

Classic Zimbabwe

- **Itinerary** The Hide, Hwange National Park, 3 nights; Changa Safari Camp, Lake Kariba, 3 nights & John's Camp, Mana Pools National Park, 3 nights.
- **Includes** all safari activities, meals, bar (premium drinks extra), laundry, road transfers plus flights starting Victoria Falls and ending Harare.
- **Excludes** international flights, airport taxes, visa fees, gratuities and items of a personal nature.
- **Valid** May - November

DESTINATION OVERVIEW

Zimbabwe is a landlocked country in southern Africa lying between the Limpopo and Zambezi Rivers and known for its dramatic landscape and diverse wildlife, much of it within parks, reserves and safari areas. The wonders of the landscape are matched by a variety and density of wildlife comparable with the world's best, and the country has no fewer than four World Heritage Sites, as registered by UNESCO; the famous Victoria Falls, beautiful and bountiful Mana Pools National Park, Matobo Hills and the great medieval African cities of Khami and Great Zimbabwe.

Hwange National Park is the largest wildlife reserve in Zimbabwe, occupying roughly 14,650 sq. km. It is in the northwest corner of the country, about one hour south of Victoria Falls by air, and is distinctive by its deep Kalahari sands which blew across the continent aeons ago and now support ancient hardwood forests, savannah grasslands and acacia trees. Visitors to Hwange are guaranteed to see an incredible range of wildlife, with over 100 species of mammals and nearly 400 bird species recorded. The elephants of Hwange are world famous and the park's elephant population is one of the largest in the world, the last estimate being 44,000 from a recent aerial survey.

Lake Kariba, the world's largest manmade body of water, Kariba Dam, was built and filled between 1958 and 1963, filling the Kariba Gorge on the Zambezi River. It is a Hydro-electric reservoir, spanning a catchment area of 663,000 sq. km, with a length of 223 km, a maximum width of 40km and an average depth of only 29m. Kariba's water by volume is 180 cubic km. It offers spectacular views, stunning sunsets, great fishing, boating, water sports and wonderful relaxing holidays or weekends in the sunshine.

Mana Pools National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage site, is a beautiful 2,196 sq. km wildlife conservation area in northern Zimbabwe. Mana means "four" in Shona, (one of the main vernacular languages in Zimbabwe) and it refers to the number of large permanent pools left by the Zambezi River as it flows into the flood plain. Mana is known as one of Africa's best game viewing areas, as many large animals come here in search of water. It is also an excellent area for fishing, of course, and bird-watching, being rich in vegetation diversity from river frontage to forests of mahogany, wild fig, acacia albida and baobabs.

Day 1 On arrival at Victoria Falls Airport you will go through departure formalities and onto your scheduled charter flight from Victoria Falls to Hwange National Park, just a short flight of 45 minutes. At Umtshibi Airstrip/Hwange Main Airport, in Hwange National Park a representative from

The Hide Safari Lodge will meet you. The drive into camp game viewing en route will take approximately 40 minutes from Umtshibi Airstrip, or 1hr30m from Hwange Main.

The Hide is a family owned and family run safari camp that was built in 1992 by the Prestons' and is situated on a private concession on the Eastern boundary of Hwange National Park. The waterhole, just metres from The Hide, attracts such a variety of life that you may not need to roam far from your veranda to be a part of the action. Accommodation at the Hide consists of 10 Deluxe Tents and a Private Safari House. All boasting en-suite bathrooms and private verandas overlooking the busy waterhole. There is a swimming pool, lounge, bar, upstairs viewing deck, mini museum, 2 underground hides, an underground wine cellar and a complimentary treehouse sleep out. Wi-Fi is available. **THE HIDE**



Day 2 & 3 Early morning walks are there for the thrill of encountering wildlife on its own terms and exploring the little surprises of the bush. Alternatively, the day can be spent further afield on game drives in search of predators and prey alike. We like to do things properly so sundowners are an important part of the experience. Hwange National Park is the largest park in Zimbabwe and the third largest in Africa (I don't think this is true). Famous for its healthy elephant population. The beauty of this area is in its diversity - vast, palm-fringed plains and classic grasslands are interspersed with acacia woodlands and teak forests and this diversity ensures the sighting of great numbers of animals all year round. Of course, keen photographers will want to spend time in the hide that overlooks the popular waterhole. **THE HIDE**



Day 4 Today you are off onto your next stop, and will catch your 1hr30m flight to Lake Kariba. On arrival at Lake Kariba, you will be met by a Changa representative and transferred (US\$15 pp one way) to the stunning Changa Safari Camp.

Lapped by the waters of Lake Kariba, shaded by Mopane woodland and hidden from the world, Changa Safari Camp is an oasis of tranquility and an ideal retreat from the hustle and bustle of modern life. Changa has been designed to blend in with the environment using natural materials. The camp furniture has been built using Zimbabwe's finest teak and the bar has been fashioned around the hull of an old boat. You will enjoy a lunch looking out over the lake and then you can choose to either relax by the pool, hop on the afternoon/evening game drive or try your hand at fishing for the famed fighting tiger fish. **CHANGA SAFARI CAMP**



Day 5 & 6 A typical day in the camp starts early to coincide with the best times to view animals. You will be awoken by the age old “knock knock” at your door, accompanied by your choice of tea and coffee. You will then depart for your morning activity - either a game drive or walk or a fishing safari. The game in the area is excellent, home to a wide range of mammals, and over 350 bird species. Then, just before it gets too hot, we'll have you back in camp for a delicious full breakfast set up. After lunch why not hop on a short boat ride across the lake to the scenic Sanyati Gorge, where you can meander peacefully through the steep cliffs for up to 10 km. The Sanyati Gorge is both unspoilt and undisturbed with an abundance of birdlife, the occasional sighting of antelope and great fishing. **CHANGA SAFARI CAMP**



Day 7 After an early breakfast, you will be transferred back to the airstrip (US\$15 ppn one way) to catch your 30 min flight to Mana Pools where the John's Camp team will meet you. The name 'Mana' means 'four' in the local Shona language, this applies to the four large pools inland from the Zambezi River. Mana Pools is home to a wide range of mammals and over 350 bird species. **JOHN'S CAMP**



Day 8 & 9 A typical day on safari has guests woken just before sunrise for a quick cup of tea or coffee, a bowl of porridge or a muffin. You will head out on either a game walk or drive returning to camp for a late morning brunch. Midday siesta time is spent in camp and afternoon tea is served at 3.30pm. Head out again for an afternoon of game viewing as the day cools. Fishing from the banks of the river is also an option. Sundowners can be enjoyed while out on your afternoon game drive or back in camp. All guests will be back in camp by 6.30pm. Warm bucket showers will be ready on your return. Gather around the campfire to share your stories from the day before enjoying a three-course dinner. **JOHN'S CAMP**



Day 10 On the final day you will be transferred back to Mana Main Airstrip in time for your onward connection. **END OF SAFARI**