

Zambia – Into the Wild

Detailed Itinerary

Zambia is a safari enthusiast's dream with over 30% of the country's land allocated to National Parks. The wildlife and game are second to none and is a place where you can see rare and endemic sightings of many species including – The Black Lechwe, Shoebill Stork, Sitatunga Antelope and the Blue Duiker. 'Into the Wild' itinerary does exactly what it says on the tin; be prepared to wade through boggy swamps to view one of the most rarest storks in the world and horseback ride through herds of Zebra. However we have made sure there is always time to relax and the lodges and places we have suggested to stay ensure you will have an abundance of luxuries. The 'Africa House' and 'Kapishya Hot Springs' are also a must when planning a trip to Zambia.

Our sample itineraries can be modified and adapted to suit your own interests, budget and time; please feel free to design your own itinerary and use this for ideas.

Trip Summary

14 days

Lodge accommodation

Best time to visit: July - November

Start LUSAKA > KASANKA NATIONAL PARK > BANGWEULU SWAMPS > SHIWA > NORTH LUANGWA > end SOUTH LUANGWA

Trip Details

Day 1-2

Arrive Lusaka International Airport where you will be personally greeted.

From the airport we shall travel North by 4x4 safari vehicle to Kasanka National Park, stopping off for lunch along the way, this is a journey of approximately 6 hours.

Arrive at the gate of Kasanka National Park where 30k inside the park you will stay on the edges of the majestic Lake Wasa on the Eastern side of the park. Accommodation includes a beautiful lodge overlooking the lake where, Hippo, Puku, an amazing array of birdlife and the elusive Sitatunga Antelope can be viewed whilst enjoying breakfast from the veranda.

Kasanka is one of Zambia's smallest parks covering just 420 square kilometres and the only park in Zambia under private management. Kasanka is interlaced with numerous rivers, lakes, wetlands and some stunning papyrus swamps and as a result it is an area famous for its superb birdlife. Like many of the parks, Kasanka was badly hit with poaching but in 1985 was rescued by a British



expatriate, who along with a local farmer decided to launch a petition to save the park from extinction and set up the Kasanka Trust.

A few years later they were rewarded with a 10 year agreement by the National Parks and Wildlife Services who agreed to help the Trust, in supporting and sustaining the park and its wildlife. Consequently the game populations are now beginning to prosper and recover, a real success story in conservation.

Several rare species are abundant in the park, including Sitatunga, Wattled crane, Ross's Lourie and Blue Monkeys; Kasanka is also host to a unique and spectacular congregation of several million straw-coloured Fruitbats every November and December. What Kasanka represents is an opportunity to visit a small and fragile pocket of Africa well off the beaten track.

Activities include; game drives, walks, game viewing from towering hides, boat trips, and good fishing.

Day 3-4

After an early breakfast it is time to leave Kasanka National Park and head to the Bangweulu Swamps, via Livingstone Memorial, which is where the famous explorer David Livingstone died. A very important piece of African History. This is a journey of about 5 hours.

Arrive at the vast Bengweulu Flood Plains, one of the most remote game areas of Zambia. Here you will see the astonishing sight of thousands of Black Lechwe Antelope as well as incredible birdlife, including if you are lucky, one of the rarest and most elusive birds in Africa, the Shoebill Stork.



Here you will be staying at an Island Camp offering spacious safari tents under thatch roofs and reed cottages. Each has 2 beds, an ensuite shower and flush toilet. The island has panoramic views over the swamps, an amazing watery wilderness for the adventurous, Shoebills are often visible from the camp!

The Bengweulu Flood Plains are part of the Great Bengweulu Basin – a depression in the centre of an ancient cratonic platform. The floodplain itself is dominated by grasslands stretching as far as the eye can see. Dense stands of papyrus grass and reeds surround areas of open water, accessible by canoe. Unique to the floodplains is the water loving Black Lechwe, which can gather in their thousands, following the floodwaters as they recede during the year. Sitatungas are also present as well as Oribi, Tsessebe, Common Duiker and Reedbuck. Less commonly seen are Roan and Wild Dog.

With wetlands, grasslands and woodlands in such close proximity, a great diversity of birds can be seen in a relatively small area. One of the most rare and elusive birds in Africa, the Shoebill Stork, which is in fact closer to the pelican family than a stork. The bird favours the Bengweulu area as an important habitat, making this a vital refuge for this very threatened species. Other fairly rare birds that are reasonably abundant include the Swamp Flycatcher, Marsh Tchagra, Marsh Whydah and White-cheeked bee-eater. The floodplains simply teem with birds including Pratincoles, Ruff by the Thousand, Crowned Cranes, Montague's & Pallid Harriers, and the shallow waterlines are abound with Duck, Geese, Jacanas, Spoonbills, Pelicans and occasionally Flamingos.

Activities here include; game drives, mokoro trips, Shoebill adventure, guided walks and fantastic bird watching.



Day 5-7

This morning you will take a 4 hour scenic drive from the Benguelu Swamps, through Lavushimanda National Park arriving at Shiwa House in time for lunch.



Shiwa House is situated in the remote heart of Northern Zambia, a majestic home built by a remarkable man; Stewart Gore Brown over 80 years ago. The story of Shiwa is told in the classic book 'The Africa House'. Charles Harvey, eldest Grandson of Sir Stewart and his wife Jo bought the house and estate from other family members and have since painstakingly restored the house and revived the estate, turning it into a wonderful country house style accommodation, with its glorious mix of English stately home and Tuscan villa.

The food at Shiwa is excellent, simple and wholesome; it is mostly grown on the estate and will have you running for the elegant dining hall. The garden is full of beautiful flowers and the lawns are very well maintained. At Shiwa you will have complete run of the house and many spend hours enjoying the library of Sir Stewart's books, record collections and archives. This place is truly unique to anywhere in Africa and has a timeless atmosphere.

There is great game and wildlife viewing at Shiwa and just so much to enjoy! Activities here include game viewing, boating on the lake, fishing, horse riding, superb bird watching, river walks, historical drives and walks, meeting the people of the estate, visiting the schools and hospitals and ongoing projects.

A visit to Kapishya Hot Springs just 20kms away is a must whilst at Shiwa. The Hot Springs are an idyllic spot to spend your time relaxing in the natural, sulphur free warm water. A tranquil and relaxing place where you can forget about the stresses of everyday life.



Day 8-10

From Shiwa House you will take a short drive to the entrance of North Luangwa National Park. Then enjoy a scenic game drive to an exclusive tented camp in the heart of this vast park which holds the greatest concentrations of game. Enjoy a few days in this true wilderness area where the human visitor is very much the rarer species!

The North Luangwa National Park is not open to the public. Only licensed operators can conduct safaris and as such, you will experience a truly remote and wild safari. As a result of a successful anti-poaching program, the North Park was chosen as the location for the re-introduction for the Black Rhino in 2003. The North Park has been described as 'one of the greatest wildlife sanctuaries in the world today'. The area is particularly noted for its massive herd of buffalo that in turn attract lion and other predators. Other game regularly seen includes Elephant, Eland,



Hippo, Cookson's Wildebeest, Hartebeest, Reedbuck, Bushbuck, Zebra and Hyena. Night drives are allowed in the Luangwa that greatly increases your chances of seeing Leopard and other nocturnal specials like Porcupine, Aardvark and Bush Babies.

Birds commonly sighted include Purple Crested Louries, Lilian's Lovebird, Carmine bee-eaters and Pel's Fishing Owl. The North Park also has some East African bird species that don't occur further south – the White-winged Starling, Yellow-throated Longclaw and the Chestnut-mantled Sparrow Weaver.

The camp is a seasonal bush camp which is very comfortable and stylish and all accommodations are ensuite with hot showers. The camp is rebuilt and taken down each year and is situated on the banks of the Mwaleshi River to allow maximum appreciation of the spectacular views and so game viewing will be fantastic right outside your front door.

Activities here include; guided walking safaris and game drives.

Day 11-14



After a leisurely breakfast, enjoy a game drive down to the southern part of the Luangwa National Park, enjoying a picnic lunch along the way.

The South Luangwa National Park covers an area of 9050sqkms in the north east of the country and is renowned for its unspoilt beauty and varied habitats. The meandering Luangwa River with its many ox-bow lagoons and shady ebony groves forms the eastern boundary of the park, whilst the western horizon is dominated by the spectacular Mchinga escarpment, rising steeply from the valley floor. The Luangwa Valley boasts some of the most rewarding game

viewing in southern African – 60 mammal species - and a great place to see leopard, as well as the unique Thornicroft's Giraffe and Cookson's wildebeest. There are big herds of Elephant, and in there hundreds march down to the river, seeking water and shade under the tallest trees of Ebony, Acacia, Mahogany and Tamarind.

There are also huge herds of Buffalo in the rivers and lagoons and possibly the highest concentrations of Hippos and Crocodiles in Africa. There are numerous prides of Lion, and many other animal species such as Zebra, Warthog, Monkeys, Baboons and a number of Antelope species also If you are lucky, you can see Wild Dog.

The floodplains and riverbanks teem with waterbirds – Herons, Storks, Egrets, Fish Eagles, Kingfishers to name a few and it is possible to see Pels Fishing Owl, Western Banded Snake Eagle, Lilians Lovebirds and from mid-August the Luangwa River banks house extensive carmine Bee-eater colonies. More than 400 bird species have been recorded in the Luangwa Valley.



Here you will stay at a luxurious camp in a prime position, at the heart of a prolific game viewing area. It is one of the most northern camps in the South Luangwa.

Activities include game drives and guided walking safaris in one of the most prolific wildlife areas in Africa, a photographer's paradise.

From South Luangwa there will be a scheduled flight back to Lusaka for your onward journey.

We can add Victoria Falls and Livingstone on to your trip if required.

To book this trip or for further information please contact a member of
our experienced team

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