

HWANGE WALKING SAFARI – ZIMBABWE

A Wilderness Safaris Exploration – 4 nights / 5 days from Davison’s Camp to Linkwasha Camp

This Exploration runs between July and September.

ITINERARY

Arrival: Linkwasha Airstrip, Hwange National Park

On arrival at Linkwasha Airstrip, you will be met by your Wilderness Safaris Explorations guide and transferred in an open game-viewer to Davison’s Camp.

Day 1: Davison’s Camp, Linkwasha Concession

The first night of this Exploration will be spent in the comfort of Davison’s Camp. This will allow you to settle into the pace of the safari before the walking commences the following morning.

Day 2: Scott’s Pan Platform, Linkwasha Concession

You will be woken at first light and enjoy breakfast as dawn breaks over Ostrich Pan. Shortly after breakfast, we will head out on our first walk. Our destination is Scott’s Pan. The route will take us through varied woodland habitats and vlei lines which will present an opportunity to see a wide variety of wildlife and birds. We will arrive at Scott’s Pan around lunch time and after a well-deserved meal, we will have the opportunity to either siesta or watch the procession of game visiting the waterhole to quench their thirst. Later that afternoon, depending on the local game movements, you will either head out on a short walk or game-drive to explore the surrounding area. You will return to the Scott’s Pan Platform around sunset. Dinner will be enjoyed on the platform beneath the canopy of the African night sky.

Day 3: Ngamo Plains Platform, Linkwasha Concession

We will rise to the Hwange dawn chorus before enjoying a hearty breakfast at Scott’s Pan Platform. We will then head out on a short game drive to Back Pans. Here we will disembark from the vehicle and continue on foot to Ngamo Pans. The walk will give us the opportunity to explore the combetrum, terminalia, teak and acacia woodlands along the way. Lunch will be enjoyed on arrival at the Ngamo Plains Platform. We will have the opportunity to recharge our batteries with an afternoon siesta before heading out on either a game-drive or walk. Dinner will be enjoyed under the African sky.

Day 4: Linkwasha Camp, Linkwasha Concession

As dawn breaks, we will depart on foot. Our destination is the luxurious Linkwasha Camp. A highlight of this walk will be the opportunity to explore the acacia forest fringes of the iconic Linkwasha Plains. On arrival at Linkwasha Camp, we will be greeted with a sumptuous brunch. The middle of the day will be spent at leisure and will give you the chance to rest up after the previous two days of walking. We will head out later that afternoon on a game-drive to explore the area around Linkwasha Camp. We will return to camp after dark where dinner will be enjoyed.

Day 5: We bid farewell to our adventure with a game drive from Linkwasha Camp to Linkwasha Airstrip for onward arrangements.

OVERVIEW

A walking safari has long been regarded as one of the finest ways to get a feel for the African wilderness. Hwange Walking Safari allows guests to get their feet on the ground and really feel, smell and touch Africa. Set in one of the best areas for wildlife in Hwange, this Exploration offers a fabulous walking trail experience which is interspersed with the occasional game-drive to ensure you get the most out of your time in Hwange. The Hwange Walking Safari offers an authentic safari experience that will have you feeling like a participant in nature rather than a spectator.

Zimbabwe's Hwange National Park is the country's largest game reserve boasting one of the densest concentrations of wildlife in Africa. Situated on the easternmost edge of the Kalahari Desert, its sandy soils harbour extensive stands of broad-leafed woodland. The private Linkwasha concession, located in the south-eastern corner of Hwange, is one of the most abundant areas of the Park due to its diverse range of habitats: teak and false mopane woodlands, dry acacia scrub interspersed with pans and vast, palm-fringed plains.

Hwange Walking Safari sets out to explore this richly diverse area. Key species that can be seen along the way include elephant, buffalo, sable, roan, giraffe, wildebeest, gemsbok, lion, leopard, wild dog and cheetah. Birding is also fantastic in the area with the likes of Dickinson's Kestrel, Bradfield's Hornbill, Racket-tailed Roller and Arnot's Chat occurring.

Your guide: Charles Ndlovu

Charles has spent practically his entire life in the bush. Having a father who was a game ranger ensured that Charles would spend many of his school holidays accompanying his father to the bush. On completion of his secondary schooling, Charles volunteered to assist the Hwange National Park research team. He did this for a year and after realising his potential and passion, the senior ecologist took him on as a semi-skilled casual employee. In 1989 Charles joined Touch the Wild as a trainee guide.

Charles worked his way up and in the year 2000 obtained his Professional Guide's Licence. Charles enjoys taking guests on nature walks and sharing his knowledge and passion with them. Charles is a fantastic guide and this was probably best summed up by one of his guests who said "Charles was very knowledgeable and professional - his obvious love and passion for wildlife, the environment and his country is inspiring. His kindness and sense of humour made everything extra-special." Charles' knowledge and great personality make him the ideal guide to lead The Hwange Walking Safari.

Linkwasha Concession - Did you know?

- Access to the private, wildlife-rich Linkwasha Concession is exclusively for Wilderness Safaris guests.
- The highest densities of large mammals in Hwange are found in the Linkwasha Concession, due to its rich habitat diversity.
- The park is predominately Kalahari sandveld supporting teak and false mopane woodlands together with dry acacia scrub. These woodlands are interspersed with salt pans and grasslands.
- Walks provide one with a sense of immersion into nature, excitement and adventure, while game drives offer the opportunity to explore further afield.
- Nights spent in dome tents under the stars with access to viewing platforms create a nostalgic sense of safari. They offer a truly wild and authentic feel.
- We begin and end our journey at Wilderness Safaris camps, framing the adventure with indulgence and luxury, especially at Linkwasha Camp, our grand finale.
- Wilderness Safaris have partnered with the National Park in jointly combating the effects of poaching along Hwange's southern boundary, an area beyond our concession.
- You will typically see elephant, buffalo, sable, roan, southern giraffe, blue wildebeest, impala and sometimes even gemsbok in the Linkwasha Concession. Lion, leopard, wild dog and cheetah are also regularly sighted.
- Birdlife is prolific with more than 400 species occurring in Hwange National Park.

ACCOMMODATION

Days 1:

Davison's Camp – Hwange National Park – Linkwasha Concession Wilderness Safaris, Adventures Camp

As one of the few camps located within the Park boundaries, Davison's will offer you complete privacy, as well as a compelling mix of diverse wildlife. The camp's nine en-suite tents are hidden in the shade of ancient false mopane trees and from the comfort of your bed you will be able to watch the continuous procession of game at the camp's waterhole. In between activities, you can while the hours away in the main area, or pool, as you observe the thriving life on the plains and contemplate the splendour of Hwange.

Days 2 & 3:

Scott's Pan and Ngamo Plains Platforms

The facilities at Scott's Pan and Ngamo Plains Platforms provide the perfect balance between comfort and a wild and authentic bush experience. The well-ventilated dome tents (maximum of two guests per tent) measuring 2 metres x 2 metres (6.56 feet x 6.56 feet) are erected by our camp staff prior to your arrival. The tents are furnished with bedrolls with crisp linen, duvets and pillows. Towels and amenities (soap, shower gel and conditioning shampoo) are provided.

There is a nearby bathroom with a long-drop toilet and serviced bucket shower – hot water is available whenever guests require it. The bathroom enclosure has a table with amenities, hurricane lantern, tin basin and a mirror.

Hurricane lanterns and a good campfire light up the evening camp. Delicious meals are prepared around our campfire by our safari staff, creating a great atmosphere and adding to the 'camping wild' feel.

Day 4:

**Linkwasha Camp – Hwange National Park – Linkwasha Concession
Wilderness Safaris, Classic Camp**

Linkwasha Camp is set in a beautiful location in the middle of a vast plain overlooking a productive waterhole. The fresh, open and airy design of Linkwasha Camp is complemented by an eclectic mix of contemporary interiors with the original spirit and essence of safari. The camp consists of nine luxurious en-suite tents, while the main area includes various multi-level decks, a pool and a winter lounge complete with a fireplace and library. The camp is the perfect location from which to view wildlife roaming across the expansive savannah plain.

ADDITIONAL SAFARI NOTES

Tour direction: Davison's Camp to Linkwasha Camp

Number of guests: The Hwange Walking Safari will be sold to a maximum of 7 guests.

Private safari options: Tailored Walking Explorations are available on flexible dates, accommodation and itineraries, for groups of up to seven guests. These are ideal for families or for small groups.

Exclusivity: The private Linkwasha Concession is for the use of Wilderness Safaris and Wilderness Explorations guests only.

Transfers: All transfers to and from Linkwasha Airstrip are done by game drive, while transfers between camps are on foot and in game-drive vehicles.

Time: We have specifically allowed for a four-night safari in the Linkwasha Concession which provides you with enough time to truly appreciate the scenic beauty of the surroundings together with the abundant variety of wildlife.

Connection onto the safari: The safari and services of the guide start on Day 1 as per the brochure and detailed itinerary. All scheduled flights must coincide with the start and end point of the particular Exploration that you have booked. This Exploration starts and ends at Linkwasha Airstrip. If arrival is planned for the day of the safari's departure, please ensure the arrival is at Linkwasha Airstrip at ±15:30 latest. Arrival on a later flight may necessitate additional road or air transfers, or even an overnight (as departure for the first camp/lodge will already have taken place), subject to extra cost.

Connection leaving the safari: Please ensure that your departure charter out of Linkwasha Airstrip is booked for 10h10. For earlier or later departure flights, an additional transfer will be required to arrive for this connection. This will be subject to an additional charge.

Flashlights/ torches: Please ensure that a minimum 2-D cell flashlight is brought on safari, with spare batteries. Head lamps are also useful. Wilderness Explorations does not supply flashlights.



WILDERNESS SAFARIS

EXPLORATIONS

Camera battery charging facilities: There are no charging facilities at Scott's Pan or Ngamo Plains Platforms. Spare batteries are essential (we recommend that you bring three spare batteries) and an image storage device of some sort is recommended. Make certain you have enough card storage – most people take more photographs than expected. Charging facilities are available at Davison's Camp and Linkwasha Camp.

Dietary requirements and special occasions: Due to the remote locality of our camps, please ensure that full dietary requirements are advised at the time of your booking confirmation.

Inclusions: All meals, daily activities and local drinks (excluding premium imported brands).