

Classic Safari in Zambia



Highlights

Clap eyes on one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World, Victoria Falls – claimed to be the largest waterfall on the planet. Head out on night-time drives to search for wildlife by spotlight. Explore Mosi-Oa-Tunya National Park, and enjoy river safaris on pontoon boats. This 11-day safari in Zambia is packed with things to do, and it may only be the place you lay your head in the evening, but the accommodation's pretty special, too. In fact, the whole package is something you won't be forgetting in a long time.

Zambia, located in central Africa is one of the most spectacular countries to spot the continent's wildlife and, arguably, one of the safest. With a diverse geography offering a range of ecosystems from lakes and rivers, plains and grasslands, the country is home to over 300 different mammals and more than 750 species of birds.

There are many different parks and routes to explore on your safari in Zambia and there is certainly not time enough in the average holiday there to see it all. This 10 day safari aims to show you some of the highlights of the country, taking you to three different locations, exposing you to some of the great diversity that Zambia has to offer.

You begin your safari in the wilderness to the east of the country, in the Luangwa Valley; a sanctuary for wildlife, where you can see many herds of elephants roaming, as well as the endemic Thornicroft giraffe and over 450 species of birds. With few other safari companies operating here, this is remote on a vast scale.

Half the size of the Luangwa Valley and lying further south in the country, is the lower Zambezi National Park, your second base. The mighty Zambezi runs through this park, against a backdrop of rugged hills. Much of the exploration here can be done on the water, spotting water-based creatures such as hippos and crocodiles from a boat. However, game drives are also an option, spotting the 50 different animal species found here, including perhaps lion sleeping in the sun and elephants crossing the river.

Finally, in the south of the country lies Livingstone, your third stop, home to one of the seven natural wonders of the world; the Victoria Falls. Lying on the Zambia / Zimbabwe border, this is where the mighty Zambezi crashes 100m down into a small gorge. There are adrenalin activities to be enjoyed (?) here, such as white water rafting or bungee jumping, as well as slightly more gentle pursuits, such as boat rides on the river, or game drives in search of the white rhino.

Is it for me?

This is an exclusive safari for nature and wilderness lovers. You'll be staying in exclusive accommodation and will have the option to go on walking safaris in extremely small groups, going deep into the wilderness. Whilst staying at the lodges, you have the choice of which activity you wish to pursue, be it walking, game drives or night drives. All of the accommodation is beautifully situated, so there is also time to sit back and watch a waterhole with a drink in your hand. This is an exclusive holiday, very much once in a lifetime category, so embrace the early morning starts and see as much as you can!

Accommodation

On this safari, you'll stay at three different camps. All have been kitted out in an elegant fashion.

Prices from
3,731 GBP (11 days) per person

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In South Luangwa, you'll stay your first two nights at the Nkwali Camp, which is famous for its giraffe and leopard sightings. Whilst here, you have the option of walking safaris, game drives and night drives. The camp sleeps up to 12 guests at one time and accommodation is in ensuite chalets, overlooking the river. The dining room overlooks a watering hole, so you can spot game whilst enjoying a mouth-watering meal.

Your next two nights are at the Nsefu Camp – the first game camp to be established in Zambia. Activities here include walking safaris game drives and night drives. Sleeping up to 2 guests at any time, accommodation is in ensuite rondavels, each with large windows and a private terrace overlooking the river. You can enjoy your sundowner at the bar, which is situated next to an extinct termite mound, and watch the animals come to the watering hole that it overlooks.

In the Lower Zambezi National Park, you'll stay at the Chongwe River Camp. Accommodation here is in safari tents, with thatched canopies to provide shade. Each tent has its own open air ensuite bathroom, which has to be seen to be believed! Sleeping up to 16 guests at any one time, the camp overlooks the point at which the Zambezi and Chongwe rivers converge, making it an ideal location for boating, canoeing and fishing, as well as the traditional game drives.

Your final accommodation is at the slightly larger Tongabezi Lodge, which can accommodate up to 20 guests in five tented cottages and four stone and thatch houses. All of the rooms have views of the Zambezi river and bedrooms are ensuite.

Itinerary

Days 1 - 2

After being met at the airport your guide will drive you to Nkwali Camp. Nkwali Camp overlooks a wide bend of the Luangwa River into the South Luangwa National Park and is ideally situated for the start of your safari. The game in this area is excellent - and includes many family herds of elephants and the endemic Thornicroft Giraffe.

A typical day at Nkwali has you waking with the dawn to enjoy breakfast round a campfire before heading out on your morning activity. A delicious lunch is enjoyed on the bank of the lagoon, which is frequently visited by local wildlife. The afternoon is the quiet part of the day - for a siesta or a swim in the pool. In the mid-afternoon you meet up with your guide before heading out for an evening adventure, finding a beautiful location to watch the sun go down with a well-earned drink in hand. The opportunity to discover the nocturnal world by spotlight is a wonderful treat before heading back to Nkwali for dinner.

Days 3 - 5

After an early breakfast, head out on a game drive through the park and across the river to the Nsefu Sector, which is recognised as a phenomenal game viewing area.

During your stay you have the opportunity to drive or walk through the ebony groves or, depending on the heat and time of year, to explore further afield with an all-day picnic drive to the salt pans. There is also the option of visiting the community at Kawaza Village to experience life in a real non-tourist village.

Days 6 - 8

After an early breakfast, transfer to Mfuwe Airport and onto Lower Zambezi via Lusaka (about four hours door-to-door, depending on flight schedules). As you fly into the area, you will see the wide Zambezi River, dotted with islands. Buffalo and elephant are usually seen feeding along with the pods of hippos that rest on the edge of the sandbanks. Chongwe River Camp is a short 15-minute trip (taken in an open game-viewing vehicle) and looks onto the confluence of the Chongwe and Zambezi rivers, and the mountains of the escarpment to the north. At Chongwe there are various activities to choose from. Pick from exciting day and night drives and bush walks, or enjoy a canoe trip or a river safari.

Days 9 - 10

After breakfast and farewells, a drive through the park to the airstrip to meet the plane taking you to Livingstone via Lusaka (an hour and a half). On arrival you will be met and transferred to either Tongabezi Lodge or Tongabezi Island Camp (Sindabezi). The birdlife is outstanding and game is often seen around the Island Camp and Lodge. There is a wide range of activities on offer at Tongabezi including fishing, canoe trips on the river and game drives in the Mosi-Oa-Tunya National Park. For the more adventurous, Livingstone boasts a whole host of adrenaline-filled activities including whitewater rafting, bungee jumping and micro-lighting. Or you may just wish to rest in camp and enjoy the spectacular scenery and peaceful atmosphere. The day will end with a relaxed dinner served either in the main dining area or as a private meal outside your room.

Day 11

After breakfast you may be able to squeeze a morning activity in, before your transfer flight to Lusaka.

Details

Getting there

British Airways, South African Airways, Kenyan Airways and Ethiopian Airways fly to Lusaka International Airport. From here you can catch an internal flight to Mfuwe Airport.

Price includes

Full board, all game viewing, laundry, bar, National Park fees, transfers and internal flights.

Price details

Price quoted is per person based on two people sharing in the green season.

Green Season: April - May 21 and November
\$5705 per person based on two people sharing
Same price for a single traveller

Shoulder Season: May 22 - June 30
\$6855 per person per two people sharing
Same price for a single traveller

Peak Season: July - October
\$7445 per person per two people sharing
\$1052 single supplement

When is best

This safari in Zambia runs from April - November.
October is the hottest month of the year. In June / July you may need a fleece at night.

Available

Apr—Nov

Typical Duration

11 days

Comfort level

Reasonably comfortable (Inns, B&Bs, luxury camping etc.)

Experience required

A reasonable interest is all that is needed