

8 Days / 7 Nights

Mana Pools Photo Workshop 7 nights May-Jul 2023

Group Size No more than 6

Mana Pools National Park | Victoria Falls (Zimbabwe)

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experientialtravel

Experiential Travel

On each trip we introduce a handful of like-minded people to some of the most extraordinary experiences this planet has to offer. Places like Antarctica, the Arctic, Botswana, China, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Mozambique, Namibia, New Zealand, Rwanda, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zanzibar, Zimbabwe and Zambia.

Your Consultant

| Neville Jones



Neville has been planning and leading tours to Africa since 2007 and has been on more than 100 safaris. He visits the continent at least once a year to find the best experiences for his clients. He prefers small, owner-operated lodges and camps run by families with a long history in providing unique, safe and personalised experiences.

| Countries Visited

Antarctica, Argentina, Australia, Botswana, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Canada, China, Croatia, Egypt, England, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Greece, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Italy, Kenya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Namibia, New Zealand, Norway, Qatar, Rwanda, Scotland, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Tanzania, Thailand, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United States, Zambia, Zanzibar, Zimbabwe

| Favourite Destinations

Southern and East Africa

Contact Details

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Trip Summary

Most photographers dream of indulging their passion in Africa at some point in their photographic journey. To spend quality time with iconic wildlife and landscape subjects in the company of like-minded people is a rare privilege. The opportunities provided by this photography workshop are even rarer.

Where

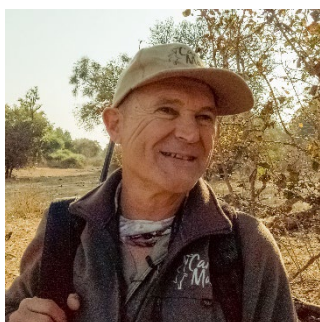
We've chosen the exceptionally beautiful and abundant Mana Pools as the location. This has been a protected non-hunting area since 1952. The game reserve was established in 1963 and the 287,000 hectare National Park declared in 1975. The park, along with the adjacent Sapi and Chewore safari areas was declared a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1984. The inscription opens with "*In this Park on the banks of the Zambezi, great cliffs overhang the river, sandbanks and wide floodplains in a valley little modified by man. The area is home to a remarkable concentration of*

wild animals including elephants, hippopotamus, leopards, cheetahs and buffaloes. An important concentration of Nile crocodiles is also found in the area." We have little to add except that we've seen plenty of other species there, including various antelope and their largest predator, lions.

For the authentic African experience, we stay at Camp Mana where all the tents look out across the Zambezi towards the towering escarpment running along the opposite riverbank. From your tent, you can watch the sun rise over the river. Then, at the other end of the day, you can sit in the lounge to enjoy sundowners. More likely though, you'll join us on a drive to some special spot we've found for you to photograph these special moments.

Who we are

Your two principal hosts are the camp owner, legendary guide, Steve Bolnick, and the owner of Experiential Travel, awarded photographer Neville Jones.



STEVE BOLNICK

Steve is recognised as one of southern Africa's outstanding safari guides. He grew up with a deep love for the African bush and has spent the past 30+ years living and guiding in southern Africa. He has conducted research safaris for the WWF, and has initiated community conservation projects in Zimbabwe and South Africa. He is a qualified guide trainer and assessor, has hosted Big Screen actors on walking safaris, has featured in a wildlife documentary for Belgian television and was the contributing editor to "The Guide to Exploring Victoria Falls".



NEVILLE JONES

Neville has been planning and leading safaris, including photography workshops in Africa since 2007. He has been on more than 120 safaris in more than a dozen countries. He has a B.Photo (Photojournalism) and has won many awards in international photography competitions. His work has hung in galleries in the UK, USA and Australia. He is highly motivated by sharing the surprising natural beauty and wisdom to be found in Africa.

What you'll do

Photographers travel and experience things differently. You know this. Rather than rushing around the bush with a species checklist, we'd rather linger a little longer with the subject. Waiting for Cartier-Bresson's "decisive moment" or Maisel's "gesture" takes patience. A photo of a pride of sleeping lions can be a yawn. But capturing that moment when the old male snarls at his playful cub who just woke him by pouncing on his tail is priceless.

Photographers would rather be out before sunrise to capture the first rays lighting the clouds and then hilltops. They'd rather capture the sun streaming horizontally through the forest between the horizon and the browse-line. The bleaching light of the overhead sun is less interesting, unless that is the look you're going for. And that is an important point about this workshop. We're not locked in to a specific style or look or schedule. The participants set the tone. If you have a style you want to explore, we'll help you do that. If you haven't developed your own style yet, we'll help you explore a few. We'll explore directions and angles that you prefer, or if you're willing, some that you might not have tried. Indeed, that has been Neville's experience.

On his first few safaris, Neville noticed that most guides placed the vehicle between the sun and the subject. Just as they've been doing since Kodak. But he thought that his daughter's (also a professional photographer) best photos were taken towards the sun. And he knew that Rembrandt lighting, which also works well in wildlife photography, uses side lighting. Photographers not only want to linger, they want to be in a different place.

In addition to light direction, quality and colour we'll explore some of the other fundamentals of photography such as composition and technique. We'll talk about the Rule of Thirds and why it isn't a "rule" but good to understand. We'll talk about shooting modes and challenge the idea that "professionals always shoot in manual mode". NB: We don't teach you how to operate your camera. We assume that if you decide you want to try shooting in aperture priority mode with auto ISO, you know how to do that.

When

This is possibly the most unique aspect of this workshop; you can start any day between 19MAY2023 and 01JUL2023. You'll then spend five nights in Camp Mana with us. Then you'll fly back to awesome Victoria Falls for two nights of self-guided fun in this popular tourist destination, perhaps even practicing some new skills or techniques.

The workshop is neither hierarchical nor linear. You can join any day. By the time you leave, you'll have covered all the topics and visited all of the best locations in the Mana Pools area.

Who you are

This workshop is clearly designed for photographers. We accommodate all levels of experience, provided that you know how to operate your camera, as previously mentioned. Your camera can be anything with any type of lens. We don't say things like "you must have a 500mm lens". Of course, if you want to fill your frame with an elephant eye, you probably will need that. But to get a photo of Boswell (a well-known elephant) standing on his hind legs reaching up into the trees with his trunk, 500mm is way too long. A great photo of him doing that can be made with a phone camera. Indeed, we have had guests who use their own eyes like photographers use cameras. They too would rather linger, to learn something about the subject's behaviour. This workshop is perfect for them also.

If you're an experienced photographer who just wants to be taken to photogenic places chosen by a photographer, for photographers, then we'd love to have you on board, too.

If your partner wants to join the safari and prefers the cadence of a "normal" safari, then talk to us when booking and we'll put them in a different vehicle while you're on the photography missions.

Additional experiences

Although remote and wild, this part of Africa has many life-changing experiences to offer. One that we have offered in the past is a two-night walking safari in Chitake Springs. This is in a very wild part of the park where guests are on foot, observing for example, lions stalking buffalo in the dry river bed near the springs. This option can only be taken after the stay in Camp Mana.

There are many other options that are readily accessed from Mana Pools, including the equally famous Hwange National Park. Talk to us about what interests you.

Is it safe?

In a word, yes. Neville has been taking people on safari in Africa since 2007. More significantly, Steve has been a professional safari guide for more than 30 years and is a legend in this part of the world. He is called upon to teach and assess other guides. There is nothing cavalier about these guys. They understand the bush and the wildlife and have some very strict rules and procedures to protect you. Despite this being a photography workshop, no photo is worth getting hurt. We've never had an injury or medical evacuation for any reason. We plan meticulously and work hard to maintain that record.

| Availability

Check the online availability and book [here](#)

Day	Accommodation	Room Type and Basis
Day 1 - 6	Camp Mana (5 Nights) in Mana Pools National Park	1x Luxury Tents (FB+)
Day 6 - 8	Ilala Lodge Hotel (2 Nights) in Victoria Falls (Zimbabwe)	1x Standard Double Room (s) (B&B)
Day 8	End of Itinerary	NONE

Key

B&B: Bed and Breakfast

FB+: Full Board Plus - Dinner, Bed, Breakfast, Lunch and Activities

| Price

From US\$4543 per person twin/share basis for seven nights

From US\$5397 per person single basis for seven nights

| Included

- Accommodation for five nights at Camp Mana on Full Board basis
- Accommodation for two nights at Ilala Lodge, Victoria Falls or equivalent on B&B basis
- Participation in photography workshop during the Camp Mana stay
- Limited laundry at Camp Mana
- Flight flight Victoria Falls to Mana Pools
- Flight from Mana Pools to Victoria Falls
- Transfers between Victoria Falls Airport and hotel
- Limited bar drinks at Camp Mana, eg local brand beer, wine and some spirits
- Two excursions per day in Camp Mana

| Excluded

- Airfare from your home port to Victoria Falls International Airport and return
- Lunch, dinner and drinks at Ilala. This is so you can explore the many dining options here.
- Passport and visa expenses
- Travel insurance (this is compulsory)
- All items of a personal nature
- All "recommended" and for "information" activities
- Anything not mentioned herein

Daily Information



Day 1 - 6

Mana Pools National Park

Located in northern Zimbabwe, the life-giving power of the Zambezi River makes Mana Pools National Park one of Zimbabwe's most lush and flourishing regions. Characterised by a diversity of landscapes including floodplains, forests, and baobab trees, the park has been designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site for its natural beauty; providing a fantastic destination for photographers. It is an Important Bird Area and is also one of the continent's premier game-viewing locations, known for its good chances of seeing elephants, wild dogs, lions, and leopards. Visitors can look forward to an array of activities such as canoe trips, guided walks, game drives, river cruises, nature walks, bird watching, and catch-and-release fishing.

| Day Notes

On your first day, you'll fly from Victoria Falls Airport to Mana Pools airstrip. Here you'll be met by your driver who'll take you on a drive through the African bush for an hour or so to Camp Mana. Have your camera ready, the bush is unpredictable.

When you arrive in camp you'll meet both the camp owner, legendary guide Steve Bolnick and your photography host, Neville Jones. They will discuss the basics of camp life and this includes a safety briefing. Neville will talk with you about your objectives for the photography workshop.

The camp and the staff are very adaptable but a typical day will go something like this:

- Pre-dawn wake up call
- Coffee or tea and light snacks in the mess tent
- Depart camp before sunrise
- First photo mission for the day. The actual mission will depend on your goals, recent wildlife sightings and the quality of the light. There is often a beautiful blue light in the Albida forest that you simply must see.
- Return to camp for breakfast

- Downtime. This is usually a good time for your digital housework, downloading, backing up, recharging, and reviewing. Neville will be in the lounge ready to discuss all matters photography.
- Lunch
- Photo sharing and critique/discussion in the lounge. This is optional. Some people don't like to do this, while others relish it. It's entirely up to you.
- Afternoon tea in the mess tent
- Second photo mission for the day. This will end a little before or after sunset.
- Dinner in the mess tent
- There are some night photography opportunities but movement around the camp at night is strictly with an escort only. There are no fences here.

| Expert Tips

Upon arrival at Victoria Falls International Airport, you'll pass through Immigration and Passport Control. You'll present your visa letter and a visa will then be placed in your passport. Be sure to check the dates on the visa sticker before you leave the immigration officer's desk.

Collect your luggage and look for a representative of the airline (Mack Air) that will fly you to Mana Pools. In the unlikely event that the representative doesn't find you, proceed to Mack Air passenger lounge in the main hall of the airport after you leave the arrivals hall.

You have a 2hr 15m flight to Mana Pools in a Cessna C208 Grand Caravan. This is the workhorse aircraft of the African outback. It is a turbo-prop, which means that the propeller is driven by a jet engine.



Overnight
Camp Mana

Simple elegance. Old-world style. Unpretentious luxury in the wilderness. Camp Mana provide all the creature comforts in the WILDerness without removing the wild from the experience.

We provide our guests with an unforgettable, immersive, authentic bush experience with minimal impact on the environment. Without compromising guest comfort, we touch the earth lightly with our solar-powered luxury tented camp.

Our large walk-in tents feature fully enclosed spacious en-suite bathrooms, with shower, flush toilet & basin. The living area offers double or twin bedding with 400 thread count percale linen, bedside tables, solar lights, camp

cupboard and writing desk. For added safety each tent has radio communication. The shady porches have comfortable directors chairs looking onto the Zambezi River.

The dining-lounge area under a Bedouin tent, with Afghan & oriental decor is tastefully matched with indigenous hardwood. This area offers teas & coffee and a bar service all day. A spotting scope and wide angle binoculars are provided.

While at Camp Mana guests participate in bush walks, game drives, canoeing safaris and some choose to spend the entire day relaxing in camp enjoying the constant stream of animals and birds that pass through the camp.

For the more rugged, we also offer multi-day excursions to the legendary Chitake Spring.



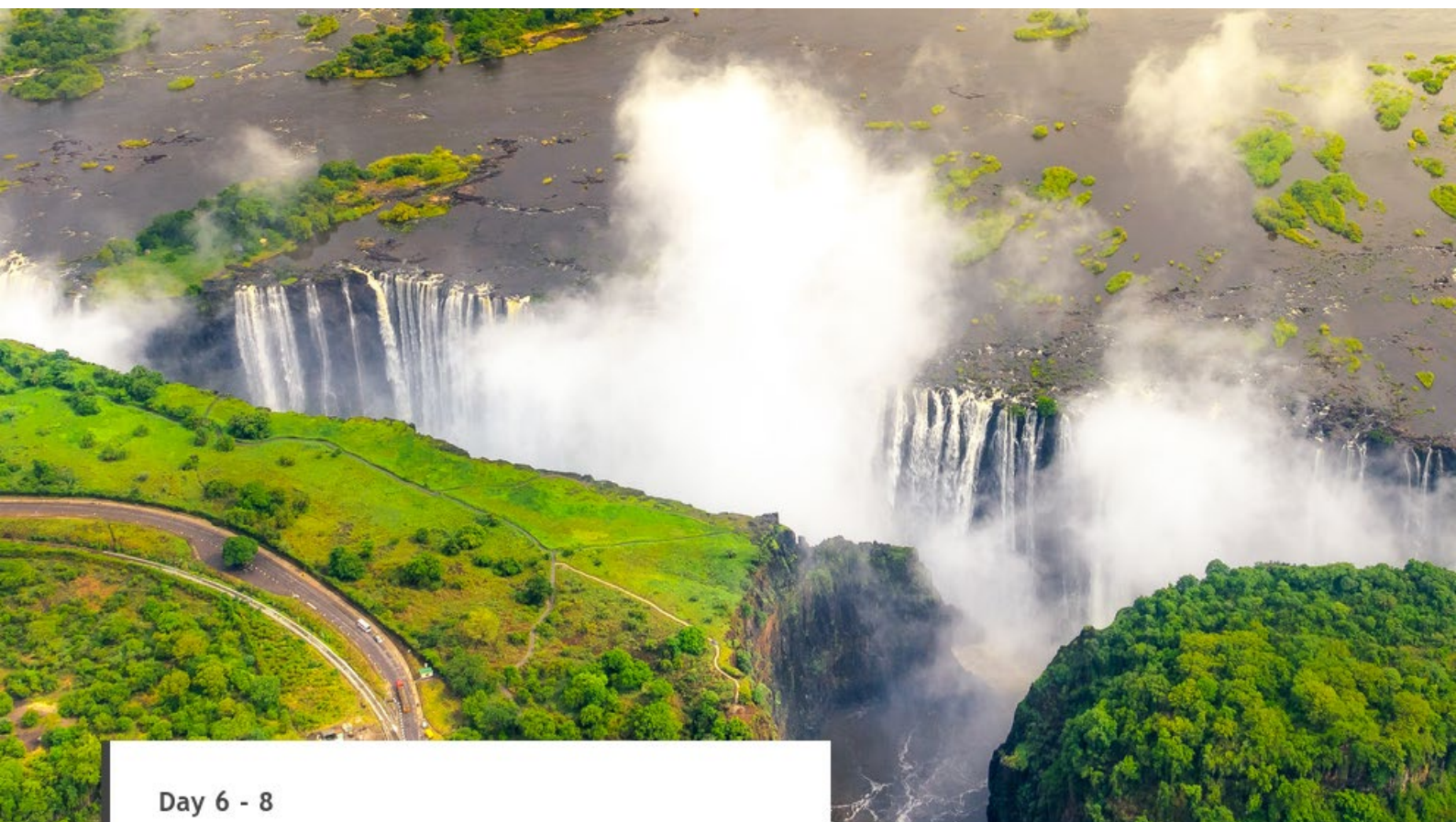
Luxury Tents

Mana Pools and Chitake Springs cost includes all equipment, all meals, all guided walks, game drives, day canoeing options and services of a Professional Guide. Wine at dinner, minerals, limited beers

| Basis

FB+: Full Board Plus - Dinner, Bed, Breakfast, Lunch and Activities

DLB: All Local Brands (Spirits, Wine and Beers) Included



Day 6 - 8

Victoria Falls (Zimbabwe)

Victoria Falls is one of the world's most impressive waterfalls. It is set on the magnificent Zambezi River which creates the border between Zambia and Zimbabwe. These spectacular falls can be easily visited and viewed from the Zimbabwean side. Considered to be the world's widest waterfalls, Victoria Falls measures an impressive 1708 metres in width. The small town of Victoria Falls, which lies adjacent to the waterfalls, serves as a great base from which to explore the many attractions this area of Zimbabwe has to offer. The surrounding area provides a wide range of adrenalin-filled activities for adventure lovers. Visitors can look forward to an array of wonderful activities including: scenic flights, micro lighting, white water rafting, bungee jumping, kayaking, and once-in-a-lifetime expeditions into the incredible Chobe National Park.

| Day Notes

At the end of your photography workshop, you'll be transferred to Mana Pools airstrip for your charter flight back to Victoria Falls. You'll be met by your driver as you exit the arrivals area. They will drive you to your hotel in Victoria Falls.

Your hotel is in a conveniently central location. From here you can walk to the falls or into town. This is the self-guided part of your holiday, with camera in hand. Talk to us about the options. As a photographer, you might find the various galleries interesting. The whole area here is very safe. The many police on the streets are trained to help tourists and are very informative. You can be active as you wish here. Or you may wish to simply relax on the restaurant terrace of your hotel and watch the sun rise through the mist of the falls.

| Expert Tips

There are many activities available in Victoria Falls, from bungee jumps into the gorge below the falls to a walk along the top of the falls. You'll be able to book most of them at your hotel.

Note that Victoria Falls and the town of the same name is in a National Park. Wild animals, including elephants and buffalo can and do wander the roads. These species are exceedingly dangerous and must be avoided if you're on foot. It is inadvisable to walk between your hotel and town after dark.



Overnight

Ilala Lodge Hotel

Ilala Lodge Hotel is ideally located only 8 minutes away from the spectacular Victoria Falls, making it geographically the closest hotel to the waterfall on the Zimbabwean side. As a family-run hotel, Ilala Lodge has 73 stylish, well-appointed rooms, that offer the ultimate in comfort and luxury. The hotel's location affords guests unique views of the mist that rises from the mighty waterfall, known as the 'smoke that thunders

Experience gourmet dining at Ilala Lodge Hotels' top-rated Cassia Restaurant. Centrally located only minutes away from Victoria Falls, the newly-renamed restaurant offers a delicious breakfast buffet, lunch and al fresco evening dining under the starry African sky.

Relive the historical journey embarked by David Livingstone exploring the mighty Zambezi River aboard the Ra-Ikane fleet. Named after his instrumental guide, the boats represent the grace of a bygone era honouring the rich history of Victoria Falls and its explorers, adventurers and heroes. The Ra-Ikane offers a variety of cruises, including birdwatching, breakfast, lunch and sunset, as well as private charters.

[View iBrochure >](#)



Standard Double Room (s)

We have 6 x double rooms with 1 king size bed in each. 2 of these rooms are inter-leading with standard twins rooms so ideal for families.

Like the standard twin rooms, all double rooms have an en-suite bathroom with separate shower, air conditioning, overhead fan, satellite TV hairdryer, safe, room service and have individual coffee and tea facilities and free WiFi.

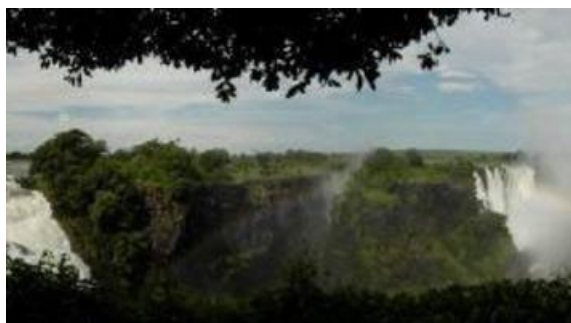
The rooms are spacious with railway teak furnishings. All rooms face the mighty Victoria Falls and the Zambezi National Park, so you'll often see wild animals grazing on the hotel lawns - while seated comfortably on your private patio area.

[Further Information >](#)

| Basis

B&B: Bed and Breakfast

| Activities



Vic Falls Edge Walk - Zimbabwe

Information: This walk takes you through the rain forest and to the various view points along the Falls. It is a must when visiting the Zimbabwean side.



Adrenaline Adventures Vic Falls

Information: The Zambezi River offers plenty of opportunities for adrenaline pumping adventure, White Water Rafting, Bungee Jumping, Jet Boating, Abseiling, Gorge Swing and the Flying Fox.



Adventure Zone Vic Falls

Information: An adventure company offering budget Accommodation at Encore backpackers lodge. We are specialists in, White Water Rafting, Elephant back safaris, Canoe Trails, Lion Encounters, Transfers, Ground Handling & Team Building for the group and incentive market

Victoria Falls (town)

Information: Resting on the southern banks of the Zambezi River at the western end of the eponymous falls, this popular tourist town is compact enough to walk around and makes an ideal base for travellers exploring the seventh wonder of the world, the unfathomably vast Victoria Falls. About two-thirds of the falls can be viewed from the Zimbabwean side and, while the falls are undoubtedly the star attraction, the area provides both adventure seekers and sightseers with plenty of opportunities to warrant a longer stay. Popular activities include scenic flights over the falls in helicopters or microlights, bungee jumping off the Victoria Falls Bridge, white-water rafting (seasonal), and day trips to Chobe National Park. The town itself offers some excellent accommodation and restaurant options as well as an eclectic variety of African curios and authentic art sold by friendly Zimbabwean locals who are wonderfully welcoming and eager to help you enjoy your stay.



Victoria Falls - The Falls

Information: One of the original natural wonders of the world, the Victoria Falls is breathtaking and not surprisingly a World Heritage Site. Known locally as 'The Smoke that Thunders' this spectacle is accessible from both Zambia and Zimbabwe. Unlike other waterfalls, Victoria Falls has a natural catwalk across from the falls which provides spectacular viewing.



The Boma Restaurant

Recommended, Dinner: The Boma – Dinner & Drum Show is a “must do” Victoria Falls dining and entertainment experience, specializing in traditional African food, drumming and dancing. The food is cooked and served in the style and quantity of a lavish feast, including irresistible desserts.

On arrival, you are dressed in a chitenge (traditional sarong) and welcomed into a vibrant atmosphere in which the tantalizing aromas of local dishes and game meat on the braai (barbecue) fill the restaurant, which is partially open to the star-filled African sky.

Your meal begins with a mouth-watering platter of starters whilst the buffet includes soup from the campfire, a range of salads, game meat cooked on a braai (barbecue), followed by desserts. Vegetarian options are also

available, as well as local dishes such as peanut butter spinach

You can also look forward to outstanding performances by traditional singers and dancers, and enjoy an energizing interactive drumming show. A face painter, storyteller, hair braider and fortune teller also form part of this festive evening.



The Lookout Café

Recommended, Lunch: Perched on the rim of the Batoka Gorge, the Wild Horizons Lookout Café is a fusion of spectacular views and exquisite food. The African Contemporary styled restaurant is designed to emphasize its unique panoramic view of the Victoria Falls Bridge and Batoka Gorges, which form part of the spectacular backdrop.

AMBIENCE:

Casual, Child-Friendly, Classic, Meal with a View

CUISINE:

African / Local, Contemporary, International, Vegetarian, Vegan & Gluten Free Meals available

FACILITIES:

Licensed Bar, Wheelchair Access, Free Parking

CREDIT CARD:

Visa and Mastercard Only

WIFI: Free

SEATING:

Outside terraces x 60

Indoor x 140

Lower deck (cocktail and canapé area) x 60

OPENING HOURS:

Open daily from 08h00 to 22h00 (freshly baked muffins & cakes available daily from 08h00)

BREAKFAST: 08h00 – 10h00

LUNCH: 10h00 to 16h00

SNACK MENU: 16h00 – 18h30

DINNER: 18h30 – 22h00 (last food orders at 21h00)

Highlights:

- Spectacular views of the Batoka Gorge, Vic Falls Bridge and Spray of the Falls
- Semi open-air café with refreshing beverages and a lively cocktail menu
- Cafe style cuisine with offerings to suit every taste and occasion

**** Perfect to book in combination with a Tour of the Falls or Vic Falls Canopy Tour ****



High Tea on Stanley's Terrace, Victoria Falls Hotel

Recommended, Afternoon: Stanley's Terrace at the Victoria Falls Hotel offers tantalisingly more than just their famous High Tea, as it is also a magically delightful setting for light meals throughout the day. Traditional afternoon tea is served daily from 15h00 to 18h00 and is a renowned experience, with spectacular views of the Victoria Falls Bridge and the spray from

the Falls below.

Day 8

End of Itinerary

| Day Notes

On your final day you'll be transferred to Victoria Falls International Airport for your flight home.

Transport

Flights

Date & Time	Route	Flight
Day 1	Depart: Victoria Falls International Airport [VFA]	Charter Flight
Day 1	Arrive: Mana Pools Airstrip	
Day 6	Depart: Mana Pools Airstrip	Charter Flight
Day 6	Arrive: Victoria Falls International Airport [VFA]	

Transfers

Date & Time	Route	Vehicle
Day 1	Pick Up: Mana Pools Airstrip	Transfer
Day 1	Drop Off: Camp Mana	
Day 6	Pick Up: Camp Mana	Transfer
Day 6	Drop Off: Mana Pools Airstrip	
Day 6	Pick Up: Victoria Falls International Airport [VFA]	Transfer
Day 6	Drop Off: Ilala Lodge Hotel	
Day 8	Pick Up: Ilala Lodge Hotel	Transfer
Day 8	Drop Off: Victoria Falls International Airport [VFA]	

Urgent Contacts

Contact Person	Email Address	Telephone
Experiential Travel - Neville Jones	neville@experiential.travel	+61 418 325 812
Experiential Travel - Emergency Contact		+61 416 371 178

Service Providers

Camp Mana

Address	Contact Numbers	Operating Hours
Chirundu Harare 00263	Telephone: +27-21-8790690 Front Desk: +27 71 361 2711	

Ilala Lodge Hotel

Address	Contact Numbers	Operating Hours
Ilala Lodge Hotel 411 Livingstone Way Victoria Falls Zimbabwe	Telephone: +263832844737 Front Desk: +263832844737	

The Boma Restaurant

Address	Contact Numbers	Operating Hours
471 Squire Cummings Stand, Victoria Falls Zimbabwe	Telephone: +263 13 43211 Front Desk: +263 13 43211	Mon - Sun: 19:00 - 22:00 Public Holidays: Open

The Lookout Café

Address	Contact Numbers	Operating Hours
Batoka Gorge, Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe	Telephone: +263832844571 Front Desk: +263832844471	Mon - Fri: 10:00 - 19:00 Sat - Sun: 07:30 - 19:00 Public Holidays: Open

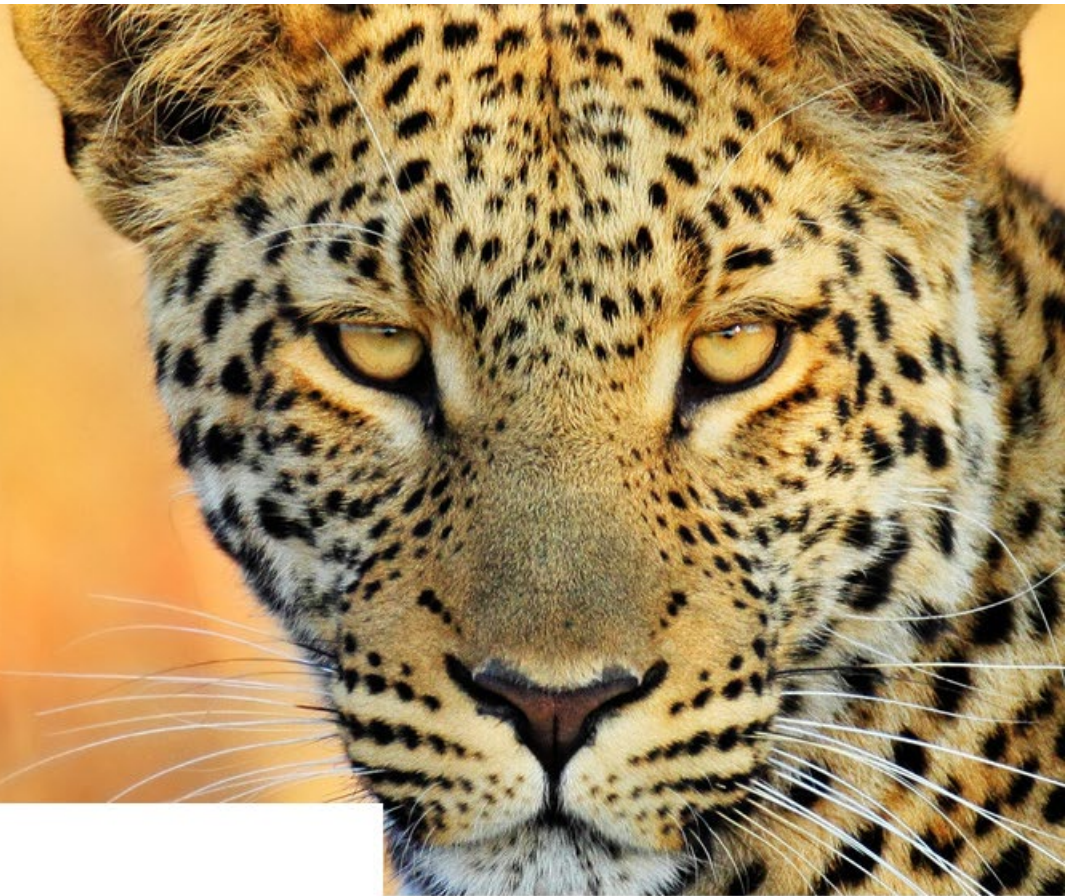
High Tea on Stanley's Terrace, Victoria Falls Hotel

Address	Contact Numbers	Operating Hours
1 Mallet Drive, Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe	Telephone: +263832844759 Front Desk: +263832844751	

Travel Information

| Travel Guidance

The information in this document is provided by the operators and other parties. It may not accurately reflect your experience.



Country

Zimbabwe

A nation of spectacular natural beauty, friendly people and rich culture, Zimbabwe's status as one of Africa's leading safari destinations was dampened for years by its political instability. But now that the country is transcending its strife and returning to a state of equilibrium, it is once again emerging as a vacation highlight of the continent. Victoria Falls – known to locals as 'The Smoke That Thunders' – is one of the seven natural wonders of the world and the sheer power of this massive body of water plunging into the Zambezi Gorge is awe-inspiring and unforgettable. Lake Kariba, with its game-rich shores and islands, is an idyllic safari spot featuring mind-blowing sunsets; Hwange National Park is known for its huge herds of elephants; and a kayak trip down the Zambezi through the Mana Pools National Park will appeal to the intrepid traveller, providing close encounters with crocodiles, hippos and a host of other wildlife.

| Banking and Currency

Currency

The Zimbabwean Dollar was the official currency of Zimbabwe from 1980 to April 12, 2009. The Zimbabwean Dollar was abandoned early 2009, but was reintroduced in 2019. Zimbabwe Dollar (ZWD; symbol Z\$) = 100 cents.

Notes in denominations of Z\$200,000, 100,000, 50,000, 10,000, 5,000, 1,000, 500, 100, 50, 20, 10, 5 and 2. Coins are in denominations of Z\$5, 2 and 1, and 50, 20, 10, 5 and 1 cents. Zimbabwe has adopted a multi-currency scheme; the US Dollar and South African Rand is accepted and can be used for domestic transactions, be it at an agreed exchange rate.

Banking

Banks in Zimbabwe are open for business Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 08h00 to 15h00, on Wednesdays from 08h00 to 13h00 and Saturdays from 08h00 to 11h30. They are closed on Sundays and Public Holidays.

Only VISA and MasterCard are accepted in Zimbabwe, however it should be noted that very limited facilities will have credit card machines, and the connection is not always reliable so it is advisable to carry cash as back up.

| Travel, Transport and Getting Around

Taxis are safe and reliable, and can be booked through your hotel front desk. Taxis in cities travel within a 40km radius of the city. Always take a taxi at night.

Major airlines fly into Victoria Falls, Harare and Bulawayo. Charter flights are available to most attractions and camps.

Zimbabwe has a good road infrastructure, by African standards, although potholed. Between major towns, there are frequent road blocks. Traffic drives on the left side of the road.

If you are driving yourself around Zimbabwe, be sure to check on fuel availability in advance. If you are covering long distances within the country, ensure you carry extra fuel in 5 or 10lt metal containers in case of emergency. Fuel is generally available, but supply can fluctuate. Fuel is only available for cash.

| Food, Drink and Cuisine Advice

Zimbabwe's native cuisine is based on sadza, a cooked porridge made from ground maize which is normally accompanied by some tasty relish, perhaps made of meat and tomatoes, or dried fish. Safari camps will often prepare sadza if requested, and it is almost always available in small restaurants in the towns.

Camps, hotels and lodges that cater to overseas typically serve a variety international fare, and the quality of food prepared in the most remote bush camps is usually excellent.

If you are driving yourself around and plan to cook, then get most of your supplies in main towns. There are a number of South African shopping chains operating in Zimbabwe which will generally have all that you will need.

Water in the main towns is usually purified.. The locals drink it, and are used to the relatively innocuous bugs that it may harbour. If you are in the country for a long time, then it may be worth acclimatising yourself to it.

However, if you are in Zimbabwe for just a short period of time, then try to drink only bottled, boiled, or treated water available in towns and from all camps, lodges and hotels.

| Climate and Weather

In Zimbabwe, the rains come principally in **December, January, February** and **March**; the further north you are, the earlier the precipitation arrives and the later it leaves. Zimbabwe's higher eastern areas usually receive more rainfall than the lower-lying western ones.

By **April** and **May** most of the rain is gone, leaving a verdant setting, which is starting to dry out. Especially in more southerly and higher locations, the night-time temperatures start to drop.

The nights in **June, July** and **August** become much cooler, so don't forget to bring some warmer clothes, in case

you want to spend an evening outside; the days are still clear and warm. For Zimbabwe, this is the start of the 'peak season'— days are often cloudless and game sightings continually increase.

Into **September** and **October** the temperatures rise once again: Zimbabwe's lower-lying rift valley – Mana Pools – can get very hot in October. During this time, you'll see some fantastic game, as the Zimbabwe's wildlife concentrates around the limited water sources.

November is unpredictable; it can be hot and dry, it can also see the season's first rainfalls – and in this respect it's a very interesting month, as on successive days, you can see both weather patterns.

| Clothing and Dress Recommendations

When in Zimbabwe the cardinal rule is to wear casual, comfortable clothes during the day as temperatures can get very hot. It is advisable to wear light loose-fitting clothing, such as cotton or linen, as they are cool and easy to wash. Warmer clothes are advised for the evenings and rainwear for the wet season.

A brimmed hat and sunglasses are a good idea year-round. Long-sleeved shirts and long trousers will also guard against the scorching sun rays. It is recommended you wear light shoes, especially if your itinerary entails a lot of walking.

For safaris, please remember to wear appropriate clothing and shoes. Earth colour clothes, such as browns, greens and tans are advisable.

| Internet Availability

Internet availability is very limited especially outside of the major cities.

Most holiday accommodation venues offer internet and/or WiFi (free or paid) to their guests but there are often disruptions in service.

| Electricity and Plug Standards

Electrical sockets in the Republic of Zimbabwe are Type G (BS-1363) and Type C (CEE 7/16 Europlug) and Type D (BS-546). If your appliance's plug doesn't match the shape of these sockets, you will need a travel plug adapter in order to plug in. Travel plug adapters simply change the shape of your appliance's plug to match whatever type of socket you need to plug into. If it's crucial to be able to plug in no matter what, bring an adapter for all types.

Electrical sockets usually supply electricity at 230 volts AC / 50 Hz frequency. If you're plugging in an appliance that was built for 230 volt electrical input, or an appliance that is compatible with multiple voltages, then an adapter is all you need. If your appliance isn't compatible with 230 volts, a voltage converter will be necessary.

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