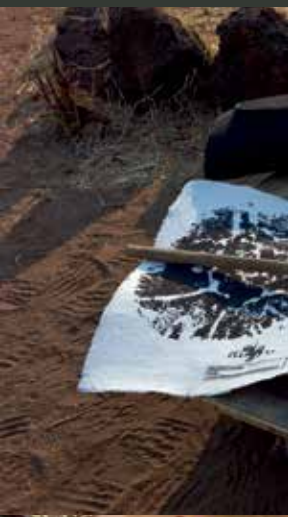




ZAMBEZI





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Introduction

THE ZAMBEZI REGION

Forming the border between Zambia and Zimbabwe, the mighty Zambezi River languidly meanders its way towards the Indian Ocean for more than 2 500 kilometres. However it is the Victoria Falls that forms its most famous and breathtaking landmark – without doubt the sight and sound of splendour and magnificence. This Wonder of the Natural World is also known as “The Smoke that Thunders,” a translation of its name in the local dialect of the Kololo tribe – “Mosi-oa-Tunya” – referring to the plume of spray that sometimes leaps hundreds of feet into the air above the roaring waters.

The Zambezi itself forms the border between two countries, with the town of Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe on the one side, and Livingstone, Zambia on the other. Both serve as a departure point for a diverse range of activities and experiences.

WILDERNESS TOURING

There is no shortage of thrilling opportunities around the world’s largest sheet of falling water. Many visitors flock to the Victoria Falls not only to view this awe-inspiring sight, but to enjoy many of the adrenalin-fuelled activities on offer. With Victoria Falls’ conveniently central location, many safari enthusiasts use this as a springboard for an adventure-based expedition or relaxing after-safari destination.

Wilderness Touring therefore is able to offer a wide selection of activities, both exciting and relaxing, taking in all that the area has to offer.

OUR PEOPLE

Our handpicked team has a wealth of experience that we place at your disposal to ensure a perfect, unique itinerary. Our guides have all been chosen for their specialist knowledge, their personable dispositions and their ability to share their knowledge in a way that will inspire interest. Their specialist fields cover a wide range of interests, from local history to cultural experiences and everything in between.

OUR EXCURSIONS

We aim to bring a unique aspect to even the most popular of activities in the Zambezi region. Our team has an intimate knowledge of the area and strives to stay abreast of new activities and places of interest. Our vehicle fleet has been carefully selected to ensure maximum comfort and all-round visibility.

Ultimately, we strive to be your destination hosts to ensure that you get the maximum enjoyment out of your visit.





Transfers

Zimbabwe, Zambia, Botswana

Wilderness Touring's convenient transfer service ensures guests can travel between the airport, their hotels and various activities. Our vehicle fleet includes a range of comfortable and air-conditioned vehicles, from five-seater minibuses to 21-seater buses. Transfers can be booked by the seat, or through the private hire of a vehicle.

Transfers in the Victoria Falls area are arranged to tie in with flight departures and scheduled tours. Our guides work to this carefully coordinated timetable collecting guests from their hotel en route to their intended destination. Clients travelling from Victoria Falls to Botswana can make use of transfers that are operated at prescheduled times.



There is no shortage of thrilling opportunities around the world's largest sheet of falling water



Adventures

With white water rapids, dramatic gorges, the cascading Falls and the mighty Zambezi below, the Zambezi region is a playground for travellers who are adventurous at heart, with a wide selection of exciting activities ranging from mild to adrenalin-inducing.







ADRENALIN ACTIVITIES

Zambia, Zimbabwe

The majestic backdrop of the Victoria Falls lends itself to a multitude of thrilling activities. The Victoria Falls Bridge, which spans the Zambezi River and links Zambia and Zimbabwe, offers an incredible bird's-eye view of the spectacular scenery and is also the starting point for some extreme adventures, including bungee jumping, bridge swinging and bridge sliding. Thrill-seekers may also enjoy abseiling, rap jumping, zip lining and jet boating nearby.



FISHING

Zambia, Zimbabwe

Experience the excellent year-round fishing opportunities in the Zambezi, Africa's fourth-largest river system. Over 75 species of fish are found in its waters, including bream, nembwe and catfish as well as the renowned tigerfish. Considered by many to be the finest sporting and fighting fish in the world, the tigerfish can weigh up to 15 kg and is known for its ferocious nature. Boat-based fishing excursions are led by professional fishing guides and all the necessary equipment as well as bait is supplied.

3 hours, half day, or full day



QUAD BIKING

Zambia

Explore the bush and local villages on an eco-friendly quad bike. Guests can choose between two trails: the Ecotrail Ride and the Village Trail Ride. The Ecotrail Ride takes quad bikers through the African bush, around bends, through ditches and over humps, with the possibility of encountering wildlife along the way. The Village Trail Ride can be tailor-made according to individual requirements, but will usually take quad bikers through several villages over a terrain of dune and dense bush. There are eight Honda TRX250 cc four stroke quad bikes available, as well as two quad bikes specifically designed for children (over the age of 12).

1 – 2 hours



ELEPHANT-BACK SAFARIS

Zambia, Zimbabwe

Gain a unique insight into the real “king of beasts” on an elephant-back safari. These experiences are much more than just a ride as guests are encouraged to interact with these majestic giants. There is a range of elephant-back safaris available, including sunrise, afternoon and sunset rides, during which guests will be able to marvel at the spectacular scenery while spending time with the world’s largest land mammal. Another option is an elephant interaction experience, where guests will enjoy a presentation about the elephants in the herd, followed by an opportunity to meet and interact with them.



1½ – 3 hours



CANOEING AND WHITE WATER RAFTING

Zambia, Zimbabwe

The Zambezi offers canoeing opportunities unlike any other – with game parks on either side of the river, paddlers are likely to spot all kinds of wildlife. In addition, the river is known for its large pods of hippo and abundance of birdlife. Guests can choose between half-day, full-day and even overnight options. For those after a white-knuckle paddling experience, the Zambezi is considered by many to be one of the best white water rafting destinations in the world. With the rapids being defined as “Grade 5” by the British Canoe Union (Grade 6 being commercially “unrunnable”), this requires a fair level of both fitness and courage.

Half day, full day, overnight, multi-day







Cultural Excursions

From rural villages to charming towns, visitors can soak up the rich cultural diversity found in the area, while interacting with locals and learning more about their culture and day-to-day life. Those with an interest in history will enjoy visiting the museums which feature impressive collections of original writings from some of the most well-known names in African exploration.

CITY AND TOWN TOURS

Zambia, Zimbabwe

The towns of Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe and Livingstone in Zambia are full of charm and history and lend themselves to explorations on foot. Expert guides are able to relay fascinating insights and tidbits as they take guests through these fascinating towns. Zimbabwe's capital city of Harare is a must-see with historical buildings, craft markets and souvenir shops. The city can also be explored by night, sporting a selection of small and cosy entertainment centres with live music.



3–5 hours, full day

MUSEUM TOURS

Zambia, Zimbabwe



There are plenty of local galleries for African art aficionados to explore. In Harare, the National Gallery has examples of Shona sculptures on permanent display, along with national, regional and European art. The Gallery Delta is housed in one of the oldest houses in the city and includes a stunning collection of modern art created by local artists. History buffs should consider a visit to Queen Victoria Museum, also in Harare, which houses a priceless collection of Rhodesian and Africana in the form of diaries, notebooks and reports of various origins from some of the greatest names in African exploration. In Zambia, the Livingstone Museum contains the most comprehensive memorabilia of Dr David Livingstone, including authentic maps and diaries. It covers the history of the region from the early beginnings of the town up to present day.

2–4 hours



VILLAGE TOURS

Zambia, Zimbabwe

Visit a local village or township with a guide and immerse yourself in the daily life of the locals. Located just outside Livingstone, Mukuni Villlage is a unique cultural experience that gives the visitor an insight into the modern, yet distinctly timeless way of life of the Leya people that live there. This village comprises a homestead of over 1 000 families and has a total population of some 7 000 Zambian people. Guests are taken through the village by local guides who show them the set-up and explain how the Leya people live. Here visitors can watch villagers going about their daily tasks and experience rural life first hand.

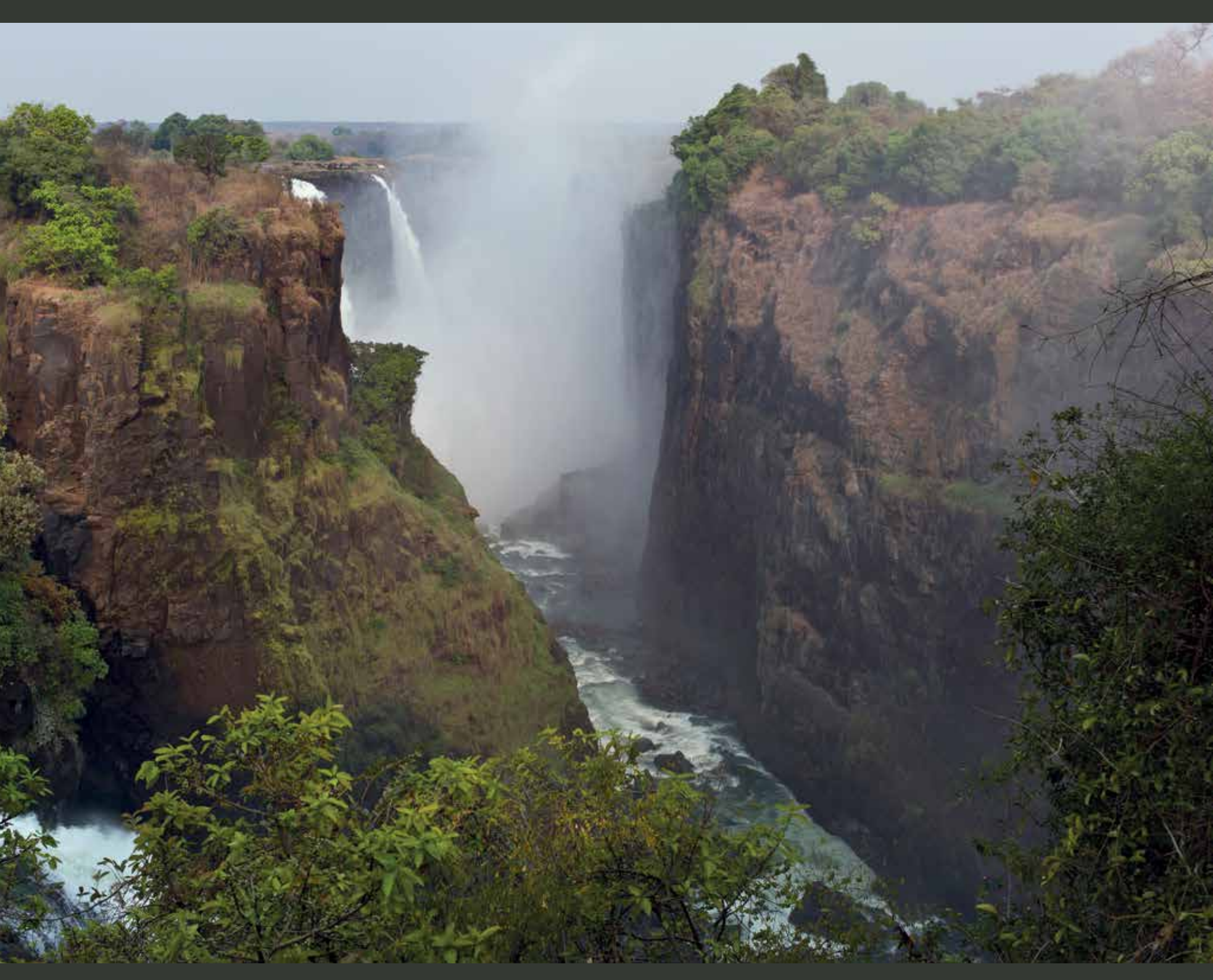
2 – 4 hours



Scenic Wonders

The Zambezi region is home to one of Africa's most famous landmarks, the Victoria Falls. Whether viewing the rapids, the magnificent rainbows, or the surrounding wildlife in the many reserves, incredible photographic opportunities abound.







VIEWING THE VICTORIA FALLS

Zambia, Zimbabwe

Nothing prepares you for the awe-inspiring sound and spray drama of majestic Victoria Falls, as millions of litres tumble over the lip into the gorges below. Hearing tales about “Mosi-oa-Tunya,” the “Smoke that Thunders,” and seeing it for yourself, are two entirely different things. There is a range of vantage points on both the Zimbabwe and Zambian sides, each offering a unique perspective of the Falls. Experienced guides take guests across the walkways linking these viewing points, providing insights into this incredible natural phenomenon as well as a chance to glimpse the local flora and fauna. For those who are after something different, the Falls can also be viewed by helicopter or microlight.

1 1/2 hours – half day

SAFARIS

Botswana, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Enjoy the diverse array of wildlife found in the many National Parks and reserves located within the Zambezi region – from renowned wildlife-rich reserves like Chobe and Hwange National Parks, to smaller game areas like Mosi-oa-Tunya and Lake Chivero National Parks and the Zambezi Nature Sanctuary and Crocodile Ranch. Explore these areas on open safari vehicles, accompanied by a highly qualified guide. Walking safaris are offered in Zambezi National Park, enabling guests to follow in the footsteps of elephants while learning about the local fauna and flora. For guests with special interests such as birding, tailor-made options are available.

4 hours, full day, multi-day



TRAIN TRIPS

Zambia, Zimbabwe



Travel back in time to the age of steam train travel and experience Africa just as visitors would have over a hundred years ago. Rail travel in the Zambezi region dates back to the early 1900s when Cecil John Rhodes initiated his plan to create a railway from South Africa to Egypt. With the restoration of a handful of locomotives, guests can travel in an authentic first-class train. There are a range of options available, including “The Bridge Run” where guests enjoy sundowners and spectacular views from the Victoria Falls Bridge, “The Moonlight Dinner Run” which includes a romantic dinner around a bonfire in Zambezi National Park, or fine dining on board the Royal Livingstone Express.

1½ hours – 5 hours

CRUISES

Zambia, Zimbabwe

Gently cruise the waters of the Zambezi while enjoying the beauty of the river and the diverse wildlife that surrounds it, including hippo, crocodile, elephant and sometimes even rhino. Early risers can embark on a breakfast cruise, ideally suited to keen birders, while other options include mid-morning, lunch, or sunset cruises. All cruises are guided by experienced skippers who will share insights about the river, the wildlife, the people and history of the area.

1½ - 2 hours



Six Extraordinary Experiences

There are a large number of experiences and activities that are possible in this exciting area. We've therefore chosen just six of our highlights to share with you on these pages. However, note that the full list is available from your Journey Specialist.



LIVINGSTONE ISLAND HIGH TEA

Livingstone Island is located in the middle of the Zambezi River, touching the lip of the Victoria Falls where it thunders down a 103-metre drop. On the island, guests can enjoy views of both the Zambian and Zimbabwean sides of the Falls while an expert guide explains the local flora and fauna, as well the history and geology of this breathtaking landmark. The package includes High Tea, with drinks and delicious snacks. Access to this unique island is seasonal and depends on the water level in the Zambezi River.

2 hours (July – March)



RA-IKANE SUNSET CRUISE

Named after one of the guides that led David Livingstone to the Victoria Falls, the Ra-Ikane cruise boat has been outfitted to resemble a turn-of-the-century riverboat. It has been luxuriously finished with teak and brass fittings and club chairs, providing a taste of Victorian splendour in the heart of Africa. On the sunset cruise, guests are welcomed on board with a cocktail and a brief history of the Zambezi River. During the journey, drinks and snacks are offered, as well as sightings of hippo, crocodile and sometimes even elephant.

2 hours



LUNAR RAINBOW TOUR

Lunar rainbows, or moonbows, are rainbows that take place at night in the light of the full moon. Victoria Falls is one of the very few places in the world where moonbows occur. This spectacular event can only be seen during a full moon and when the water level is high. Guests are accompanied by an expert guide, who will provide a brief history of the Falls and point out other sights of interest along the way.

2 hours



SCENIC HELICOPTER FLIGHT OVER THE FALLS

Take an exhilarating helicopter flight over the thundering Victoria Falls and enjoy spectacular views of this Natural Wonder of the World. An aerial perspective allows guests to get a real sense of the scale of the Falls and the surrounds, providing excellent photographic opportunities. A 15-minute flight takes guests over the Falls, while the 25-minute excursion adds a flight over Zambezi National Park.

15 – 25 minutes



GORGE SWING

Suspended across the Batoka Gorge at a point where it is 316 metres wide and 120 metres deep, this swing is certainly for the adventurous at heart. A harness is attached to the jumper, as well as the jumping ropes – the other end of which is pivoted to the middle of a high wire. The jumper leaps off the edge of the gorge, free-falling for about 70 metres before going into a 95-metre-long pendulum-type swing.



THE FLOATING RESTAURANT

The Zambezi Reflections is a dedicated floating restaurant offering gourmet meals on the Zambezi River above the Victoria Falls. Similar to its sister vessel, *The Zambezi Explorer*, it is quickly gaining a reputation as the premier dining experience on the river and is perfect for either group bookings or individual travellers. The Dinner Cruise, which combines a sunset cruise with dinner, has proved to be a popular option amongst guests due to its excellent value for money.





A Comprehensive Service

We are constantly researching new product for our portfolio and striving to bring a unique edge to our excursions. Our service offering includes:

- A recommended restaurant list which is constantly updated
- Gourmet picnics which can be arranged with full set-up
- Adventure activities such as bungee jumping, zip lining, abseiling and quad biking
- A highly experienced team in the management of Group bookings
- 24hr Concierge Facility for assistance with bookings and lost luggage
- Contact with guests who are travelling and feedback to agents
- Incident Management Facility available to guests who travel with us

TOURING OPTIONS

Wilderness Touring offers a range of full- and half-day excursions, ranging from Scheduled Group Tours to Fully Inclusive Private Tourism.

The Zambezi region offers so much to see and do. Our speciality is Fully Inclusive Private Touring which is completely flexible and allows us to focus on your specific interests and preferences. The knowledge that all entrance fees, lunch and refreshments are included leaves you free to maximise your enjoyment of the day.



There's a wealth of places to see and things to do, and this brochure is just the tip of the iceberg!

*For more information, please call:
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Thanks to all the Wilderness Safaris and Associated Product photographers



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TOURING

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