



The Mana Pools Canoe Safari is a luxurious mobile camp where you leave camp with the sunrise and leisurely canoe your way to the next camp. Floating into camp with the sunset you will find an ice cold drink, hot shower and dinner being prepared. This 3 night, 4 day safari follows the Zambezi River through the Mana Pools National Park. Canoeing offers guests a unique way of viewing game, you can glide up to elephants crossing the Zambezi and watch game coming down to the river to drink. Canoeing begins near the confluence of the Ruckomechi River and Zambezi River and continues along the Mana Pools shoreline to Illala Camp across from Chikwenya Island in the Mana Pools 'Wilderness Area.'

Our camps are true bush camps, offering rustic luxury – there is no electricity, no permanent structures and no plumbing. A taste of the way safaris used to be, a truly authentic African bush experience. The camps are eco-friendly, designed to be erected and dismantled within hours, leaving not trace on the environment.

We also offer a series of budget friendly Adventurer canoe safaris. These safaris are semi-participatory where guests pitch their tents and assist with some of the camp chores. You'll sleep in dome tents and on a mattress pad. Yes, you'll forego some amenities but camping on remote islands in the Zambezi River makes this a true adventure!

Please contact us for rates, dates, availability or with any questions.

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~ Mana Pools Luxury Canoe Safari ~

Day 1: Mana Pools National Park | Wild River Camping

After being collected by the guide, guests are driven 20 miles - a leisurely game drive through the spectacular Mana Pools floodplain - to the first night's campsite. The area has one of the highest concentrations of wildlife in Zimbabwe and the drive is usually very rewarding - enabling your guide to give an overview of the various animals, birds and plants that make up this unique habitat. Vehicles are open Toyota Land Cruisers with good all-round visibility. On arrival at Vundu, the first camp, met by the welcome smiles of our support staff, lunch will be served. Usually consisting of cold meats, a variety of salads and freshly baked breads.



After a refreshing lunch break you will take a short drive to the canoe launch-spot near the confluence of the Ruckomechi and Zambezi Rivers. Here, the guide will give a full safety briefing, pointing out where all equipment - such as the first aid kit - is kept, as well as explaining what to do in an emergency. The briefing also covers the basic techniques of steering and controlling the Canadian-style (18 ft) canoes. The group then departs downstream, by canoe, returning to Vundu camp. This first afternoon of paddling is taken at a slow pace, allowing you time to become accustomed to the canoes and methods of steering. You should now begin to see some of the multitude of animals and birds attracted to the water's edge. Hippo, buffalo, elephant and crocodile, as well as a variety of antelope species, may be seen.

Arrival at camp is around sunset. The camp will be fully prepared and you will be able to sit back and relax with sundowners and snacks - tea and coffee and hot showers are also available. A campfire is already burning and this is invariably where guests will gather to discuss the day's events and plan for the morning. In the background, your support staff and resident bush cook are busy preparing a three-course dinner for you.



Overnights | Camping on the Zambezi River

Included Meals | Lunch, Dinner

Activities | Game drive and canoeing

Day 2: Mana Pools National Park | Wild River Camping

An early wake-up - as dawn breaks. Hot water for freshening up will be placed in raised basins outside each tent, while tea, freshly brewed coffee, muffins or home-made biscuits are already waiting by the campfire. While you pack up your personal kit, the support staff load the canoes with all required for the day ahead. Guests need only worry about a small daypack carrying essentials such as sun block, camera, spare film, hat and binoculars. The aim is to be in the canoes and on the water in time to watch the sunrise. As one of the most

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magical times of day, you will be enchanted as you drift along quietly, listening to the sounds of the African wild waking to a new day.

Following paddling for couple of hours, breakfast takes place under a grove of acacia trees. After breakfast, guests have the opportunity to set off on a walk on the floodplain and surrounding woodlands. This is a great time to try and view predators before they hide-up for the day. You may even be lucky enough to spot one or more of the diurnal animals making their way down to the river. This walk offers an opportunity, not only for game viewing, but also to explore some of the more interesting aspects of the environment. Guests will spot a variety of animal spoor, and may even find themselves engrossed in tracking down a particular species. The guide will share fascinating facts about strange insects and spiders as well as a wealth of knowledge about this miniature world that forms such an integral part of the bush. Sounds of many brightly colored birds can be heard while marveling at the beauty and tranquility of this unique area.



Returning to the canoes guests head downstream to an area renowned for its huge, old elephant bulls. The guide tries to time the trip to catch them swimming or wading out to the grass islands, where the canoes will be able to glide quietly alongside these awesome giants. Their age makes them placid enough that they tend to ignore the canoes.

Lunch break coincides with the heat of the day. The canoes are pulled up below a grove of mahogany trees whose dense shade provides a welcome relief. The meal generally consists of cold meats, freshly prepared salads, pizza or quiche and cheese and biscuits. After eating and drinking their ice-cold drinks, guests have a choice to either take another short walk through the mahogany forest or to just relax and enjoy an afternoon siesta. The late afternoon and evening is spent drifting down to camp and enjoying the game and birding along the river's edge.

Our welcoming support staff are waiting at camp, which is reached by sunset. This night's camp, Chessa, overlooks a small channel, with a large grass plain separating it from the main Zambezi, 500 yards away. Frequently the plain hosts buffalo, waterbuck, elephant and hippo in the evenings.



Overnights | Camping on the Zambezi River
Included Meals | Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Activities | Canoeing and bush walks

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Day 3: Mana Pools National Park | Wild River Camping

This follows the same basic itinerary as day two, with a predawn wake up and sunrise while drifting down the Zambezi. However, this is the day that guests will enter the “Wilderness Area” of Mana Pools National Park where there is limited access to people and vehicles. In fact, the only road is about 3 miles in-land - the same one our support team will use. From here on you are entering a much more remote environment.



Breakfast may be taken on the Mbera River floodplain, which comprises stunning acacia woodland with large patches of thick “Adrenaline” grass – a habitat much favored by all the predators. Towards the end of the dry season it also hosts large groups of female elephants with their babies. The day is spent paddling through a maze of small channels before once again joining the main Zambezi. For a change, lunch is on one of the shallow sandbanks in the middle of the river, where a table and chairs are set up in ankle deep water with the whole width of the river stretching out on either side.

This afternoon is the last chance for canoeing. Depending on water levels and time allowed, there may be an opportunity to explore Chikwenya Island on foot. This unique island is the largest on this section of the river and is host to prolific bird life as well as a number of interesting mammal species. In the afternoon you will paddle into Illala Camp to spend the last night in the rustic luxury of the your camp.



Overnights | Camping on the Zambezi River

Included Meals | Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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Day 4: Depart Mana Pools National Park

Depending on guests departure time, or if guests are moving on to an alternative camp, an early morning walk before breakfast is possible or a well deserved lie in. After which, there will be a short game drive to the airstrip or Nyamepi main camp where we will bid you farewell. As you depart with your memories, we know that this experience will have enriched your life and touched your soul!

~ End of Services ~

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Mana Pools Canoe Safari (Luxury) 2018 Rates

(per person sharing)

June - October: **\$1685**

November - May: **\$1330**

A 20% non-refundable deposit is required to confirm booking. Rates subject to change due to any unforeseen price increase. Single supplement applicable, contact us for rate.

We also offer a budget-friendly **Adventurer Canoe Safari** with lengths of 3, 4, 6, 8, or 10 days. The 4-day Adventure Canoe Safari rates (per person sharing) are **\$990 (June-Oct)** and **\$840 (Nov-May)**. Contact us dates, availability, and rates for other Adventure Canoe Safari departures.

INCLUDED*

- All transfers from Main Camp - Nyamepi or airstrips are in open 4x4 vehicles.
- All meals.
- Drinks - Including local beers, spirits, imported wines, minerals, cordials, mineral water, tea and coffee.
- All canoeing equipment - Canoes are two-man, Canadian-style canoes, and the paddles are American Carlisle paddles.
- All camping equipment.
- Professional guide.

EXCLUDED*

- All flights (international & within Zimbabwe) and departure taxes.
- Entry visas.
- Travel insurance (required).
- Optional safari extensions.
- Staff gratuities.
- Pre-/post-safari accommodation.
- Items of personal nature and toiletries.

**Services included or excluded and will depend on your final itinerary and may vary between the luxury and adventurer canoe safari.*

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LUXURY CANOE CAMPS: Custom built, spacious, walk-in tents guarantee guests comfort with en-suite toilet facilities for night use and comfortable beds with fresh linen. The tents are mosquito proof with mosquito gauze on the roof so guests can lie in bed and enjoy the night sky. Tents have flysheets to ensure guests to not get wet if it does rain. Camps are fully equipped with a kitchen accompanied with an experienced bush cook, bar facilities and dining area as well as waiter service. The safari is fully backed up with your safari team and 4x4 vehicle. The team will take care of all your needs and camp chores.



ADVENTURER CANOE CAMPS: These safaris are semi participatory and come with a fully qualified canoe guide who will navigate you down the great Zambezi. He will take care of the cooking, washing up and other camp tasks and being semi participatory, guests are free to help. There are no ablution facilities on these safaris. Guests are provided with a spade, toilet paper and matches to burn the toilet paper. Bathing is done from a bucket using water scooped out of the Zambezi River. Adventurer safaris are self-contained. All equipment and food is carried in the canoes and there is no vehicle back up apart from pick-up and drop off.

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