

NSEFU CAMP, SOUTH LUANGWA NATIONAL PARK - ZAMBIA

Nsefu Camp, Zambia's oldest camp – originally built in 1951 – turns 20 this year under the Robin Pope Safaris' banner. Set on a stunning wide bend of the Luangwa River in the game rich Nsefu Sector, Nsefu enjoys a truly remote setting which it shares with sister camp Tena Tena. Complementary complimentary

Looking back in time – where it all begun and how far we have come:

- 1950** First Nsefu Camp, a temporary camp, opened north of the present site by the northern Rhodesian Game Department. The camp had been used for department officials when on duty. Turning the camp into a tourist camp came as the initiative of chief Nsefu and in turn all the profits from the camp went to him. The department assisted with the development of the scheme giving advise, providing construction and maintenance of access and gameviewing roads, the training of Native Authority Game Guards, camp reservations and with publicity.
- 1951** Nsefu Camp - moved to the present site as a temporary camp.
- 1954** Nsefu Camp - upgraded to a 12 bedded permanent camp.
- 1965** Nsefu Camp - taken over by the new independent government, under the Zambian National Tourist Board.
- 1966** Nsefu Reserve declared a Game Reserve, thus legalizing its status.
- 1971** The National Parks and Wildlife Act of 1968 comes into effect thus forming the South Luangwa National Park. This included the Nsefu Sector. Nsefu Camp continued to be run by various government departments.
- 1979** Two chalets burnt down, and the camp was closed. Zambia Safaris the largest hunting company in Southern Africa at the time took over the camp.
- 1981** Robin Pope, on a profit-sharing basis reopened the camp for Zambia Safaris. Robin ran the camp for five years during which he developed his reputation. In 1982 he opened Tena Tena as a 'fly camp' for three-day walking safaris from Nsefu.
- 1984** At the end of the '84 season, Zambia Safaris folded, and the company was taken over by Eco Safaris.
- 1985** Robin left Nsefu Camp and opened Tena Tena as a 12 bedded camp under his own company - Robin Pope Safaris. Between 1985 and 1997 Nsefu Camp was run by Wilderness Trails. After declining occupancy levels, the camp did not open for the 1997 season.
- 1998** Robin Pope Safaris takes over the Nsefu Camp lease and starts renovations.
- 1999** July – Nsefu Camp opens as a Robin Pope Safaris camp.
- 2004** Luangwa Bush Camp, then called Nsefu Fly Camp, started operating between Nsefu Camp and Tena Tena.
- 2009** River Journeys: launched to now operate Nsefu for a few weeks between Jan and Mar.

Nsefu Camp is a historical property and in fact a listed property. Due to this there can be very little structural changes that can be made to the camp but innovation over the years has helped make it remain 'current':

- ➔ Wide windows and doors.
- ➔ Shady verandas on each chalet.
- ➔ Soft furnishings.
- ➔ Most recently 'Evening Breeze cooling system' – excellent eco-friendly air-conditioning/cooling system for the bed.

Highlights of the camp:

- ➔ **Location** – true remote wilderness of Nsefu Sector, only shared with sister camp Tena Tena.
- ➔ **The Hide** – perfectly positioned by a game rich lagoon, offering an option to stay in camp instead of going out on an activity. Perhaps even enjoy the sightings here instead of an afternoon snooze...
- ➔ **Lounge area** – views over the Luangwa and a game rich lagoon which often offers excellent sightings for our guests. We have almost daily views of elephants crossing the river once the river levels drop.
- ➔ **Stork colony** – an annual phenomenon of peak breeding season for the yellow billed storks. Hundreds of these birds congregate on a small cluster of huge ebony trees, where they breed and raise their young. There are so many birds that the trees turn white from the excrement. There are plenty crocodiles and marabou storks waiting patiently under the trees for the inevitable nestling casualties. The storks usually start to congregate in Feb/March and the last fledglings leave the colony in late April early May.
- ➔ **River Journeys** – Nsefu opens for a few weeks Jan-Mar to explore the Luangwa during the Emerald Season while the Luangwa River is flowing high. Walking remains on during this period, mixed with boating safaris; which makes for incredible contrast to dry season experiences.

NSEFU @ 20 YEARS UNDER ROBIN POPE SAFARIS

- **Itinerary** Nsefu Camp 2 nights, Luangwa Bush Camping 2 nights & Tena Tena 2 nights
- **Includes** all safari activities, meals, bar, laundry, internal flights ex Lusaka, transfers to/from Mfuwe airport
- **Excludes** airport taxes, visa fees, gratuities and items of a personal nature
- **Valid** set departures with some of our top [Safari Guides](#):
 - ✓ **31 May 2019** – led by **Kanga Banda**
 - ✓ **28 Jun 2019** – led by **Chilumba Lungu**
 - ✓ **26 Aug 2019** – led by **Chilumba Lungu**

The **LUANGWA VALLEY**, which marks the end of the Great Rift Valley, is one of the last unspoilt wilderness areas and possibly the finest wildlife sanctuary in Africa. It covers an area of over 9000sq. km. through which the meandering Luangwa River runs. The ox bow lagoons, woodland and plains of the valley host huge concentrations of game - including elephant, buffalo, leopard, lion, giraffe, hippo - and over 400 species of birds.

Day 1 On arrival at Lusaka International Airport a representative from Robin Pope Safaris will meet and assist you with immigration and customs clearing plus checking in for your Mfuwe bound flight. The flight varies between an hour and a quarter and an hour and three quarters, depending on size of aircraft used.



At Mfuwe International Airport a guide from Robin Pope Safaris will meet you for your road transfer to Nsefu Camp. The camp is on a sweeping bend of the river. The Nsefu Sector was recognized then as a phenomenal area and it still is. Robin Pope Safaris own the only two camps in this sector of the Park. There are six round rondavels with en suite facilities and each room has a clear view of the river through large windows and from the new wooden verandahs. On arrival you will be shown to your rondavel and depending on your arrival time, lunch will be served followed by a well-deserved siesta before the afternoon and evening game drive. **NSEFU CAMP**

Day 2 Being your full day here, you may decide to drive or walk through the ebony groves or take the opportunity of visiting Kawaza village as an option to meet local people and experience life in an African village. **NSEFU CAMP**

Day 3 In true safari tradition you will be up at sunrise for breakfast and then walk out of camp to your first bush camp. Situated in a secluded area of the Nsefu Sector the camp is simple and “bush”. Arriving in time for a leisurely lunch followed by a much welcome siesta. After afternoon tea, you will enjoy another walk; which ends with sundowners back in camp. Dinners are usually a relaxed affair around the camp fire deliberating over the events of the safari. **LUANGWA BUSH CAMP**

Day 4 The day is spent walking in the game rich area of the Luangwa riverine habitat, with ebony groves, many lagoons and of course the Luangwa River itself. During your morning walk the camp may be moved

to a second site and lunch will be waiting for you on arrival, alternatively you and your guide may decide to have a picnic lunch en route. This is a very flexible day and your guide will discuss options to suit you and any other guests. **LUANGWA BUSH CAMP**



Day 5 Up for an early breakfast you will walk into Tena Tena this morning. This remote and small camp lies within the National Park and enjoys a stunning location on a sweeping bend of the Luangwa River. From the dining area and bar, guests can watch the elephants, hippo and antelope on the riverbank. Tena Tena has 6 tents, each with a dressing room, open air bathroom and private verandah. Most meals are taken under the shade in the centre of the camp. On arrival you will be shown to your tent and then lunch will be served followed by a siesta and then tea before the afternoon and evening game drive. **TENA TENA**



Day 6 You have one more full day to explore the Nsefu Sector, whether on a vehicle or on foot – or combination of both.

Day 7 Depending on your flight time you will be transferred by vehicle to Mfuwe Airport which is approximately 1.5 hrs drive from Nsefu. Where possible we would incorporate a game drive.



THE SPECIALTIES OF THESE SAFARIS ARE:

WALKING SAFARIS The only way to really discover the secrets of the bush. Walks are led by an experienced naturalist and accompanied by an armed game scout.

GAME DRIVES (not available when bush camping) Conducted in open four-wheel drive vehicles by knowledgeable safari guides. Special game viewing seats provide excellent viewing and opportunities for photography.

NIGHT DRIVES (not available when bush camping) Set out in the afternoon. Later, after watching the sun set over the river with a sundowner in hand, the drive continues with a powerful spotlight. The nocturnal world of the bush is witnessed from owls, genets to hunting lions and the graceful leopard.

Walking Fitness

For general idea of fitness level, here are some guide lines. This does not mean this is the distance and timing of every day. But it gives you an idea of how fit you need to be.

Robin always says that you should also be able to run 50 meters, but please understand that this is not because you will be running from any animal! It's just another way of showing a level of fitness.

Distance: Luangwa Bush Camping walks cover approximately 6 km in 3 hours.