

Bushwalks, Wildlife and Falls



Overview

This suggested itinerary to Zambia stands apart from more normal safaris: the location deep in the African outback allows a far closer encounter with nature and guests are unlikely to come across any other people during the bushwalking part of the itinerary.

The South Luangwa National Park is a true wilderness area packed with superb wildlife and extremely high quality of guiding. A walking safari provides an intimate and active experience: whilst guests are very likely to see big game, including lion, leopard, elephant and hippo, you will also have time to stop and appreciate the plants, bugs, animal tracks and smaller mammals as well as the sounds and smells of the bush. It's hard to beat the anticipation and excitement of hearing warning calls from baboons that normally signal the presence of a big cat. Guides will also point out plants that are delicacies for the wildlife and encourage guests to taste seeds that are safe for consumption! Walks usually last around four hours and are on flat though uneven terrain.

Accommodation during the bushwalk safari is in small camps with en suite chalets. This is a true getting-away-from-it experience in the African bush: the bushcamps which are the base for the walking safari are only accessible on foot, ensuring an isolated and exclusive experience away from the tourist trails of other safaris. Standards of guiding in Zambia are second-to-none and your Guide's knowledge and expertise will ensure a safe, rewarding and educationally rich trip.

Day 1 London to Lusaka

Overnight flight from London to Lusaka.

Day 2 Lusaka to Tafika Camp, South Luangwa National Park

Arrive Lusaka, where you will be met and escorted to your connecting flight to Mfuwe in Zambia's South Luangwa National Park. On arrival, you will be met and transferred to your first accommodation. The camp is set in the remote wilderness on the Luangwa River, providing opportunity to see elephants crossing, hippos wallowing and kingfishers darting in and out of the river directly from the camp. The camps are often visited by wildlife, so simply watching the comings and goings can provide ample entertainment. The Leadwood trees surrounding the camp provide shade in which to relax and watch the wildlife activity. Accommodation is in 6 thatched en suite chalets built from natural materials with showers open to the stars. This afternoon, perhaps take a game drive to spot local wildlife activity. (Drive time from airport: 1.5 hours)

Meal Arrangements: All meals, local beverages, & laundry included

Day 3. Tafika Camp

The day will be organised around activities available: these may include taking a walking safari, mountain biking, or game drives. There is also an opportunity to view game from the air on a micro light flight. Arrangements can also be made to visit a local school



which the Camp works closely with to fund teacher salaries and equipment: visitors wishing to make donations to take items such as skipping ropes, deflated footballs, dice to use in maths classes, coloured pens and pencils or medical supplies such as plasters, bandages and antiseptic creams. A trip to the village is guided by the teachers of the school and women of the village.

Meals and local drinks are included during your stay: fresh fruit and vegetables are sourced from the kitchen garden.

Meal Arrangements: Dinner & Local drinks included.

Days 4 -6. Tafika to Chikoko Camp

You will rise early for a canoe trip across the Luangwa followed by a guided bushwalk to the next camp. Your luggage is transported separately, so you only need to carry binoculars and a camera. The guides in this part of Africa are renowned for their expertise: their ears are trained to hear and identify wildlife sounds and their expert eyes will pick out game that are camouflaged in the bush.

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Accommodation for the next two nights is in a tree camp in en suite thatched chalets raised above the ground from which you have a wonderful vantage point of the acacia grove visited by a constant trail of wildlife throughout the day. The canvas shade provides shelter from the sun and thanks to solar power, a cool beer or glass of wine is always available.

The daily routine in the bush camps is to take a long walk in the morning lasting approximately 4 hours, starting early to avoid the heat of the day. The pace is generally leisurely and the guide will stop and talk about points of interest along the way. There will be a stop for tea or coffee freshly brewed over an open fire mid-way. You will return to camp mid-morning with time for relaxation, lunch and a siesta before another shorter walk in the late afternoon.

Days 6 - 8. Chikoko Camp to Crocodile Camp

This morning, an early start for a walk on to the next bush camp: standing on an old river bank overlooking a usually dry lagoon with views down the length of it. En suite chalets are built from natural local materials and showers are open to the stars. With all living areas open to the elements it offers wonderful opportunities to view game from all parts of the camp whether whilst dining or relaxing with a cool drink during the heat of the day.

Meal Arrangements: All meals and local beverages included.

Day 8 Crocodile Camp to Lusaka (via Mfuwe)

You will return to the main camp on foot and transfer back to Mfuwe Airport for your flight to Lusaka and onward to Livingstone. The luxury lodge accommodation in Livingstone is just upstream of the Victoria Falls: you will stay in cottages situated along the riverbank. This afternoon, perhaps visit the Falls and take a sunset boat trip on the Zambezi before dinner back at the lodge.

Meal Arrangements: All meals and local beverages included

DAYS 9 - 11

At Livingstone. There are a included number of included activities



from which to choose: a sunrise and sunset boat trip on the Zambezi, a guided canoeing excursion, lunch on a local island with a guided walk, fishing, a game drive in the Mosi-Oa-Tunya National Park (Park fees are extra: US\$10 per person), a walk in the gorge below the Falls, and mountain bike trails or walks to a local village.

Meal Arrangements: All meals and local beverages included

Day 11

Transfer to Livingstone airport for your return flight to London via Johannesburg.

Day 12 - Arrive London

What this Trip Contributes:

The lodge owners in the South Luangwa National Park have been highly active in supporting local community projects, including providing books, material, teacher salaries and high school scholarships to the local school, and has provided funds to help in the building of an outpatient clinic in the local village.

The Lodge is locally owned and managed, and their training scheme has enabled locally employed staff to work their way through the ranks and become part of the guiding team that the lodge is proud of and renowned for.

Accommodating a maximum of 14 guests, the lodge provides a unique experience for guests to experience the wildlife and culture without being overwhelming.

Guests to the lodge are invited to bring items to support the local school, such as deflated footballs/netballs, educational posters and maps for the classroom walls, rain and temperature gauges for recording the weather, skipping ropes / Tennis balls / Volleyball net, dice and blocks to use in mathematics classes, coloured pens, pencils and crayons and medical supplies such as ointments, eye drops, antibiotics, bandages, plasters etc.

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For costs please see nativeescapes.com

Additional Information

Guests should be aware that camps in the South Luangwa National Park have limited means of communication with the outside world. Whilst urgent messages can be passed onto guests by radio, general communication is not encouraged.

General Information

Visas

British citizens require a valid passport and a visa to visit Zambia. Visas may be purchased at the port of entry, and cost GBP£75 or US\$140 for Single Entry; GBP£240 / US\$442 for multiple entry for British Nationals and US\$50 single entry / US\$80 Double entry for Irish Nationals. Note that if customers wish to visit Victoria Falls on the Zimbabwean side from Zambia, a multiple entry visa will be required.

A return ticket or proof of onward travel, and proof of sufficient funds is also required.

Note: Passport and visa requirements are liable to change at short notice. Travellers are advised to check their entry requirements with their embassy or consulate.

Departure Taxes

There is a domestic Departure Tax of USD\$8 which is payable each way en route to and from Mfuwe and an international Departure Tax of USD\$25 on departure from Lusaka.

Health

The World Health Organisation (www.who.int/en/) recommends that all travellers are inoculated against diphtheria, tetanus, measles, mumps, rubella and polio as well as for hepatitis B.

Hepatitis A, rabies, malaria and typhoid are also recommended by the Centres for Disease Control & Prevention (www.cdc.gov) for travel in Zambia. All travellers should seek advice from their local GP or travel clinic for up to date advice on vaccinations and different malarial options.

Insurance

Travel insurance is compulsory for all bookings. Guests on group departures must take their policy documents with them on the trip as the guide will ask to see this at the start. The documentation must state in writing that you are the named policyholder and that the cover is valid for the period of travel. The policy document must also indicate that medical expenses and emergency repatriation cover is included and a 24 hour contact telephone number for the insurance company must be shown on the documentation in case of emergency. Guests unable to provide all this information at the start of the trip will be asked to purchase a policy prior to joining the trip.

Electricity supply

220v, 2 & 3pin plugs. Adaptors are required to charge cameras, etc. Check www.kropla.com.

Money

Currency is the Zambian Kwacha. We suggest you take spending money in US dollars. ATMs are available in Livingstone.

What to bring

Binoculars, torch, walking shoes, swimming gear, plenty of high factor sunscreen, sunhat, insect repellent, camera, a day pack. Warm clothing is recommended for evenings, and a waterproof jacket. Lightweight clothing is recommended for the day. Avoid brightly coloured clothing for game viewing.

Tipping

It is normal to tip for good service in bars and restaurants in Zambia.

