

ZAMBIA AND ZIMBABWE'S SCENIC SPLENDOUR AND WILDLIFE WONDERS

8 Nights / 9 Days

(Operating 15 June to 31 October. Departs on a Thursday from Lusaka and ends in Victoria Falls on a Friday)

WILDERNESS SAFARIS



This safari combines two incredible wildlife areas and the world-famous Victoria Falls. The Busanga Plains in Zambia's Kafue National Park are home to huge herds of lechwe and puku, and a high density of the lions that prey on them. No visit to the region would be complete without taking in Victoria Falls, one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the world, and the neighbouring attractions. The last stop on the safari is the wildlife-rich Hwange National Park. The diversity of habitats, from woodlands to plains, means that a wide range of species are encountered regularly, many at the waterhole right in front of camp!

BRIEF ITINERARY

- Days 1, 2, 3:** Arrive Lusaka, fly to Busanga Bush Camp, Kafue National Park, Zambia
Days 4, 5: Fly to Zambezi Sun (bed & breakfast basis), Livingstone, Zambia
Days 6, 7, 8: Transfer by road and air to Davison's Camp, Hwange National Park, Zimbabwe
Day 9: Fly back to Victoria Falls Airport for onward arrangements

CONSIDER:

Upgrade to Toka Leya or The River Club (fully inclusive) at additional cost.



DAYS 1, 2, 3: BUSANGA BUSH CAMP, KAFUE NATIONAL PARK, ZAMBIA

Busanga Bush Camp



On arrival at Lusaka Airport, connect by scheduled charter flight to the Kafue National Park for 3 nights accommodation at Busanga Bush Camp on a fully inclusive basis.

At 22 500 km² (8 600 sq. miles), Kafue National Park is one of the largest protected areas in Africa. The Busanga Plains is one of Zambia's most important wetland and grassland resources and is untouched by development and human activity – the jewel in the Kafue crown.

AREA AND LOCATION: The amazing landscapes of the Busanga Plains comprise a web of estuaries, grassy plains and island thickets. Comprising 750 km² (290 sq. miles) of untouched Africa, our massive private concession is centrally located on the Plains – ensuring seclusion and optimal wildlife viewing in a truly remote setting.

ACTIVITIES: Morning and afternoon-into-evening game drives as well as early season (June and July) boat trips. Included on a complimentary basis from August through October, magnificent hot air balloon rides provide a very different perspective of the Plains. The giant 8-person balloon floats for approximately an hour above this unique landscape with uninterrupted views of the floodplains and its game.

WILDLIFE: This area of the Kafue offers fantastic opportunities to see plains game, predators and water-loving animals on game drives and from secluded hides overlooking waterholes. The camp is perfectly situated to see large numbers of puku and red lechwe as well as herds of buffalo and wildebeest. The most notable predators in the area are lions, with up to four prides moving around the Busanga area. Their tree-climbing antics are quite unique and allow for amazing photographic opportunities. Cheetah and side-striped jackal also roam the grassy areas as do the rare roan antelope which are locally common. For birders, Busanga boasts over 400 species, including over half the world's endangered wattled crane population. Other notable species are black-backed barbet, rosy-throated longclaw and red-throated twin-spot.

THE CAMP: Busanga Bush Camp lies hidden in an island thicket. This camp accommodates eight guests in four well-appointed tents. The main, dining and bar area of the camp is under a large canvas canopy and has a sweeping view out over the plains and dramatic sunrises.

DAYS 4, 5: FLY TO LIVINGSTONE, ZAMBIA



Zambezi Sun



Toka Leya



River Club



Depart Kafue on your scheduled charter flight to Livingstone Airport. On arrival, transfer by road to the Zambezi Sun for two nights accommodation on a bed and breakfast basis, including a guided Tour of the Falls on the Zimbabwe side and a sunset cruise on the Zambezi River. (An upgrade to Toka Leya or The River Club on a fully inclusive basis is also possible at additional cost.)

AREA AND LOCATION: Mosi-oa-Tunya is directly translated as ‘the smoke that thunders’, the local name for the Victoria Falls which is found a short walk away from the Zambezi Sun. This small but very important national park of the same name is 63km² (24 sq. miles) and is host to a wonderful variety of habitat types from mopane woodland to a rich riverine fringe, and home to some unique wildlife.

ACTIVITIES: A guided tour of Victoria Falls on the Zimbabwe side is included. This will require obtaining a multiple-entry Zimbabwe visa but is well worth it. Other activities while staying at the Zambezi Sun are at additional cost, however should you upgrade to Toka Leya or The River Club, the cultural, museum and market tours, morning/evening game drives in Mosi-oa-Tunya and morning/evening boat cruises on the Zambezi River are also included. Seasonal white water rafting, bungee jumping, gorge swing, microlighting over the Victoria Falls, and Falls-edge dining are available at additional cost.

The Tour of Victoria Falls is approximately a 1-1/2 hour guided tour through the Rainforest along a 1.7km ramble. After a briefing and explanation of the Falls, the guide accompanies guests along the scenic pathways, stopping at numerous view-points to gaze at the Falls. The Victoria Falls is one of the seven natural wonders of the world. David Livingstone was the first European to visit the Falls, and named it after Queen Victoria. To the locals, it is known as ‘Mosi oa Tunya’ – The Smoke that Thunders – an accurate description of what happens when the waters of the Zambezi River plunge over the 1700 metre wide and 100-metre deep chasm, creating a shower of spray and a deafening noise.

SUNDOWNER CRUISE ON THE ZAMBEZI RIVER: Board a sunset cruise boat to explore the mighty Zambezi River. As you make your way upstream, your skipper will give you a brief talk about the river and its wildlife. Relax and enjoy the beautiful view as well as birdlife, hippo and occasional crocodile. In the drier months, elephant and many antelope species can be seen grazing on the riverbanks or swimming across to the smaller islands. This wide, attractive river is the fourth largest in Africa, dotted with islands and sandbanks. The cruise takes approximately two hours. The boat is shaded, with comfortable safari chairs, tables, bar service, snacks and toilet facilities on board. Life jackets, rings and safety features are pointed out by the skipper.

THE HOTEL: The Zambezi Sun Hotel is located on the eastern cataract of the Victoria Falls and reflects the diversity of the country’s heritage; unpretentious, fun and welcoming, it is in essence the rich soul of Africa. The Zambezi Sun’s architecture is inspired by an African village and depicts a warm and earthy character. Zambian artworks and accessories are in stark contrast to the simple finishes in bright mosaics and fabrics. An inviting pool area, spacious rooms and sprawling gardens allow for the perfect relaxed atmosphere, a mere few minutes from the famous Victoria Falls.

THE CAMP – TOKA LEYA: This contemporary but warm camp within the Mosi-oa-Tunya National Park consists of 12 climate-controlled units on elevated wooden decks. Each unit has inside and outside showers as well as sweeping views of the Zambezi River from a comfortable balcony. Extending out onto the Zambezi River is the main area with novel pizza oven, bar and infinity pool and spa area.

THE CAMP – THE RIVER CLUB: On a bend in the Zambezi River, the River Club and its 10 well-appointed, air-conditioned chalets have commanding views over the river. The main area is an attractive Edwardian house with lounge, dining room, library, shop and verandah on which breakfasts and teas are taken. For the energetic the gym, running track and all-weather tennis court are perfect. The swimming pool, with its infinity aspect, provides a magnificent view of the Zambezi.

DAYS 6, 7, 8: FLY TO DAVISON’S CAMP, HWANGE NATIONAL PARK, ZIMBABWE



Davison’s Camp



Transfer by road across the border into Zimbabwe and depart Victoria Falls Airport by light aircraft to Hwange National Park. On arrival at the airstrip, you will be met and transferred by road to Davison’s Camp. Located on the border with Botswana, Hwange was proclaimed some 75 years ago and has served as a haven for one of the densest concentrations of game in Africa. Hwange further has some of the highest mammal diversity in the world, with over 100 species. This is greatly due to the varied habitats and vegetation types.

AREA AND LOCATION: Davison’s Camp is located in the south-eastern corner of the Park – an exclusive concession area of about 500 km² (193 sq. mi.). The Makalolo Concession is ecologically diverse, with large flat grasslands, vast palm-spotted plains, acacia woodlands and teak forests. This lends itself well to the vast number of plains game that move in the area together with attendant predators.

WILDLIFE: Big game such as elephant, buffalo, sable, roan, southern giraffe, zebra and blue wildebeest are the most commonly seen mammals, enjoyed via game drives, guided nature walks and hides. The Park’s waterholes and seasonal pans attract game in both quantity and variety – notably in the winter months. The high occurrence of plains game also results in some first-class predator sightings such as lion, leopard, wild dog and cheetah, spotted hyaena, along with the smaller African wild cat, serval, honey badger, bat-eared fox and civet. Home to a varied bird community of over 420 species, these include martial eagle, secretary bird, crimson-breasted shrike, cut-throat finch, and southern pied babbler.

THE CAMP: Davison’s Camp is a classic tented camp, with its nine twin units tastefully hidden beneath a grove of false mopane trees, overlooking a waterhole and open plain. Named after the founder of Hwange National Park and its first warden, Ted Davison, the camp’s extremely productive waterhole attracts a variety of plains game and predators. The camp also boasts a family room and separate main area, comprising a lounge and dining room – offering a wonderful bush experience.

DAY 9: DEPARTURE

Return to Victoria Falls Airport by air for outbound flight or onward arrangements.

- Depending on nationality, visas may be required to enter Zambia and/or Zimbabwe, and will either need to be obtained in advance or at the border/airport. Costs are for guests’ own account.
- Wilderness Safaris standard Terms & Conditions apply.
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