
Elephant an African icon | Matusadona and Mana Pools



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Lake Kariba - Mana Pools National Park

8 Days / 7 Nights

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Introduction

Accommodation	Destination	Basis	Duration
African Bush Camps Bumi Hills Safari Lodge	Lake Kariba	FI	3 Nights
African Bush Camps - Zambezi Expeditions	Mana Pools National Park	FI	3 Nights
African Bush Camps - Kanga Camp	Mana Pools National Park	FI	1 Night

Key

FI: Fully Inclusive

Included

- 7 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 1-3: African Bush Camps Bumi Hills Safari Lodge, Lake Kariba

Lake Kariba

The planet's most voluminous man-made lake, Kariba is a popular tourist destination that was created in the 1950s when the mighty Zambezi was dammed. It stretches for more than 200 kilometres along the border between Zimbabwe and Zambia, forming a natural boundary between the two countries. The lake's waters are home to abundant wildlife including: crocodiles, hippos, fish and aquatic birds, while its shoreline and islands are rich with terrestrial game such as elephant and buffalo. It has become one of Zimbabwe's main tourist attractions offering houseboat holidays, fishing safaris and wonderful game viewing experiences.

Overnight: African Bush Camps Bumi Hills Safari Lodge [View iBrochure](#)

Bumi Hills Safari Lodge boasts one of Africa's finest wilderness locations with an elevated position on a range of remote hills overlooking the vastness of Lake Kariba. Bumi is situated near the North Eastern border of the Matusadona National Park and is easily accessible by light aircraft and boat, allowing you to be swiftly transported into paradise without the stress of a long journey.

The safari lodge has a total of 10 rooms, all with views over Lake Kariba. All rooms have balconies and uninhibited views over Lake Kariba. There are garden rooms available too, reserved for guides and tour leaders, with slated terraces, set a little way back. Taking centre stage is the beautiful infinity pool that seems to blend endlessly into the lake horizon. The pool is surrounded by intimate wine and dining terraces on different levels. The lodge interiors have been beautifully finished in a fusion of contemporary western and African styles.

Bumi Hills Safari Lodge is situated on an extensive wildlife conservation area. Bumi Hills is home to lion, leopard, big herds of elephant and buffalo, as well as a multitude of different plains game.



Activities

Game Drives

Birding at Lake Kariba

Lake Kariba Fishing

Cultural Excursions

Lunch on Starvation Island

Dinner on Deck Looking over Lake Kariba

Game Drives

Bumi is unique among luxury safari lodges because of the exquisite added dimension of the water - Kariba is among the worlds largest man-made lakes and a genuine African wilderness with far more animals than people. This allows for glorious game viwing by boat as well as the traditional open 4 x 4 vehicles and walking in the wilds with an armed professional guide.

Birding at Lake Kariba

The Bumi area offers truly incredible birdlife, especially water birds, and hundreds of species have been recorded. It is a thrilling location for photography of the majestic scenery and wildlife, but also the prolific bird life for enthusiasts.

Lake Kariba Fishing

Bumi is the prime fishing region of Kariba and is a major attraction that sets Bumi apart from any traditional luxury safari lodge. Here it is rated one of Africas Top 20 adventures. Youll thrill to catching the razortoothed tiger, pound-for-pound one of the worlds most powerful freshwater species.

Cultural Excursions

The Bumi Hills Wildlife Area is bordered in the north west by the Chalala and Mola communities, which are home to the Tonga, a delightful and very spiritual people who have resided in this area and along the length of the Zambezi river for centuries. They have preserved ancient traditions and still live a largely subsistence lifestyle that is reliant on fishing, livestock and small scale farming. In the village of Chalala these customs have melted together with the inevitable infiltration of modern ways of life. However the luxuries of a permanent electricity and water supply to homes are still absent, leaving the communities still largely reliant on the surrounding environment for their livelihood.

Lunch on Starvation Island

After a morning game drive, enjoy a delicious lunch on Starvation Island

Dinner on Deck Looking over Lake Kariba

Enjoy dinner from a top the hills overlooking Lake Kariba. This iconic view is the undoubably the best in Lake Kariba.

Basis

Fully Inclusive

Drinks (Local Brands) Included

Included

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

Excluded

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Day 4-6: African Bush Camps - Zambezi Expeditions, Mana Pools National Park

Mana Pools National Park

Located in northern Zimbabwe, the life-giving power of the Zambezi River makes Mana Pools National Park one of Zimbabwe's most lush and flourishing regions. Designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, it is known for its natural beauty and as one of the continent's premier game-viewing areas. Visitors can look forward to an array of activities such as canoe trips which are offered year round and provide a unique and memorable way for visitors to experience the area's striking scenic beauty and diverse fauna, while guided walks are a great way to take its pristine riverside forests. Other popular activities include: game drives, river cruises, nature walks, bird watching, catch-and-release fishing, and searching for dinosaur tracks.

Overnight: African Bush Camps - Zambezi Expeditions [View iBrochure](#)

The legendary Mana Pools is known for its wildlife rich flood plains and magnificent views of the Zambezi River, with the Zambezi Escarpment in Zambia as a dramatic backdrop to the scenery. The river boasts some of Africa's most amazing tiger fishing and adventure canoeing safaris, creating the perfect combination of beauty and fun and making this World Heritage site a must-visit national park.

Zambezi Expeditions offers one of the best ways to experience Mana Pools on the banks of the mighty Zambezi River. The 12-bed luxury mobile camp comprises of 6 twin bedded mini-meru style tents with en-suite bathroom facilities including flush toilets and al fresco bucket showers, the camp gives luxury camping a new definition by virtue of its simple yet elegant and comfortable furnishings. A 6-bedded camp consisting of three tents can be set up for a single group on special request.

The camp has a minimum stay of two nights for a minimum of two people and is the perfect combination to include with Kanga Camp for an overall riverside and inland experience.

Activities include game drives, walking safaris, canoeing safaris, fishing and bird watching.



Activities

Game Drives at Zambezi Expeditions

Walking at Zambezi Expeditions

Canoeing at Zambezi Expeditions

Fishing at Zambezi Expeditions

Game Drives at Zambezi Expeditions

One of the main highlights is a game drive along the flood plain in an open 4 x 4 Land Cruiser that takes you into the heart of an Africa dream abounding with the continent's unique animals – eland, elephant, African wild dogs, water buck, big herds of buffalo, kudu, lion and leopard.

Walking at Zambezi Expeditions

Take a walk in the wild and encounter wild animals up close with Zambezi Expeditions Game Walks. Accompanied by one of our professional and highly-trained field guides, explore the banks of the Zambezi River on foot.

Canoeing at Zambezi Expeditions

Zambezi Expeditions is situated on the banks of the mighty Zambezi River and offers canoeing safaris. Accompanied by one of our professional guides, a canoe trip is as exciting as it sounds with opportunities to get up close to some of Africa's wild animals while slowly cruising down the Zambezi. Elephants, hippos and crocodiles are common sightings. At the end of the canoe safari you are met by one of our game vehicles and transferred back to camp in time for an afternoon siesta.

Fishing at Zambezi Expeditions

The Zambezi River is well-known for some of the best tiger fishing spots in Africa. The slow flow of the Zambezi allows for great catch-and-release tiger fishing and our guides are on-hand to assist in some early morning or afternoon fishing.

Basis

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Day 7: African Bush Camps - Kanga Camp, Mana Pools National Park

Mana Pools National Park

See Above

Overnight: African Bush Camps - Kanga Camp [View iBrochure](#)

Set in the most remote part of the World Heritage Site in Mana Pools is the Kanga Pan. The camp offers 6 tents with en-suite bathroom facilities with outdoor showers overlooking the water hole. Two of the tents are Honeymoon Tents. The main area has a comfortable lounge and dining area offering you views of a very active water hole. Relax in the lounge under the shade of a mahogany or sit on the deck below near the splash pool and enjoy Kanga – the old Africa in a new era.

The diverse area has multiple vlei lines, river systems of the Ruckomechi River, and mixed woodland types from Mopane woodland to Jesse bush and riverine forests. Kanga Pan itself is the only known water source in the area available throughout the year, making it a hub for wildlife and a delight to explore on foot. Pristine and undeveloped, this area gives you a pure, unspoilt, private African safari experience.

Besides game drives and walking excursions, an hour's drive brings you to the Zambezi flood plains. Kanga works well in collaboration with Zambezi Expeditions to provide guests with an overall view of the inland and riverside experiences available in Mana Pools.



Activities

Game Drives at Kanga Camp

Walking at Kanga Camp

Game Drives at Kanga Camp

Game drives at Kanga Camp are always full of surprises. Safaris in this game-rich region of Zimbabwe means there are common sightings such as leopard and wild dog. During the dry season, game drives are often not needed as the game comes straight to the pan in front of Kanga where fresh water is pumped throughout the day. Being the only pan within a 10km radius, this brings the true meaning to an Armchair Safari.

Walking at Kanga Camp

Walking at Kanga Camp is absolutely superb. With the guidance of one of our professional guides in camp, walking in Mana Pools is one of the closest things we can get to being in the complete wilderness. Get to know the flora of the region or track lions on foot. A walk in Mana Pools is something truly special.

Basis

Fully Inclusive

Drinks (Local Brands) Included

Included

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- Activities

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-

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-

Day 8: 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.