

TRACKS SAFARIS

WE GET YOU CLOSER



15 Night Victoria Falls, Wildlife and Adventure Canoe Safari Hwange, Lake Kariba and The Great Zambezi River



DAY ONE

On arrival into Victoria Falls International Airport you are met and transferred to Batonka Guest House for 3 nights on a bed and breakfast basis.

Situated just over a mile from Victoria Falls, Batonka Guest lodge is set in lush gardens and is a tranquil haven away from the bustle of town but within walking distance of the main attractions with an emphasis on personalised, friendly service. The lodge has 27 well-appointed rooms with elegant, contemporary style décor.

All rooms are air conditioned, have ensuite bathrooms and a private balcony/patio and there are interleading rooms which are ideal for families. The main lodge offers indoor and outdoor dining, a cosy lounge and beautiful veranda opening out onto the surrounding gardens and swimming pool areas.



DAY FOUR

Today you will transfer by road to Hwange National Park and on to Somalisa Expeditions Camp for 3 nights on an all-inclusive basis – the drive will take approximately 3.5 – 4 hours depending on what you see in the park on the way to camp.

Capturing the ambiance of a mobile tented camp but with all the comforts of a tented camp, Somalisa Expeditions gets you closer to elephants. Sit out on a raised deck in front of the camp with a waterhole right in front of you and watch at the elephants come to drink just a few meters from your chair! Guest tents are set on the ground giving you a closer connection to a wilderness experience and the tents are well equipped with proper beds and ensuite facilities at the back. The main tent has a comfortable sitting and dining area and a bar.



Set within a private concession in the Hwange National Park activities include walking safaris and game drives all led by experienced and qualified guides passionate about wildlife and the wilderness.

Hwange's mix of different veld and landscape types means that game viewing is excellent year round. Wildlife you may see includes lion, large herds of elephant, buffalo, cheetah, leopard, spotted hyaena, wild dog, giraffe, sable, roan, blue wildebeest, impala, waterbuck and reedbuck. In summer, wildebeest, zebra and eland are found in abundance on the open plains, while in winter elephant congregate in enormous numbers around the waterholes. Birdlife in the area is prolific with over 400 species recorded.

DAY SEVEN

Today you will transfer to the airstrip in time for your light aircraft flight to Kariba. On arrival you will be met by Hornbill Lodge and transferred to the lodge for one night on a dinner, bed and breakfast basis.

Hornbill Lodge offers beautiful accommodation in Kariba town situated at the top of Mica Point, above the shores of Lake Kariba. It is a wonderful place to soak up the panoramic views of the Lake and relax under the shade of the indigenous trees in the lush garden.

Small and intimate, the Lodge offers very comfortable accommodation and a large chalet houses the bar, lounge and dining area. The rooms are all thatch, round structures with open fronts (no doors) which allow breath taking views of Lake Kariba. Every room has mosquito nets, ceiling fans, mobile air conditioning units, tea and coffee making facilities, en suite bathrooms, daily housekeeping and complementary laundry service.



The next day you will be starting your Adventure Canoe Safari which will be semi-participatory - meaning camps are not already set up for your arrival and that everyone helps to put up tents each evening.

Tents supplied are very easy to set up, two-man, dome tents. All equipment and food is carried in the canoes and there is no vehicle back up. No previous canoeing experience is necessary but guests are required to be reasonably fit and healthy. The maximum luggage limit per client to take on the river is 10 kgs.

DAILY ROUTINE

Generally the day starts with tea/coffee and biscuits at sunrise. Camp is then packed up and the party sets off. Early mornings make for easy paddling as the wind is calm and it is not yet too hot. A stop will be made for breakfast, usually after a couple of hours. The trip continues after breakfast, until breaking for a light lunch and siesta to avoid the midday heat. The night stop is reached at approximately 5pm and the camp is unpacked and setup. Campsites are typically set up on islands and all sites are designated by National Parks.

Animals seen on the trip usually include elephant, buffalo, impala, waterbuck, hippo, crocodile and plentiful birdlife. Lion, leopard and painted hunting dog are more rarely seen but are certainly in the area. We cannot guarantee plenty of game while on safari, particularly during the green (rainy) season.

ABLUTIONS

There are no ablution facilities on these safaris. You will be provided with a spade, toilet paper and matches with which to burn the toilet paper. Bathing is done from a bucket using water scooped out of the river.

BACK-UP STATUS

This canoe Safari is self-contained. All equipment and food is carried in the canoes and there is no vehicle back-up apart from drop-off and pick-up. As these safaris are semi-participatory - you are required to help set up tents and to assist the guide with the cooking and washing up.

EQUIPMENT SUPPLIED

All camping equipment is supplied. This includes gas stoves, kitchen utensils, pots and pans, plastic plates, mugs, tables, stools, camping mattresses, sleeping bags and liners, candles, matches, cooler boxes and dome tents. You can bring your own sleeping bags if preferred.

**DAY EIGHT (18 KM)**

You will be collected from Hornbill Lodge on the morning of your safari at 7:30am in good time for a check-in at the office, handing in extra luggage and valuables. There will be a short briefing to summarise what the safari entails and questions may be asked. You will be required to sign an indemnity form before leaving on the safari.

After the briefing a visit to the shops will be made to purchase any extra drinks you would like to take on the safari before setting off for the river.

Transfers are by open 4x4 vehicles to Chirundu arriving at approximately 11:30am at which time canoes and kit are unloaded. Following this a safety talk and demonstration of paddling a canoe will be given. A packed lunch will be taken on the river and at approximately 5pm you will establish camp on an island named Kakomarara. After a brief safety talk on camping, there is then time to relax and have dinner.

DAY NINE (27 KM)

You will be woken up at sunrise for tea, coffee and biscuits before paddling for a couple of hours to the breakfast stop. Afterwards canoeing will resume until midday and a well-earned lunch and siesta. Canoeing will continue until about 5pm until camp setup on Lone Acacia Island.

DAY TEN (23 KM)

The programme is as per day nine. With the night's camp stop on Trichelia Island.

DAY ELEVEN (27 KM)

A similar programme to day ten. Lunch will be around midday after which there is a chance to relax, take in your surroundings or possibly siesta. The group will then paddle until the early evening where the night's camp is made at Chikwenya Island.

**DAY TWELVE (25 KM)**

You will be woken early for tea, coffee and biscuits before a short morning's paddle. Breakfast will be served either on the banks of the river or on an island. After which the group will resume canoeing until around midday. After lunch and a brief siesta, taken on the banks to avoid the midday heat, canoeing will continue until early evening where camp will be set up at False Gorge.

DAY THIRTEEN (20 KM)

The programme is as per day twelve. The day will be spent exploring the shoreline of the Chewore area (home of the Great Elephant). Camp will be set up at the top end of Mupata Gorge.

DAY FOURTEEN (35 KM)

This day is planned much as the previous canoeing days and spent mainly in the austere Mupata Gorge. Time to take in its many endemic species of wildlife and its spectacular geographical features. The night's campsite will be established at the base of the towering Red Cliffs.

DAY FIFTEEN (7 KM)

After an early wake-up call and breakfast you will paddle down to the take-out point at Kanyemba. The equipment will be loaded onto the vehicle and you will be transferred back to Kariba. Arrival time in Kariba is approximately 4pm and you will be transferred back to Hornbill Lodge for one night on a dinner, bed and breakfast basis.



DAY SIXTEEN

Today you will transfer by road to Lake Kariba Airstrip in time for your light aircraft flight back to Victoria Falls International Airport.



This journey can easily be extended to enjoy more time on safari on Lake Kariba or Mana Pools or you can hop across the border from Victoria Falls to Botswana, Zambia or Namibia

