



WILDERNESS
SAFARIS

RETURN TO
Chikwenya

Chikwenya is found in the eastern section of the Mana Pools National Park, one of the most remote and beautiful areas in Zimbabwe. Our private concession, located on the evocative Zambezi River and overlooking the spectacular Rift Valley escarpment, is a place rich in alluvial soils that support a mixture of enormous riverine forest and floodplain grasslands, attracting varied wildlife in considerable numbers. Our access to the Sapi River and Chikwenya Island contribute to this life-changing experience.





CHIKWENYA
Purpose

With Chikwenya, we continue to demonstrate our unwavering commitment to driving authentic and sustainable ecotourism in Zimbabwe.

As a private-access area neighbouring Mana Pools National Park, Chikwenya joins the Park in playing 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 – a function that is recognised in its World Heritage Site status.

We have also partnered with Painted Dog Conservation to make a difference to the African wild dog population in Zimbabwe. Through this, we aim to gain insight into the demography, ecology and genetic composition of the Middle Zambezi wild dog population.

UNIQUE
Design and Architecture

RETURN TO *Chikwenya*



The camp is designed to take advantage of the scenery; each tent is shaded by magnificent Natal mahogany trees while enjoying spectacular views of the Zambezi River through the gauze doors that open across the front. There is an understated elegance to the rooms and the main area, with many hand-crafted elements in the décor, a neutral palette and earthy hues.

Seven well-appointed tented units are all connected by wooden walkways stretching along the river frontage. Sunken seating on each deck and the option of an outside shower under the stars allows you to enjoy the outdoors and the cooling breeze coming off the river.

RETURN TO *Chikwenya*



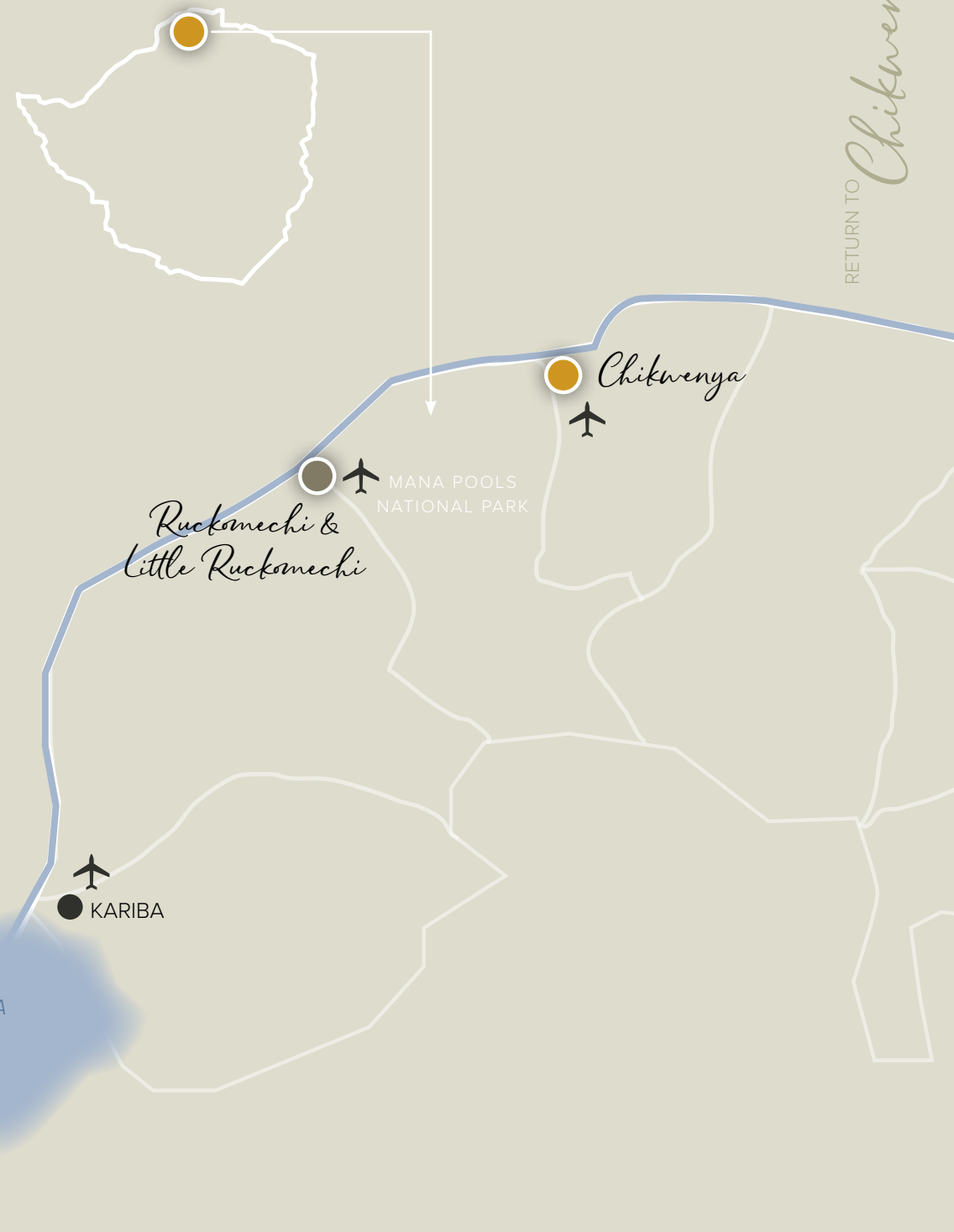




RETURN TO *Chikwenya*

UNIQUE *Location*

Mana Pools National Park (219 600 hectares / 542 643 acres) lies at the heart of the Zambezi Valley, where the Zambezi River meanders to the Mozambican border. It is a remote, beautiful place with spectacular views of the broad river, floodplains, riverine woodland and the mountains of the Rift Valley escarpment. This stretch of the Zambezi River is famous for its four main pools (after which the Park is named: 'mana' means 'four' in Shona) – Main, Chine, Long and Chisambuk – which are remnants of channels of the river which stopped flowing years ago. These and smaller seasonal pools dotted further inland hold water all year round, drawing all manner of wildlife and waterfowl during the dry season. The ana trees that characterise the floodplain shed their protein-rich pods during this time, providing vital sustenance for many species, particularly elephant.



OUR
Concessions

Ruckomechi ○
Little Ruckomechi ○
✈

RUCKOMECHI

Western boundary of Mana Pools at the mouth of the Ruckomechi River.

Exclusive concession –
3 900 hectares (9 640 acres).

MANA POOLS
NATIONAL PARK

○ *Chikwenya*
✈

CHIKWENYA

Eastern boundary of Mana Pools at the mouth of the Sapi River.

Exclusive concession –
2500 hectares (6 200 acres), as well
as access to the National Park and
Chikwenya Island.

ACCESS

Fly into Chikwenya airstrip (if combined with Ruckomechi, flights take place from Mana West to Chikwenya, making Ruckomechi your first stop in the area).

TIME OF YEAR

Chikwenya is open seasonally between
01 April and 30 November.

RETURN TO
Chikwenya



CHIKWENYA'S *Life*

Large concentrations of buffalo and elephant can be found along the river's edges, while predators such as lion, wild dog and leopard are often sighted. Kudu, zebra, impala and waterbuck feed on the surrounding plains, eland roam the concession and the grunting of hippo can be heard all day.

Birdlife is superb, particularly for woodland and riverine species, with numerous local specials such as black-throated wattle-eye, red-necked falcon, Livingstone's flycatcher, racket-tailed roller, three-banded courser, Böhm's spinetail, mosque swallow, western banded snake-eagle, crested guineafowl, trumpeter hornbill and eastern nicator – to mention a few.



Explore

THE AREA

The area's multi-faceted habitats and diverse wildlife can be experienced through game drives and informative guided walks in the concession, river cruises by small boat, and canoeing along Zambezi River frontage. Experiencing Chikwenya on foot is a highlight – step out on the soil of Africa, observe the antics of foraging baboons, grazing herbivores, and take time for reflection.





Multifaceted

CONCESSIONS

The marvel of the Mana Pools area is that each place offers an experience that is significantly different to the other, with multiple facets of the Zambezi and its environs. So a combination of Ruckomechi and Chikwenya areas creates a varied and fascinating itinerary – to say nothing of being an easy and seamless journey.

Ruckomechi



RETURN TO Chikwenya

Chikwenya



RETURN TO Chikwenya

Pairing

CAMPS



LITTLE RUCKOMECHI

Small, intimate camp, perfect for families or privately-guided groups owing to bespoke flexibility. A wide range of activities on offer including the only private game drive concession inside the park.

RUCKOMECHI

A competitively priced, high-end tented camp suitable for families, with a wide range of activities – including the only private game drive concession inside the National Park.

CHIKWENYA

A luxury camp that is designed to hand-crafted levels of furnishings and fittings. Tents are raised on decks with baths, and landscape views of the river. Exclusivity of experience and luxury of space.



Our journeys change lives