

Carnivore Week

- **Itinerary** Nkwali 7 nights.
- **Includes** Transfers starting and ending Lusaka, Zambia, accommodation, full board, all local drinks, all safari activities, laundry.
- **Excludes** Gratuities, visa fees where applicable + international flights.
- **Valid** Nov

An up-close and behind-the-scenes look at large carnivore conservation in South Luangwa National Park, Zambia: Carnivore Week!

The **Zambian Carnivore Programme (ZCP)** has been operating in Zambia since 1998, carrying out conservation and research activities to conserve Zambia's populations of this highly endangered species. The **Luangwa Project** is Zambia's and one of the region's longest-running large carnivore conservation projects, intensively working in the country's largest populations of wild dogs, lions, and other carnivores. Logging over 1400 person days in the field each year and studying over 450 individual cats and wild dogs ZCP logs a lot of time in the field. Join the team as they describe the work behind the scenes, accompany you on viewing of these spectacular carnivores, and explain all the workings of large carnivore conservation efforts by ZCP and their partners.

The ZCP team is based with Nkwali camp and will be pleased to accompany you on some activities and share their work with you.



Day 1 On arrival at Mfuwe International Airport a guide from Robin Pope Safaris will meet you. The drive to Nkwali Camp is 1 hour through colourful local scenes of villages, agriculture as well as bush. Nkwali Camp has a wide view of the Luangwa River. On Robin's private land, and overlooking the South Luangwa National Park, Nkwali is ideally situated for the start of your safari. The six rooms all look out over the river and have open air bathrooms. The first night of your stay, one of the full-time project staff from ZCP will give an introductory talk on the **Zambian Carnivore Programme (ZCP)**. This will include a general overview of the ZCP, its aims and their current programs. You'll also get a demonstration of their tracking equipment which will be used to find the carnivores when they join you out in the field. **NKWALI CAMP**



Day 2 At dawn breakfast is served around the campfire. The porridge heated on the fire and toast cooked by the coals. The morning drive will leave soon after, entering the park by boat from the camp or by the nearby pontoon. The game in the area is excellent - and includes many family herds of elephants and the endemic species of giraffe, the Thornicroft Giraffe. A mid-morning break of tea, coffee and cake will be taken by a scenic point on a lagoon or the Luangwa River. This morning you will be joined by ZCP for the game drive. Gain exclusive insights into their research as you track for carnivores through the National Park - see their tracking equipment and techniques in action! They'll also explain about lion identification and prey counts which are used in their annual predator and prey surveys. You'll get to use these new skills in species identification and scientific technique as you drive around one of the most beautiful areas in Africa.



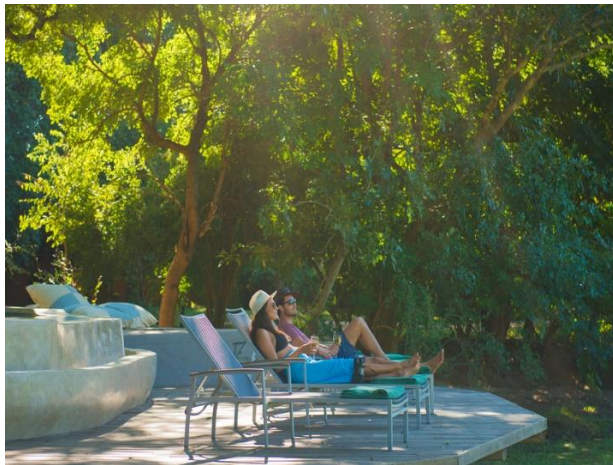
Return to camp for lunch around mid-day. After lunch you can cool off in the swimming pool or siesta. Tea will be served in the afternoon and then off on an afternoon game drive that continues into the early night giving the chance to see the nocturnal world. Usually one returns to camp about 20.00 hrs with dinner generally at 20.30. **NKWALI CAMP**

Day 3 Another day to enjoy the game viewing at Nkwali on walks or drives or you may wish to go on an all-day picnic. Taking a scout with you, you will be able to enjoy a walk or explore further a field in the park. Lunch will be under a tree or next to a lagoon and you will then be able to take a siesta or simply spend a lazy couple of hours reading a book or watching the fascinating animals and landscape around you. Returning to camp when you are ready. In the evening you will be joined by ZCP for another discussion. This evening's lecture will focus on competition between lions, hyenas and African wild dogs, why ZCP researches these inter-predator competitions, and what it means for the survival of the wild dog. They'll also tell you all about exciting hot-off-the-press findings for Zambian wild dogs and other associated wildlife in the area from their research. **NKWALI CAMP**



Day 4 Chipembe Environmental Education Centre. Education, and in turn the reduction of human-animal conflict, is key to the survival of this endangered species. With a visit to the Chipembe Education Centre you'll learn all about wildlife conservation education in general, as well as the education programs ZCP have in place. There's both a fun children's school-based curriculum as well as adult targeted posters and both are integral to ZCP's conservation efforts. You will also be able to learn about other education programs run by Chipembe for different species running in the area too. After your return in the afternoon, you will be able to choose to go out on an evening game-drive, or just relax in camp watching the sunset over the river. **NKWALI CAMP**

Day 5-7 These last days are very flexible, ZCP will join you on either a morning or evening game drive to track the carnivores. The rest of your days will be free to do activities with your Robin Pope Safaris guide. A walking safari, game drive, or boat cruise on the river. Whichever activities you choose, they are sure to be spectacular. Weather dependent, you will also have the chance to visit Kawaza Village, to experience a bit of the local culture. Please let your guide know if you are interested in going to the village. **NKWALI CAMP**



Day 8 After breakfast, you will be transferred to the Mfuwe Airport and onto Lusaka for your onward connection. **END OF SAFARI**