

TRACKS SAFARIS

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**12 NIGHT MANA POOLS AND HWANGE IN ZIMBABWE
LIVINGSTONE AND KAFUE NATIONAL PARK IN ZAMBIA
A FLYING TAILOR-MADE SAFARI WITH WILDERNESS SAFARIS**



DAY ONE

Upon arrival at Victoria Falls International Airport in Zimbabwe you are met and assisted to check in for your light aircraft flight with Wilderness Air for Little Makalolo Camp, in Hwange National Park, for 3 nights on an all-inclusive basis.

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 recorded species. This is greatly due to the varied habitats and vegetation types. Little Makalolo Camp is located in the south-eastern corner of the Park – an exclusive concession area. The Makalolo Concession, in which this camp is found, 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.



Big game such as elephant, buffalo, sable, roan, southern giraffe, zebra and blue wildebeest are the most common mammals. The Park's waterholes and seasonal pans attracts game in both quantity and variety – notably in the dry season. 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 wildcat, serval, honey badger, bat-eared fox and civet. The park is also home to a varied bird community of over 420 recorded species. Kalahari-type birds include Red-billed Spurfowl, Crimson-breasted Shrike, Kalahari Scrub-Robin, Cut-throat Finch, Red-eyed Bulbul and Southern Pied Babbler. In the summer months, migratory species like Southern Carmine Bee-eater, Broad-billed Roller, Abdim's Stork and various cuckoo species arrive.

Morning, afternoon-into-evening game drives together with guided walks through the concession maximise wildlife-viewing opportunities here.

Little Makalolo has six well-appointed units, including one honeymoon suite and a family unit, all with indoor and outdoor showers. This camp ensures maximum privacy with an intimate main area, dining room, and plunge pool. A log pile hide overlooking the waterhole in front of camp afford guests a very unique game viewing experience.

DAY FOUR

Today you will transfer back to the airstrip for your Wilderness Air flight from Little Makalolo to Mana West Airstrip. On arrival you will be met by your guide and transferred a short distance to Ruckomechi for 3 nights on an all-inclusive basis.

The camp is idyllically located, overlooking the Zambezi River in Mana Pools National Park and the imposing Great African Rift Valley. The park is located in the heart of the Zambezi Valley and is famed for the rich and varied mammal life. Ruckomechi Camp is situated in an exclusive concession of Mana Pools, nestled amongst a large grove of acacia and ebony trees. The stunning setting in allows for exploration of the National Park away from the crowds.

An intoxicating blend of wildlife and bird species can be found. The dry season sees large herds of elephant and buffalo together with hippo, waterbuck, kudu, nyala and eland all seeking to slake their thirst along the banks of this mighty river. Predators follow with lions frequenting the floodplains and adjacent woodland, while leopard stalk the thickets and cheetah and endangered wild dog are also often seen. The area is equally famous for its superb birdlife offering over 350 species including Collared Palm-Thrush, African Skimmer, Racket-tailed Roller, Purple-banded Sunbird and Western Banded Snake-eagle.



Activities on offer include early morning walks with an experienced guide, morning and afternoon game drives, night drives, canoeing and catch-and-release fishing.

Ruckomechi Camp accommodates up to 22 guests in ten spacious en-suite tented units, including a honeymoon suite and family room. All of these units maximise views of the Zambezi River and the escarpment beyond. Each tent has both indoor and outdoor showers, and the camp boasts an outdoor 'bath-with-a-view' in a secluded, scenic spot. A central dining, bar, library and main area completes the camp offerings. There is a separate deck with infinity pool for swimming and sun bathing, and an inviting, cushion-strewn sundowner and star gazing deck.

DAY SEVEN

Today you will transfer by boat to Chirundu followed by road transfer to Lusaka Airport to connect with your flight onto the Busanga Plains in northern Kafue National Park.

Kafue National Park is one of the largest protected expanses 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 landscape here is in complete contrast to that of Mana Pools, thereby providing a complementary experience.

The amazing landscapes of the Busanga Plains comprise a web of estuaries, grassy plains and island thickets. Comprising 750km² (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.

Owing to the diverse ecology, this area of the Kafue offers fantastic opportunities to see plains game, predators and water-loving animals. This 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 Wattled Crane population. Other notable species are Black-backed Barbet, Rosy-throated Longclaw and Red-throated Twinspot.

Activities include morning and afternoon-into-evening game drives as well as early season (June and July) boat trips. Magnificent hot air balloon rides (August through October at additional cost) 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.

Busanga Bush Camp lies hidden in an island thicket. This camp accommodates eight guests in four comfortable tents. The main and bar area of the camp is under a large canopy canvas and has a sweeping view out over the plains and the dramatic sunrises. The dining area is further shaded under the leafy branches of a sycamore fig tree from which a unique lantern chandelier hangs, romantically lighting up dinner.



DAY TEN

After an early morning drive and breakfast, fly to Livingstone Airport where you are met and transferred to Toka Leya Camp for 3 nights on an all-inclusive basis.

Toka Leya is located on the banks of the Zambezi River in the secluded Mosi-Oa-Tunya National Park and on the outskirts of Livingstone. This historical town was founded by the first European explorers to 'discover' the impressive Victoria Falls, and is today the tourism capital of Zambia.

Mosi-Oa-Tunya is directly translated as 'the smoke that thunders', the local name for the Victoria Falls which is found 12km from camp and forms one of the main activities. This small but very important national park of the same name is 63km² and is host to a wonderful variety of habitat types from mopane woodland to a rich riverine fringe.

The Mosi-Oa-Tunya National Park is home to a variety of herbivores such as impala, giraffe, white rhino and buffalo. In the drier season, herds of elephant come down through the camp to drink from the river and even swim across to the other side. The camp dawn chorus includes the comical 'laughter' of hippo which are often seen from the various camp vantages during the day. The bird life along the Zambezi is just wonderful – African Finfoot, Half-collared Kingfisher and Schalow's Turaco are some special finds.

Activities include guided tours of Victoria Falls, cultural, museum and market tours, morning or evening game drives in Mosi-Oa-Tunya and morning or evening boat cruises on the Zambezi River. Livingstone is rated as one of the world's top destinations for adrenaline and river activities. The most popular of these include (at an additional cost): seasonal white water rafting, bungee jumping, gorge swing, microlighting over the Victoria Falls, brunch and breakfast canoe trips on the Zambezi and falls-edge dining.



This contemporary camp consists of 12 climate-controlled rooms on elevated wooden decks - each has inside and outside showers as well as sweeping views of the Zambezi River. Extending out onto the Zambezi River is the main area with pizza oven, bar and infinity pool and spa area. The camp also has a curio shop selling arts and crafts made by local villagers



DAY THIRTEEN

Today you will transfer back to Livingstone International Airport in time for your international flight home.

THIS ITINERARY IS AVAILABLE FROM JUNE THROUGH TO NOVEMBER



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