

# TRACKS SAFARIS

## WE GET YOU CLOSER



### **14 NIGHT ZIMBABWE CONSERVATION SAFARI MAKING YOUR JOURNEY COUNT FOR COMMUNITIES AND WILDLIFE**



**This 2 week itinerary focuses on properties that are very involved in Zimbabwe's Conservation and Community projects - every client staying at these lodges will donate to these projects and have a chance to get involved in some of the projects - so seeing Conservation in action!**

**The properties support local communities as well as the wildlife in their area including sponsorship of schools and medical clinics . Gorges and Bomani and Chilo Gorge Lodges are involved in the CAMPFIRE projects ( *Communal Areas Management Programme for Indigenous Resources*) a non-profit organisation to assist communities manage their areas and teach sustainable use of land and interaction**

with wildlife <https://www.campfirezimbabwe.org> Vundu Camp in Mana Pools is the founder of and operates the Bushlife Safaris Anti-Poaching Unit, which patrols through Mana Pools National Park.

## DAY ONE

On arrival into Victoria Falls International Airport you will be met and transferred to Gorges Lodge/Little Gorges for 3 nights on an all-inclusive basis.

*Gorges and Little Gorges are a 30 minutes' drive from Victoria Falls town and offer a unique Victoria Falls experience from a peaceful and idyllic base on the edge of the Batoka Gorge. Gorges is famous for its spectacular views, described by some as the best in Southern Africa and for the resident black eagles and lanner falcons which nest in the sheer cliff faces.*

*Activities include a guided tour of the Victoria Falls, (Victoria Falls Rainforest entry fee not included), sundowner cruise (river usage fee included) or mini canyoning package, guided tour of the craft village, visit to the local village, school tour, (school visits not available in April, August and December - Mid January during school holidays), evening traditional dancing show, gorge-edge walk or gorge-hike to the bottom of the gorge with snacks, black eagle viewing (weather permitting), with sundowners and snacks.*

*As an additional activity, we have included a half day walking safari with the Victoria Falls Anti-Poaching Unit which will offer you a fascinating insight into wildlife conservation in the area.*



**Conservation:** Imvelo recognises that the fate of people and wildlife are inextricably connected. In recognition of this their strategy is to develop lodges on the edges of parks or peripheral areas. The reason for this is twofold; firstly their footprint has less impact on the park and secondly their development is in conjunction with local communities rather than central government. They recognise that communities are the front line of wildlife conservation.

**Hwange National Park** is one of the few great parks of Africa without any major rivers or lakes. Due to this the park's population of water-dependant species congregate in enormous numbers around the waterholes throughout the dry season. From May to November Imvelo operate and maintain 16 waterholes in and on the borders of the national park which provide essential water to the wildlife during this time of the year.

**Along the Batoka Gorge** in Hwange District a raptor protection and education programme has been developed. A number of birds of prey nest in the communal area portion of the gorge – black eagles, lanner, peregrine and taita falcons, augur buzzards and bathawk. In just one example, previously villagers in this area persecuted the bathawks believing they kill young livestock and poultry. Through Imvelo's education and protection programme this trend has been reversed and the raptors in the Batoka Gorge are enjoyed by guests daily.

**Other conservation initiatives include:** conservation through rural conservation awareness, anti-poaching initiatives and support and presence and support in peripheral areas.

**Scorpions and Cobras Anti-Poaching Unit:** Imvelo have been instrumental in the development of the Scorpions and Cobras Anti-Poaching Units based in Hwange National Park. They have provided extensive support in the form of wages, training, supplies, bedding and tents and communication equipment as well as reports and information from our friends in the villages. Scorpions have been responsible for the collection of large numbers of wire snares but more importantly detecting incursions by international ivory poachers and directing police and National Parks in captures and arrests.



#### **DAY FOUR**

This morning you will be transferred to Dete Railway Station where you will board the Elephant Express tram through the Park to the Ngamo Siding where Bomani Tented Lodge will meet you and transfer you to camp in their open game viewing vehicle for 3 nights on an all-inclusive basis.

*This comfortable and well-appointed tented lodge is nestled in a remote and untouched corner on the edge of Hwange National Park on a 5000 acre private reserve and just 15 minutes' drive from the private gate*

*into the Hwange National Park - famous for its impressive herds of elephants. The main lodge is built on a spectacular viewing platform and overlooks Bomani Pan. You can enjoy your breakfast while watching zebra and wildebeest quietly graze or sip on a sundowner as giraffe and elephant soak up the day's final rays. There are 11 tents and one thatched family bungalow – all tents are comfortably furnished and designed to keep out all creatures great and small, have a private en-suite bathroom, hot running water and electricity.*

*Activities include: Guided walks, game drives, all day excursions such as the 'pump run', hide sits and night drives, visit to the local village and school visits (not available in April, August and December - Mid January).*



## **DAY SEVEN**

Today you will be transferred to the airstrip in time for your light aircraft flight across to Mana Pools where you will be met and transferred to Vundu Camp for 3 nights on an all-inclusive basis.



*Vundu Camp is situated in the heart of Mana Pools National Park underneath a beautiful forest of riverine trees. The camp has eight spacious thatched chalets one of which is a large and comfortable family room. Each chalet opens out onto the banks of the Zambezi River where you can sit outside and watch impala, warthog and elephant stroll by. The main lounge and dining area is elevated, open and breezy with views of the Zambezi River*

*Activities include: Game Drives, walking safaris, canoe safaris & Boating*

**Conservation:** Bushlife Safaris are active members in the Mana Pools National Park community and are passionate about wildlife conservation in Zimbabwe. A team of experienced pro-guides and trackers work towards saving the environment from poachers who inhabit the area. In 2015, following many years of continuous work on the anti-poaching front, the Bushlife Support Unit was set up, uniting the Zambezi Valley community together in a consolidated effort to stop poaching in the area.

**The Bushlife Support Unit is very challenging work** - trackers are deployed daily in vehicles and boats, mostly bought through donations, where a team of expert rangers are on the search for poachers on both land or river - countless arrests have been made subsequently saving the lives of wildlife in Mana Pools National Park. **The Bushlife Painted Wolf Conservancy** is a branch of Bushlife Support Unit Trust and specialises in research and conservation of the endangered African Wild Dog.



## **DAY TEN**

This morning you will be transferred back to the airstrip in time for your light aircraft flight to Harare and on to Gonarezhou National Park for 4 nights. You will have a short half an hour layover in Harare, to refuel and stretch your legs before continuing. On arrival, you will be met and transferred to the beautiful Chilo Gorge Safari Lodge for 1 night on a fully inclusive basis.

*Chilo Gorge is a luxury safari lodge set on the edge of the stunning wilderness of Gonarezhou National Park in South-East Zimbabwe. This remote and rarely visited lodge offers pristine wilderness of Gonarezhou – unspoilt and untouched Africa.*



*There are just 10 beautifully appointed thatched luxury king/twin lodges - largely inspired by nature with a touch of elegance and simplicity incorporating local crafts and a little luxury: crafted intricate reed weaving, individually carved jacaranda headboards, luxurious cotton bedding, and a mini bar. Each Lodge has its own private balcony with wonderful views of sunrises or sunsets and the opportunity to relax watching resident elephants, crocodiles and hippos in the Save river below.*

*Activities include game drives in Gonarezhou National Park, game walks in Gonarezhou National Park, Chilojo Cliffs full day safari, Community Visit, visit to the Chivilia Falls, bird watching in the Sacred Sand Forest.*

#### **DAY ELEVEN**

Today you will transfer through the Park to Mahove Tented Camp (Chilo Gorge Tented Camp) for 2 nights on an all-inclusive basis. Chilo Gorge Tented Camp is a semi-luxury seasonal tented camp on the banks of the Runde River. This is an 'old Africa' camping experience with a good standard of comfort and a great place from which to explore Gonarezhou by vehicle and on foot.

*Boasting one of the best locations within Gonarezhou National Park the camp has just 4 twin Bedded en suite (shower and flushing toilet) tents and meals are taken under the shade of trees, or in a canvas boma in inclement weather.*

*Daily activities include game walks with the camp's resident professional guide, game drives and birding, a visit to the Chilojo Cliffs and to the nearby water pans.*



### **DAY THIRTEEN**

Today you will head back at leisure to Chilo Gorge Safari Lodge for one more night on a fully inclusive basis.

**Conservation:** Sustainability and conservation are central to everything we do at Chilo Gorge Safari Lodge and we understand that the local community is vital to protect the park. The first CAMPFIRE programme (Communal Areas Management Programme for Indigenous Resources) in Zimbabwe was started here and its principles have since been replicated across Africa and the rest of the world.

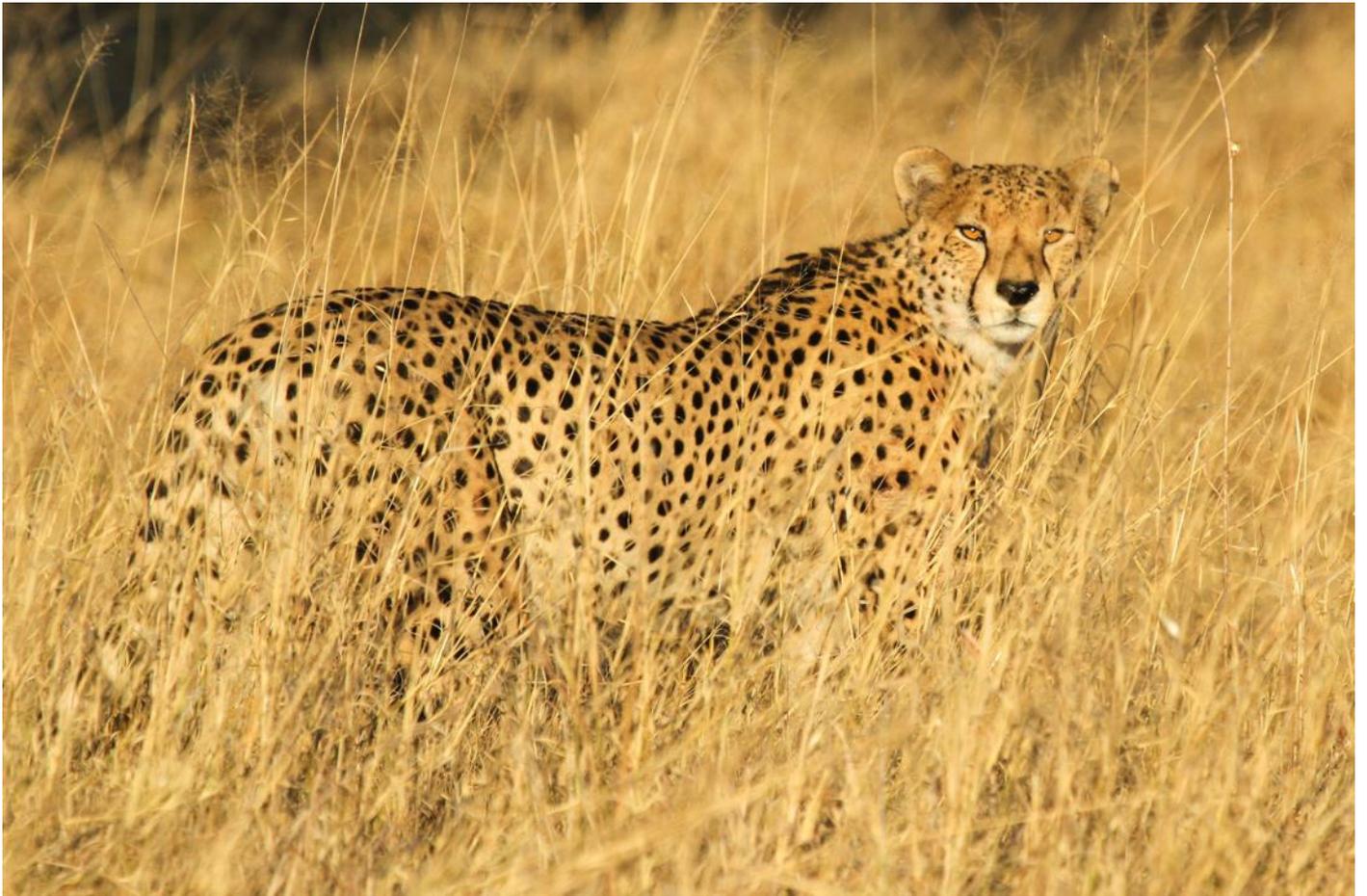
Over the years, guns have been replaced by cameras, and local people and visitors alike have learned to appreciate the animals as they should be; unmolested in their natural habitat. In recognition of his unswerving commitment Clive Stockhill – founder of Chilo Gorge - was awarded the Prince William Award for Conservation in 2013.

“If you are a conservationist, your problem is all about space, so deal with human pressures first. CAMPFIRE has turned conflict into cooperation and everyone has benefitted. The community is happy, the parks are happy and the animals are happy. Everyone wins. ”

### **DAY FOURTEEN**

After breakfast today, you will be transferred back to the airstrip in time for your light aircraft flight back to Harare to check-in for your connecting international flight home.

**Alternatively why not spend some more time in Zimbabwe? Extend your safari by spending a few days on arrival in Victoria Falls town or alternatively we can show you other areas of the country just as fascinating with equally successful conservation and community interests – please ask!**



**TRACKS SAFARIS – WE GET YOU CLOSER TO ZIMBABWE!**

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