



Zimbabwe was once considered the crown jewel of the southern Africa safari circuit and with recent investment and improvements to roads, airports, and lodges, tourism is making a comeback. This incredible country sees fewer visitors than other top safari destinations and travelers can still enjoy an exclusive wilderness experience.

Zimbabwe is home to one of the largest waterfalls in the world, the enormous Hwange and Mana Pools National Parks, the great Zambezi River and a welcoming and friendly people. You'll experience the thundering Victoria Falls, walk in the bush tracking lions, elephants, and other game, and engage with the local people at schools and in their community. All with the best trained guides in Africa. Let us help you create a personalized journey through Zimbabwe, in comfort and style.

The itinerary below is a taste of what Zimbabwe has to offer in Victoria Falls and Hwange Park. We can customize any itinerary to include other destinations such as Mana Pools, Matobos Park or the Great Zimbabwe Ruins.

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## ~ Hwange & Victoria Falls Safari ~

### **Day 1-2: Victoria Falls | Gorges Lodge**

Arrive at Victoria Falls Airport where your Zimbabwean safari experience begins. You will be met by a shuttle vehicle for your road transfer to Gorges Lodge on the edge of the Batoka Gorge. The lodge is perched 600 feet above the mighty Zambezi River! Spend the afternoon sipping delicious refreshments by the pool enjoying the amazing view and then in the evening head off to Dibu Dibu for sundowners and snacks while you watch the lodge's resident pair of black eagles soar only yards away from you (weather permitting).



After the black eagle viewing take a leisurely stroll back to the main lodge reception area where you will be entertained by a team of talented traditional dancers and then enjoy a tasty 3 course dinner in the main lodge area, overlooking the gorge before retiring to your chalet and falling asleep to the sound of the river rushing below you.

The next day enjoy early morning tea or coffee on your private veranda overlooking the Zambezi followed by a sumptuous breakfast in the main lodge dining area. After breakfast, enjoy a breathtaking walk along the gorge-edge (if you would prefer, you may opt to do this in the evening instead). During your walk your guide will explain more on the history of Gorges and the indigenous gardens that Gorges has been built in. Or join your guide for steep hike down to the river. Lunch will be served in the dining area and in the afternoon head into Victoria Falls town where you will be taken on a guided tour of Zimbabwe's foremost attraction - Victoria Falls. "The smoke that thunders" remains one of the most spectacular natural wonders in the world. This will be followed by curio shopping at the craft village. Guests will then be dropped off for their sunset river cruise on the Zambezi River, famed for wildlife coming down to drink at sunset with the beautiful backdrop of the spray from the mighty Victoria Falls. Return to Gorges Lodge in the evening for dinner, a traditional Zimbabwean 'braai', out under the stars.

**Gorges Lodge:** At Gorges you can relax away from the hustle and bustle of Victoria Falls town - your peaceful guest accommodation is nestled in a landscaped garden that makes walking to your room a joy, and the staff is renowned for their warm hospitality. Gorges Lodge has arguably the most spectacular views in southern Africa and offers a unique Victoria Falls experience from a peaceful and idyllic base on the edge of the Batoka Gorge. Whether you are enjoying a cup of coffee at sunrise on your private veranda or a cool refreshment by the pool at sunset, you will be constantly drawn to the stunning vistas provided by the Batoka Gorge and the rushing waters of the Zambezi River below. Accommodations are 10 stone under thatch chalets, all with private verandas that provide stunning views. Each chalet has en-suite bathrooms with showers, mini bars, overhead fans and tea and coffee making facilities.



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**Victoria Falls:** The Victoria Falls is created by the Zambezi River which forms the boundary between Zambia and Zimbabwe. In the local Kololo language it is known as Mosi-oa-Tunya, or "The Smoke that Thunders". The name says it all for when the river is high the Falls are at their most magnificent as the towering column of spray and thunder of cascading water can be heard miles away.



What makes the Falls so stunning is not only the sheer volume of water flowing over it (145,000,000 gallons every minute), but also its incredible breadth. Where the river meets the cliff, the Falls is over a mile wide making it the longest curtain of water on the planet. This water tumbling across such a long expanse falls over 300 feet before crashing into the canyon below, creating what is considered one of the natural wonders of the world. Victoria Falls is a National Park and a World Heritage Site. Through millions of years of erosion, the Zambezi River has created a series of waterfalls, each slightly upstream of the previous one. The present Victoria Falls will eventually give way to a new waterfall. This process is already starting at the Devil's Cataract on the Zimbabwe side. Evidence of the previous waterfalls can be seen in the zig-zagging gorges downstream of today's Victoria Falls.

Activities in Livingstone include white water rafting down the Zambezi Gorge, canoeing or sunset cruises on the upper Zambezi, elephant rides, and helicopter flights over the Victoria Falls. Or just simply walking along the Falls and enjoying the view! From the Livingstone side of the Falls there's a hiking trail leading down to the Boiling Pot, where the Zambezi exits the gorge at the base of the Falls.

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### **Day 3-4: Hwange National Park | Bomani Lodge**

After breakfast embark on your road transfer to Impofu Siding (approx. 2 hours) and then board the Elephant Express Rail Car for your rail transfer to Ngamo Siding near Bomani (approx 2 hours). A packed lunch and refreshments will be served on board.



Once at Bomani, settle into your tent and then enjoy a late afternoon game drive into Hwange National Park ending up at our unique underground blind at Stoffie's Pan for sundowners, canapés and rare moments with nature. Night drive back to the lodge and then a delectable 3 course dinner out under the stars followed by coffee or a night cap around the campfire (optional sleep out excursion available).

Wake up call is early on your second morning at Bomani with freshly brewed coffee or tea followed by a tasty breakfast in the main lodge area. After breakfast head to the nearby Ngamo Village for a village and school tour where you will be able to see some community initiative projects. Return to Bomani for lunch and then later in the afternoon a game drive and walk in Hwange National Park's acacia forests surrounding Ngamo Plains, escorted by a fully licensed and experienced guide who will share their knowledge and love of the bush with you! Stop at a watering hole to watch the sun go down with refreshments and snacks before heading back to the lodge to freshen up before your farewell banquet dinner.

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**Bomani Lodge:** This luxurious tented lodge is situated in a private concession of the magnificent Ngamo Plain, on the edge of the remote and unspoiled south eastern corner of Hwange National Park. Bomani is famous for its unique scenery as well as its large herds of elephants and all other animals and birdlife resident in Hwange. Our fully licensed and knowledgeable guides will treat you to a safari experience you will never forget!



The main lodge overlooks Bomani Pan and is comprised of an open dining room, bar area and lounge, built on a spectacular viewing platform. Accommodation: 10 tents and one thatched family bungalow. Every tent is comfortably furnished and have a private en-suite bathroom, hot running water and electricity by diesel/solar generator.

**Hwange National Park:** The Hwange National Park is 5600 sq miles and is in fact as big as Northern Ireland. It is the largest National Park in Zimbabwe and one of Africa's great parks. It was granted Game Reserve status in 1928 and proclaimed a National Park in 1961. Due to the vast size of the park the landscape varies from deep Kalahari sands in the south to rocky hilly country in the north.

Hwange has always been renowned for its incredible diversity of wildlife, and to this day it boasts more varieties of mammal and bird species than any other Zimbabwean National Park. There are over 100 species of mammals, including 19 large herbivores such as buffalo, eland, sable, giraffe, zebra, and wildebeest. Hwange supports a healthy population of lions, cheetahs, leopards and some rhinos. Over 400 bird species have been recorded here. However, the area is particularly famous for its population of elephant, some 44,000 strong (based on the latest aerial survey) who in the dry season dominate all the water points in the afternoons. Combined with the elephants of northern Botswana this is the world's largest contiguous elephant population and a flagship for the Kavango Zambezi Trans Frontier Conservation Area. The northern region of the park is divided into 3 different areas, namely Main Camp, Robins and Sinamatella. The Sinamatella area of the park is a fantastic game driving and walking area.



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### **Day 5-7: Hwange National Park | Jozibanini Tented Camp**

Early morning tea or coffee and then guests pack day packs for a full day trip into the park for our one of a kind 'pump run' with a picnic and siesta under the trees at Mfagazaan Pan. Pump runs combine game viewing in remote areas of the park with practical hands-on conservation. Guests can assist their guide with day-to-day maintenance at the borehole pumps which are the heartbeat of Hwange National Park and its wildlife. (Pump runs only happen in the dry season, if travel occurs in the green season it will be an all-day game drive in the park with a picnic lunch). After the last pump and waterhole has been visited in the late afternoon, head through to Jozi from there, arriving at our rustic and wild camp at dusk. Freshen up and enjoy refreshments at the campfire before enjoying a 3-course dinner.

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Feel free to have a late lie in and enjoy a fabulous champagne breakfast out in the open. Then spend the morning at your leisure, simply relaxing and enjoying the solitude of being in a completely untouched and isolated spot within the pristine African bush.

After lunch, you will be taken on a guided game walk through the area around camp, once more experiencing Hwange's magnificent elephant at ground level. In the evening head back to camp for sundowners and snacks in front of the waterhole and later a tasty 3 course dinner out under the glorious night sky.



After breakfast guests will pack day packs and then head off on a 10-mile guided mountain bike ride through the elephant paths along the inter-dune troughs around Jozibanini.

Your guide will set up a lovely picnic lunch for you under a shady tree where you can have a rest before the ride back to camp in the afternoon. Freshen up and then enjoy sundowners in the underground blind in front of the pan. Later on enjoy a 3 course dinner before heading to bed and falling asleep with the Hwange bush vibrating around you.

**Jozibanini Camp:** Situated in the remote south west of Hwange National Park in a wilderness unused for nearly 20 years, Jozi is a small, truly exclusive camp in a truly wild place, providing a unique, untamed wilderness experience. Only the wildlife and the park rangers who look after it frequent this area, once roamed by San people. Guest accommodation consists of only 3 tents: one double bedded and two twin bedded tents on raised wooden decks tucked under shady camelthorn trees and shepherds bush. Each tent has bucket showers and flush toilets en-suite with an open-topped verandah wide enough to take a bed out for nights under the stars. The tents overlook Jozibanini Pan and dining is informal 'fly camp style' out under the stars.



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## **Day 8-9: Hwange National Park | Nehimba Lodge**

An early morning wake up with coffee or tea and breakfast before heading off on foot for some elephant tracking around Jozibanini. On returning to camp, its pack up and then a 6-hour drive through the National Park to the spectacular Nehimba Lodge in the Northern part of Hwange National Park. Lunch, snacks and drinks will be provided on this scenic all day through the park.

Once at Nehimba, settle in and start to unwind as you take a seat overlooking the tranquil waterhole in front of the lodge and enjoy the African rustic charm that surrounds you. Relax with sundowners while you watch the game come down to drink in front of the lodge and the heat starts to subside for the day as the sun dips below the horizon. A 3-course delectable bush dinner will be served out under the African sky near the lodge waterhole.

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Guests will pack day packs and head out with their guide for game drives and walks, exploring this beautiful Northern part of Hwange National Park; the North is distinctly different from the Southern part in topography, habitats and species of wildlife.

Stop off at the Nehimba Seep for a mid-morning tea and cookies break. The seep is an ancient source of water once used by the San Bushmen historically as well as being a place where elephant still dig for water and minerals. Return to the lodge for a leisurely lunch and then siesta or perhaps relax by the lodge swimming pool, frequented by Hwange's thirsty herds during the dry season. Later in the afternoon, head out on a game drive within the park, ending with cool refreshments and canapés at sunset over one of this area's famed waterholes.



Back at camp our guests can enjoy a relaxing bath or shower to freshen up before the three-course dinner in the main lodge area, followed by reliving the days' safari around the campfire and later fall asleep to the sounds of the African bush around you.

**Nehimba Lodge:** Remotely nestled away on a huge private concession in the Northern part of Hwange National Park, Nehimba Lodge combines luxury living, ultimate elegance and African charm to provide you with an exceptional safari experience. Seven spacious thatched chalets are built on teak decks and along with the guest area, overlook the magnificent lodge pan, which are frequented by large numbers of elephants, particularly in the dry season. All the thatched tents have a private balcony, en-suite bathroom, outdoor shower, hot running water and electricity by generator.



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### **Day 10: Return to Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe**

Very early morning tea or coffee on your private deck taking the magnificent sights and sounds of the African bush before a hearty farewell breakfast in the main lodge.

Then it's time to pack up for your scenic road transfer through the Sinamatella area and then onto the main road to Victoria Falls airport to catch your departing International flight (5hrs).

**~ End of Services ~**

## 2018 Safari Rates

As this is just a sample itinerary, please contact us if you are interested in creating a Zimbabwe lodge safari. Final rates will depend on availability, dates of travel, and specific lodges.

Take advantage of our special rates! At Nehimba, Zambezi Sands or Camelthorn, STAY for 3 nights and PAY for 2! Or stay a total of 6 nights (you can combine different lodges) and pay for 4 nights.

**INCLUDED:** Services of a professional guide, game drives in customized safari vehicles, park entrance fees, all meals specified in itinerary, all drinks (local beers, spirits, soft drinks), 2 activities/lodge/day, all transfers.

**EXCLUDED:** All flights and taxes, entry visas, travel insurance, optional extensions, activities in Victoria Falls, gratuities, pre-/post safari accommodations, items of a personal nature.

*\*This is an estimate of services included or excluded and will depend on your final itinerary. Generally, a Zimbabwe lodge itinerary is fully inclusive.*



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