

Victoria Falls, Houseboat & Bushwalk Safari



Overview

This itinerary commences at the Victoria Falls – one of the seven wonders of the world and a magnificent sight. The trip includes 3 nights on a houseboat on the Zambezi – providing a different perspective to wildlife viewing.

The concept of walking safaris was developed in the South Luangwa Valley in Zambia, and the guides in the region are amongst the very best in Southern Africa. A walking safari provides an stands apart from more normal safaris: the location deep in the African outback allows a far closer encounter with nature whilst you 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 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 you to taste seeds that are safe for consumption!

A typical day may start with an early morning game drive and walk (normally 4 hours) before returning to base for lunch. After siesta time, there's an opportunity to take another game drive before dinner. Accommodation during the bushwalk safari is in small camps with en suite chalets. The camps are often visited by wildlife, so simply watching the comings and goings can provide ample entertainment.

This is a sample itinerary which can be amended to suit different durations, destinations and requirements. Contact us on 01342 834700 or by email at info@nativeescapes.com for a tailor made itinerary

Day 1

Overnight flight direct from London Heathrow to Johannesburg

Days 2 - 5

Arrive Johannesburg, where you connect with your flight to Livingstone. On arrival at Livingstone, you will be met and transferred by road to your hotel for a 3 night stay in a luxury twin rooms on a bed and breakfast basis.

At the Victoria Falls, the Zambezi River is more than two kilometres wide. When in full flood, (usually February or March) over 500 million litres of water per minute go over the falls, which are 1708m wide, and drop 99m at Rainbow Falls in Zambia. At low water in November the flow can be reduced to around 10 million litres/minute, and the river is divided into a series of braided channels that descend in many separate falls. Note that in January, the flow of the Falls is low: this has its benefits, as the expanse of the Falls is clearly seen without the spray, and you can swim in rock pools at the top of the Falls.

Activities you may wish to consider include canoeing, bungee jumping, white water rafting, scenic helicopter rides and micro-lighting amongst others.

Days 5-8

You transfer by boat from Kasane Immigration to Impalila Island in order to clear Namibian immigration and customs, for 3 nights on a houseboat in a twin suite on a full board basis including all soft drinks, mineral waters and teas/coffees, quality wines and beers with meals and during game viewing activities, water based game viewing and bird watching on tender boats, land-based cultural tour of local village, land-based half-day 4x4 game viewing in Chobe National Park, tiger & beam fishing in season and collection from Botswana immigration at Kasane on the banks of Chobe River or Kasane airport.

Day 8

Today you transfer by boat to Kasane Immigration clearing Namibian



customs and immigration en route. You then transfer by road and boat from Kasane Immigration to Livingstone Airport (Transfer time is approximately 1 hour and 30 minutes and immigration and customs must be cleared at both the Zambian and Botswana border posts), arriving in time for your onward flight to Lusaka.

On arrival in Lusaka, you transfer to your flight to Mfuwe (Flying time is approximately one hour. Departure tax ex Lusaka Airport must be paid locally. Baggage allowance is 15kgs per person in a soft bag).

At Mfuwe Airport, you will be met and transferred to your Lodge inside the South Luangwa National Park for **1 night** in a twin bedded chalet with en suite bathroom on a full board basis including two safari activities a day. The drive takes approximately 45 minutes and gives a fascinating insight into rural Zambia as you pass through a number of villages.

This Lodge lies nestled between two picturesque lagoons in the heart of South Luangwa National Park. The lodge specializes in offering unrivalled game viewing and a range of activities in luxurious surroundings. Accommodation is in 18 well-designed chalets, each with an en-suite bathroom. The open-plan design allows guests to enjoy panoramic views from their chalet and each has a private deck overlooking the lagoon. Each tastefully decorated bathroom has a corner position and the full-sized windows can be left open for an open-air bathing experience.

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Game viewing in South Luangwa is exceptional and the Lodge's team of expert guides ensures guests make the most of their time in the park. All the guides are trained to meet stringent standards and each is an expert on South Luangwa and its flora and fauna.

Early morning game drives are the ideal time to see the wildlife at its most active as the animals stir into life before the midday heat. Night drives depart from the lodge before the sun sets and the nocturnal creatures get active.

In addition the lodge offers walking safaris which enable guests to get up close and personal with the wildlife. Bird watching is also exceptional on foot and the sights and sounds become more vivid.

Days 9 - 12

Today, you will be transferred by vehicle from your Lodge to your first Bushcamp for 3 nights in a twin tent on a full board basis, including local brand drinks, scheduled activities park fees, and laundry. The transfer between camps can be undertaken as a walk or drive.

This camp is a luxury bushcamp situated on the edge of a permanent lagoon.

Each of the camps four en-suite tented chalets has its own private veranda from which you can view the big game that resides in this area. Each spacious tent has 2 queen-sized beds, hot and cold running water, shower, toilet, double vanities and polished floors. These rooms are definitely at the luxury end of bushcamping.

The central dining room, lounge and bar area is also on wooden decking under ancient ebony trees and an adjacent, gently sloping walkway provides access to a lagoon-side retreat. From here, guests can enjoy an open-air dining experience, or the spectacular sunset as it reflects from the still waters of the lagoon.

The camps activities are aligned towards walking safaris although day and night game drives are available. This is the ideal spot for both the more avid and intrepid game spotter, as well as the more sedentary visitors who wish to observe nature at its best without too much personal effort.

Days 12 - 14

Today, you will be transferred to your next bushcamp for 2 nights in a twin bedded chalet on a full board basis, including local brand drinks, scheduled activities park fees, and laundry.

Your next camp is a cool and comfortable camp set beneath magnificent Mahogany trees on the edge of a small plain. The camp consists of 4 reed

and thatch chalets with en-suite shower, toilet and double vanities. From the porch of the chalets, guests can observe game interacting along the open plain, or for a different view you need just to travel a few feet to the communal deck where wildlife gathers to drink at the secluded watering hole. The chalets are situated on the edge of the bush and are regularly visited by wildlife. The rustic dining area and fully stocked bar are constructed on raised decking with views of the camps permanent water hole and abundant game.

The camp is set up primarily for walking safaris although it does offer a limited combination of walking and driving. Your days will typically start early as you take a drive out to make the most of the wildlife activity. You will have refreshments whilst out and there will be an opportunity to walk with an expert guide and learn about the realities of life in the bush. Brunch will be served on return to the Camp, after which you can relax. Evening Game Drives / Late Afternoon Walks will include sundowners at a picturesque stop perhaps in the clear shallow waters of the Kapamba River, before a night drive back to camp.

Day 14

Today, you will be transferred back to Mfuwe Airport for your flight to Lusaka. (Departure tax ex Mfuwe Airport must be paid locally. Baggage allowance is 15kgs per person in a soft bag).

On arrival in Lusaka, you will be met and privately transferred to the Intercontinental Hotel for 1 night in a deluxe twin room on a bed and breakfast basis.



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Day 15

This morning, you will be transferred from the Intercontinental Lusaka Hotel to Lusaka airport for your direct flight back to London, arriving in the evening.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Please ensure the following:-

Your passports are valid for travel and that you are in possession of valid visas (if required see below).

You consult your doctor prior to your safari for information and advice on the use of anti-malaria medication.

You take out comprehensive travel insurance to safeguard against cancellation and curtailment, medical expenses, repatriation expenses, damage/theft/loss of personal baggage, money and personal belongings.

Visas / Departure Taxes Zambia

British citizens require a valid passport and a visa to visit Zambia. As of November 2008, the cost for a visa for entry to Zambia is US\$50 for single entry; US\$80 for double entry for British Nationals. Note that a day trip from Zambia to the Zimbabwean side of Victoria Falls will constitute a double entry. You can buy the visa at the port of entry: be sure to have the correct amount with you in US dollars as they are unlikely to give change. 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.

Baggage

There is a baggage limit of 15kg, including photographic equipment and hand luggage. Passengers who do not adhere to this baggage regulation delay take off as their pilot has to spend time making alternative arrangements to have their excess baggage or hard suitcases transferred by another aircraft.

Health

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

Inoculation against Hepatitis A and Typhoid is also recommended by the [Centres for Disease Control & Prevention](http://www.cdc.gov) (www.cdc.gov) for travel in South Africa. Depending on the area visited, anti-malarial drugs may also be recommended. All travellers should seek advice from their local GP or travel clinic for up-to-date advice on vaccinations and different malarial options.

CANCELLATION POLICY

Cancellations are only effective on receipt of a written cancellation. Cancellation charges will be levied when travellers cancel their confirmed reservations as follows:-

The traveller's 20% deposit is forfeited if a confirmed booking is cancelled. Cancellations made after the due date of full payment carry a charge, expressed as a percentage of the total booking value, and are as follows:-

- within 42 days = 30%
- within 30 days = 45%
- within 25 days = 50%
- within 20 days = 60%
- within 15 days = 100%

What this Trip Contributes:

In 1999, The Bushcamp Company and Mfuwe Trails set up a project whose aim would be to become involved with the local communities and to help these communities by supporting education and providing much-needed help to local schools.

As main projects, they chose to help two schools, namely Chiwawatala Primary School in the main Mfuwe area and Chilongozi School, which is in a remote area close to the bushcamps. Chiwawatala has just over 400 pupils



with 5 teachers plus the headmaster, Mr. Charles Zulu, Chilongozi School has over 200 pupils and only one teacher.

The progress of the project has been remarkable, with generous donations in the forms of cash and goods ensuring that the schools have already benefited tremendously from the support received.

Present and future projects for the two schools include: Building and renovation work - classrooms, toilet facilities and teacher's house; Sponsorship of orphaned children through school; Provision of school supplies and uniforms; Sponsorship of a school vegetable garden at Chiwawatala. The students grow vegetables which Mfuwe Lodge and the Bushcamp Company buys from them.

This is a great way for the school to earn money for themselves, therefore not relying entirely on donations. Guests to the Bushcamp Lodges are invited to bring items that can be used by the schools: we can advise on required items on booking.

