



**BAREFOOT SAFARIS
AND ADVENTURE TOURS
FOR PERSONALISED ECO SAFARIS
IN AFRICA**

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**TRIP DOSSIER
ZAMBIA WILDLIFE AFRICA
(20 DAYS LAND ONLY)**

„Zambia – the real Africa". This apt truism is the inadvertent marketing edge of the Zambia National Tourist Board. Travel with a sense of humour in Zambia and your welcome is guaranteed. Zambia beckons to the intrepid, the adventurous – to those who want to step off the conveyorbelt of mass tourism. And if risk is perceived, then the risk is justified by the Repertoire of destinations and the quality options the country can offer: the astounding wildlife of Luangwa Valley, Kafue and Lower Zambezi, the graceful Lechwe antelope filling the vast plains of Busanga and Bangweulu in their tens of thousands, the peaceful sanctuary of Kasanka with its swamp dwelling Sitatunga and birdlife, and millions of bat migration, the adrenaline choking white water rafting. Victoria, Kalambo, Kundalila, Ngonye – Zambia is a land of waterfalls. A land of relentless wilderness, ancestral ceremony and smiling faces. The first Europeans to arrive in Zambia was Portuguese explorers who reached the African Interior from the East Coast. However, the most famous explorer to reach this area was David Livingstone, whose exploration heralded the establishment of missions promoting the spread of Christianity, and the abolition of slavery soon followed. Today, we are able to follow in the footsteps of these early pioneers as we embark on a journey through a land of spectacular scenery, unparalleled hospitality, and unique wildlife. Zambia, lying within the tropics at the southern end of the Great Rift Valley is affectionately referred to as „the warm heart of Africa" and not only is the climate warm, but Zambians really do seem to be among the friendliest people you could meet anywhere. Those who enjoy scenic beauty will find Zambia richly endowed – from forested reserves and broad highlands to the peaceful golden shores of Lake Tanganyika. In contrast Eastern Zambia offers the chance to explore one of the best wildlife areas in Africa. This journey, rich in contrast is full of unforgettable experiences.

Grading: Anyone in good health with a sense of adventure should be able to take part. There is no real physical difficulty involved, but as in much of Africa, rough roads, limited facilities and

basic accommodation may require you to adjust your levels of expectations as well as to partake in camping chores. Remember to bring bags full of humour.

NB: Although it is our intention to operate this itinerary as printed in this brochure and detailed below, it may be necessary to make some changes as a result of alterations to flight schedules, climatic conditions, limitations of infrastructure such as accommodation, or other operational factors. As a consequence, the order or location of overnight stops may vary from these outlined. Included meals are indicated in the daily itinerary (i.e. BLD = Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner).

Day 1. 11 September. Join tour Lusaka.

Collect at Lusaka Airport, drive to our lodge and check in. Lusaka lies at the junction of the main highways to the north, east, south and west at an altitude of 1,300 meters above sea level. The capital covers an area of over seventy square kilometres and is one of the fastest growing cities in Central Africa. It is an interesting city to explore. This afternoon is free for personal exploration and offers us the chance to visit Cairo Road with all its shops, the city market, observing life as it is in Lusaka. (All optional). Tour briefing by safari guide – plus payment of tourcost balance. Motel, 1 night.

Day 2. 12 September. Kafue National Park: Lufupa Camp.

Leaving Lusaka we head west to Kafue National Park, Zambia's oldest National Park and by far the largest. Proclaimed in 1950, it spreads over 22,400 square kilometres, the second largest National Park in the world, about the size of Wales. The afternoon is spending on setting up camp and exploring the camp and getting ready for sundowners. 3 nights camping. (BLD).

Day 3 and 4. 13 and 14 September. Kafue National Park.

From the astounding Busanga Plains in the north – western section of the park to the tree-studded wilderness and lush dambos (wetland areas) of the south, fed by the emerald green Lunga, Lufupa, and Kafue Rivers, the park sustains huge herds of a great diversity of wild life – thousands of red Lechewe on the plains, ubiquitous puku, stately sable and roan antelopes in the woodlands, diminutive oribi and duiker. The Defassa waterbuck, herds of tsessebe, hartebeest, zebra and buffalo make for a range full of antelope, with the stately elephant opening pathways through the thickets.

Large prides of lion, solitary leopards and cheetahs are the prime predators. There is a host of smaller carnivores, including wild dog, side-striped jackal, civet, genet and various mongooses. Bird watching is superb. Notables include the wattled crane, purple-crested lourie and Pel's fishing owl. Over 400 species of birds have been recorded throughout the park. We will spend our days exploring the park on game drives. Night drives, boat safaris and fishing safaris can be undertaken (all optional). (2 x B, 2 x L, 2 x D).

Day 5. 15 September. En-route to Kasanka.

We break camp after an early morning's breakfast and do a game drive out of the park. We turn east to Landless Corner, travelling through rural areas on our way to Kasanka. 1 night lodge (B, L).

Day 6. 16 September. Kasanka National Park.

After breakfast we head north on the Great North Road to Kasanka National Park. This peaceful sanctuary, situated on the south-western edge of Lake Bangweulu Basin, is one of Zambia's smallest National Parks. It is 450 square kilometres, however are so well endowed with rivers, lakes and wetlands, forests, lagoons, meadows and dambos that it supports a wide

range of mammals and abundant birds and fish. It is surely one of Zambia's most picturesque parks. After settling in we go on a drive to a special platform hide, eighteen meters high in a giant Mululu tree with a panoramic view over Kapahi Swamps. We endeavour to spot the rare and elusive swamp-dwelling Sitatunga from here while having our sundowner. Together with Kasanka's noted bird life, the mammals – Puku, Waterbuck, Sable Antelope, Elephants, Sharp's Greysbok – can be seen on our game drive through the grassy plains, „mushitu" forest, large tracts of Miombo woodland, riverine forest and papyrus swamps. Over 330 bird species have been recorded, including such rarities as Pel's Fishing Owl, Pygmy Goose, Ross's Loerie and Wattled Crane. We end the day with a night drive back to camp. 1 night bungalow. (BLD).

Day 7. 17 September. Bangweulu Swamps.

Today we drive to the southern edge of the swamps. The Great Bangweulu Basin, incorporating the vast Bangweulu Lake and a massive wetland area, lies in a shallow depression in the centre of an ancient crater in the North Zambia Plateau. The basin is fed by seventeen principal rivers from a catchment area of 190,000 square kilometres, but is drained by only one river, the Luapula. After settling in at Shoebill Camp we have the afternoon at leisure to explore the surrounding area of the camp. 3 nights permanent tented camp. (BLD)

Day 8 and 9. 18 and 19 September. Bangweulu Swamps.

Livingstone once described the Bangweulu floodplains as a world of water and anthills. The higher ground surrounding the swamps is dominated by Miombo woodland intersected by numerous dambos. The floodplain itself is dominated by grassland varying in composition according to the depth and duration of the annual flooding. For the most part, the swamps consist of areas of open water surrounded by permanent dense stands of papyrus grass and phragmites reeds accessible only by shallow canoe via an intricate network of narrow channels. We spent our time here on game activities, walking and canoeing in the swamps as well as doing a night game drive. One of the rarest and most elusive birds in Africa is the Shoebill Stork, *Balaeniceps Rex*. It favours the Bangweulu Swamps as one of its last remaining habitats. With wetlands, grasslands and woodlands in such close proximity, a great diversity of birds can be seen in a relatively small area, and nearly 400 species have been recorded here. Unique to the floodplains is the water-living Black Lechwe, *Kobus Lechwe Smithemani*, which follow the receding floodwaters. Other mammals to be found are Tsessebe, the world's fastest antelope, Common Duiker, Oribi, Reedbuck, Roan Antelope, Buffalo and Elephant. Predators that may be encountered are Wilddog, Leopard, Hyena, Jackal, Civet and various types of mongoose. Numerous crocodile and hippo are found in the permanent water channels or lurking in the papyrus reeds. (2 x B, 2 x L, 2 x D)

Day 10. 20 September. En-route North Luangwa National Park.

We leave this protected wetland behind and travel through Lavushi Mandla National Park to Kapisha Hot Springs. Lavushi Mandla has had most of its mammals poached out but still has an impressive bird population. The late afternoon is free to explore the spring and surrounding area. Overnight lodge. (B)

Day 11 and 12. 21 and 22 September. North Luangwa National Park.

After an early breakfast we go north-east further into this vast wilderness. We cross the escarpment into North Luangwa National Park. This remote track of land covering 4,636 square kilometres offers one of the finest wilderness experiences in Zambia if not in Africa. The beauty of visiting this Park is the truly remarkable opportunity to experience Africa as it was. It is wild and untouched and we are simply an unobtrusive witness to its natural beauty and drama. The National Park lies on the western bank of the Luangwa River, bordered on the other side by the dramatic Muchinga Escarpment, which rises over 1,000 meters from the valley floor. Vegetation ranges from mopane woodland to riverine forest, open grasslands and acacia thickets, beautiful

Sangaje trees, vegetable Ivory Palm, Red Mahogany and Leadwood. The day is used to explore the park with its multitude of mammals and bird life on foot with an armed game scout, as well as per vehicle (optional night drives). 2 nights reed chalets (2 x B, 2 x L, 2 x D).

Day 13. 23 September. En-route to South Luangwa National Park.

After an early morning game drive we pack up and turn south. We cross the Luangwa River and drive through Luambe National Park, a small park of great vegetative beauty. The only road, little more than a track, is the one connecting the North and South Parks and follows the east bank of the Luangwa River. We set up our camp on an idyllic spot next to the Luangwa River and spent the sundowner looking at the passing parade. 1 night wilderness camping. (BLD).

Day 14 and 15. 24 and 25 September. South Luangwa National Park.

After the exciting night of wilderness camping we drive through the Nsefo Sector to our camp at Mfuwe. The Luangwa Valley is one of Africa's prime wildlife sanctuaries, with concentration and varieties of game and birdlife that have made it world famous. This is the landscape of the „Real Africa" with herds of antelope roaming the plains, predators stalking through the shadows and primordial flora in every vale. Vegetation ranges from dense woodland to open grassy plains, an oxbow of lagoons act as natural waterholes. The list of mammals that frequent the park is endless. Mammals include Zebra, Buffalo and Lion as well as endemic species such as Thornicroft's Giraffe and Cookson's Wildebeest. The park successfully supports one of the largest concentrations of Elephant in Africa and also has an expanding population of Leopard and a healthy population of Wilddogs. We stay in the Barefoot Wilderness camp set in a beautiful location on the banks of the Luangwa River just outside the National Park (night drives optional). 2 nights permanent safari tents. (2 x B).

Day 16. 26 September. En-route to Lower Zambezi National Park.

After an early breakfast we drive via Chipata to the Lower Zambezi. We cross the spectacular bridge over the Luangwa River 300 km west of Chipata. Overnight at Lusaka after a long days' driving. Relaxing next to the swimming pool. 1 night motel (B, L).

Day 17. 27 September. Lower Zambezi National Park.

This National Park's greatest charm is that it is a completely unspoiled African wilderness. It lies on the northern side of the Zambezi floodplains down-stream from the Victoria Falls. We have the opportunity to see most of the predators and the prey that they stalk. Elephant are abundant and are frequent visitors to the camp. The Zambezi River also leaves itself to excellent game viewing by boat (optional) as well as trying your hand at tiger fishing. 1 night tented camp. (B, L).

Day 18. 28 September. Lake Kariba.

After breakfast we head south, passing the Kafue flats en-route to Siavonga, Lake Kariba. It is also an excellent place to pick up beautiful Tonga baskets and carvings. We stop over at Choma, visiting the museum. We visit a local village and a fossil forest en-route. This national monument dates back 150 million years. The afternoon is spent exploring the lakeshore. Work on the biggest man-made lake of its time started in the 1950/s. It was considered a triumph of mankind and came into existence following the damming of the Zambezi River to provide hydroelectric power to the industries of Zambia and Zimbabwe. The creation of Lake Kariba was not without controversy: the Tonga tribe was uprooted to make way for the dam, not only did they oppose the building, but according to the Tongas, Nyaminyami, the snakelike River God was opposed to the construction. The Batonga believe the wrathful River God sent the biggest storm in 10,000 years that destroyed the cofferdams in 1957. We visit the dam wall, which remains a major attraction. Optional excursions to partake in are a cruise at sundown or cross to the town of

Kariba (Zimbabwe) or to do some canoeing on the lake or the Zambesi River. 1 night chalets. (B).

Day 19. 29 September. To Lusaka.

After some game activities (optional) we head north to Lusaka where we have the time to do last minute curio shopping. En-route we have ample opportunity to visit rural curio shops. 1 night motel. (B).

Day 20. 30 September. To Airport.

Transfer to airport. End of service.

Price includes:

All transport on tour.
All meals as per itinerary.
All park entry fees.
All game viewing activities as per itinerary.
All armed scout fees as per itinerary.
All accommodation fees as per itinerary.
Tents and sleeping mattresses.
Safari equipment.
Reference library.

Price excludes.

Airfare.
Visa fees.
Airport taxes.
Meals as per itinerary.
Drinks.
Expenses of a personal nature.
Any changes to the itinerary.
Travel and medical insurance.

NB: When camping everyone must help with camp cooking and camp chores.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.

Climate:

Zambia's wet season runs from mid December to April. During the rainy season, daytime temperatures are pleasantly warm, but it can sometimes be humid in low-lying area. The heaviest rain is confined to the highlands, while the lakeshore is much drier. The dry season tends to be cooler and generally runs from May to early October. During the dry season, daily temperatures in the lower areas are fairly consistent, 21 - 26 degrees C. In the highlands daytime temperatures can be considerably cooler and can range between 10 - 20 degrees C. Nights can be particularly cold during the dry season, so warm layers are

essential. The cool and dry season runs from May to Aug; the hot and dry from Sep to Oct, and the wet season from Nov - April.

Baggage:

- One main piece - soft bag, rather than a hard suitcase, so it can be easily stowed and does not take up too much room in a tent. Pack light as space in the vehicle is restricted - max 12kg.
- A daysac (large enough to carry your camera, waterbottle, binoculars etc) is essential.
- NB: Sleeping bag.

Clothing and footwear:

- For comfort in the heat, lightweight cotton is best. Brightly-coloured clothing is not appropriate for safari as it is easily seen by animals and has the added discomfort of attracting insects (wear muted tones in natural colours i.e. beige, khaki, olive, etc, but **not** army-style camouflage clothing).
- A long-sleeved shirt is essential to protect neck and arms while on game walks/drives.
- Windproof/waterproof jacket.
- Lightweight trail boots.
- Trainers or sandals for relaxing.
- Sunhat.
- Swimming gear.
- Warm mid layers i.e. fleece and jumper for cool nights and early morning game drives (particularly May - Oct).

Equipment:

- Sleeping bag (2/3 season - possibly 3 season in winter months).
- Torch.
- Waterbottle.
- Sunglasses, sunscreen and lipsalve.
- Insect repellent.
- Personal first aid kit.
- Binoculars.
- Dust can be a problem for cameras - take a dustproof bag.

Vaccinations:

Recommended: Hepatitis A, Polio, Typhoid, Malaria.

NB: Yellow Fever vaccination compulsory and must be obtained prior to departure.

Vaccination requirements change, so please check with a specialised travel clinic for up-to-date information before you depart.

Local costs:

17 breakfasts, 13 lunches and 11 evening meals are included. You must pay for all other meals yourself (you can eat very well for £10 a day). Approximate costs are given for guidance only and may vary widely according to location and type of establishment.

Coffee/tea	UK£0.30
Soft drink	0.30
Medium beer	0.60
Bottle of wine	4.00
Local snack lunch	2.00
3-course dinner*	7.00

* reasonable mid-range tourist class restaurant.

Optional excursions:

Some or all of the excursions detailed below may be available; others not listed may also be available. Approximate per person costs are given for guidance only, and may depend on the number of participants. Your safari guide could be able to assist you in arranging them.

Motor boat - half day	UK£13.00
Dug out canoe - half day	1.50
Foot safari (with armed ranger)	16.00
Night game drive	16.00
Horse-riding	16.00

Currency:

Zambian Kwacha. Take money in US\$ in cash dollars. NB: pre 1990 dollar bills are not accepted in Zambia. Foreign currency can be changed at commercial banks and major hotels, although opportunities to change money outside of major towns and tourist centres are limited. Your safari guide will be able to advise you on when and where to change money.