



THE
ZAMBEZI HERITAGE SAFARI
9 Nights / 10 Days

VICTORIA FALLS, MANA POOLS & CHOBE NATIONAL PARKS
ZIMBABWE & BOTSWANA

ITINERARY AT A GLANCE

DAY 1:

Arrive Victoria Falls International Airport, Zimbabwe.
Overnight Gorges Lodge, Victoria Falls

DAYS 2-3:

Activities at Gorges Lodge

DAY 4:

Air Charter to Camp Mana, Mana Pools National Park on the Lower Zambezi.
Overnight at Camp Mana.

DAY 5-7:

Fly-camping at Chitake Spring.

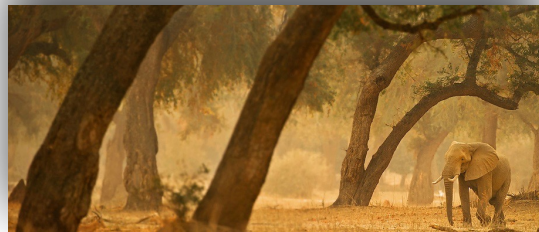
DAYS 8-9:

Camp Mana

DAY 10:

Air charter to Harare and depart

A unique exploratory safari takes us through two UNESCO World Heritage Sites on the legendary Zambezi River, boundary of Zimbabwe and Zambia. The first site is Victoria Falls, a 100m high breathtaking cascading waterfall that defies belief. The second site includes Mana Pools National Park on the lower Zambezi; a sublime game viewing paradise. We journey deeper here with time in a fly-camp at the ultra-remote Chitake Spring, a bonanza-magnet for game in the dry season.



DETAILED ITINERARY FOLLOWS ...

PLEASE NOTE

The duration, destinations and activities on our privately guided safari are based on our style and preference for delivering memorable safari encounters. However, flexibility is assured in tailoring your ultimate safari, and we trust that the itinerary provides you with insight into our differences and unique approach. Please feel free to contact our office to discuss variations, or design an itinerary of your choice

ZIMBABWE



Splendid wilderness encounters with wildlife galore and famous hospitality all come standard here. The legendary Zambezi River with Victoria Falls and Mana Pools beckon, as do refreshing itineraries and remarkable landscapes. One of the best for adventurous game viewing and without the crowds, Zimbabwe is in the premier safari league.

BOTSWANA



Considered by many to be the safari capital of Africa, Botswana is vast, diverse and alluring land. Located between South Africa, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe, Botswana is a safari travellers delight and consists of some of the wildest and uncharted game reserves left in Africa today. Game viewing locations are superb. Botswana is considered to be one of Africa's major success stories and is politically stable, prosperous and a world leader in wildlife conservation. A large country and with one of the lowest population densities in the world, the sense of space and remoteness is amazing

THE ZAMBEZI: Africa's legendary river



Africa's 4th largest river has its source in NW Zambia and meanders over 2500 kilometres through Angola, borders Namibia, Botswana, Zambia and Zimbabwe, and eventually into the Indian Ocean in Mozambique. From the mouth at Quirimba it is navigable for 600 kms, with evidence of Arab dhows upstream. Since the Portuguese arrived on the east coast in 1498, the interior has long been a sense of wonder, and the Zambezi has seduced Victorian explorers since 1851 when David Livingstone traversed up to the source of the river. The net result of this has been generations of intrigue, legends, exploration and an intrepid sense of travel which defines the region to this day,

VICTORIA FALLS: the most spectacular waterfall on earth



Located on the might Zambezi River which borders Zambia with Zimbabwe, and one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World, Victoria Falls has to be seen to be believed. An incredible curtain of water (the widest in the world when in flood) cascades over a rocky chasm 100 metres high and the spray may be visible for 50 kilometres. It's an incredible sight! Our choice of a base camp is the island of Sindabezi which is access from the small town of Livingstone, a short distance from the Falls itself. Named after the famous explorer David Livingstone, this historical centre has been the focal point of safaris, exploration and adventure in the region since he passed through here in 1855.

MANA POOLS NATIONAL PARK: a secluded wildlife paradise



Located in the lower Zambezi region, Mana Pools consist of over 2000 km² of pristine wilderness with a staggering array of plains game, predators and birds. The floodplains and pools of the area (there are 4 main pools: 'Mana' means "four" in the Shona language) is an area of incredible beauty and big game encounters. We also have access to at the ultra-remote Chitake Spring, which in the dry season is a wildlife magnet. The diversity and game populations led to the reserve being proclaimed a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and epitomises the wildness, allure and beauty of this magnificent river.

ALAN McSMITH



For over 30 years Alan has lived and worked as a wilderness guide and tracker exploring the wild-lands of six African countries. An Alan Mc-Smith Safari is a meaningful journey of unsurpassed discovery as the pulse of Africa beats wildest off the beaten track, around a remote desert campfire or out on foot. These safaris also explore real time conservation issues and our commitment to low impact safaris, sustainable logistics and dignified interactions with people, animals and the environment is non-negotiable. For Alan, wilderness is no longer just a place, its a way of life. Please visit www.alanmcsmith.com for

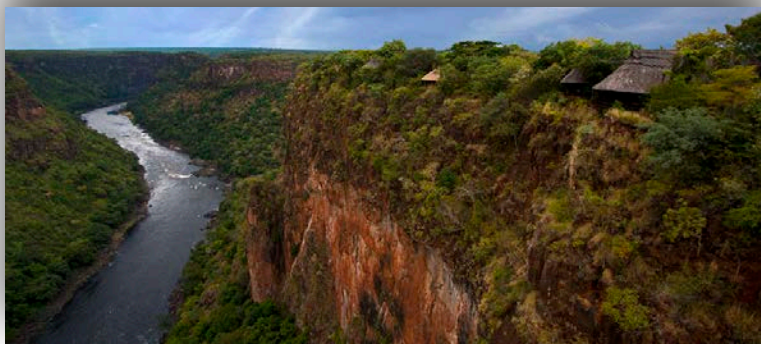
DAY 1: ARRIVE AT VICTORIA FALLS, ZIMBABWE. DRIVE TO GORGES CAMP.

Victoria Falls International Airport is easily accessible via a variety of options and is the springboard for the safari. On arrival we are driven into the quaint village of Victoria Falls a short distance away and on to Gorges Camp, about half an hours drive outside town.

The camp is perched right on the edge of the Batoka Gorge below the Falls and is one of the most sensational views in Africa! After a check-in and lunch, a walk along the gorge is recommended.

Dinner and overnight at Gorges Camp

GORGES CAMP



As a base camp to explore the region surrounding Victoria falls, there is none better than Gorges Camp. The remote location, setting and layout overlooking the 250m high Batoka Gorge defies belief!

The central unit, right on the edge, is built on a raised deck of indigenous hardwood and has a lounge, dining room and bar that all offer extraordinary views over the gorge into Zambia. We look down on to legendary rapid 19, one of the Zambezi's most challenging white water rafting hazards. A filtered swimming pool is a welcome relief for summer days.



Accommodation consists of comfortable stone and thatch cottages, each with a gorge view and private garden, facing the sunrise. The cottages contain a small lounge area with a tea/coffee station and mini-bar. An en-suite bathroom completes the layout.

The safari operation here has a long-standing partnership with local communities and is built on tribal land. As a result, concession fees and royalties are paid to the local council which helps to improve schools, domestic water supplies and clinics.

DAYS 2 & 3: ACTIVITIES AT VICTORIA FALLS, BASED FROM GORGES LODGE

An early start to day 2 is suggested as we drive to the town of Victoria Falls and visit one of the most spectacular natural spectacles in the world.

Proclaimed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, the mile-wide waterfall cascades over a 100m high drop into a series of gorges below. This is easily the widest waterfall on earth. Known locally as *Mosi-oa-Tunya* (the Smoke That Thunders), the Victoria Falls, initially described to the western world by the Victorian missionary and explorer David Livingstone in 1855, are one of the Natural Wonders of the World, and it's not difficult to see why ...



"Scenes so lovely they must have been gazed upon by angels in their flight".

David Livingstone, 1855

The Zambezi floods during the mid-year season and 2020 has been one of the biggest floods for some time, so the Falls are expected to be in full force. The amount of spray coming off the waterfall, which over millennia has given rise to a unique rain forest, completely drenches us as we walk along the edge of the gorge and rain forest. It is a seminal experience. A leisurely tour of the Falls may take a couple of hours as there are numerous vantage points along the way.

The remainder of the day is flexible and we can choose whether to return to the camp for lunch, or stay in town exploring numerous sightseeing spots markets, craft villages, stalls and local dancing. There are numerous optional activities which we could participate, including white water rafting, scenic flights, fishing excursions and game drives, however a sundowner boat cruise on the Zambezi is included in the safari.

We return to Gorges Camp for dinner and overnight.

Day 3 based from Gorges Lodge allows for you to participate in a series of optional activities, based on the Zambezi. The area is often referred to as the 'adventure capital of the universe,' and activities may include: microlight flights, white water rafting, scenic tours, island walks, cultural tours, game drives, fishing excursions or even bungi jumps. These options, as well as how the day pans out, can be arranged depending on your choice.



A suggested optional activity would be to cross into Zambia over the historical Victoria Falls bridge which was built in 1903, to tour the Falls from the Zambian side. The view of the waterfall and gorge features are very different from the Zimbabwean side, and definitely worth the extra perspective.

DAY 4: AIR CHARTER TO MANA POOLS, OVERNIGHT AT CAMP MANA

After breakfast, we depart by road to the local airfield and depart for Mana Pools National Park by a 2 hour light aircraft air charter. The flight takes us downstream of the Falls toward Lake Kariba and the iconic game reserves of Matusadona and Chizarira. Kariba, built in 1959 as a hydro-electric scheme was the largest man-made lake in the world at that time and covers an expanse of 5500kms². Operation Noah, one of the Zambezi's famous conservation stories, was conducted after the valley flooded to remove large numbers of animals trapped on forming islands.

After arrival in the national park, we take an open gameviewer drive to Camp Mana, about 15kms upstream of Ngepi, the park headquarters. We arrive for check-in and lunch and an afternoon game drive is recommended, followed by dinner and overnight at camp.

CAMP MANA



Camp Mana, a classic tented safari base, perched in the edge of a forest overlooking the Zambezi floodplain. Accommodation is in en-suite Meru tents, ala Hemingway of old ... an understated safari-luxurious, small and intimate camp, ideal for our tailored encounters.

A bedouin-style lounge tent overlooks the floodplains with the main Zambezi channel beyond, and the Zambian escarpment in the distance. The superb setting is complimented by a true safari-camp style as the facilities are entirely mobile. The low environmental impact (all power is on solar) philosophy is a crucial component of the charm and ethos of the operation. The limited occupancy, environmental passion, connection with the wild and attention to detail defines Camp Mana and why we incorporate the camp into our specialist itinerary.

Accommodation consists of walk-in Maru-Style safari tents, complete with en-suite bathrooms, hot shower and a flush loos. Each tent is set spaciouly apart overlooking the majestic Zambezi floodplains. Its a game viewers paradise!



DAY 5-7: FLY-CAMPING AT CHITAKE SPRING

We depart Camp Mana with an open game viewer for an extended game drive toward the Chitake River close to the Zambezi escarpment within Mana Pools National Park. The landscape changes dramatically as we leave the floodplains behind offering us superb vantages over this magnificent reserve.



Our safari team will pre-erect a mobile tented fly-camp in the vicinity of the spring which is a perennial water source in the riverbed. In this dry section of Mana, the spring is the only source of water and large concentrations of buffalo, elephant, antelope and the predators dependant on Chitake. As a result, game encounters are nothing short of sensational, often close-up and regularly at close quarters to the camp. For an adventurous wildlife enthusiast who would prefer to forsake a certain level of luxury for three nights, the experience is intense, exhilarating and incredibly rewarding.



We would spend most of the time on foot, searching for the best vantage points to watch game come down to the water. Lion, leopard and wild dog are often encountered here as they lie in ambush for approaching buffalo or antelope. Birdlife is amazing with over 300 species at Chitake on record. There is a unique allure here in this special remote corner of Mana, with the spring providing the rhythm for every life form here. There is 24/7 activity here, so you can expect anything to happen at anytime.

The fly-camp consists of dome safari tents with insect netting and sewn-in groundsheets. Bucket showers under the stars are mandatory and long drop loos are provided. The camp dining room and lounge consists of a legendary African campfire, complete with ice cold G&Ts or beer and warm company.

For us, setting up low impact fly-camps, the remoter the better, is what safari-life is all about. Off the beaten track, wild big game country and walking trails sets this magnificent experience apart. In this regard, Chitake will not disappoint.

DAY 8 & 9: CAMP MANA



We drive back to Camp Mana on day 8 and enjoy some down time soaking in the magnificent scenery, washing off Chitake dust and replaying the events of the spring.

We have two full days to explore the area, either driving, walking or canoeing. Or varying combinations of all three. Game viewing is often sensational with large herds of elephant, buffalo, zebra numerous antelope such as waterbuck and eland, and of course associated predators such as lion, leopard and wild dog. The Zambezi is littered with hippo and crocodiles.

Walking and stalking trails here are also highly recommended and close-up tracking encounters with elephant, wild dog in particular, and others epitomises the Mana experience.

Game viewing from the camp is very productive on the floodplains and forest fringes, and its quite common to have multiple sightings of game in and around the camp. Sunset canoe activities on the legendary river are of course a must!



DAY 10: AIR CHARTER TO HARARE

After a morning activity and breakfast, we drive back the Mana airstrip and connect with a private air charter to the capital city of Zimbabwe, Harare, where the safari ends. From here, any on-going travel arrangements are arranged.

SAFARI ENDS
TSAMAYA SENTLE !
(Bon voyage)

WHAT MAKES THE SAFARI UNIQUE?

1. An exploration of the mighty Zambezi River, the 4th largest river in Africa
2. Two World Heritage Sites (Victoria Falls and Mana Pools) Divert to Matusadona between Victoria Falls and Mana Pools
3. Explore Victoria Falls in the flood season, the widest cascading waterfall on earth.
4. Raft the legendary Zambezi rapids below the Falls
5. An extensive charred flight along the Zambezi to Mana Pools
6. Stay at a low impact exclusive semi-permanent tented camp located at Mana
7. Fly-camp at the ultra remote and wild Chitake Spring, a magnet for animal encounters
8. Track wild dog on foot at Mana
9. Big game stalking at Mana

OPTIONAL MODULES THAT COULD BE INCLUDED OR ADDED ON

1. Begin with a safari in Botswana through the Okavango Delta, Linyanti or Chobe National Park, arriving in Victoria Falls.
2. Add on a safari to Hwange National Park in Zimbabwe
3. Divert to Matusadona between Victoria Falls and Mana Pools
4. Add on a safari into Zambia to the renown Luangwa Valley with incredible leopard viewing.