



## TOPICS

### THE LOWER ZAMBEZI NATIONAL PARK



The Lower Zambezi National Park is still relatively undeveloped, its beauty lying in its wilderness state. The diversity of animals is not as wide as the other big parks, but the opportunities to get close to game wandering in and out of the Zambezi channels are spectacular. The Park lies opposite the famous Mana Pools Reserve in Zimbabwe, so the whole area on both sides of the Zambezi River is a massive wildlife sanctuary. The Rivers' edge is overhung with a thick riverine fringe, including ebony and fig trees. Further inland is a floodplain fringed with mopane forest and interspersed with winterthorn trees and huge acacias. The hills which form the backdrop to the Park are covered in broadleaf woodland. Even though the Lower Zambezi National Park covers an area of 4092 square kilometers, most of the game is concentrated along the valley floor. There is an escarpment along the northern end which acts as a physical barrier to most of the Park's animal species. Enormous herds of elephant, some up to 100 strong, are often seen at the river's edge. 'Island hopping' buffalo and waterbuck are common. The Park also hosts good populations of lion and leopard, and listen too for the ubiquitous cry of the fish eagle.



## BEST TIME TO TRAVEL

Although the best time for watching wildlife in Zambezi National Park is during the dry season, which takes place from July to October, there are also many benefits of travelling during April and May:

- Tourist densities are low at this time of year, and you often have the place to yourselves both on river and on land.
- The weather is calm and clear, still relatively warm during the day but cooling to a fresh crisp cool during the evening.
- The skies are big and bright which make good photo opportunities during the day and exceptional stargazing at night.
- Water everywhere attracts birdlife from far and wide, including many a migrator from different corners of the globe.
- It's a time of plenty, so numbers of newborns are high.

## ACCESS

### INTERNATIONAL AIR TRAVEL

A couple flight possibilities are available for those travelling by air to Lower Zambezi. Your starting point will usually be Lusaka's Kenneth Kaunda International Airport (LUN). Lusaka Airport has multiple daily connections with Johannesburg in South Africa (South African Airways) and Nairobi in Kenya (Kenya Airways). Other international connections include a daily Emirates flight from and to Dubai as well as a daily Ethiopian Airlines flight from and to Addis Abeba.

### DOMESTIC AIR TRAVEL

It is possible to travel domestically from Livingstone to Lusaka or vice versa which is ideal for travellers visiting the Victoria Falls and Chobe National Park areas.

Livingstone to Lower Zambezi flights are now also available on certain days of the week during peak season.

### FROM LUSAKA TO LOWER ZAMBEZI

On arrival at Lusaka your Lower Zambezi safari adventure really is about to start. From here it is another 45 to 60 minutes short flight to your destination. Once landed at the airstrip your chosen lodge will pick you and transfer you to your final destination where a cold drink will be ready and waiting.

## WHAT TO EXPECT IN LOWER ZAMBEZI NATIONAL PARK

The Lower Zambezi experience is similar to the Chobe National Park experience due to the Zambezi river component but undoubtedly less touristic and a more untouched wilderness experience. It is not quite the Okavango Delta experience but a very good alternative. Boat trips are the best way to be 'wowed' by the greatness of the Zambezi River, so those will obviously be a big part of your safari trip. All guides and rangers working in the lodges are extremely skilled and professional. Most of them were born and raised in the area and have been working in guiding-service for decades. Not only do they know how to track big game, but they also have a great eye for detail. We also encourage you to go on a guided safari walk. A skilled guide can tell much more about the bush by pointing out smaller animals, birds, plants – you'll be surprised to hear about all the often-overlooked secrets of the bush. This way you will see a greater variety of species from an entirely different perspective. Each step will bring you closer to understanding how precious areas like these are and why we should protect them.

## USEFUL TOOLS FOR A ZAMBIA SAFARI

Although camps in the Lower Zambezi usually make sure all your needs are met, bringing some of your own tools can be fun and useful. Here are a few items we always grab before we go:

- Binoculars (to view animals from your private deck at any time and anywhere else);
- Camera (of course!) and a telephoto lens, if you have one;
- An inexpensive, waterproof watch (leave expensive jewelry at home);
- Sunblock and lip salve;
- A small pocket torch;
- Insect repellent;
- Camps often provide water bottles, but you can bring one yourself, too;
- Adaptor (three pin square British style plug is used in Zambia).

## SUGGESTED LODGES:

Our team can give you advice on Anabezi Camp, Baines' River Camp, Royal Zambezi Lodge, Old Mondoro, Sausage Tree Camp, Potato Bush Camp, Chiawa Camp, Chongwe River Camp and Chongwe House.

