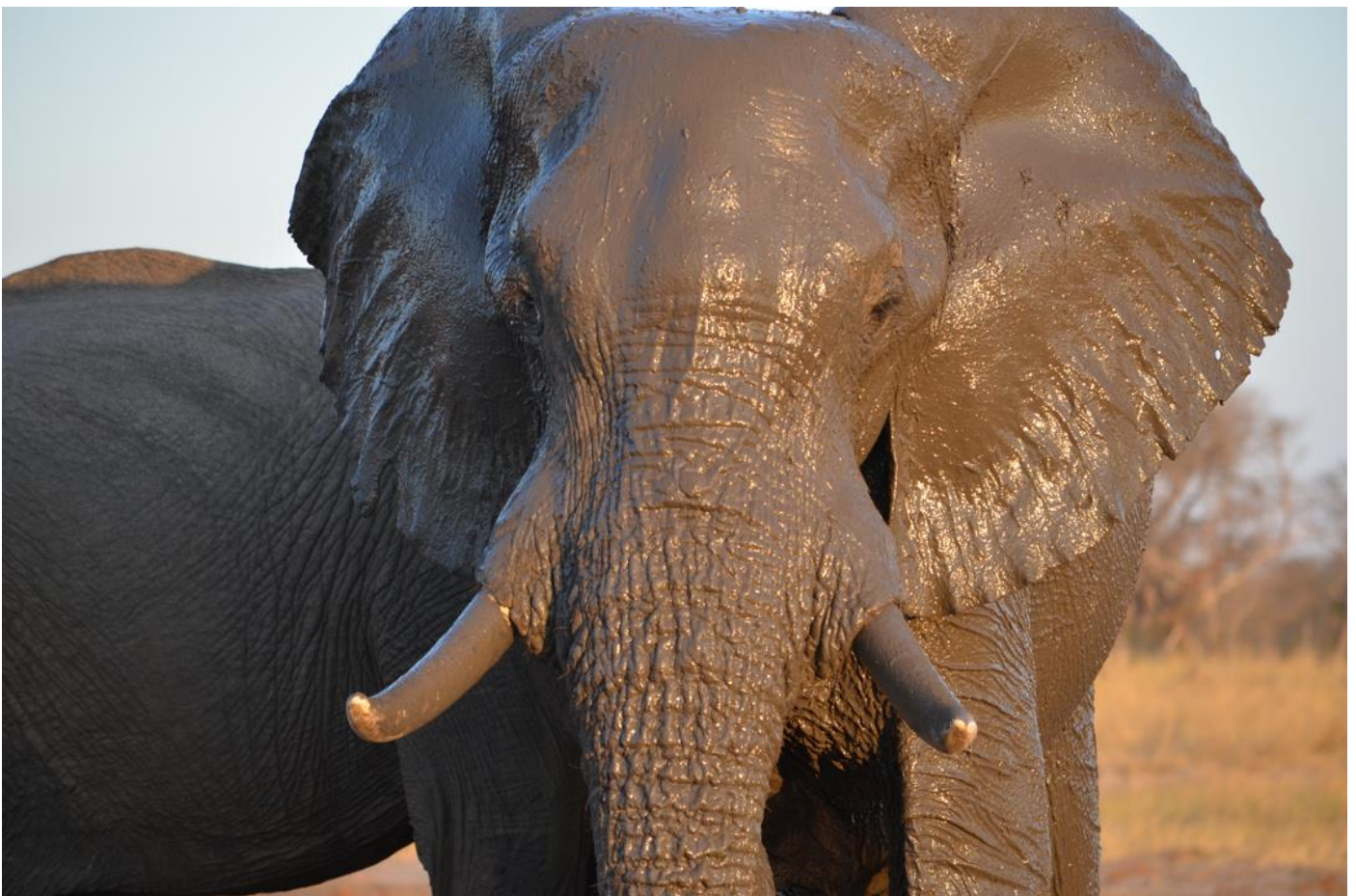


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5 NIGHT LUXURY CANOE AND TENTED SAFARI A FULLY SERVICED ADVENTURE



The Mana Canoe Safari is a luxurious mobile camp where you leave camp with the sunrise and leisurely canoe your way to the next camp. Floating into camp with the sunset you will find an ice cold drink, hot shower and dinner being prepared. This 5 night safari follows the Zambezi River through the Mana Pools National Park. Canoeing offers guests a unique way of viewing game - you can glide up to elephants crossing the Zambezi and watch game coming down to the Rive to drink. Canoeing begins near the confluence of the Ruckomechi River and Zambezi River and continues along the Mana Pools shoreline to Illala Camp across from Chikwenya Island in the Mana Pools 'Wilderness Area.'

All the camps used on this safari are fully backed up meaning you can sit back and relax in serenity of Mana Pools and the Zambezi. Camps have full waiter service, spacious walk in tents with en suite toilets

and hot open air showers. All meals are freshly prepared on open campfires by experienced bush cooks and are enjoyed under the expanse of the African sky. All produce is brought in fresh and meals are prepared in camp by one of our experienced bush cooks. All breads and pastries are freshly baked on open campfires.

Breakfast: may consist of cereals, yoghurt, muffins, biscuits, pancakes, toast and jams. On the guests last day of safari a full English breakfast will be laid out for guests to enjoy.

Lunch: usually fresh quiche, meat pies, etc. with varied selection freshly baked bread, salads and cheeses.

Dinner: full 3 course meals with various starters, delicious main courses and sumptuous deserts all eaten by candlelight under the stars, accompanied by a bottle of wine (imported).

Your canoe safari will include a supply of local beers, spirits, minerals, cordials, mineral water, tea, coffee and imported wines. Drinks are served by our friendly camp staff whilst guests relax in the peace and tranquillity of the safari.

We have included a night either side at Camp Zambezi which will ensure that you are well-rested before your canoe adventure begins on the first day and to allow you to relax on the last day.

DAY ONE

On arrival into Harare or Victoria Falls International Airport you are met and assisted to check in for your lights aircraft flight to Mana Pools. On arrival you will be met by Camp Zambezi and transferred to camp for one night on an all-inclusive basis. Depending on the time of your arrival you may have time to join in the afternoon activity or if you are flying in a little later then enjoy a game drive to camp before dinner.



Camp Zambezi is a static camp (mobile camp that does not move) offering rustic luxury set up on the bank of the Zambezi River. Guests can experience the full range of safari activities including game drives, canoeing and walking safaris.

DAY TWO

This morning you will be collected by your guide and driven 30km - a leisurely game drive through the spectacular Mana Pools floodplain - to the first night's campsite. The area has one of the highest concentrations of wildlife in Zimbabwe and the drive is usually very rewarding - enabling your guide to give an overview of the various animals, birds and plants that make up this unique habitat. Vehicles are open Toyota Land Cruisers with good all-round visibility.

On arrival at 'Vundu', the first camp, you are met by the welcome smiles of our support staff and lunch will be served which usually is cold meats, a variety of salads and freshly baked breads.



After a refreshing lunch break you will take a short drive to the canoe launch-spot near the confluence of the Ruckomechi and Zambezi Rivers. Here the guide will give a full safety briefing, pointing out where all equipment - such as the first aid kit - is kept as well as explaining what to do in an emergency. The briefing also covers the basic techniques of steering and controlling the Canadian-style 5.5m (18 ft) canoes.

The group then departs downstream by canoe, returning to Vundu camp. This first afternoon of paddling is taken at a slow pace, allowing you time to become acquainted with the canoes and methods of steering. You should now begin to see some of the multitude of animals and birds attracted to the water's edge. Hippo, buffalo, elephant and crocodile, as well as a variety of antelope species, may be seen. Arrival at camp is around sunset.

The camp will be fully prepared and you will be able to sit back and relax with sundowners and snacks - tea and coffee and hot showers are also available. A campfire is already burning and this is where you will meet to discuss the day's events and plan for the morning. In the background your support staff and resident bush cook are busy preparing a three-course dinner for you.

DAY THREE

This morning you will have an early wake-up call as dawn breaks. Hot water for freshening up will be placed in raised basins outside each tent, while tea, freshly brewed coffee, muffins or home-made biscuits are already waiting by the campfire. While you pack up your personal kit the support staff load the canoes with all that is required for the day ahead. You need only worry about a small daypack carrying essentials such as sun block, camera, spare film, hat and binoculars.

The aim is to be in the canoes and on the water in time to watch the sunrise. As one of the most magical times of day you will be enchanted as you drift along quietly listening to the sounds of the African wild waking to a new day.



Following paddling for couple of hours, breakfast takes place under a grove of acacia trees. After breakfast, you will have the opportunity to set off on a walk on the floodplain and surrounding woodlands. This is a great time to try and view predators before they hide-up for the day. You may even be lucky enough to spot one or more of the diurnal animals making their way down to the river. This walk offers an opportunity not only for game viewing but also to explore some of the more interesting aspects of the environment. You will spot a variety of animal spoor and may even find yourself engrossed in tracking down a particular species. The guide will share fascinating facts about strange insects and spiders as well as a wealth of knowledge about this miniature world that forms such an integral part of the bush. Sounds of many brightly coloured birds can be heard while soaking in the beauty and tranquillity of this unique area.

Returning to the canoes you will head downstream to an area renowned for its huge old elephant bulls. The guide will try to time the trip to catch the elephants swimming or wading out to the grass islands, where the canoes will be able to glide quietly alongside these awesome giants. Their age makes them placid enough that they tend to ignore the canoes.

Lunch break coincides with the heat of the day. The canoes are pulled up below a grove of mahogany trees whose dense shade provides a welcome relief. The meal generally consists of cold meats, freshly prepared salads, pizza or quiche and cheese and biscuits. After lunch you have a choice to either take another short walk through the mahogany forest or to just relax and enjoy an afternoon siesta.

The late afternoon and evening is spent drifting down to camp and enjoying the game and birding along the river's edge. Our welcoming support staff are waiting at camp which is reached by sunset. This night's

camp, Chessa, overlooks a small channel, with a large grass plain separating it from the main Zambezi, 500 metres away. Frequently the plain hosts buffalo, waterbuck, elephant and hippo in the evenings.

DAY FOUR

Today follows the same basic itinerary as day two, with a predawn wake up and sunrise whilst drifting down the Zambezi. However, this is the day that guests will enter the “Wilderness Area” of Mana Pools National Park where there is limited access to people and vehicles. The only road is 3 to 5 kilometres inland and is the route our support team will use. From here on you are entering a much more remote environment.

Breakfast may be taken on the Mbera River floodplain, which comprises stunning acacia woodland with large patches of thick ‘Adrenaline’ grass – a habitat much favoured by all the predators. Towards the end of the dry season it also hosts large groups of female elephants with their babies.

The day is spent paddling through a maze of small channels before once again joining the main Zambezi. For a change your lunch is on one of the shallow sandbanks in the middle of the river where a table and chairs are set up in ankle deep water with the whole width of the river stretching out on either side.

This afternoon is the last chance for canoeing. Depending on water levels and time allowed, there may be an opportunity to explore Chikwenya Island on foot. This unique island is the largest on this section of the river and is host to prolific bird life as well as a number of interesting mammal species. In the afternoon you will paddle into Illala Camp to spend the last night in the rustic luxury of the Odyssey Camp.



DAY FIVE

This morning you can choose between taking another early walk before breakfast or have a lie in! After breakfast you will transfer back to Camp Zambezi arriving in time for lunch and a siesta before your activity in the afternoon and dinner at the camp.

DAY SIX

This morning you can enjoy your final activity at camp – perhaps a canoe along the Zambezi or a 4 x 4 game drive before transferring to the airstrip for your light aircraft flight to Harare or Victoria Falls International Airports.

This safari is easy to extend and we can recommend another camp or lodge in Mana Pools before or after your walking safari. If you would like to see more of Zimbabwe we recommend flying into Harare and working your way over to Victoria Falls via Lake Kariba and Hwange National Park. Once in Victoria Falls we can extend your safari to Botswana, Zambia or Namibia – please ask!



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