

- AN INTRODUCTION TO -
ZAMBIA



Zambia is a vast country, friendly and peaceful, that offers superb wildlife and cultural encounters. Landlocked in south-central Africa, it is one of the region's least travelled and most rewarding wilderness destinations.

Situated mainly on a vast plateau 3 000m above sea level, the country boasts the Zambezi, Kafue and Luangwa rivers as well as Victoria Falls, one of the largest waterfalls in the world, which it shares with neighbouring Zimbabwe. Most of the country enjoys a mild, pleasant climate with the river valleys hotter and more humid and the north, in the region of Lake Tanganyika (one of Zambia's ten large lakes), tropical. While Lusaka is the country's capital, Livingstone, just 10km from the Falls, is the well-known 'adventure capital', offering adrenalin-packed activities on and around the Falls and the Zambezi River.

When it comes to wildlife, Zambia offers impressive diversity as well as large concentrations and numbers, and some of the wildest and most remote game areas on the continent. It was in Zambia that the concept of walking safaris originated as the best way of enjoying the rich flora and fauna of the country's 19 national parks. Birdlife is particularly prolific, attracting birders from all over the world.



OUR ZAMBIA AREAS

Kafue National Park

At 22 500km², Kafue National Park is one of the largest in Africa. The million-hectare northern sector is the perfect location for our camps: remote, wild and diverse with vast tracts of pristine wilderness. The north-west is dominated by the Busanga Swamps, a papyrus-dominated wetland that gives way to the vast floodplain of the Busanga Plains, seasonally-inundated grassland dotted with isolated tree-islands. The Lunga, Lufupa and Kafue Rivers are lined with riverine forest and the landscape is further patterned with broad-leaved miombo woodland, open plains, floodplains and island thickets. The Busanga Plains offer concentrations of common species such as puku, lechwe, buffalo and wildebeest, but also comparative rarities not easily viewed in southern Africa such as roan, oribi and Lichtenstein's hartebeest. There is a high density of lion, with species like cheetah and wild dog utilising those areas where lion are not present. Bird life is equally abundant and includes many 'specials' such as Ross's Turaco and Locust Finch.



South Luangwa National Park

The 9 050km² South Luangwa National Park is found in the low-lying productive Luangwa Valley. Our Luamfwa Concession, pristine and secluded, is situated in the remote and undeveloped southern sector of the Park. The Park is sustained by the Luangwa River, an impressive watercourse that supports high densities of game along its banks. Over time, the river's course has carved a multitude of channels that, in winter, form lagoons and oxbow lakes, which serve as magnets for game activity. The Luangwa is flanked by mopane woodland, scrub, savannah and low hills. Over 60 large mammal species are found: herds of elephant and buffalo frequently dominate access to water at the oxbow lakes, while puku, impala, waterbuck, warthog and kudu are prolific. Unique subspecies of wildebeest (Cookson's) and giraffe (Thornicroft's) occur only in the Luangwa Valley. Lion viewing is excellent and Luangwa is renowned for one of the highest leopard densities in Africa. Over 400 bird species have been recorded and local specials include Lilian's Lovebird and Racket-tailed Roller. The area is perhaps even better known for pioneering walking safaris.



Victoria Falls (Livingstone)

One of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World, Victoria Falls is known locally as Mosi-oa-Tunya – “the Smoke that Thunders” – a name that accurately depicts the plume of spray, visible for some distance, caused by the cascading waters of the Zambezi River. This is an area of spectacular scenic beauty: from the Falls themselves to the broad, picturesque course of the Zambezi River upstream. Wildlife also abounds in the area, particularly during the dry season, and can be viewed while boating on the river or on game drives in the Mosi-oa-Tunya National Park upstream of the Falls. This small park offers excellent sightings of buffalo, giraffe, zebra, wildebeest, impala and even white rhino. There is rich birdlife here too, including sought-after species such as African Finfoot, Half-collared Kingfisher, African Skimmer, Schalow's Turaco and Rock Pratincole. The principal town on the Zambezi's Zambian bank is Livingstone, which, with its adrenalin sports such as abseiling, white-water rafting and canoeing, has become known as the 'adventure capital' of southern Africa.





KAPINGA CAMP

Wilderness Safaris - Premier Camp



Situated in the north-west corner of the Busanga Plains, Kapinga Camp lies on the edge of a 'tree island' overlooking the plains.

The camp is designed to blend in with the environment, with natural products used as much as possible in its construction. Interiors of the four en-suite luxury safari tents are spacious complemented by an indoor and outdoor shower. Kapinga is shaded by a canopy of majestic trees and is set on raised wooden platforms to enhance the panoramic view across the plains. Lively colours and stripes characterise the main area, comprising a lounge, dining area, camp fire and small pool.



Day and night game drives and walking safaris take place on and around the plains, where the wealth of antelope is a big attraction for predators. A birder's special, the Böhm's Bee-eater, can be seen in the parking area of the camp!



FACILITIES & ACTIVITIES



Seasonal



SHUMBA CAMP

Wilderness Safaris - Premier Camp



Shumba Camp is situated in the centre of the Busanga Plains close to permanent water and within easy access of the teeming floodplains. Shumba is named after a favourite species in the area: prides of lion sometimes up to 20 strong! Viewing of game species is possible from the comfort of the tent or main deck, while the camp's fig trees ensure both shade and constant bird activity.

Shumba Camp comprises six spacious luxury safari tents, all on raised platforms with spectacular views. The dining area is elevated so as to take in this vista and each morning's sunrise; dinner takes place either here or in the cosy boma where guests can also enjoy elements of local Zambian culture.

Guests have the option of game drives in and around the Plains and water-based activities when the Plains are still inundated, while night drives provide the added excitement of the nocturnal wonders of the area.



FACILITIES & ACTIVITIES





BUSANGA BUSH CAMP

Wilderness Safaris - Classic Camp



Busanga Bush Camp lies in the heart of the Busanga Plains, a vast mosaic of expansive, grassy seasonal floodplains that extends to the horizon. The camp, nestled in a vegetated island of fig trees, can accommodate eight guests in four well-appointed tents. The lounge area is under canvas looking out over the plains; breakfast is often served here to take in the view of herds of lechwe and puku. The dining area lies under the shady canopy of a majestic tree from which an unusual lantern chandelier hangs, romantically lighting up dinner; most meals are served in the open air.



Activities include game drives, walking safaris and night drives, led by qualified guides. Thanks to the rising mist off the floodplains as they dry up in winter, guests can experience incredible sunrises and sunsets, with the sun a spectacular pink colour, while the floodplains and dambos teem with wildlife and birds.



FACILITIES & ACTIVITIES





KALAMU LAGOON CAMP

Wilderness Safaris - Classic Camp



The remote Luamfwa Concession is a wildlife paradise that offers unique bird watching and exciting game viewing. Puku, impala and common waterbuck are the most conspicuous mammals. Lion, spotted hyena, leopard and crocodiles head the food chain and a plethora of hippo congregate in the Luangwa River. Elephant, yellow baboon and buffalo are also seen regularly.

Kalamu Lagoon Camp's dining area lies under a canopy of giant ebony trees overlooking a beautiful permanent lagoon just off the Luangwa River. A pool and viewing deck area located to the side of the camp offer spectacular views of the lagoon. Accommodation consists of eight safari-style reed and canvas tents, each en-suite with both an indoor and outdoor shower.

The Park is also renowned as the best walking destination in Africa and the Luangwa riverine vegetation and adjacent dambos can be explored on foot. Other activities include day and night game drives.



FACILITIES & ACTIVITIES

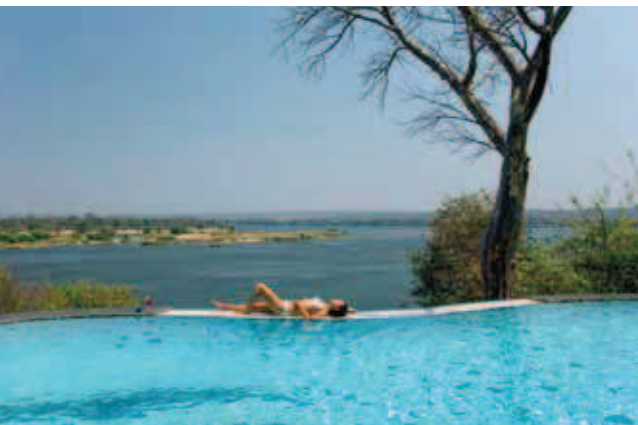


VICTORIA FALLS



THE RIVER CLUB

Wilderness Safaris - Classic Camp



The River Club overlooks the Zambezi River, 18km upstream from Victoria Falls. Its main area is a well-appointed Edwardian house with lounge, dining room, library, shop and veranda on which breakfasts and teas are taken. Midday meals are often served on manicured lawns complete with croquet court. The gazebo and the Summer House (with snooker room) are both alternatives for private dining. The pool seems part of the river itself, a secluded deck provides respite and beauty treatments are available in the Wellness Centre. For the energetic the gymnasium, running track on the secure property and all-weather tennis court are perfect. Ten luxury en-suite chalets are screened, air-conditioned and have uninterrupted views of the Zambezi.



Activities (on an inclusive rate) include a Victoria Falls Tour, sundowner cruises, tiger fishing, and visiting a nearby village. Others (extra cost) include white water rafting, bungee jumping, abseiling, canoeing, and flights over the Falls. The area is steeped in local history and rich in wildlife; hippo and elephant are seen regularly and bird life is prolific.



FACILITIES & ACTIVITIES





TOKA LEYA CAMP

Wilderness Safaris - Classic Camp



Overlooking the Zambezi River and some of its islands is Toka Leya Camp, comprising 12 raised, spacious en-suite safari-style tents. Tent interiors boast wooden flooring, tasteful African décor, climate-control, and an expansive wooden deck from which to soak up the views. Family units are positioned to offer quiet seclusion.

The camp's dining and lounge areas offer ample space for relaxation. Meals are served on the sundeck, the pool deck and dining room all overlooking the Zambezi. There is a novel pizza oven and a curio shop. Activities (on fully inclusive rate) include a tour of the Victoria Falls on the Zambian side, game drives within Mosi-oa-Tunya National Park, river cruises, fishing and guided nature walks. Tours of Livingstone town and museum and visits to Mkuni Market and a nearby village add cultural diversity. Other activities on offer in the area at additional charge include sunset cruises, helicopter flights, microlighting, canoeing, jet boating, and white water rafting.



FACILITIES & ACTIVITIES

