



## THE "BIG 5" ZAMBIA & ZIMBABWE

2013 - 2014

***ZAMBIA:** Located at the crossroads between Southern Africa and East Africa, and blessed with abundant water and unbounded open space, Zambia showcases the magnificent Victoria Falls and some of Africa's best wildlife reserves. It is also one of the safest and most welcoming countries on the continent. With over 70 spoken languages and ethnic groups, Zambia is rich with cultural diversity, yet it is also one of the most cohesive and stable nations in Africa. The vast swaths of untrammelled nature within its borders offer a playground where the primal imagination can roam. Surrounded by Zambia's abundance and diversity of wild creatures in untamed terrain, one feels one's senses heightened. One becomes fully aware of Africa's intricate and awesome web of life.*

### Days 1

#### **SOUTH LUANGWA NATIONAL PARK / MFUWE LODGE**

Upon arrival in Lusaka on Day 1, you are met and escorted to your scheduled flight to Mfuwe. Upon arrival in Mfuwe, you are transferred to the Mfuwe Lodge, situated in the South Luangwa National Park and built between two spectacular lagoons. The open plan design keeps the comfort and relaxation of guests in mind, but also capitalizes on the fact that an African wilderness experience is a blend of colors and textures, sounds, aromas and sights unmatched anywhere else in the world. Each chalet has a large private deck overlooking one of the lagoons. From the comfort of the lodge view some of Africa's majestic wildlife as animals come down to drink. Elephant, hippopotamus, many antelope species and crocodiles are plentiful in this area.



The South Luangwa National Park, located in the eastern part of the country, covers an area of 3500 square miles. It is renowned for its beauty and its varied habitats which support one of Africa's richest concentrations of game and birdlife. Luangwa boasts Africa's largest population of leopard. Over 50 species of large mammal and some 400 species of bird thrive in this last haven of wild Africa. During your

**EXPLORE, Inc.**

Phone: 970-871-0065 | Fax: 970-871-0081 | Email: [info@exploreafrika.net](mailto:info@exploreafrika.net)

stay in the South Luangwa Valley you are bound to see the large elephant herds of up to 50 individuals, an abundant number of buffalo, fourteen antelope species and Thornicroft's giraffe, unique to the Valley. This area is also known for its healthy population of all the big predators. The meandering Luangwa River with its many ox-bow lagoons and shady ebony groves forms the eastern boundary of the Park while the western horizon is dominated by the spectacular Muchinga escarpment, rising almost a kilometer from the valley floor.



Game drives are offered twice a day to view the fantastic wildlife. There is also the opportunity to take night drives using spotlights which enable you to see such nocturnal animals as leopard, night ape and spotted hyena. Game walks are available during the day and are conducted by armed professional guides.

## Days 2-4

### **SOUTH LUANGWA NATIONAL PARK / REMOTE BUSH CAMPS**

After breakfast and your morning game activity on Day 2, you are driven (2-3 hours with game viewing along the way) through the park to one of the Bushcamp Company's remote bushcamps: Bilimungwe, Chindeni, or Chamilandu.



➤ Chindeni Bush Camp is one of the Luangwa's most luxurious, well-furnished bush camps and is known for its stunning views! Its elegant, colonial style tents come complete with large writing desks and deck chairs on a wooden veranda. There is an open-air central dining/bar area on wooden decking, overlooking the permanent Chayumba Lagoon. The lagoon attracts a large variety of game including elephants which are a delight to watch as they drink and the little ones play in the water. The camp also overlooks the Nchindeni Hills, which provides spectacular sunsets. Each tent has hot and cold running water and flush toilet.

➤ Chamilandu Camp is a stylish camp with new chalets raised on timber platforms above the Luangwa's banks. Here you experience sweeping 180 degree views of the river. Wake up in the morning and watch the sun rise over the hills from your bed! The chalets are fitted with wrought iron, brass and natural fabrics - luxury and comfort in the heart of the African bush! Each chalet has hot and cold running water and flush toilet.

➤ Bilimungwe is an impressive camp with a central open-sided bar/dining area on wooden decking under the shady canopy of huge old mahogany trees. The dining room looks out over a permanent waterhole where there have been impressive sightings - elephant, buffalo and giraffe (to name a few) only meters away from the dining table. The comfortable chalets are made of cane and reeds. Each has twin double beds under its tall thatched roof, as well as an attached bathroom with flush toilet and hot & cold running water.

**EXPLORE, Inc.**

Phone: 970-871-0065 | Fax: 970-871-0081 | Email: [info@exploreafrika.net](mailto:info@exploreafrika.net)

You spend three nights in this beautiful area, and during the days you may take game walks in the park. The walks are not too strenuous and are conducted at a pace determined by your group. They usually last three to four hours through flat terrain and are lead by a fully qualified guide and an armed game scout. You may also take game drives in 4x4 vehicles.

### **Days 5-7**

#### **LOWER ZAMBEZI NATIONAL PARK / ROYAL ZAMBEZI LODGE**

After breakfast at your Bushcamp on Day 5, you are transferred to Mfuwe (4 hours with game viewing along the way) where you board your scheduled flight to Royal in the Lower Zambezi (via Lusaka). The Lower Zambezi is unquestionably one of the most beautiful places in Africa and home to a plentitude of wildlife, especially elephants. It is also the base for two of EXPLORE's philanthropic projects, which you may visit if you wish. EXPLORE's Direct Impact Africa projects are based in the local community on the outskirts of the Lower Zambezi National Park area. You have the opportunity to visit Chiawa Village if you would like.

The Lower Zambezi region is remote and unspoiled with a diverse range of eco-systems, offering stunning scenery and varied wildlife viewing. Until recently it was the private reserve of Zambia's President, so it is extremely untouched. This area is home to large herds of elephant and buffalo, and lion are also common. Regular plains game sightings include kudu, zebra, impala, warthog and bushbuck. There are large "pods" of hippo in the river as well as crocodile. Hyena, porcupine, civet, genet and honey badger can be sighted during night excursions. The area is also well known for its excellent sightings of serval, a medium sized spotted cat. Wild-dog and Leopard do occur in the Lower Zambezi National Park, but are not commonly sighted.

Royal Zambezi Lodge is located on the bank of the Zambezi River, at one of its broadest points. The lodge is a striking combination of contemporary style and comfort in a completely unspoiled bush environment situated directly across river from the famed Mana Pools



**EXPLORE, Inc.**

Phone: 970-871-0065 | Fax: 970-871-0081 | Email: [info@exploreafrika.net](mailto:info@exploreafrika.net)



World Heritage Site in Zimbabwe. Offering king-size beds in large, fully netted, canvas tents under thatched canopies, comfortable sofas in front of roaring open fires and airy verandahs, the lodge is a luxurious base from which to explore this beautiful area.

There are many options during your stay - motor boat or canoeing safaris are available from the camp anytime, and are manned by expert guides who steer you as you explore the numerous interesting channels and islands in search of the many photographic opportunities that invariably arise. Fishing for the world-renowned "Tiger fish" is also available. You also have the option to take game drives in the adjacent Lower Zambezi National Park.

Game drives are offered in the morning and evening and the open air spa is always open for business where you can have a massage while watching elephants cross the river.

## Days 8 & 9

### LIVINGSTONE / VICTORIA FALLS AREA / THORNTREE LODGE

On Day 8, you fly to Livingstone (via Lusaka) and transfer onward to the Thorntree Lodge. Thorntree Lodge is a wonderfully situated camp on the banks of the Zambezi River with comfortable stone and canvas chalets hidden in the tangle of lush riverine bush. All chalets have large private bathrooms and are shaded by a large thatched canopy. The atmosphere is informal and one of classic safari style. The wide sweeping panorama of the river lends a special magic to the location.

One "must" activity is viewing the magnificent Victoria Falls. Victoria Falls is where the Zambezi River opens out into an extravaganza of roaring, spraying water, known to the locals as "mosi oa tunya" (the smoke that thunders). Standing before the brooding statue of David Livingstone, who in 1855 named the Falls after his Queen, part of the raging river is compressed into a massive surge of green-white water known as the Devil's Cataract. Few sights are as awe-inspiring as this. Other activities include:

- ❖ Spectacular bird watching
- ❖ Game viewing through Mosi oa Tunya National Park
- ❖ Visit historic Livingstone – the craft market and the Livingstone Museum noted for its artifacts that belonged to David Livingstone.
- ❖ Visit a local village

#### (At additional cost)

- ❖ Guided canoeing down the Zambezi River
- ❖ Horseback riding along the Zambezi River
- ❖ Helicopter flight over the Victoria Falls



EXPLORE, Inc.

Phone: 970-871-0065 | Fax: 970-871-0081 | Email: [info@exploreafrika.net](mailto:info@exploreafrika.net)

- ❖ Grade 5 white water rafting
- ❖ Africa's tallest bungi jumping
- ❖ Elephant-back safari

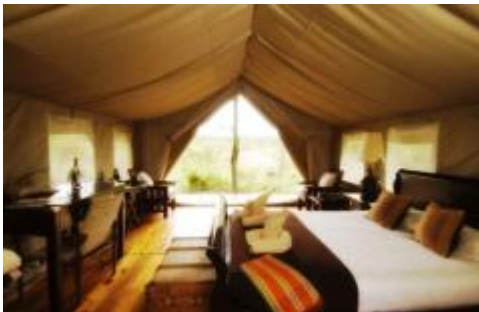
## Days 10-12

### HWANGE NATIONAL PARK / SOMALISA CAMP

On the morning of Day 10, you are flown to Somalisa Camp, set in the heart of Hwange National Park, known as the land of the giants for its big elephant herds. Somalisa is an authentic bush camp, a blend of old African charm and elegance together with an exclusive safari experience. Its stunning location tucked away on an acacia island along the edge of an ancient seasonal flood plain gives it breath taking views of the savannah plains of the famous Kennedy Vlei line.

At Somalisa Camp, you experience the heightened romance of the African Bush in one of the most natural environments in Africa. This is the way Africa was meant to be explored. Only six elegantly furnished canvas tents with en suite bathrooms, flush toilet and romantic alfresco bush shower make up this camp. The décor echoes of an old era, from colonial to the ancient tribes of Africa, telling the story from all corners of this magnificent continent. It's stunning main area and pool lends to complete relaxation, whether it be with a cup of tea or one of our refreshing cocktails; overlooking the pan where the herds of game congregate in large herds, offering rare moments of outstanding nature.

The use of solar lighting and gas ensures your comfort without interfering with the environment and the area's natural surrounds. The lounge and dining area are at the forefront of the camp, tucked under a soaring canopy of trees. Wide and well-traversed Elephant paths make up the paths connecting your room to the main area.



EXPLORE, Inc.

Phone: 970-871-0065 | Fax: 970-871-0081 | Email: [info@exploreafrika.net](mailto:info@exploreafrika.net)

Activities include guided walks lead by qualified and passionate guides who share their knowledge and love of the bush with you, game drives and spot lighting as well as game viewing from hides. Walking and game drives allow you the opportunity to observe elephant, kudu and sable antelope, zebra, wildebeest, gemsbok, the rare and endangered roan antelope, buffalo, giraffe, white rhino, lion, leopard, hyena, and many other wildlife species. The Kennedy vleis is littered with flamboyant colors from all its seasonal wild flowers that emerge as the first rains begin, and as the grass dries out, the large herds of buffalo, zebra and elephant are in abundance.

Hwange is legendary for its array of wildlife, including massive herds of elephant and buffalo, especially during the dryer winter months. In summer, antelope migrate onto the plains, with large predators following close behind. Spread throughout the park are shallow pans, around which wildlife gathers, making for reliable game viewing. Elephant, Cape buffalo, sable, roan, southern giraffe, blue wildebeest, impala, and sometimes even gemsbok (oryx), can be seen here.

This park is one of the best for predators: lion, leopard, and cheetah are regularly sighted, along with the smaller African wildcat, serval, honey badger, civet and spotted hyena. Wild dog, the rarest of African carnivores, survive here in healthy packs that hunt prey as they have from time immemorial—Hwange is one of this highly endangered animal's last strongholds.

Birdlife in the area is also prolific, with more than 400 species present, including those that frequent teak woodlands, as well as those more typical of the arid Kalahari. The varied calls of birdsong create a pleasant cacophony during the day. The vast silence of the African night is shattered by the roars of lions and the laughter of hyenas.

### Day 13

#### **VICTORIA FALLS / DEPART**

After breakfast and your morning game activity, you are transferred to the Victoria Falls airport where you board your international flight home.



**EXPLORE, Inc.**

Phone: 970-871-0065 | Fax: 970-871-0081 | Email: [info@exploreafrika.net](mailto:info@exploreafrika.net)

## GENERAL INFORMATION

|                                                    |                                                 |
|----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| 2013: HIGH SEASON – July 1-October 31, 2013:       | \$7,960.00 per person based on double occupancy |
| 2014: EMERALD SEASON – Nov 1, 2013 – May 31, 2014: | \$7,430.00 per person based on double occupancy |
| 2014: SHOULDER SEASON – June & October 2014:       | \$8,345.00 per person based on double occupancy |
| 2014: HIGH SEASON – July 1–September 30, 2014:     | \$8,985.00 per person based on double occupancy |

**NOTE: prices are subject to change based on the new VAT implemented in Zambia on Jan 1, 2014.**

**INCLUSIONS:** All ground and scheduled air transportation upon landing in Zambia; accommodation, guides and vehicle throughout; tourism taxes; meals, beverages, and activities stated below, park fees.

|                         |                                                                     |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Mfuwe Lodge:</b>     | All meals, teas and coffee, safari activities, and laundry          |
| <b>Bushcamps:</b>       | All meals, local beverages, safari activities, and laundry          |
| <b>Royal Zambezi:</b>   | All meals, teas and coffee, & activities                            |
| <b>Thorntree Lodge:</b> | All meals, teas/coffee, tour of Victoria Falls & sunset boat cruise |
| <b>Somalisa Camp:</b>   | All meals, teas and coffee, safari activities, and laundry          |

### INCLUDED INTERNAL COMMERCIAL FLIGHTS:

|                |                                                                        |
|----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>DAY 1:</b>  | <b>LUSAKA TO MFUWE</b>                                                 |
| <b>DAY 5:</b>  | <b>MFUWE (VIA LUSAKA) TO ROYAL</b>                                     |
| <b>DAY 8:</b>  | <b>ROYAL (VIA LUSAKA) TO LIVINGSTONE</b>                               |
| <b>DAY 10:</b> | <b>TRANSFER OVER THE BORDER TO VICTORIA FALLS – FLIGHT TO SOMALISA</b> |

**EXCLUSIONS:** U.S. domestic and international airfare (see below); medical immunizations; passport fees; some park fees for additional activities in Victoria Falls; visa fees (if applicable); accident/baggage/ medevac & cancellation insurance; individual transfers; excursions deviating from the scheduled tour; excess baggage charges; medical expenses; airport departure fees and taxes (\$8 domestic and \$25 international per person when departing Lusaka); spa treatments; telephone or fax charges; room service; gratuities to guides and staff; and other items of a purely personal nature.

|                         |                                               |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| <b>Mfuwe Lodge:</b>     | All beverages                                 |
| <b>Bushcamps:</b>       | Premium wines and imported spirits            |
| <b>Royal Zambezi:</b>   | All beverages & laundry                       |
| <b>Thorntree Lodge:</b> | All beverages, additional activities, laundry |
| <b>Somalisa Camp:</b>   | Premium wines and imported spirits            |

**EXCLUDED COMMERCIAL FLIGHTS:** International airfare to Lusaka, Zambia and from Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe.

EXPLORE, Inc.

Phone: 970-871-0065 | Fax: 970-871-0081 | Email: [info@exploreafrica.net](mailto:info@exploreafrica.net)