



HARTLEY'S SAFARIS

FINDING YOUR AFRICA



Zambia

Victoria Falls, Livingstone
Kafue National Park
Mpumalanga and Limpopo
South Luangwa National Park
North Luangwa National Park
Lower Zambezi National Park
Liuwa Plains
Lochinvar National Park
Lake Bangweulu and Kasanaka National Parks



INTRODUCTION

Zambia is a land locked country located in south central Africa, bordered by the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the north, Tanzania to the north-east, Malawi to the east, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Botswana, and Namibia to the south, and Angola to the west.

For many travellers, Zambia is known primarily for the grandeur of the Victoria Falls, however Zambia also offers some of the world's best safari opportunities, with three large permanent rivers and an enticing network of National Parks.

Big rivers form the core of nearly all of Zambia's largest and best wildlife areas; the Luangwa River runs through North and South Luangwa National Parks, the Kafue runs for most of the length of the Kafue National Park and the Zambezi River forms the entire southern boundary of the Lower Zambezi National Park.

Most of these National parks are remote and still relatively undeveloped. Due to their remote locations, many visitors fly to the reserves or nearby towns and are picked up by safari operators. The parks protect many of the big game species found elsewhere but

also endemic species such as the Thornicroft's giraffe and Cookson's wildebeest.

One of the world's greatest wildlife migrations partly takes place in the Kasanka National Park, when several million straw-coloured bats start arriving from central Africa between November and December. Millions of these bats roost in a small section of swamp forest, taking advantage of the wide range of fruits available at that time of the year.

Zambia is situated mainly on a plateau and most of the country enjoys a mild climate, while the river valleys are hotter and more humid. The extreme north becomes tropical on the shores of Lake Tanganyika, one of Zambia's ten large lakes.

While Lusaka is the country's capital, Livingstone is the destination for a Victoria Falls holiday.





HISTORY

Hunter gatherers lived in the region many centuries ago and the first agriculturalists arrived during the 12th century, when they began establishing the Mwene Mutapa empire in many parts of what is now modern Zambia.

Settlement continued for the next four or five centuries as more people moved in from central Africa, establishing small areas of influence of their own.

By the 18th century Portuguese explorers had started visiting the region and by the 19th century Arab slave traders had created instability in many parts of the country. The slave trade slowly declined and by the end of the century, Britain had established control over the region and it became known as Northern Rhodesia. Copper was discovered in the 1920s which led to an influx of European settlers.

The British later created the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland, which comprised of Northern Rhodesia (Zambia) Southern Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) and Nyasaland (now Malawi).

The Federation was dissolved in 1963 and in 1964 the country was granted Independence and became Zambia. Since independence the country has held a number of elections.

PEOPLE, CULTURE AND ECONOMY

There are over 70 tribes in Zambia with a wide range of cultural traditions and language. The main tribes are the Bemba, the Ngoni, the Lozi, the Tonga, and the Luvale.

Zambia has more than 20 annual traditional ceremonies, some of which are very colourful.

Every year at the end of the rainy season, usually in February or March, depending on the intensity of the rains, the Lozi people hold the Kuomboka ceremony during which the King makes a ceremonial trip from the rising floodwaters to higher ground.

The King and his retinue travel in huge canoe across the Barotse Floodplain in Western Zambia during the colourful and joyful ceremony.

Although the process of industrialization and urbanization has brought Zambians together in urban areas many retain strong links with rural areas and maintain their traditional customs.

Many Zambians are dependent on subsistence farming and fishing, which has resulted in a variety of crops being grown for export.

Most of Zambia's copper is found in the north, a region known as The Copper Belt. Zambia's economy is heavily influenced by the international copper price.

ZAMBIA IN BRIEF

- Capital City: Lusaka
- Area: 752 618 km² / 285 995 mi²
- Population: 13.8 million
- Time zone: GMT +2
- Currency: Kwacha (ZMK)
- Electricity: 220V
- Geography: Deciduous savannas, grassy plains and even rain forest in the areas around Victoria Falls.
- Language: English is the official language

WHEN TO GO

- January to March: summer and the rainy season, the rivers are in flood and the ox bow lagoons fill up, hot weather with afternoon thunderstorms, bush is lush and green and game dispersed, beautiful photographic light, migratory birds, incredible sunsets.
- April to May: potential rain storms still around, warm to hot days, bush very green and the grass is long, excellent birding, good game viewing, Victoria Falls water levels extremely high and impressive.
- June to July: mid winter so it can be very cold at night and on early morning game drives, clear cool to warm days, game viewing very good.
- August: varies from cool to hot, bush dry with lagoons shrinking, game viewing excellent and numbers increasing.
- September: hot, dry and hazy, excellent game viewing, carmine bee-eaters nesting through to November.
- October: very dry with excellent game viewing, occasional rain will clear the air, can be very hot, new growth starts and newborns arrive, Victoria Falls extremely low.
- November to December: November to December - hot and humid, dramatic lightening showers, bush green and fresh, excellent bird watching.



CLIMATE

Mfuwe	Temp °C		Rainfall mm
	Min	Max	
Jan	21	31	211
Feb	20	31	182
Mar	20	31	130
Apr	18	31	46
May	12	30	3
Jun	11	29	0
Jul	11	29	0
Aug	13	31	0
Sep	15	34	0
Oct	23	35	15
Nov	21	36	85
Dec	21	32	164

Kafue	Temp °C		Rainfall mm
	Min	Max	
Jan	17	27	189.9
Feb	17	28	165.4
Mar	16	28	97.1
Apr	14	27	23.2
May	12	26	0
Jun	9	24	0
Jul	8	24	12.8
Aug	11	27	13.8
Sep	14	30	12.8
Oct	17	32	60.9
Nov	17	31	91.4
Dec	16	28	181.3







HIGHLIGHTS

VICTORIA FALLS

Livingstone

When the Zambezi River is in flood, the Victoria Falls is the world's largest sheet of falling water. The river, which can reach a width of 1.6 km (one mile) during the flood, plummets 105 m (340 feet) into the gorge below sending plumes of spray high into the air.

The Falls, have long being known to the local Kololo people as "Mosi oa Tunya"- "The Smoke that thunders".

Visitors can enjoy spectacular views by following the many different paths along the gorge, the best being along the Knife Edge Bridge that leads out to an isolated island from where one looks directly across to the eastern Cataract and the Main Falls.

Far below is the churning maelstrom of The Boiling Pot, where the river turns and heads down a dramatic series of gorges.

Many people cross the Victoria Falls Bridge into Zimbabwe to get another, no less impressive, perspective of the falls. Visas are easily obtained at the border.

The spectacular nature of the topography in the area lends itself to a wide range of activities including bungee jumping off the bridge, helicopter viewing of the falls, white water rafting, horse-back safaris and boat trips up the Zambezi. There are also a wide variety of luxurious lodges situated along the river bank near Livingstone.

Those who prefer less energetic activities, although no less thrilling, may want to try lunch on Livingstone Island and a swim in the "Devil's Swimming Pool," a

shallow pool cut off from the edge of the Falls by a narrow wall of rock. The pool is only accessible from the Zambian side of the Falls at low water, usually from September to November. The adventurous can lean on the rocks and peer into the chasm below, but it is not an exercise for the fainthearted and should only by undertaken with extreme caution.



SOUTH LUANGWA NATIONAL PARK

Zambia's Luangwa Valley is situated at the end of the Great Rift Valley and has a wide variety of wildlife and scenic variation. The valley covers an area of over 9064 km², through which the meandering Luangwa River runs.

Amongst South Luangwa's many herbivores, three are endemic to the area, namely the Thornicroft's giraffe, Cookson's wildebeest and the Crawshay's zebra.

South Luangwa is renowned for its high population of leopards and elephants and buffalo can be seen in herds by the hundred. Predators, including lions, spotted hyena and wild dog are regularly seen as well.

The park boasts spectacular birding opportunities, one highlight being the migration of the carmine bee-eater. During August and September colonies arrive to nest along holes in the side of sandy river banks before embarking on their journey in the new year.

The natural salt springs in the Nsefu sector also attracts a large amount of bird action, home to thousands of resident crowned cranes, and a temporary home to large breeding colonies of yellow-billed storks during the rainy season.

Some lodges in South Luangwa close down in the wet season as flooding makes movement by road difficult.

Many visitors fly to Mfuwe Airport near the park and are collected by drivers from the lodges. Most game viewing is done from safari vehicles but walking safaris are also popular.



NORTH LUANGWA NATIONAL PARK

North Luangwa is an extremely remote area that covers some 4,636km² of the Luangwa Valley. The park is well known for its large herds of buffalo and large prides of lion.

Other common mammals include, hyena, Cookson's wildebeest, Thornicroft's giraffe, bushbuck, zebra, warthog, baboon, vervet monkey, puku and impala.

Black rhino numbers are growing after having been reintroduced to North Luangwa and occasional sightings of elephant and leopard are also seen.

The park boasts an abundance of birdlife, with regular sightings of Crowned cranes, Purple crested turacos, Broad billed rollers, Lilian's lovebirds, Carmine bee-eaters, Giant eagle owls and Pel's fishing owls.

The park can be entered into either via air or road and a few camps within the park offer walking safaris.



LIUWA PLAINS

The Liuwa Plains National Park is one of the least known game areas in Zambia, despite playing host to Africa's second largest wildebeest migration.

Although nowhere near as large as the famous Serengeti migration, some 45 000 wildebeest annually move from the vast open plain of the park, crossing an area of 3 600 km² into Angola. The best time to see the wildebeest migration is in late October and November, when the wildebeest give birth to their calves.

This is also the best time for game viewing in the park as a large number of predator's prey on the calves.



KAFUE NATIONAL PARK

Covering an area of some 22 400 km², Kafue National Park is one of the largest National Parks in Africa. The Kafue river runs throughout the park creating a mosaic of miombo woodland, riverine woodland and grassy dambos (drainage lines). The river is a hive of activity and home to pods of hippos, crocodiles and a plethora of bird species.

Due to its size, the parks geography varies considerably. In the extreme north of the Kafue lie the Busanga Plains, a broad grassland that floods in the wet season, leaving behind a thick blanket of lush vegetation. The Busanga Plains offers the best game viewing in the Kafue National park, attracting large herds of buffalo along with lions, cheetah and wild dogs.

In the south of the park, the Kafue river becomes dotted with islands and sandbanks as numerous streams and rivers drain into the Itezhi Tezhi Dam collectively. Despite the presence of Lake Itezhi-Tezhi the south of the park is less concentrated with wildlife and often less visited than the north.



LOWER ZAMBEZI NATIONAL PARK

The Lower Zambezi valley is a huge crevice in the earth's crust, through which the vast Zambezi River flows. Mineral-rich volcanic soils have blessed the valley with lush vegetation, attracting a large variety of wildlife.

The remote Lower Zambezi National Park is Zambia's newest park, only declared a protected area in 1983. Together with the famous Mana Pools National Park in Zimbabwe, which lies on the opposite bank of the river, the park forms part of a massive transboundary protected area. Elephants and hippos, lions and buffalo regularly cross between the two areas.

The park includes three different habitats, the river is bordered by thick riverine vegetation, while further inland is a floodplain fringed with mopane forest and Winterthorn woodland.

Most of the larger game animals are usually found along the valley floor, in the areas bordering the river.

Canoeing safaris and boating trips on the river offer visitors a unique opportunity for game viewing as many large mammals do not see boats as a threat, allowing visitors to get close to animals along the banks.



LOCHINVAR NATIONAL PARK

This park protects an internationally important wetland on the Kafue Flats. In the centre of the reserve lies the expansive Chunga Lagoon. Due to the large flood plains and bodies of water the Lochinvar park is an excellent destination for bird watching, especially aquatic birds.

Although the reserve is fairly small by Zambian standards (428 sq. km - 165 sq. miles) more than 420 bird species have been recorded there. The park is also home to large herds of Kafue lechwe, Blue wildebeest, kudu, buffalo and oribi, to name but a few.



LAKE BANGWEULU AND KASANAKA NATIONAL PARKS

These two wildlife areas are close together and many visitors usually stop at both parks. Lake Bangweule is a large wetland, dotted with islands, reed beds and lagoons. It is well known for its prolific birdlife, including the Shoebill stork, which is unique to the area.

Some 75 000 endemic black lechwe also occur in the surrounding flood plains.

Kasanaka National Park is located on the south western edge of Lake Bangweulu and hosts part of one of the largest mammal migrations on earth. Each November and December several million Straw-coloured bats arrive from central Africa to roost in a small area of swamp forest.

The fruit eating bats attract large numbers of predators, including eagles, hawks and falcons, while pythons and crocodiles feast on bats that have died or accidentally fallen to the ground.



OFF THE BEATEN TRACK

For a truly unique holiday experience, there are few better ways to discover the real heart and soul of a country than to travel away from the traditional tourist destinations and go 'off the beaten track'. With the wealth of experience we have gained through our many years creating bespoke holidays to Africa, Hartley's Safaris offer an extensive portfolio of experiences that allow you to embrace the true spirit and adventure of this magnificent country in a safe and secure manner.



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