tree rehabilitation initiative – or set off on one of the many adventurous activities on offer (some at additional cost), from white rhino tracking to bungee jumping.

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

CLASSIC



















*“Our stay at Toka Leya was the highlight of our four weeks in southern Africa. After a fabulous ten-day safari through Botswana, Toka Leya hospitality was just what we needed.”*









## *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.

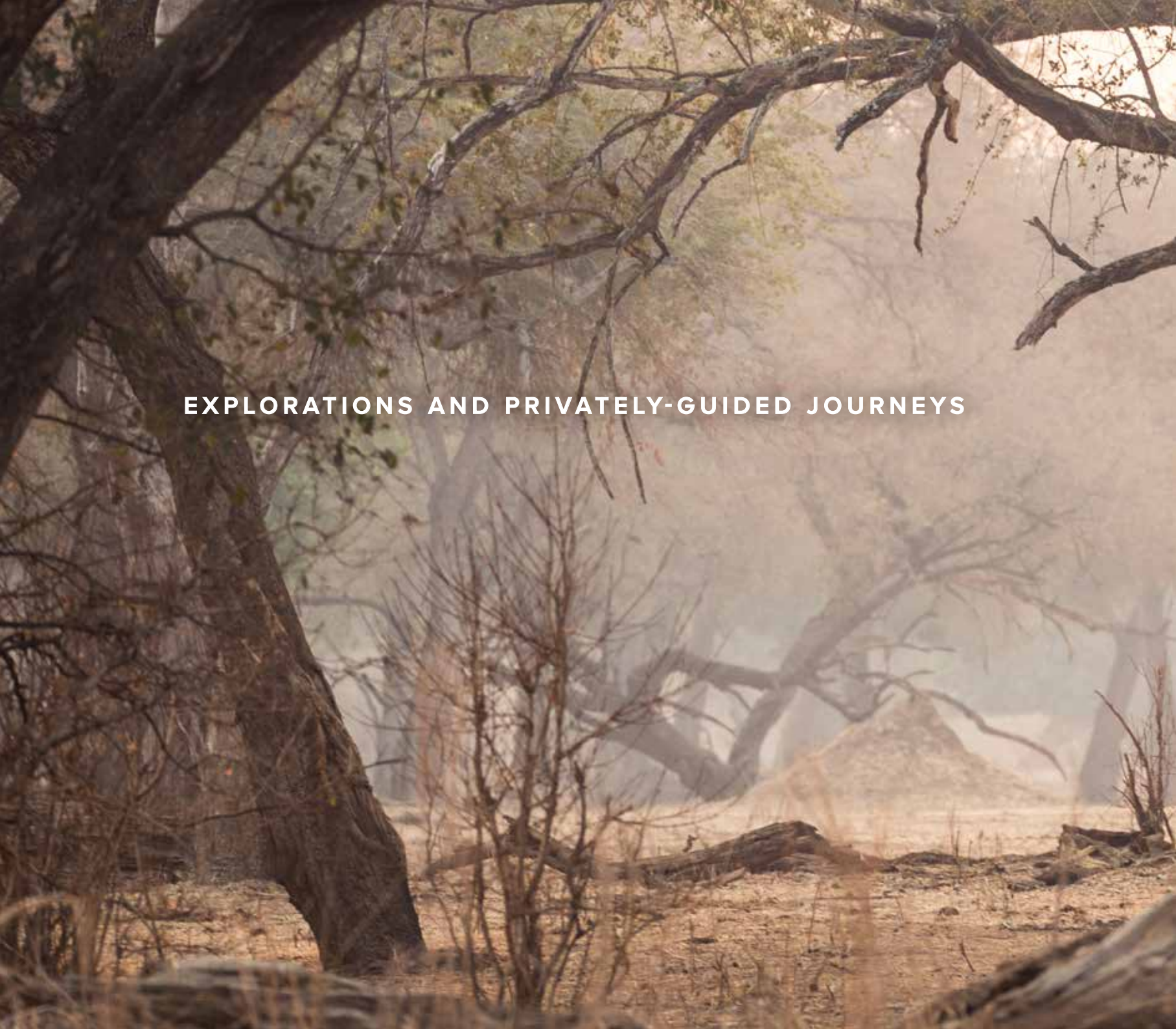
Over the years, the area suffered significant deforestation, with many trees chopped down for charcoal. To address this, the camp initiated a greenhouse and nursery project to grow seedlings and rehabilitate indigenous flora, not only on our own site, but further afield. Toka Leya staff have mastered 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.







A sepia-toned, atmospheric photograph of a landscape. In the foreground, a large, gnarled tree trunk is visible on the left. The middle ground is filled with bare, skeletal trees and a small, dark figure standing in the distance. The background is a hazy, misty expanse. The overall mood is mysterious and evocative.

**EXPLORATIONS AND PRIVATELY-GUIDED JOURNEYS**



A group of three people, two men and one woman, are walking away from the camera on a dirt path in a savanna. The man on the left is wearing a dark shirt and light-colored pants, carrying a rifle. The man in the middle is wearing a light-colored shirt, shorts, and a hat. The woman on the right is wearing a white tank top and dark pants. They are surrounded by large, mature trees with thick trunks and dense green foliage. The background is hazy, suggesting a vast, open landscape. The overall atmosphere is serene and adventurous.

*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 scheduled 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 – while our Privately-Guided Journeys allow you to design your own safari, which takes place at your own time and pace, with a private guide.

Whether you choose an Exploration or a Privately-Guided Journey, your safari will be conducted 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.













## *Hwange Walking Safari*

4 nights/5 days

July – September

For the adventurer looking for a truly wild and authentic experience, Hwange's most abundant concession is best explored on foot, with a "touch" of vehicle, in order to investigate further afield. Accommodation ranges from dome tents under the stars – creating that nostalgic sense of safari – to Davison's and Linkwasha camps. This walk takes place in the private Linkwasha Concession with its diverse range of habitats, a magnet for a variety of wildlife.





*“Our guide was so knowledgeable about the area, animals, termite mounds, etc. My only regret is that I didn’t record every word he said. After a couple of hours, he felt like part of our family.”*









**WILDERNESS AIR**

*Connecting you to the Wilderness*

## *Wilderness Air*

Wilderness Air is proud to be the air support of Wilderness Safaris, enabling exclusive access to some of southern Africa's finest wildlife areas. In Zimbabwe, it is based out of Victoria Falls International Airport and provides a safe, compliant, efficient and reliable service to passengers. We operate a varied fleet of light aircraft, chosen for their ability to access our remote wilderness destinations.







## 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.

In 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.





















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







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](http://www.wildernesstrust.com)



[www.childreninthewilderness.com](http://www.childreninthewilderness.com)

# Planning a safari

## IN THE ZAMBEZI

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.





## CAMPS

1. Busanga Bush Camp
2. Shumba
3. Toka Leya
4. Chikwenya
5. Ruckomechi
6. Little Ruckomechi
7. Davison's
8. Little Makalolo
9. Linkwasha







ELSEWHERE IN

# *Africa*

**BOTSWANA** Abu / Chitabe / Chitabe Lediba / DumaTau / Jacana / Jao /  
Kalahari Plains / King's Pool / Kwetsani / Linganti Tented Camp /  
Little Mombo / Little Tubu / Little Vumbura / Mombo / Qorokwe / Savuti /  
Seba / Tubu Tree / Vumbura Plains / Xigera

**KENYA** Segera

**NAMIBIA** Little Kulala / Kulala Desert Lodge / Damaraland Camp / Desert  
Rhino / Doro Nawas / Hoanib Skeleton Coast / Serra Cafema

**RWANDA** Bisate / Magashi

**SEYCHELLES** North Island

**SOUTH AFRICA** Private Journeys, Cape Town







BOTSWANA



KENYA



NAMIBIA



RWANDA



SEYCHELLES







