



CARNIVORE WEEK – SOUTH LUANGWA NATIONAL PARK 15TH NOVEMBER 2014



7 NIGHTS AT NKWALI CAMP

Spend six days with the *Zambian Carnivore Programme (ZCP)*, learning about and viewing the wild dogs. With a wild dog specific activity each day, you won't leave disappointed!

The Luangwa Valley, which marks the end of the Great Rift Valley, is one of the last unspoilt wilderness areas and possibly the finest wildlife sanctuary in Africa. It covers an area of over 9000 sq. km. through which the meandering Luangwa River runs. The oxbow lagoons, woodland and plains of the valley host huge concentrations of game - including elephant, buffalo, leopard, lion, giraffe, hippo - and over 450 species of birds.

The *Zambian Carnivore Programme (ZCP)* has been operating in Zambia since 1998, carrying out conservation and research activities to conserve Zambia's populations of this highly endangered species. The ZCP team is based with Nkwali camp and will be pleased to accompany you on activities and share their work with you.

The wild dog population in the South Luangwa has made a comeback over the last decade and it is wonderful to see them on a regular basis after a number of years of virtually no sightings. The peak of the sightings are in the Emerald Season and March is a key month. The dogs travel huge distances so sightings are not guaranteed but the chances are good.

You will spend time with ZCP project manager Dr Matt Becker and his team, tracking the fascinating wild dogs, learning about ecological survey techniques in the field including lion identification and prey surveys, attending lectures and visiting ZCP's education partner Chipembele Wildlife Centre. The schedule is flexible as the wild dogs are unpredictable and one of the activities will be with ZCP each day. This trip gives you a chance to gain some exclusive insights into the ZCP conservation program. In addition to the above activities, you will also enjoy game drives and/or walking safaris in the park with a guide from Robin Pope Safaris.



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Day 1 On arrival at Mfuwe International Airport a guide from Robin Pope Safaris will meet you. The drive to Nkwali Camp is 1 hour through colourful local scenes of villages, agriculture as well as bush. Nkwali Camp has a wide view of the Luangwa River. On Robin's private land, and overlooking the South Luangwa National Park, Nkwali is ideally situated for the start of your safari. The six rooms all look out over the river and have open air bathrooms. The first night of your stay, one of the full-time project staff from ZCP will give an introductory talk on the African wild dog and the Zambian Carnivore Programme (ZCP). This will include wild dog natural history, their endangered status, key threats as well as the aims of ZCP and the current programs which are running. You'll also get a demonstration of our tracking equipment which will be used to find wild dog packs when they join you out in the field



Day 2 At dawn breakfast is served around the campfire. The porridge heated on the fire and toast cooked by the coals. The morning drive will leave soon after, entering the park by boat from the camp or by the nearby pontoon. The game in the area is excellent - and includes many family herds of elephants and the

endemic species of giraffe, the Thornicroft Giraffe. A mid-morning break of tea, coffee and cake will be taken by a scenic point on a lagoon or the Luangwa River. This morning you will be joined by ZCP for the game drive. Gain exclusive insights into African wild dog research as you track for dogs through the National Park - see their tracking equipment and techniques in action! They'll also explain about lion identification and prey counts which are used in their annual predator and prey surveys. You'll get to use these new skills in species identification and scientific technique as you drive around one of the most beautiful areas in Africa.

Return to camp for lunch around mid-day. After lunch you can cool off in the swimming pool or siesta. Tea will be served in the afternoon and then off on an afternoon game drive that continues into the early night giving the chance to see the nocturnal world. Usually one returns to camp about 20.00 hrs with dinner generally at 20.30



Day 3 Another day to enjoy the game viewing at Nkwali on walks or drives or you may wish to go on an all day picnic. Taking a scout with you, you will be able to enjoy a walk or explore further a field in the park. Lunch will be under a tree or next to a lagoon and you will then be able to take a siesta or simply spend a lazy couple of hours reading a book or watching the fascinating animals and landscape around you. Returning to camp when you are ready. In the evening you will be joined by ZCP for another talk about the dogs. This evening's lecture will focus on competition between lions, hyenas and African wild dogs, why ZCP researches these inter-predator competitions, and what it means for the survival of the wild dog. They'll also tell you all about exciting hot-off-the-press findings for Zambian wild dogs and other associated wildlife in the area from their



Day 4 Chipembele Environmental Education Centre

Education, and in turn the reduction of human-wild dog conflict, is key to the survival of this endangered species. With a visit to the Chipembele Education Centre you'll learn all about wildlife conservation education in general as well as the education programs ZCP have in place for the African wild dog. There's

both a fun children's school-based curriculum as well as adult targeted posters and both are integral to ZCP's conservation efforts. You will also be able to learn about other education programs run by Chipembele for different species running in the area too. After your return in the afternoon, you will be able to choose to go out on an evening game-drive, or just relax in camp watching the sunset over the river.



Day 5-7 These last days are very flexible; ZCP will join you on either a morning or evening game drive to track the dogs. The rest of your days will be free to do activities with your Robin Pope Safaris guide. A walking safari, game drive, or boat cruise on the river. Whichever activities you choose, they are sure to be spectacular. Weather dependent, you will also have the chance to visit Kawaza Village, to experience a bit of the local culture. Please let your guide know if you are interested in going to the village.

Day 8 After breakfast, you will be transferred to the Mfuwe Airport for your flight to Lusaka and your connecting flight.



- Rates include: accommodation, all activities, bar, airport transfers, National Park fees and laundry
- Extras: international flights from UK to Lusaka, internal flights, entrance visa and airport taxes

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