
Elephant an African icon | South Luangwa and Lower Zambezi



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Lusaka - South Luangwa National Park - Lower Zambezi

8 Days / 7 Nights

Reference: Ele-Lua1

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Introduction

Accommodation	Destination	Basis	Duration
Pioneer Lodge & Camp	Lusaka	D, B&B	1 Night
Wildlife Camp	South Luangwa National Park	FB+	4 Nights
Potato Bush Camp	Lower Zambezi	FI	2 Nights

Key

D, B&B: Dinner, Bed and Breakfast

FB+: Dinner, Bed, Breakfast, Lunch and Activities Daily

FI: Fully Inclusive

Included

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

Excluded

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

Day 1: Pioneer Lodge & Camp, Lusaka

Lusaka

Lusaka, Zambia's cosmopolitan capital, is a typical modern African city. Set on open plains at the heart of the country, the city serves as Zambia's rapidly developing economic and transport hub with new buildings popping up everywhere and many chain stores and shopping malls springing up all over the sprawling suburbs. Lusaka's wide, tree-lined boulevards feature a range of tourist facilities including hotels, guest houses, coffee shops, fast food outlets, nightclubs and pubs. Visitor attractions include the Henry Tayali Gallery, showcasing local artworks; The National Museum, covering Zambia's colonial history; the Lilayi Elephant Orphanage; and a number of colourful markets. Don't miss the popular Munda Wanga Environmental Park where you will find a Wildlife Park and Sanctuary, Botanical Gardens, Recreational Village and an Environmental Education Centre

Overnight: Pioneer Lodge & Camp

Out of Lusaka, into Africa.

We have a variety of accommodation ranging from our highest standard of miombo chalets, to our mid range safari chalets and our more basic pioneer chalets and pioneer tents as well as a beautiful two bedroom cottage, all set within our 25 acres of miombo woodland. All chalets are designed to be totally in-keeping with your African safari. All miombo chalets have ensuite facilities, with private verandas and lovely woodland views. There is an incredibly relaxed feel to the whole property. You can safely walk around the grounds, which are surprisingly good for birding. There is a recreation area with swimming pool and darts board. In the bar area there is a library with lots of travel books, wildlife books and novels.

We're located just 14 kms (20 mins) from the international airport and just about 30 minutes from Lusaka's shopping centres, so Pioneer is the last oasis stopover. It's the ideal place to be if you need to be near Lusaka but don't want to be in it.



Basis

Dinner, Bed and Breakfast

Included

- Accommodation
 - Dinner and breakfast
 - Road transfers as stated
 - Shared accommodation
-

Excluded

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

Day 2-5: Wildlife Camp, South Luangwa National Park

South Luangwa National Park

Bordering the Luangwa River, the northern and southern Luangwa National Parks contain some of the most breathtaking and untouched wilderness in Africa. As a result of this and the parks' successful anti-poaching campaigns, the area has developed into a world-renowned wildlife haven. The South Luangwa National Park is renowned for its walking safari, which allows visitors to view elephant, hippo and even lion close-up under the supervision of professional and knowledgeable armed guides.

Overnight: Wildlife Camp

Wildlife Camp offers a much needed niche for everyone who is enthusiastic about wildlife, South Luangwa National Park and Zambia – at an affordable rate. At the camp there are rustic en-suite chalets, a secluded en-suite tented camp, a Bushcamp for overnight walking safaris and a stunning campsite, all situated on the banks of the Luangwa River. Wildlife Camp is situated on land owned by the Wildlife and Environmental Conservation Society of Zambia (WECSZ). The camp operates under their auspices and pays a lease to the WECSZ, which in return supports the wildlife and people of the Luangwa Valley and Zambia.



Basis

Full Board and Activities

Included

- Accommodation
 - Meals
 - Activities
 - Road and/or air transfers as stated
 - Shared accommodation
-

Excluded

- Visas
- Drinks
- Park Fees (currently USD 25 pp/day)
- Travel/Medical Insurance (required)
- Gratuities

- Personal items such as curio purchases
- International flights

Day 6-7: Potato Bush Camp, Lower Zambezi

Lower Zambezi

Located on the Zimbabwean border in southern Zambia the Lower Zambezi National Park is known for its exceptional, undeveloped wildlife areas. It is known for its abundant game and a variety of different wildlife can be spotted such as hippos, buffalo, crocodiles, fish eagles and herds of elephants. The landscape features rugged unspoilt wilderness made up of vast floodplains scattered with woodlands. Visitors can look forward to an array of wonderful activities along the Zambezi including game drives, walking safaris, canoe trips and excellent tiger fishing.

Overnight: Potato Bush Camp [View iBrochure](#)

The Camp consists of 3 Luxury Safari Tents and 1 Two-bedroom Family Tent. The 3 Luxury Tents are extremely spacious and have en-suite bathrooms with twin showers, twin basins and a full size four-claw bath tub. Large Rosewood folding doors lead onto the balcony which hosts a 2-person hammock and a private plunge pool. With raised walkways all around camp Potato Bush Camp is perfect for Family or group bookings looking to have a private escape.



Activities

Game Drives (4 x 4)
Night Drives
Canoeing
Boat Trips
Walking Safaris

Game Drives (4 x 4)

Game drives are the most successful way to see a good variety of wildlife, both large and small. Visiting more areas, and witnessing the diversity of the Lower Zambezi National Park you can appreciate the unspoiled wilderness of Zambia. A larger area can be covered in a shorter time frame, increasing the chance to find good game. The vehicles

also allow those "up close and personal" experiences - our team of professional guides will ensure that it is not too close!

Night Drives

Night drives are the perfect way to experience the nocturnal animals, including the elusive Leopard, Genet, Civet, Porcupine and Giant Eagle Owl. The big cats tend to be more active at night and you may find yourself following lions on the hunt. Other common sightings include Honey Badger, African Wild Cat and even the occasional sighting of the very rare Pangolin.

Your guide will also point out the constellations of the Southern night sky.

Canoeing

The Lower Zambezi is renowned for its spectacular canoeing. As one of the few privileged operators based inside the National Park, we are able to canoe guests down the most stunning section of the Zambezi River, the 14km long "Chifungulu Channel" starts just 100m downstream of the camp.

Led by one of our highly qualified canoe guides, explore the banks of the river, where game can be seen from a totally different perspective - looking UP rather than down! Canoe trips vary in length (from one to seven hours) however a one-hour canoe trip is a great prelude to an evening game drive.

No experience or particular strength is required - it is an effortless drift, as the flow of the Zambezi pushes the canoes downstream. Rather than a work out, this is a time to relax, listen to the sounds of the huge variety of bird-life and admire their sheer beauty. Min. canoeing age is 15 years old.

Boat Trips

Scenic boat cruises are a very relaxing way to view the game that comes down to the river to drink and bathe, whilst also taking in the unique water wildlife. Until the Zambezi River is explored by boat, it is impossible to truly appreciate the huge hippopotami pods and crocodile populations. Lucky guests regularly experience the truly memorable sight of elephant crossing the Zambezi, from Mana Pools National Park to the Lower Zambezi National Park. To view the most amazing sunsets in Africa, floating sundowners (Gin and Tonic are de rigueur!) in the middle of the Zambezi is a must! This can also provide a photographic opportunity for that perfect African sunset.

Potato Bush Camp operates scenic boat trips using 6 metre aluminum river cruisers. Designed for river systems, they are the perfect boat for the Zambezi River as sandbanks make navigation on the water very difficult.

Walking Safaris

Walking is the perfect way to search for the smaller creatures, learn about the trees, the plants and examine the different tracks and signs. Walking Safaris were pioneered in Zambia and remains one of the few areas where this can be truly appreciated and enjoyed.

Led by our professional walking guide and a National Parks Wildlife Officer, walking is carried out in small groups. Taking advantage of the cooler morning temperatures, you will take a game drive from camp to an open area where the walk begins. Beware - not only do you see the smaller things on foot, it is also not uncommon for us to see lion and even the big guys, the elephant! Min. walking age is 15 years old.

Basis

Fully Inclusive

Drinks (Local Brands) Included

Included

- Accommodation
 - Meals
 - Activities
 - Road and/or air transfers as stated
 - Shared accommodation
-

Excluded

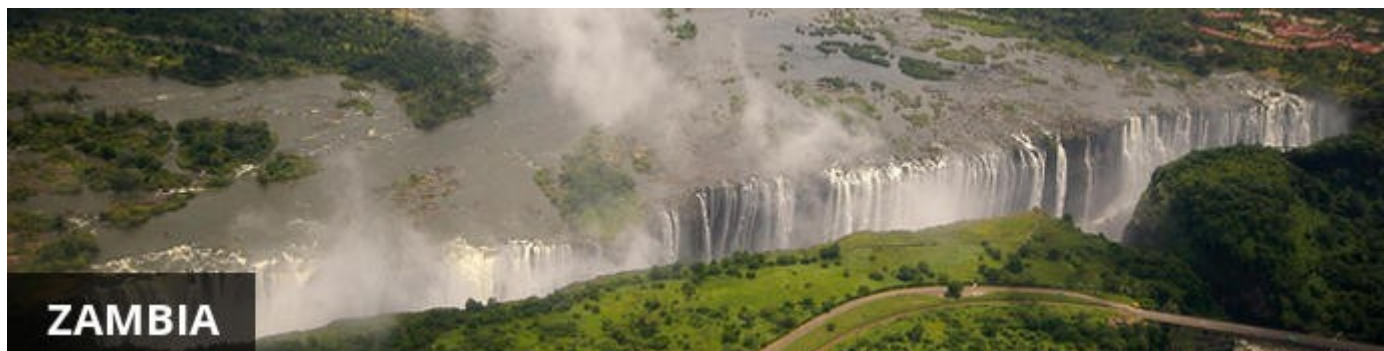
- Visas
 - Drinks
 - Travel/Medical Insurance (required)
 - Gratuities
 - Personal items such as curio purchases
 - International flights
-

Day 8: End of Itinerary

Basis

Fully Inclusive

Travel Information



This unique, peanut-shaped country, once known as Northern Rhodesia, offers visitors an authentic African experience complete with adrenalin pumping adventure sports, a variety of fascinating cultural activities, and an abundance of indigenous wildlife, which finds refuge in Zambia's vast national parks. Spend your evenings enjoying the spectacular site of the world's largest waterfall, the Victoria Falls, while sipping on sundowners after an exhilarating day of whitewater rafting down the rapids of the mighty Zambezi River. If that sounds a little too adventurous for your taste, take a houseboat cruise along the exquisite Lake Kariba while watching wild elephants drink at the riverbank as you try your hand at catching the elusive tiger fish. However you choose to spend your time in this unique country, you are bound to leave with a heavy heart and a desire to return again soon to this exceptionally beautiful Southern African country.

Banking and Currency

Currency

Zambia's unit of currency is the Kwacha (ZMW), formally ZMK which was rebased in 2013. The denominations are K100, K50, K20, K10, K5 and K2. It is subdivided into 100 *ngwee*. Coins available are K1, 50 ngwee, 10 ngwee and 5 ngwee.

However, some prices are quoted in US\$. It is therefore possible to use dollars and pounds as well.

Banking

In the cities and larger towns, you can change cash and travellers cheques at branches of Barclays Bank and Standard Chartered Bank. Larger branches have ATMs that accept Visa. Foreign exchange offices are easy to find in cities and larger towns.

Banks are generally open on weekdays from 08h15 to 15h30 and 08h15 to 12h00 on Saturdays. Banks are closed on Sundays and public holidays.

Travel, Transport and Getting Around

Proflight flies from Lusaka to Mfuwe (South Luangwa), to Livingstone and the Copperbelt and also does charters. Various air charter companies will fly to any of the many airstrips around the country and most of the areas worth visiting are accessible by air.

Public Transport

There are many taxis available. Prices are negotiable. There is a good bus service to Chipata, Livingstone, the Copperbelt and Harare, but they don't always follow strict schedules. The main bus terminus is in Dedan Kimathi Road in Lusaka where one can inquire about timetables. Other private bus companies offer more reliable services to Livingstone, Harare and Johannesburg.

Travel by Bus

Long range buses frequently leave from Lusaka to all the main towns. The intercity bus terminal can be found one road up from Cairo Road at the station.

Minibuses and taxis, local transport – all painted blue – can be jumped on at pretty much any juncture. They're not expensive and you can always find a minibus that won't cost too much to buy all the seats in it to get your own private minibus to wherever you want to go but you'll have to negotiate.

Travel by Road

Zambia has 38,763 kilometres of roads, about 10,000 kms of which are tarred and another 8000 kms are gravel road. The rest range from reasonable to bad dirt roads.

If you're doing a vehicle trip through Zambia it is a good idea to carry a range of tools and essential spares with you.

Be really careful, especially if travelling at night for road markings are usually non existent. Do watch out for animals in the road, vehicles without lights, pedestrians, unannounced roadworks, bad drivers and broken down trucks with no warning triangles. If you see a tree branch in the road, slow down immediately – these are improvised warning triangles and there's bound to be a truck or car in the middle of the road up ahead.

Be sure to have all your vehicle papers on hand as you're bound to encounter a few roadblocks.

Food, Drink and Cuisine Advice

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

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

Water in the main towns is usually purified, provided there are no shortages of chlorine, breakdowns, or other mishaps. 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 Zambia for just a few weeks, then try to drink only bottled, boiled, or treated water in town.

Out in the bush, most of the camps and lodges use water from bore-holes. These underground sources vary in quality, but are normally perfectly safe to drink.

Climate and Weather

The rains in Zambia come mostly in December, January, February and March though the further north you are, the earlier the rains arrive and the later they leave. Eastern areas and higher areas generally receive more rain than western and lowland areas.

By April and May most of the rain has faded away, leaving a landscape that's still green, but starting to dry out. Nighttime temperatures start to drop, especially in higher and more southerly locations.

In June, July and August the nights become much cooler, but the days are clear and warm. Make sure you bring warm clothes to wrap up if you're out at night, as some nights get very cold! Most of Zambia's small 'walking bush camps' open at the start of June, when the roads have dried out sufficiently to allow access. This is the start of the 'peak season' for these countries – with often cloudless days and continually increasing game sightings.

Into September and October the temperatures climb: the lower-lying rift valleys – Lower Zambezi, Mana Pools and Luangwa Valley – can get very hot in October. However, you'll see some superb game as the animals concentrate around the limited water sources.

November is variable; it can be hot and dry like October, or it can see the season's first downpours. Often it's a very interesting month as you can see both patterns on successive days.

Clothing and Dress Recommendations

Zambia has mild winters and the summer days can be scorching hot. Lightweight casual clothes can be worn all year round, with a jacket or jersey for early winter mornings and evenings.

On safari keep clothes to neutral colours - khakis, browns and greens. A sunhat, sunscreen, sunglasses and insect repellent are a must.

Electricity and Plug Standards

Current is 220/240 volt at 50 cycles per second. Both square and round wall 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.