
Elephant an African icon | Victoria Falls and Hwange



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Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe - Hwange National Park

7 Days / 6 Nights

Reference: Ele-Hwa1

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Introduction

Accommodation	Destination	Basis	Duration
The Elephant Camp	Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe	FI	2 Nights
Verney's Camp	Hwange National Park	FI	2 Nights
African Bush Camps Somalisa Expeditions	Hwange National Park	FI	2 Nights

Key

FI: Fully Inclusive

Included

- 6 nights accommodation
- Meals
- Local drinks
- Activities
- Road and/or air transfers as stated
- Park fees where stated
- Shared accommodation

Excluded

- Visas
- Travel/Medical Insurance (required)
- Gratuities
- Personal items such as curio purchases
- International flights

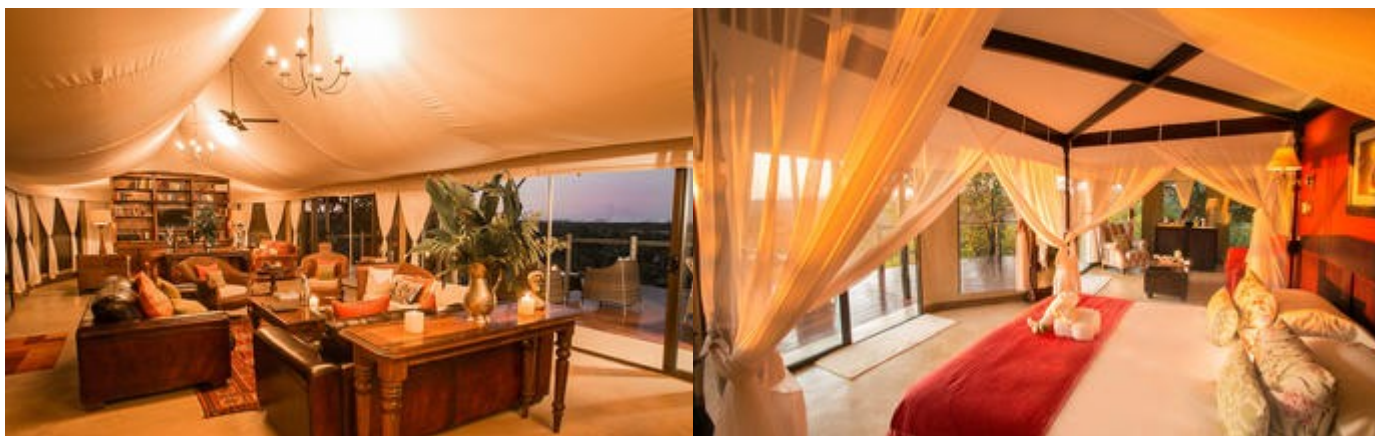
Day 1-2: The Elephant Camp, Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe

Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe

Resting on the southern banks of the Zambezi River at the western end of the eponymous falls, this popular tourist town is compact enough to walk around and makes an ideal base for travellers exploring the seventh wonder of the world, the unfathomably vast Victoria Falls. About two-thirds of the falls can be viewed from the Zimbabwean side and, while the falls are undoubtedly the star attraction, the area provides both adventure seekers and sightseers with plenty of opportunities to warrant a longer stay. Popular activities include scenic flights over the falls in helicopters or microlights, bungee jumping off the Victoria Falls Bridge, white-water rafting (seasonal), and day trips to Chobe National Park. The town itself offers some excellent accommodation and restaurant options as well as an eclectic variety of African curios and authentic art sold by friendly Zimbabwean locals who are wonderfully welcoming and eager to help you enjoy your stay.

Overnight: The Elephant Camp [View iBrochure](#)

Situated on a private concession within and bounded by the Masuwe River and the Zambezi gorges, The Elephant Camp and The Elephant Camp West offer breathtaking views of the Victoria Falls' spray and the spectacular gorges which separate Zimbabwe and Zambia. This intimate lodge is within easy reach of Victoria Falls and is secluded in its own private game reserve. Guests are accommodated in exclusive luxury tented suites. The independent Elephant Camp West facility offers secluded suites each boasting a private viewing deck over the gorge and a private plunge pool. Other facilities include a comfortable lounge, bar and dining area and a range of spa treatments available in the comfort of your own room.



Activities

Walking Safaris - Nature & Birding Walks

A Village Tour

Visiting the Victoria Falls Wildlife Trust

Walking Safaris - Nature & Birding Walks

Explore our beautiful concession, part of the Victoria Falls National Park, with experienced guides who will bring the landscape to life.

Included Activity- this activity is included in our rates but must be scheduled with management on arrival and is subject to availability.

A Village Tour

Guests will be transferred to a rural village where they will see local villagers going about their daily tasks and interact with them. The tour enables them to see rural Zimbabwean life first hand.

Included Activity- this activity is included in our rates but must be scheduled with management on arrival and is subject to availability.

Visiting the Victoria Falls Wildlife Trust

Guests visit the Victoria Falls Wildlife Trust (VFTW), a non-profit whose mission is to advance environmental conservation through hands-on wildlife research, the management of a veterinary laboratory and rehabilitation facility and the education of local peoples in the sustainable usage of natural resources.

Included Activity- this activity is included in our rates but must be scheduled with management on arrival and is subject to availability.

Basis

Fully Inclusive

Drinks (Local Brands) Included

Included

- Accommodation
 - Meals
 - Local drinks
 - Activities
 - Road transfers as stated
 - Park fees
 - Shared accommodation
-

Excluded

- Visas
 - Travel/Medical Insurance (required)
 - Gratuities
 - Personal items such as curio purchases
 - International flights
-

Day 3-4: Verney's Camp, Hwange National Park

Hwange National Park

Situated in western Zimbabwe, the Hwange National Park is the country's biggest reserve, home to a profusion of wildlife, including giraffe, lion, zebra and approximately 40 000 elephants. It provides a sanctuary for all the country's endangered species, including a population of wild dogs thought to be among the most sizeable surviving groups on the continent. The park's magnificent terrain ranges from desert dunes, savannah lands and mopane woodlands to rocky outcrops and sparse forests. Visitors can look forward to game drives, guided walks or horse riding safaris. Other highlights include: the Bumbusi National Monument and the Nyamandhlovu Pan.

Overnight: Verney's Camp

Verney's is a private concession area in a typically un-used part of Hwange National Park in Zimbabwe. It is a beautiful amphitheatre fringed by teak forest that opens up onto an impressive waterhole that is a playground to the famous elephant herds of Hwange. Verney's joined the Machaba Safaris group in 2017 with a totally clean piece of unspoilt wilderness.



Activities

Hwange Game Drives

Basis

Fully Inclusive

Drinks (Local Brands) Included

Included

- Accommodation
 - Meals
 - Local drinks
 - Activities
 - Road transfers as stated
 - Park fees
 - Shared accommodation
-

Excluded

- Visas
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 - International flights
-

Day 5-6: African Bush Camps Somalisa Expeditions, Hwange National Park

Hwange National Park

See Above

Overnight: African Bush Camps Somalisa Expeditions

[View iBrochure](#)

Somalisa Expeditions is set in the heart of Hwange National Park and is known as the land of the giants for its big elephant herds. As an exact replica of the original Somalisa Camp, Somalisa Expeditions offers one of the most

authentic ways to experience this exceptional wildlife haven. Nestled under an incredible grove of Acacias, along the edge of a seasonal flood plain.

Somalisa Expeditions' main area includes a lounge and dining area on raised decking which overlooks a small pool, which elephants have become habituated to drinking out of. Add to this, the waterhole, frequently used as a 'mud-bath' and a popular rendezvous for the elephants. The up-close encounters and photographic opportunities with these majestic animals are endless.

Consisting of six elegantly furnished Meru Style Tents, each tent has en suite bathroom facilities with an outdoor feel. Activities include guided walks lead by qualified and passionate guides who will share their knowledge and love of the bush with you, game drives and night drives. Wildlife sighting include elephant, kudu, sable antelope, zebra, wildebeest, gemsbok, the rare and endangered roan antelope, buffalo, giraffe, lion, leopard, hyena and many other wildlife species.



Activities

Game Drives at Somalisa Expeditions

Walking Safaris

Bird Watching at Somalisa Expeditions

African Bush Camps Foundation Projects Visit

Game Drives at Somalisa Expeditions

Explore Hwange National Park on a game drive with one of our passionate safari guides.

Our open land cruisers will accommodate six passengers so that views are not blocked and photographic opportunities are enhanced. Each of our vehicles are fitted with permanent canvas roofing to protect you from the varying weather elements, whilst still allowing an optimised up close and personal experience of wildlife.

Guests who have booked a private vehicle can request for the roofing to be removed in advance of their safari.

Walking Safaris

There is nothing quite like walking in the wilderness. Discover all Hwange National Park has to offer while on foot with one of our professional safari guides. Our guides will take you on a one to two hour walk through the bush. From learning how to identify footprints and tell the uses of different plants to viewing wildlife nearby, all your senses will be awakened

Bird Watching at Somalisa Expeditions

Hwange National Park is known to be one of the highest diversities of wildlife and bird-life species more than any other National Park in Southern Africa.

Here are up to over 470 bird life species in the area.

African Bush Camps Foundation Projects Visit

The African Bush Camps Foundation believes in creating a longlasting, positive impact on the local communities. This is achieved by partnering with these communities to uplift their circumstances through tourism. The ABCF started out in the Dete, Mambanje and Hwange Main Camp communities boarding Hwange National Park. Within these communities, the Foundation focuses on Education, Conservation, Community Infrastructure and Community Empowerment. A visit to these communities takes a day and needs to be booked in advance, however, it is a rewarding day that is worth the trip.

Basis

Fully Inclusive

Drinks (Local Brands) Included

Included

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-

Day 7: End of Itinerary

Basis

Fully Inclusive

Travel Information



A nation of spectacular natural beauty, friendly people and rich culture, Zimbabwe's status as one of Africa's leading safari destinations was dampened for years by its political instability. But now that the country is transcending its strife and returning to a state of equilibrium, it is once again emerging as a vacation highlight of the continent. Victoria Falls – known to locals as 'The Smoke That Thunders' – is one of the seven natural wonders of the world and the sheer power of this massive body of water plunging into the Zambezi Gorge is awe-inspiring and unforgettable. Lake Kariba, with its game-rich shores and islands, is an idyllic safari spot featuring mind-blowing sunsets; Hwange National Park is known for its huge herds of elephants; and a kayak trip down the Zambezi through the Mana Pools National Park will appeal to the intrepid traveller, providing close encounters with crocodiles, hippos and a host of other wildlife.

Banking and Currency

Currency

Zimbabwe uses US\$ as well as its own unit of currency, the Zimbabwe Bond Dollar. It is advised to carry small denominations of change with you, however it is best to pay for as much as possible outside of the country. US\$ work best and are widely accepted in supermarkets, and for curios, accommodation, activities and gratuities. South African Rand and Euros are only accepted in some places in Victoria Falls. Do not plan on being able to use cash machines in Zimbabwe to draw money. Before leaving home please exchange all the money that you will need for your trip, plus extra, into US\$. Most of this should be in 1, 5, 10 and 20 denominations because change is not always available. In an emergency you can try Barclays Bank, Stanbic Bank or Standard Chartered Bank as they will infrequently accept foreign debit cards for withdrawing cash.

Banking

Banks in Zimbabwe are open for business Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 08h00 to 15h00, on Wednesdays from 08h00 to 13h00 and Saturdays from 08h00 to 11h30. They are closed on Sundays and Public Holidays.

Only VISA and MasterCard are accepted in Zimbabwe, however it should be noted that very limited facilities will have credit card machines, and the connection is not always reliable so it is advisable to carry cash as back up.

Travel, Transport and Getting Around

Taxis are safe and reliable, and can be booked through your hotel front desk. Taxis in cities travel within a 40km radius of the city. Always take a taxi at night.

Major airlines fly into Victoria Falls, Harare and Bulawayo. Charter flights are available to most attractions and camps.

Zimbabwe has a good road infrastructure, by African standards, although potholed. Between major towns, there are frequent road blocks. Traffic drives on the left side of the road.

If you are driving yourself around Zimbabwe, be sure to check on fuel availability in advance. If you are covering long distances within the country, ensure you carry extra fuel in 5 or 10lt metal containers in case of emergency. Fuel is generally available, but supply can fluctuate. Fuel is only available for cash.

Food, Drink and Cuisine Advice

Zimbabwe's native cuisine is based on sadza, a cooked porridge made from ground maize which is normally be accompanied by some tasty relish, perhaps made of meat and tomatoes, or dried fish. Safari camps will often prepare sadza if requested, and it is almost always available in small restaurants in the towns.

Camps, hotels and lodges that cater to overseas typically serve a variety international fare, and the quality of food prepared in the most remote bush camps is usually excellent.

If you are driving yourself around and plan to cook, then get most of your supplies in main towns. There are a number of South African shopping chains operating in Zimbabwe which will generally have all that you will need.

Water in the main towns is usually purified.. The locals drink it, and are used to the relatively innocuous bugs that it may harbour. If you are in the country for a long time, then it may be worth acclimatising yourself to it. However, if you are in Zimbabwe for just a short period of time, then try to drink only bottled, boiled, or treated water available in towns and from all camps, lodges and hotels.

Climate and Weather

In Zimbabwe, the rains come principally in **December, January, February** and **March**; the further north you are, the earlier the precipitation arrives and the later it leaves. Zimbabwe's higher eastern areas usually receive more rainfall than the lower-lying western ones.

By **April** and **May** most of the rain is gone, leaving a verdant setting, which is starting to dry out. Especially in more southerly and higher locations, the night-time temperatures start to drop.

The nights in **June, July** and **August** become much cooler, so don't forget to bring some warmer clothes, in case you want to spend an evening outside; the days are still clear and warm. For Zimbabwe, this is the start of the 'peak season'— days are often cloudless and game sightings continually increase.

Into **September** and **October** the temperatures rise once again: Zimbabwe's lower-lying rift valley – Mana Pools – can get very hot in October. During this time, you'll see some fantastic game, as the Zimbabwe's wildlife concentrates around the limited water sources.

November is unpredictable; it can be hot and dry, it can also see the season's first rainfalls – and in this respect it's a very interesting month, as on successive days, you can see both weather patterns.

Clothing and Dress Recommendations

When in Zimbabwe the cardinal rule is to wear casual, comfortable clothes during the day as temperatures can get very hot. It is advisable to wear light loose fitting clothing, such as cotton or linen, as they are cool and easy to wash. Warmer clothes are advised for the evenings and rainwear for the wet season.

A brimmed hat and sunglasses are a good idea year round. Long sleeved shirts and long trousers will also guard against the scorching sun rays. It is recommended you wear light shoes, especially if your itinerary entails a lot of walking.

For safaris, please remember to wear appropriate clothing and shoes. Earth colour clothes, such as browns, greens and tans are advisable.

Electricity and Plug Standards

Current is 220/240 volts at 50 cycles per second. Both square and round plugs are used.

Terms and Conditions

Itinerary Terms and Conditions

- All lodge cancellation policies are in place once confirmation received (cancellation of 20% up to 90 days prior to departure date, thereafter additional cancellation fees apply)
- Charter flights allow for a maximum of 20kgs of luggage in soft sided bags - please see booking form for full details on the air transfers.