

TRACKS SAFARIS

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**5 NIGHT MANA WALKING SAFARI ALONG THE ZAMBEZI
A NON PARTICIPORY SAFARI WITH SUPERB GUIDING**



Our Mana Walking Safari uses a series of luxurious mobile camps where you leave camp with the sunrise and leisurely walk your way to the next camp. Arriving at the next camp you will find an ice cold drink, hot shower and dinner being prepared. This Safari on foot allows you to experience the wonders of nature from the tiniest insect to the mighty elephants that roam the valley.

This 5 night safari follows the Zambezi River through the Mana Pools National Park. Walking 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.'

A fully licensed-armed Professional guide who is permitted to conduct walking safaris leads each safari. The following information is a generalised itinerary and can change at the guide's discretion due to animal movements and/or river conditions so as to optimise the safari experience.

Walks are dependent on animal and weather conditions at the time and there will be a back-up vehicle available if required or if you do not want to walk the entire distance between camps.

We have included a night either side at Camp Zambezi which will ensure that you are well-rested before the walking 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 to the first nights camp - a distance of approximately 30km. This is a leisurely game drive through the spectacular Mana Pools floodplain. The vehicles are open with good all round views. The highest concentrations of wildlife in Zimbabwe are in this area and the drive through is usually very productive allowing your guide to give you an overview of the various animals, birds and plants that make up this unique habitat.

On arrival at Vundu, the first camp, you will be met with the welcome smiles of our support staff and a lunch of cold meats, a variety of salads and freshly baked breads. After a refreshing lunch break you will be taken on a short drive to the start of your walking safari near the confluence of the Ruckomechi and Zambezi Rivers where the professional guide will give you a full safety briefing include pointing out where all the equipment is kept such as first aid kits as well as explaining what to do in the case of an emergency.



This is a slow walk allowing time to become accustomed to the area. You should also start to see some of the multitude of animals and birds that are 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 prepared for your arrival so you will be able to sit back and relax with sundowners and snacks – tea and coffee and hot showers are also available. You are free to sit around the camp fire to discuss the day's events and plan for the morning - in the background your support staff and resident cook are busy preparing a three-course dinner for you.

DAY THREE

You will receive an early wake-up call this morning - just as the dawn breaks. Hot water is placed in raised basins outside each tent while tea, coffee, muffins or home-made biscuits are already waiting by the campfire. While everyone gets their personal kit together the support staff organised everything that will be needed for the day. You need only worry about a small daypack carrying the essentials such as sun block, camera and spare film, hat and binoculars.

The aim is to be walking in time to watch the sunrise. This is one of the most magical times of the day and you will be enchanted as you drift along quietly, listening to the sounds of the African bush waking to a new day. Walk for a couple of hours before stopping to breakfast under a grove of acacia trees. After breakfast set off on a walk into the floodplains and surrounding woodlands. This is a great time to try and catch some of the 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 a chance for you to explore some of the smaller more interesting aspects of the environment. You will spot a variety of animal spoor and may even find yourselves engrossed in tracking down a particular species. Strange insects and spiders will fascinate you as your guides share a wealth of knowledge about this miniature world that forms such an integral part of the bush. You will listen to the sound of the many brightly coloured birds and soak up the beauty and tranquillity of this unique area.

You can choose to either continue walking or call the backup vehicle to come and collect you – this afternoon consists of a lovely lunch and then a siesta. Once again you will walk into Chessa - the next fully set up camp - where our staff are ready to welcome you back.



DAY FOUR

This follows the same basic itinerary as day three with a predawn wake up and sunrise. However, this is the day that you will enter the “Wilderness Area” of Mana Pools National Park where there is limited access to people and vehicles. From here on it is a much more remote environment with very few people.

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.

This afternoon the routine is as per day two - this night’s camp is called Ilala.

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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