

Next Adventure's *Active Africa* Custom Zimbabwe Safari

Victoria Falls – Matusadona – Mana Pools Canoe Trail – Hwange – Matopos

Please consult your international & regional air itineraries for flight details which are subject to change.

Your itinerary includes detailed descriptions and information pertinent to your tour and safari. Guide, bird and wildlife books and maps may be consulted to enhance your experience.

*The lodge, hotel and camp descriptions are those of the owners.
Next Adventure cannot verify the accuracy of the descriptions or images used.*

Important Notes Regarding Passports & Visas for US Passport holders:

A single-entry visa for Zimbabwe may be obtained for US \$30 per person (subject to change). *Important:* Please ensure your passport is valid for at least 6 months after your travel dates. Also, you will need *blank pages* in your passport for entry & exit stamps.

Luggage Restrictions: 44 lbs. per person

As you will be travelling in small aircraft with limited luggage capacity while travelling in Zimbabwe, your luggage is required to be packed in a *soft bag* (no hard suitcases allowed) weighing a maximum of **44 lbs** including all carry-on items and camera equipment as well.

Day 1 Victoria Falls: Zimbabwe

On arrival in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe obtain an entry visa for US \$30 per person (not included and subject to change). You are met and transferred to **The Victoria Falls Safari Lodge** for your one-night stay on an accommodation and breakfast basis. The afternoon is at leisure for optional activities and lunch on your own. In the evening enjoy dinner and entertainment at **The Boma Restaurant** which is included in your overnight stay.



We highly recommend that you are seated by 19h15 for an evening filled with entertainment. Guests are welcomed with a traditional greeting in the local languages, Shona and Ndebele. The guests are then dressed in 'chitenges' (traditional robes) and prepared to enter the main enclosure. They are invited to take part in a hand washing ceremony before sampling traditional beer and snacks, as a prelude to dinner.

The Boma specializes in a superb selection of traditional Zimbabwean dishes. We offer four courses combining an array of starters with a barbecue buffet.

Adventurous palettes are enticed with local delicacies such as warthog steaks and game stews. Dare to sample such ethnic treats as deep fried Kapenta and Mopani worms.

A feast of nightly entertainment incorporates Amakwezi traditional dancers, a local story teller and a witchdoctor. After dinner, guests are invited to join in the drumming extravaganza from 21h00. This is the highlight of the evening and all are invited to participate in the drumming and dancing show with our renowned drummers - Amazulu.

Victoria Falls Safari Lodge

Set high on a natural plateau, the westward facing Victoria Falls Safari Lodge borders the Zambezi National Park and is just four kilometers from the thundering Victoria Falls, Southern Africa's foremost attraction. Enjoying uninterrupted views of spectacular African sunsets and year round game at its on-site waterhole, accommodation at Victoria Falls Safari Lodge is ideally positioned to offer the most discerning traveler a taste of Africa at its best. Appointed in the utmost luxury, Victoria Falls Safari Lodge offers outstanding Victoria Falls accommodation and hospitality together with an authentic wildlife experience.

Victoria Falls

At 1708 metres wide, Victoria Falls is the most expansive curtain of water in the world and drops more than 100 metres into the sheer Zambezi Gorge. Located in the south-west corner of Zambia, these Falls and the Zambezi River are the central points in an area of spectacular scenic beauty: from the Falls themselves to the broad, picturesque course of the Zambezi River upstream, the rainforest adjacent and the stark jagged gorge downstream, the power and timelessness of nature's forces are evident throughout.

The Tonga and Makalolo peoples lived here for centuries before the Falls were 'discovered' by David Livingstone in 1855. He gave it the highest honour he could think of: naming it after his Queen. Its local name, Mosi-Oa-Tunya - "the Smoke that Thunders" - more accurately defines the essence of the place: the rising, shining spray that can be seen 30km away. This vapour has the effect of adding moisture in the form of humidity to the air in the "splash zone", so that a unique, small rainforest ecosystem clings to the edge of the Falls, providing a toehold for no less than 70 shrub and 150 herbaceous species, as well as trees such as pod and Natal mahogany, ebony, Cape and strangler fig and Transvaal red milkwood. Further away from the constant spray, the surrounding area comprises mopane and teak woodlands with luxuriant riverine forest along the banks of the Zambezi River. The presence of several protected areas in the vicinity, from the Zambezi National Park in Zimbabwe to the Mosi-oa-Tunya Zoological Park in Zambia, means that herds of big game such as elephant and buffalo, as well as smaller species and even predators such as lion persist in the area.



As mesmerising as the Falls are, the paths through the rainforest at their edge allow one to catch a glimpse of some of the mammals that live here: bushbuck stare shyly from behind a bush, banded mongoose scurry through the undergrowth, and vervet monkey and baboon flit through the trees; wailing Trumpeter Hornbills sail past in their characteristically undulating flight and the crimson-blazoned wings of the Schalow's Turaco can be seen by patient birders. Interestingly, there is a distinct difference in the fish species above and below the Falls, which clearly form a comprehensive barrier to fish movements upstream: 39 species are recorded from below and 84 above the Falls. Nile crocodile and hippo are common above the Falls.

Vic Falls, as it is affectionately known, straddles the border between Zimbabwe and Zambia, and both countries share its World Heritage Site status.

Day 2 Vic Falls: Elephant Camp

After breakfast at the hotel, you have the morning at leisure for optional activities on your own. At 11:10 you'll be collected and transferred to **Elephant Camp** for overnight on a fully-inclusive basis.

Elephant Camp



The Elephant camp is situated only 10 minutes from Victoria Falls in a private concession within the Victoria Falls National Park. With an emphasis on exclusivity, the luxury tented suites all have private decks and plunge pools. The suites are all equipped with indoor and outdoor showers, huge baths, private lounges, mini bar and tea/coffee stations, overhead fans plus air conditioning and are all mosquito proofed.

The panoramic views of the Falls are breathtaking from the central area and the west wing of camp whilst the Batoka Gorge yawns before one from the rooms in the east wing. The Elephant Camp overlooks a waterhole that is fed by natural streams in the rainy season that rush down to meet the Masuwe River, and the Zambezi gorges below the Falls. Walks and birding activities for guests supply boundless photographic opportunities in addition to the variety of activities available in Victoria Falls.



Day 3 Matusadona: Musango Safari Lodge

This morning Wild Horizons will transfer you to the airport in time for your light aircraft transfer to Bumi Hills where you are met and transferred by boat to **Musango Safari Lodge**. Your stay is for 3 nights on a fully-inclusive basis in a standard chalet.

Lake Kariba & Matusadona National Park

In 1958, the Kariba Dam created 120-mile-long Lake Kariba, an inland sea of great beauty that attracts abundant wildlife. The lake is famous for its “drowned forests”—upright remnants of trees left in the rising waters that created the lake. The blackened trees make picturesque perches for the lake’s exotic birdlife, and often one sees crocodiles and hippos in the lake’s waters. There are also big populations of elephant, lion, and cape buffalo. Some 40-50 rhinos inhabit the park, but they are intensely protected and can only be seen on special guided walking safaris. The lake is interesting in itself, with its fishing fleet, spectacular sunsets, and blue-black mountains sloping to its forested shores. There are a number of very good lodges in the region. We recommend at least two nights in the lake region, more if possible.



Matusadona National Park takes up 1400 square kilometres on Lake Kariba’s southern shore, and there are dense wildlife populations here. From the town of Kariba near the dam, short charter flights or high speed boats take visitors to safari lodges for wildlife viewing in small motor-powered boats or in open safari vehicles. Some lodges offer wildlife walks or canoeing, activities that include an armed professional guide for protection against wildlife.

Musango Safari Lodge

Musango Safari Camp is situated on its own island, just off the shoreline of the Matusadona National Park. Offering an abundance of wildlife from buffalo and elephant to the rare black rhino, Musango Safari Camp is also

an ornithologist's paradise with a myriad of birds to be seen frequenting the birdbaths in front of the lodge and rooms.

Access is direct from Kariba to camp by floatplane or by private charter to the nearby airstrip at Bumi Hills. Musango boasts the largest selection of activities on Lake Kariba; amongst them are our moonlit dinners on a floating pontoon, very romantic for that special occasion.

Musango Safari Camp is an exclusive 12-bedded camp, ideal for a relaxing holiday. Under thatch, the large luxurious safari tents each have en-suite bathrooms built out of natural stone. The frontal verandahs offer panoramic views across the lake, of the Matusadona National Park and mountains. The swimming pool area and the bar/lounge platform offers an excellent place in which to relax and view game during the heat of the day.

Activities include excursions include walks into the Matusadona National Park, where they have an incredible success rate of locating the rare black rhino and the nearby Game Sanctuary, game viewing by boat along the many inlets and creeks, and casual canoe paddling up adjacent creeks where bird life is prolific and the scenery breathtaking. We offer fishing and our boats are fully equipped with tackle and bait. We also conduct dinosaur fossil and early stone-age site visits as well as specialized birding trips. Morning visits to the nearby village may also be arranged and are very popular.



Day 4

Matusadona: Musango Safari Lodge

You have two full days to enjoy wildlife viewing and other exciting wildlife viewing activities at **Musango Safari Lodge**.

Day 5

Mana Pools: Ruckomechi

This morning you make your way back to Bumi Hills to connect with your light aircraft transfer to Mana Pools' Chikwenya Airstrip. From the airstrip, a camp vehicle transfers you to **Ruckomechi Camp** where your overnight stay in a twin tent is fully inclusive of all meals, activities, laundry and drinks (except premium imports).

Ruckomechi Camp

Ruckomechi Camp is situated on the western boundary of the Mana Pools National Park. It is situated in a large grove of Acacia and Mahogany trees overlooking the Zambezi River with a superb view of the mountains of Africa's Great Rift Valley.

The camp accommodates guests in ten spacious tents which each have a view of the river. Facilities are en-suite and include a toilet, hand basin, indoor shower and an outside shower with a view across the river. There are two double tents and eight twin bed units. The public areas include a central dining, bar, library and lounge area which are connected to the rooms by low walk ways. There is also an infinity pool with a decked area for sun bathing as well as a star gazing deck.



Ruckomechi offers diverse game activities, including game drives in 4 x 4 vehicles and fishing on a catch and release basis (fishing is by arrangement, subject to availability of boats. There is an extra charge and guests need to bring their own equipment). Daily game walks are available with an armed guide. The predators including Lion, Wild Dog, Leopard, and Cheetah are often sighted and large concentrations of Buffalo can be

found along the river's edges. Kudu, Zebra, Impala and Waterbuck can be seen on the surrounding plains. Elephants are often seen swimming in front of the camp in order to get to the reed island directly opposite camp and they also like to take advantage of the plentiful Albida trees in the area. Bird watching tends to be good, with the river attracting large numbers of Waterbirds.

Day 6

Mana Canoe & Walking Trail



After a morning activity and breakfast at Ruckomechi Camp, transfer to the canoe trail starting point by about 2 p.m. where you meet your guide and group. After a thorough safety briefing, canoeists start paddling downstream in sturdy Canadian canoes to our mobile camp in the Mana Pools National Park. The camp will have already been set up in advance; the first afternoon of paddling covers about 11 kilometres. This is a relatively easy distance to cover in the time available and gives canoeists a chance to familiarise themselves with the canoes and the various paddle strokes required.

MANA CANOE & WALKING TRAIL A Trails Exploration - 3 nights / 4 days

Canoeing safari complemented by fully serviced dome tent Adventurer camping along the fertile floodplains of the Zambezi River, Mana Pools National Park.

One of the most exciting ways to experience Africa, this safari is perfect for adventurous travellers, allowing guests the closest possible encounters with wildlife on one of the greatest rivers in Africa. This thrilling experience traverses the Mana Pools National Park, through the heart of Mana Pools and along the Zambezi's shoreline, canoeing past more than a thousand hippo on the way! Each night is spent camping on the banks of the Zambezi River, finishing 65 km (40 miles) downstream and many adventures away from the start. Encounters with animals, whether on canoe or on foot, are up close and awe-inspiring. The Trail is for reasonably fit guests and is led by an experienced guide. Support vehicles and staff set up a fully catered & serviced camp each day prior to arrival.



This camping safari offers a unique adventure for the traveller seeking an iconic African safari and an opportunity to enjoy one of the wildest stretches of the lower Zambezi River and the game that depends on its life giving waters and ensures a back to nature experience.

By means of lively campfires, hurricane lanterns and a warm atmosphere permeating the camp (and its simplicity), Adventurer camping brings the guest closer to nature. Such camps are specifically outfitted to create that sense of wilderness with a clear emphasis on essential camp comforts and maximum wilderness experience.

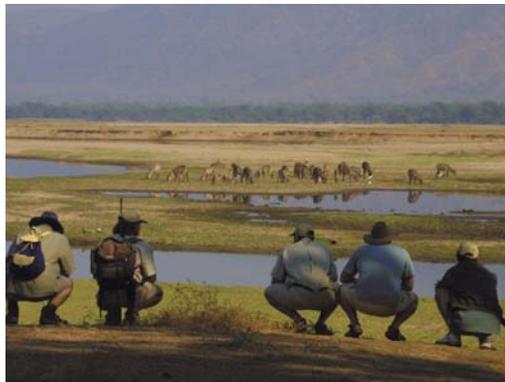
The entire safari is guided and hosted by a professional and passionate river guide, who shares in-depth knowledge of the lower Zambezi ecosystem with the guests, to present a seamless, well-rounded experience.

Years of experience in the field and a depth of understanding of animal behaviour and the environment will leave you with a sense of complete wonder. Our guides are also skilled photographers and can assist you in taking away amazing wildlife photographs. They are also available to lead private safaris and specialist trips.

Days 7 & 8

Mana Canoe & Walking Trail

Typically, canoeists are awakened before dawn with tea/coffee and biscuits and we try to get onto the water just before sunrise. This is a magical time on the river as the water is usually calm and the peace and tranquillity is amazing. After paddling for usually about two hours, we beach the canoes on the bank of the Zambezi River and set out for a game walk. The guide chooses a suitable area, based on his knowledge of the area and game movements and we take a few hours to explore on foot, and unravel some of the intricacies of the bush. After returning to the canoes, and a light snack, we continue canoeing to a suitable lunch spot, arriving around midday. Lunch is carried in the canoes and usually consists of salad and cold meats.



We normally rest in the shade for a while or take another short walk before moving on arriving at the next camp at dusk. The camp, and all the luggage, will have been moved by the camp staff and all that is required to be done by participants is to enjoy a hot shower under the stars, and a cold drink, followed by dinner. The daily distances covered are around 20 to 25 kilometres and the daily routine will vary according to wildlife movements.

Day 9

Hwange: Little Makololo

After breakfast by the river, guests will either be transferred by Land Rover or a walk to the nearby Chikwenya airstrip for your light aircraft transfer directly to Hwange and Little Makololo for your two-night stay in a standard twin room on fully-inclusive basis.

Little Makalolo Camp

Little Makalolo Camp is secluded in the immense Hwange National Park - Zimbabwe's premier wildlife destination. As one of the few camps located within the park boundaries, it offers intimate privacy and a sense of seclusion. The Makalolo area is ecologically diverse, ensuring great numbers of animals year-round and an unforgettable experience.



Little Makalolo lies in the heart of Hwange National Park, in one of its best game viewing areas, overlooking a vibrant waterhole. The camp's five rooms have en-suite facilities, with both indoor and outdoor showers. Solar power is used for electricity ensuring a lighter environmental footprint. The living areas include a dining room, lounge, plunge pool and an open fire area for those convivial evening fireside tales. There is a log pile 'tree house' hide overlooking the waterhole in front of camp where guests can enjoy wildlife viewing during the siesta hours.

Activities centre on open 4x4 Land Rover game drives and guided nature walks throughout the Makalolo concession. The area's large number of waterholes attracts game in both quantity and variety, especially in the winter months when Hwange is literally home to a Noah's Ark parade of animals as they come down to quench their thirst.

- * Game drives in 7- and 9-seater Land Rovers (wind-resistant ponchos provided during winter)
- * Walking safaris
- * Hides in the area and in front of the camp
- * Evening drives with spotlight for nocturnal animals

Makalolo is one of the best areas for seeing impressive herds of buffalo and elephant as well as apex predators such as lion, leopard, wild dog and cheetah. Other general game is very abundant in the Park.

Bird life in the area is prolific (400+) and varied, with species frequenting teak woodlands as well as those more typical of the drier Kalahari being present.

Hwange National Park – Makalolo Concession

Hwange National Park is the largest game reserve in Zimbabwe at 14 500 km² with varied habitats and vegetation types. The park is predominately Kalahari sandveld supporting teak and mopane woodlands, dry Acacia scrub and is interspersed with salt pans and grasslands that support enormous species diversity and provide a true wilderness experience. Both Makalolo Plains and Little Makalolo are situated in the 31 000-hectare Makalolo concession.

Located on the border with Botswana, Hwange was proclaimed some 75 years ago and has served as a haven for one of the densest concentrations of game in Africa. In particular, its great herds of Cape buffalo and elephant (nearly 30 000) are a sight to see. Hwange has some of the highest mammal diversity for any national park in the world. With over 100 species the diversity is incredible: slender mongoose, yellow mongoose, banded mongoose, Selous mongoose, dwarf mongoose, honey badger, black-backed jackal, bat-eared fox, side-striped jackal, lesser bushbaby, vervet monkey, baboon, porcupine, aardwolf, spotted hyaena, caracal, leopard, African wildcat, lion, scrub hare, southern giraffe, hippo, springhare, warthog and Burchell's zebra. Antelope often seen in the area include common duiker, eland, roan antelope, impala, kudu, sable, steenbok, waterbuck and blue wildebeest. White rhino is another special sight to see here; Wilderness Safaris has recently helped translocate a number of these wonderful beasts into the protected park.

The park is also home to a varied bird community. Typical drier Kalahari birds include Red-billed Spurfowl, Crimson-breasted Shrike, Kalahari Scrub-Robin, Cut-throat Finch, Red-eyed Bulbul and Southern Pied Babbler. A Bat Hawk and African Hobby (summer only) are good finds here, which are sometimes seen at dusk hunting bats and swifts. The plains are alive with pipits, larks and wheatears like African Pipit, Dusky Lark (in summer) and Capped Wheatear. Raptors are plentiful including Martial Eagle, four vulture species and accipiters like the Shikra. In the summer months the bird list is greatly increased by migratory species like Southern Carmine Bee-eaters, Black Kites, Broad-billed Rollers, various cuckoo species, Abdims Storks and European Bee-eater.

Day 11

Hwange: Little Makololo

You have a full day to enjoy the rich wildlife viewing in Hwange from your base at **Little Makololo** where your stay is on a fully-inclusive basis.

Day 12

Matopos: Camp Amalinda

After breakfast, you are transferred to Hwange Main Camp where you are met by *Driving You Wild* for your 3- hour road transfer to Matopos National Park and Camp Amalinda. Enroute you stop for lunch and a site inspection at Ivory Lodge and possibly at The Bulawayo Club (hotel). At **Camp Amalinda** you'll enjoy a 2-night stay on a fully-inclusive basis.

Bulawayo & Matopos National Park

The second major city of Zimbabwe is Bulawayo, once home to the dynasty of fabled Ndebele kings which finally came to grief at the hands of the white settlers at the turn of the century. With a population of half a million, Bulawayo is a spacious and attractive city, laid out on a grid of boulevards designed to be so wide that they would allow a team of sixteen oxen to turn full circle. The city is proud of its grand old buildings, and allocates substantial funds to keep them maintained.



A short drive south of Bulawayo are the ancient Matobo Hills and Matopos National Park, a world of knobby granite outcrops that look as if they have been transplanted from another planet. As soon as you enter this National Park, another Africa descends upon you. Here is an eerie panorama so brooding and mysterious that it has enchanted Ndebele kings and colonial settlers alike. Today, the visitor can gaze upon the tomb of Cecil Rhodes and those of his deputies. Not far from these monuments to colonial ambition are the vestiges of a very different people, cave paintings by ancient bushmen depicting another world which existed thousands of years before the name 'Zimbabwe' was ever invented.

Camp Amalinda



Amalinda accommodates 16 guests. The lodge is set against majestic granite scenery that has been incorporated into the architecture of the lodge. A swimming pool is carved out of the granite rock and has an adjacent bar and lounge area. It is in these granite hills that the 'San' Bushmen recorded their life in the ancient rock art. Supposedly the highest concentration of leopard (although difficult to find) and black eagle in the world are found in this area. Also found are both black and white rhino. Game viewing is by vehicle, foot and horseback in the adjacent game park.

Other activities include excellent bird watching, exploring for cave paintings, visits to African villages and schools and a sightseeing trip to Bulawayo. The Natural History Museum is outstanding and very worth a visit for those staying up to three days. Cecil John Rhodes' grave and 'The View of the World' are also nearby. There is a lot to do in the area and it's the perfect place to recuperate from the long trip and become accustomed to a new country.

Day 13 Matopos: Camp Amalinda

You have a full day to enjoy the attractions of Camp Amalinda and Matopos National Park. Departing early in the morning with a packed lunch, you'll have a full day of activities which includes rhino tracking in the morning as well as a visit to Rhodes Grave called "Roof of the World". Later in the day, return to Amalinda for a final evening with dinner and overnight in camp.

Day 14 Departure

You have an early start for your transfer to Bulawayo International Airport for your departing flight. You'll say a fond farewell to Africa when you board your international flight back to the US. We expect you'll return with many wonderful memories to relish and eager for your *Next Adventure!*

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