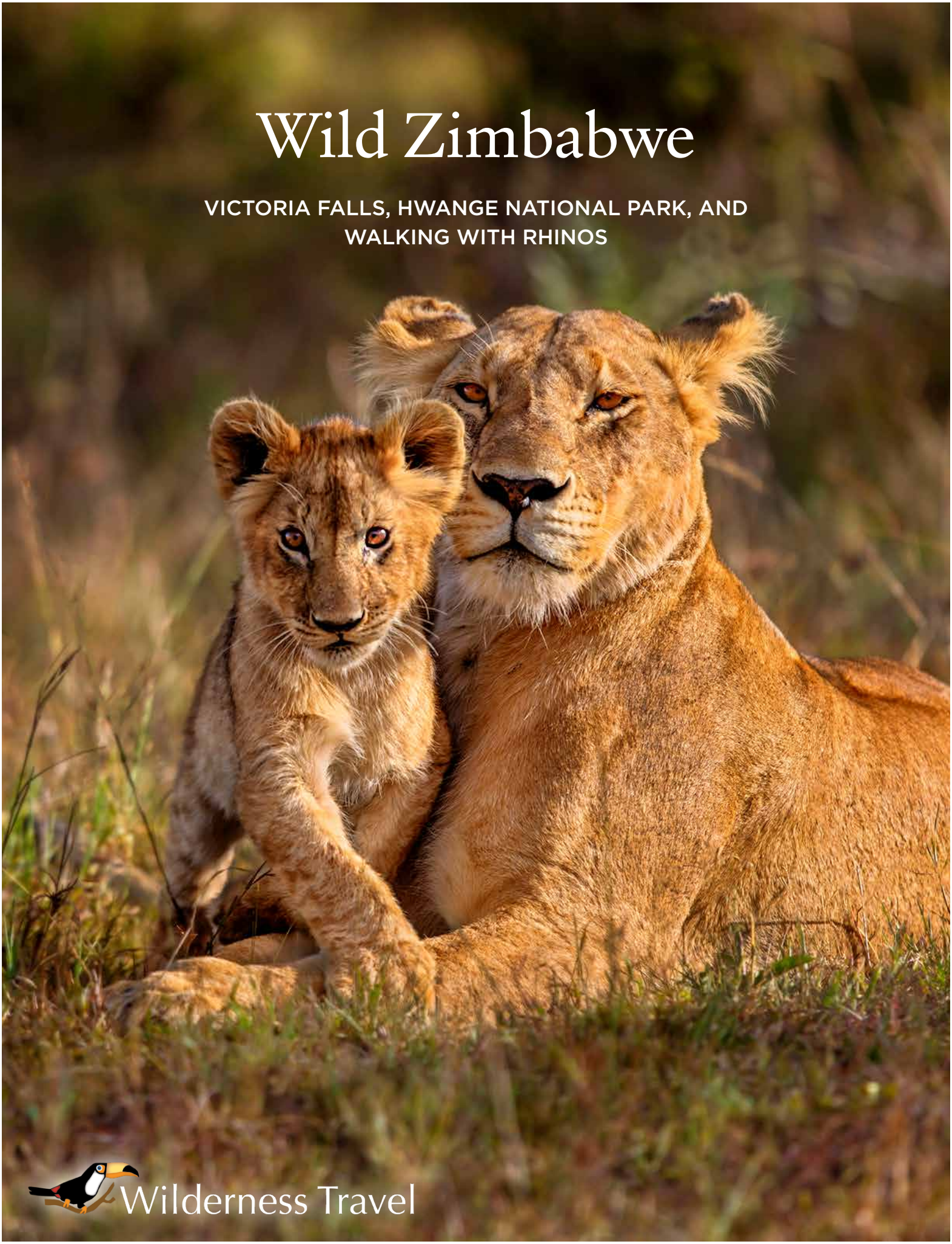
Wild Zimbabwe

VICTORIA FALLS, HWANGE NATIONAL PARK, AND WALKING WITH RHINOS



Wilderness Travel

Wild Zimbabwe

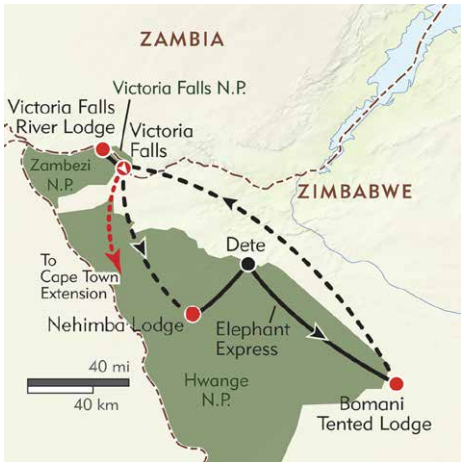
TRIP DATES

2027

June 1-10, 2027
June 12-21, 2027
July 3-12, 2027
July 19-28, 2027
October 2-11, 2027

2028

June 1-10, 2028
June 12-21, 2028
July 7-16, 2028
July 19-28, 2028
October 2-11, 2028



One of the world's least-touristed safari destinations, Zimbabwe, just happens to be one of the best. Vast Hwange National Park welcomes only a fraction of the visitors that come to South Africa's Kruger or Botswana's Chobe, making it perfect for an intimate and active safari. We're unlikely even to see other vehicles as we explore the Ngamo Plains, known for fabulous year-round game viewing. We'll see great elephant herds and big numbers of lion and cheetah, all the while enjoying boutique lodges. Your participation helps support innovative local community conservation projects, including a rhino sanctuary built around one of our lodges!

What Makes WT's Wild Zimbabwe Trip Special?

HWANGE: AFRICA'S HIDDEN GEM

Hwange National Park, Zimbabwe's biggest and most diverse national park, quietly rivals better-known Kruger and the Serengeti, yet without the crowds. Hwange boasts over 100 species of mammals and is known for its thriving elephant population (an estimated 50,000), the largest in Africa. There are also lions by the hundreds, including renowned prides who have a territory near our lodge at Nehimba, and there's a thriving cheetah population on the Ngamo Plains (our guides know the habits of several generations of these elegant hunters). The Ngamo Plains also shelter one of the continent's largest populations of African painted dog, an endangered species. Our lodges are set in distinctly different landscapes of Hwange, and are positioned to give you fantastic access to the wildlife.

EXCLUSIVE ACCESS

Unbelievably, we're unlikely to see other safari vehicles as we explore the famed Ngamo Plains at the eastern end of Hwange, even though it's one of the park's most productive wildlife areas, as most lodges are clustered in the north. Even in the north, Nehimba Lodge has the largest private concession in the entire park, with 100 square miles of exclusive wilderness, right on the elephant migration path. You'll see tuskers in great numbers gathered around the waterhole at our lodge. At Victoria Falls, we stay at Shongwe Oasis, set in the heart of town. In Zambezi National Park, we enjoy the serene haven of Victoria Falls River Lodge.

THE MOST ACTIVE AND VARIED SAFARI

Our safari starts at Victoria Falls, where we admire the astonishing spectacle of the falls—double the height of Niagara—as they plunge into the Batoka Gorge. We enter Hwange National Park with a flight to an airstrip near our first lodge, then travel to our next lodge in style—aboard the *Elephant Express*, a vintage railway car. In Hwange, the big thrill is when we leave the safari vehicle to track game on foot with our expert Trip Leader—including walking with endangered white rhino in the Ngamo Rhino Sanctuary! Being on foot is the most exciting way to experience African wildlife. In addition to game drives in our open-sided vehicles, we'll observe wildlife from an ingenious underground blind that gives us waterhole-level views of hippos and elephants (it's a photographer's dream, and it even has a fridge for cool drinks and a bathroom). Night game drives reveal a whole new world in Hwange, and when we get to Zambezi National Park, we'll explore the Zambezi River and enjoy sundowners by boat.

SMALL GROUPS AND AFRICA'S BEST SAFARI GUIDES

Our groups are limited to just 12 travelers. This gives you a more personalized experience, close access to your superbly trained Trip Leader, and a "window seat" in our open-sided safari vehicles for great photography. The Trip Leader is with you for your whole adventure—you aren't handed off from guide to guide at each lodge. Zimbabwe's guide accreditation program is the most rigorous in Africa, and we work with the very best of these world-class safari guides. They're expert trackers who can bring you the unmatched thrill of tracking African wildlife on foot, one of the most sought-after experiences on a safari.

Highlights of Wild Zimbabwe

TRACK WILDLIFE ON FOOT

Step out of the safari vehicle and experience Africa on foot! These walks get you close to a wide variety of game on foot and are only possible because of the highly trained, expert guides who accompany you and intimately know the territory and behavior of these animals.

COMMUNITY & CONSERVATION IS WOVEN INTO YOUR SAFARI

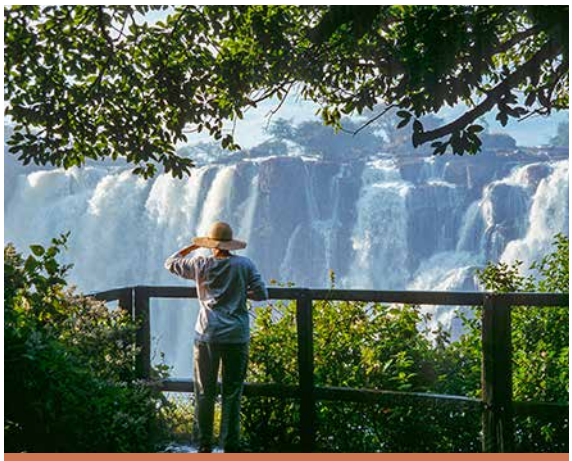
Local villages once had nothing to gain from safari tourism, but we—together with our Zimbabwe partners—are changing that. Camelthorn Lodge is on land rented from the local community, providing them income and employment. With the new Community Rhino Conservation Initiative, villagers have entrusted some of their communal land as a rhino sanctuary and they benefit as rhino guardians, with 70% of revenue from rhino-viewing tourism going directly back to them. This initiative will also sustainably re-introduce the rhino to this part of Zimbabwe.

RIDE THE ELEPHANT EXPRESS

Enjoy travel—and game viewing!—by rail, an experience that harkens back to yesteryear as we travel in Hwange aboard an open-air vintage rail car for a ride that provides a fantastic opportunity for photography en route to the next leg of the adventure.

WATCH ELEPHANTS FROM THE DECK IN NEHIMBA

The elephant is the icon of Hwange, and our private concession at Nehimba Lodge is set right on the elephants' migration trail. They often congregate by the hundreds at Nehimba, and the large bulls of the herd enjoy our lodge's swimming pool as a gathering spot and a handy source of drinking water. You'll find yourself dining by candle light on the lodge's deck within just a few yards of these mighty creatures and be able to observe their social interactions—it's unforgettable.



SEE THE SMOKE THAT THUNDERS: VICTORIA FALLS

The Zambezi River spills into the chasm of Batoka Gorge at Victoria Falls, a thunderous World Heritage Site and the unforgettable introduction to our safari. We experience a Zimbabwean sunset on a sundowner cruise on the Zambezi, on the lookout for hippo and other creatures drawn to the waters, tour the best viewpoints of the Falls, and stay at Shongwe Oasis, with its luxury and comfort in the heart of Victoria Falls.

UNIQUE PERSPECTIVES ON WILDLIFE

You'll experience Hwange by rail, by open-sided 4WD vehicle, and on foot with your highly trained guide. You also observe wildlife from a unique waterhole-level blind where you'll get fantastic photos and see the animals at incredibly close range.

Itinerary

TRIP DETAILS AT-A-GLANCE

Length: 10 days
Arrive: Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe
Depart: Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe
Lodging: 9 nights lodges and luxury tented chalets
Meals: All meals included (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner)
Activity: Safaris, Walking, Wildlife and Natural History
Trip Level: 1 (2+) 3 4 5 6
Game viewing by 4WD vehicle and rail car, game walks, cultural explorations

DAY 1 VICTORIA FALLS / SHONGWE OASIS

Arrive at Zimbabwe's Victoria Falls Airport, where you'll be met by your private guide for your transfer to our accommodation, Shongwe Oasis. This relaxing hotel has an ideal location just minutes from spectacular Victoria Falls. The afternoon is free to settle into your room, have a swim, or investigate the lookout tower, with its sweeping views of the area. Or, if you prefer, you will be invited to enjoy a sundowner cruise on the Zambezi River (canapes and drinks included!). (Please note: you must be in Victoria Falls in the early afternoon to join this optional sundowner cruise.) We'll float up the river, on the lookout for animals coming down to drink or the many hippo that often pop up to welcome us. After disembarking, the evening will be spent back at Shongwe Oasis enjoying a Welcome Dinner. Overnight at Shongwe Oasis...D

DAY 2 VICTORIA FALLS / HWANGE NATIONAL PARK / NEHIMBA LODGE

Known as Mosi-oa-Tunya, or "the smoke that thunders," the cascade of Victoria Falls extends more than a mile across the Zambezi River (that's more than twice the size of Niagara Falls!). This World Heritage Site and natural wonder offers us an unforgettable introduction to our safari. After breakfast, our guide whisks us to the mighty Falls to take in the spectacular vistas and walk through the rainforest, enjoying a guided tour and incredible scenes of the cascades of water—a once-in-a-lifetime experience! We'll then head to the airport to catch a fight to the Giraffe Springs airstrip and look for game as we drive to Nehimba Lodge in Hwange National Park. Spanning some 5,600 square miles, Hwange is both the first

Itinerary

(founded in 1928) and largest park in the nation. It is home to some of the highest concentrations of elephant on the planet (around 44,000) along with lion, leopard, and buffalo, and it's world famous as a birding destination. Nehimba is the perfect spot for exploring northern Hwange, with its mopane woodland and sand river environment. Nehimba's raised, thatched chalets arc around a lively watering hole frequented by elephants and other wildlife, including herds of buffalo and wild dog. Dinner is served outdoors with good views of the activity at the waterhole. After dinner, you can join an optional night game drive to spot the animals that are just starting their "day." Overnight at Nehimba Lodge…BLD

> "The attention to detail, the quality of the accommodations and cuisine, the attentiveness of all staff, and the five-star quality of Mark Butcher himself combined to create a trip that exceeded all expectations."
>
> Linda G., Copiague, NY

DAY 3 NEHIMBA SEEP / NEHIMBA LODGE

Today we head out for game drives and game walks to explore more of the northern reaches of Hwange, which is distinctly different from the southern area of the park in its topography, habitats, and species of wildlife. At the Nehimba Seep, an ancient source of water once used by San Bushmen, we'll stop for a tea break and wildlife viewing. Elephants still come here to dig for water and nourishing minerals in the soil. We'll head back to the lodge for lunch and a siesta or a swim in the pool (with elephants often sipping from the waterhole just yards away). Our late afternoon game drive ends with cool refreshments at sunset overlooking a famed waterhole. Dinner is back at the lodge, with an evening to relax around the campfire and discuss the day's events. Overnight at Nehimba Lodge…BLD

DAY 4 NORTHWEST HWANGE / *ELEPHANT EXPRESS* / CAMELTHORN LODGE

Wake up to morning birdsong and set out for an early game walk, a great way to experience Hwange on foot and see the small details of the bush, such as bird's nests and game tracks. After a hearty brunch back at the lodge, we head 2-3 hours to the railway depot at Dete to catch the *Elephant Express*, a vintage open-air railway car that glides along the historic track built in 1904 by Cecil Rhodes. We'll savor lunch on board and enjoy exciting afternoon game viewing in comfort as we travel deeper into the park. At Ngamo, we disembark and board 4WD vehicles for a game

drive to our stylish lodge, Camelthorn. Set in a small patch of pristine woodlands on the edge of the Ngamo Plains, Camelthorn is also a community-based lodge, helping support local schools and water projects. We'll settle into our forest villas and enjoy a delicious dinner beneath the namesake camelthorn tree. Overnight at Camelthorn Lodge...BLD

DAY 5 HWANGE NATIONAL PARK / CAMELTHORN LODGE

After waking up to the sounds of the African bush and enjoying an early breakfast, we set out for a morning of game viewing in our open-air vehicles. Elephant, giraffe, zebra, wildebeest, and impala are often seen in these parts, making for an exhilarating day in the bush. One of the things that makes Hwange unique in comparison to other great African parks is that it has no major rivers. The absence of year-round surface water in Hwange means the animals rely heavily on man-made waterholes to survive. Over the years, a series of boreholes have been drilled to pump life-sustaining water for the park's wildlife. Our trips take place during the dry season, when wildlife frequents these waterholes, enhancing game viewing opportunities.

> "Attention to detail at every level, consideration of the location of each lodging in relationship to the total trip experience, anticipation of the client's needs as to meals—it was perfection in itself!"
>
> Peggy H., Empire, CO

In the afternoon, we'll visit the headquarters of the Imvelo Ngamo Rhino Sanctuary. Our partners in Zimbabwe, Imvelo Safari Lodges, are proud and excited to be spearheading the return of white rhino in Hwange under the auspices of the Community Rhino Conservation Initiative (CRCI). The CRCI concept is to establish a highly protected rhino sanctuary on community land bordering the park. We'll tour the sanctuary headquarters, meet members of the Cobras Community Wildlife Protection Unit who guard the rhino 24/7, and then head out with the rangers to meet and walk with the white rhino! This experience, walking closely near the rhino (and safely, thanks to the Cobra rangers!), is exhilarating and one of the highlights of this safari. We'll also join the Cobras for a display of their prowess—a challenging physical fitness routine and a demonstration of their shooting skills. We'll hear a short talk describing the origins and ideas behind the formation of the Cobras unit, and their important role in the new rhino conservation project that was launched in June 2022 at the Ngamo Imvelo Rhino Sanctuary. Dinner and overnight at Camelthorn Lodge...BLD

DAY 6 HWANGE NATIONAL PARK / MFAGAZAAN PAN

Another full day of game viewing awaits! We'll have tables and chairs set up for a picnic lunch overlooking the Mfagazaan Pan and watch as the animals make their way across the dry plains for a drink of fresh water. A leisurely late afternoon drive from pan to pan brings us back to the lodge, weaving our way between throngs of elephants. After dinner at the lodge, we enjoy a nightcap by the campfire, sharing stories and photos of the day's excursions. Overnight at Camelthorn Lodge...BLD

DAY 7 NGUNYANA VILLAGE AND SCHOOL VISIT / AFTERNOON GAME DRIVE / CAMELTHORN LODGE

A memorable cultural opportunity is in store this morning. We head to nearby Ngunyana village and join the local school children on their walk from the village to their school. On arrival at the school, we'll be welcomed with a wonderful singing performance by the kids. Following this, we interact with them as they try to teach us a few words of Ndebele, their tribal "click" language! It's always fun and the teachers encourage the interaction as a way for the children to meet people from all over the world and learn about different cultures. After the school visit, we head over to a local homestead to see the typical daily activities at the village. Our late afternoon game drive brings us to a specially built underground game-viewing blind at Stoffie's Pan, where we'll enjoy sundowners and snout-level viewing of thirsty elephants. The blind is furnished with comfortable seating and a bathroom. Tonight we head out on a night drive, looking for nocturnal species that prowl the plains after twilight. Dinner will be served en route, bush-style, beneath the spectacular star-lit sky. Overnight at Camelthorn Lodge…BLD

> "Everything about this trip was fantastic—can't think of any way to improve it. In particular, our Trip Leader's tracking skills, knowledge, and friendliness were outstanding."
>
> Kurt B., Irvine, CA

DAY 8 HWANGE AND ZAMBEZI NATIONAL PARK / BOAT SAFARI / VICTORIA FALLS RIVER LODGE

After a final walking safari in the Hwange wilderness, we fly to Victoria Falls and transfer to Zambezi National Park, whose northern border is formed by the Zambezi River. Arriving in the afternoon, we'll settle in at Victoria Falls River Lodge, our picturesque lodge on the banks of the river, where each thatched tent has river views and its own private plunge pool on its deck. Tonight's sundowners will be aboard a boat as we

safari along the Zambezi at sunset, watching for elephant, hippo, crocodile, and a great variety of birdlife as gold and crimson colors reflect off the tranquil waters. Dinner and overnight at Victoria Falls River Lodge...BLD

Approximate Boating Time: 1.5 hours

DAY 9 ZAMBEZI RIVER SAFARI / VICTORIA FALLS RIVER LODGE

In 1857, Scottish explorer and medical missionary David Livingstone embarked on his historic expedition to chart the Zambezi waters. Today we'll set off by boat, chartering our own waters and exploring the river as it flows along and keeping an eye out for hippo, crocodile, elephant, buffalo, and the occasional lion and giraffe. We'll stop along the river's edge for a relaxing brunch, then later head back to the lodge by safari vehicle. The afternoon is free to enjoy your private plunge pool and a light lunch. Tonight is a game drive with sundowners on the riverbank, followed by our Farewell Dinner. Overnight at Victoria Falls River Lodge…BLD

"This was my third trip to an African country and it exceeded all others. The game viewing, the fabulous lodges and the amazing knowledge, passion, and experience of our guide, Mark Butcher, made this one of the most unforgettable travel experiences I have had to date. All personnel on this trip get five stars!"

-Deborah S., Hermosa Beach, CA

DAY 10 VICTORIA FALLS AIRPORT / DEPART

After an early morning walking safari and a delicious bush breakfast, return to the lodge and transfer to Victoria Falls Airport for your homeward flights, or extend your stay with one of our optional extensions to Botswana's Okavango Delta or South Africa's Cape Town…B

Pricing

TRIP COST

Prices are per person, based on double occupancy
2027
$9,595 (9-12 members)
$9,995 (4-8 members)
Single supplement: $1,695
Internal airfare: $575-$1,075 per person (subject to change)

Please call for future years' pricing

To offer the lowest possible cost, our trips are priced according to the number of participants on the trip. All costs are per person, based on double occupancy. If you wish to have a single room, you must pay the single supplement fee. Please note that Wilderness Travel staff, or guests of Wilderness Travel such as travel writers, photographers, or leaders-in-training, are not included in the tier pricing count.

TRIP COST INCLUDES

- Expert leadership of a Wilderness Travel Trip Leader and local guides
- Internal airfare
- Accommodations, based on double occupancy
- All meals included
- Water, soft drinks, juice, local beer, wine and spirits
- Park fees
- Safari camp staff
- Land transportation, baggage handling, airport transfers as noted

TRIP COST DOES NOT INCLUDE

International airfare to and from Zimbabwe, airport departure taxes, optional tipping or gratuities to leaders or staff, additional hotel nights that may be necessitated by airline schedule changes or other factors, cost of medical immunizations (if any), travel insurance, and other expenses of a personal nature (premium alcoholic beverages, etc.), optional side trips and excursions.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE

At time of reservation: $600
90 days prior to departure: Balance

CANCELLATION AND TRANSFER FEE SCHEDULE

Up to 91 days prior to departure: No charge!
61-90 days prior to departure: 25% of trip cost
46-60 days prior to departure: 50% of trip cost
45 days or less: 100% of trip cost

CURRENCY EXCHANGE RATE

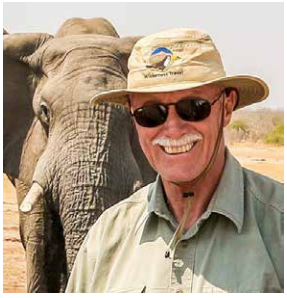
Because the prices published for our program are set so far in advance of the trip dates, we are occasionally faced with exceptional cost increases and/or currency fluctuations that affect the actual cost of running the trip. In most years, no price changes are necessary. However, we do reserve the right to raise or lower the trip price if there is a significant change in costs or exchange rates. If this is the case, your final invoice will reflect the difference in trip cost.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

We highly recommend you purchase travel insurance. You can take advantage of a comprehensive Travel Protection Plan designed for Wilderness Travel by Travelex, or purchase other insurance on your own. See our website for details: www.wildernesstravel.com/insurance

Trip Leaders

The skilled guides at Wilderness Travel transform your safari from amazing to absolutely life-changing. In Zimbabwe, the process to earn a Professional Safari Guide License is among the most difficult in Africa, resulting in the best guides in the industry. Our Trip Leaders are not only full licensed, but are also fantastic traveling companions who have a deep commitment to their country and love combining conservation and community into their work. You'll be amazed by how much learn about the unique habitats on games drives and walks, and how to train your eyes to spot wildlife (don't worry, our guides are excellent trackers and are happy to point you the right direction). They are the true treasures of our safari, and you will certainly leave the trip calling them not just "friends," but "family."

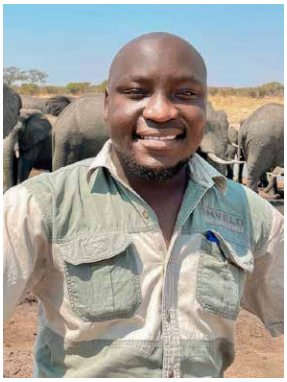


MARK BUTCHER

A fifth-generation African, Mark "Butch" Butcher's passion for wildlife conservation began early, when he joined Zimbabwe's former Department of National Parks. After graduating from South Africa's Rhodes University with a degree in zoology and botany, Butch joined the Forestry Commission as Provincial Wildlife Officer, patrolling and protecting a huge area of Hwange's indigenous forest and its remarkable wildlife—his knowledge of this great park is simply phenomenal. A superb safari guide, Butch holds the highly coveted Zimbabwe Professional Guide's License and was a winner of Guardian Travel's prestigious Ethical award for 2014. Deeply committed to wildlife conservation and the surrounding communities, Butch has been at the forefront of the most innovative conservation programs in the country, involving villagers in the protection of wildlife, and ensuring that they benefit from safaris. Endlessly energetic, hugely entertaining, and limitless in his knowledge of Africa's wildlife, Butch is a force of nature and an absolute delight to travel with.

VUSA NCUBE

Vusa Ncube was born in 1989 in Ngamo village, just outside of Hwange National Park. As a boy looking after his family's cattle, he dealt firsthand with the delicate balance between humans and wildlife. The same animals that were once a dangerous threat to his livestock and family are now the source of his livelihood, and he is passionate about sharing his insights with visitors from around the world. Vusa attended Regina Mundi Secondary in Gwayi, and earned his degree in Travel and Tourism at Speciss College in Bulawayo. After years of hard work and dedication, Vusa successfully completed the guide training program through the National Parks and Wildlife Management Authority in Zimbabwe, and is a fully license Zimbabwe Professional Guide. Zimbabwe's Professional Guides are regarded as among the best in Africa, due to the stringent qualification process they are required to complete. Vusa feels a close connection with the surrounding wildlife as well as with his community, and loves to share his keen eye for spotting birds and animals with fellow travelers.



PETE NDLOVU

Pete Ndlovu is a Hwange specialist, born and raised near Hwange National Park in an area where subsistence farming often comes into conflict with wildlife. A fascination with nature around him became the driving force of his life, and he achieved his first professional Zimbabwe guide's license in 2016. Pete has a fantastic knowledge of the terrain, typography, and wildlife, and in addition to big game, he's passionate about birds and the medicinal uses of herbs in the Hwange region. He has a favorite animal: the elephant. "I love watching them in the water, seeing the youngsters learning how to use their trunks. They are always amazing. Plus, the elephant is my family totem, the Ndlovu!"

Lodging in Enchanting and Varied Locations

LUXURY IN THE BUSH

All of our accommodations are situated far from the bustle of other lodges—away from the crowds and in the heart of the wilderness. You will find our intimate lodges to be relaxing oases after the thrill of a day on safari. Enjoy gourmet, multi-course meals under the stars, spacious and secluded tents and chalets, with en suite indoor and outdoor bathrooms and hot showers.

> "The accomodations were all spectacular. The staff at each of the lodges was incredibly helpful and friendly. We felt extremely welcome at each location."
>
> — Patricia E., Pasadena CA

Shongwe Oasis, ideally located in the heart of Victoria Falls, offers spacious guest rooms in a gorgeous garden setting. **Nehimba Lodge** is set in a private concession in Northern Hwange, with 100 square miles of exclusive wilderness to explore! **Camelthorn Lodge** is nestled into a pristine woodland on the edge of Hwange's most productive game viewing area—the famed Ngamo plains. Camelthorn features private villas, each with their own indoor fireplace—perfect for chilly nights. **Victoria Falls River Lodge,** located directly on the banks of the Zambezi River, has to be one of the most romantic ways to end a safari. Each tent chalet has its own private deck and plunge pool overlooking the Zambezi River. The lodge was the first to be built within Zambezi National Park.

PARTNERSHIP WITH LOCAL COMMUNITIES

We believe in the power of tourism to empower the local communities and have selected a lodge that employs a similar philosophy. Camelthorn Lodge was built on communal land bordering national parks, providing employment and putting tourism dollars directly in the hands of the local people.

Lodging

SHONGWE OASIS

Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe
Day 1 (1 night)

This boutique lodge really lives up to its name for being an oasis in the region. Shongwe Oasis has 19 rooms set amid lush gardens and teak trees, all centered around the infinity pool. Each room has spacious bathrooms, comfy beds, and wonderful views of the garden. A bar and restaurant serve up delicious cuisine and their on-site spa is perfect for those traveling long distances. A unique perk of Shongwe Oasis is the lookout tower, one of the first of its kind in the area. The tower grants sweeping vistas accessed from two viewing platforms, and a clever pulley system allows you to order and enjoy drinks without missing a moment.

NEHIMBA LODGE

Hwange, Zimbabwe
Days 2 to 3 (2 nights)

Raised thatched tent chalets arcing around a watering hole make Nehimba Lodge a spectacular place to witness elephants and other animals drink and play in northern Hwange National Park. Whether you come during the green or dry season, Nehimba's location within the park offers fantastic opportunities to view a wide variety of birdlife like giant eagle owl, Burchell's sandgrouse, and red-billed francolin, and possibly see the famous elephant hunting lions that prowl this part of the park. Private, enclosed outdoor showers are attached to each chalet, and all have beautiful open-beam thatched ceilings and verandas overlooking the watering hole. For a refreshing dip, relax at the lodge's pool, and with luck, have an up-close encounter with elephants—they're known to come right up to the pool's edge!

Lodging

CAMELTHORN LODGE

Hwange, Zimbabwe
Days 4 to 7 (4 nights)

Tucked in the forested fringes of southern Hwange National Park, Camelthorn Lodge is the perfect place to experience life in the bush without sacrificing comfort. The main lodge has a community dining area and buffet station for breakfast, yet you can also enjoy your meals beneath the lodge's namesake camelthorn tree. Eight villas are designed to stay cool in the warmer months and cozy during the colder months with tall ceilings, large stone and tiled bathrooms, and each has a private viewing deck with a hammock so you can unwind beneath a canopy of acacia trees, watching an abundance of birdlife—and small woodland creatures—right from your room.

VICTORIA FALLS RIVER LODGE

Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe
Days 8 to 9 (2 nights)

Set on the banks of the Zambezi River near magnificent Victoria Falls is the elegant Victoria Falls River Lodge. This property is actually the first private game lodge to be built within the Zambezi National Park, and its legacy still stands as one of the best locations for nearby activities and game viewing. Friendly staff welcome you in the open-air lobby and guide you to one of the lodge's meticulously designed thatched tents that are spread around the property. The thatched tents are constructed of canvas, glass, and timber, and each suite extends out onto its own private deck with a plunge pool and uninterrupted views of the Zambezi.

Extensions

To help you make the most of your adventure, we've created several exciting trip extensions. For detailed information, including full itineraries and complete pricing, please visit our webpage and click on "Extend Your Trip": www.wildernesstravel.com/trip/zimbabwe/victoria-falls-hwange-safari

OKAVANGO DELTA SAFARI EXTENSION

The 800-mile-long Okavango—the river that never finds the sea—is rightfully considered one of the most incredible wilderness sanctuaries in Africa. Its inland delta system is the largest in the world, 8,000 square miles filled with water channels, lagoons, swamps, and islands. Apart from the outstanding beauty of the wetland habitat, this unique area supports and sustains a huge diversity of fauna and flora so that game viewing is excellent throughout the year, with elephants congregating along the lagoons and waterways and impala, wildebeest, red lechwe, zebra, giraffe, sable, and buffalo found on the game-rich floodplains, along with their predators—lion, leopard, cheetah, and hyena.
4 days. From $5,495.

CAPE TOWN EXTENSION

The town where modern South Africa was born has a glorious location on the mountainous Cape Peninsula along the blue waters of Table Bay. There is much to see, from Table Mountain to the famous botanical gardens at Kirstenbosch, where 10,000 species are cultivated on 1,000 acres. Close by is Stellenbosch and Franschhoek wine country and the Cape Point Nature Reserve, where the African continent ends.

The itinerary can be customized as needed, please call for details.
4 days. From $2,895.

Arrival & Departure

Upon confirming your trip reservation, we will send you a Welcome Packet that includes a list of documents (passport, visas, etc.) required for your trip. Please feel free to call if you would like this information before making your air arrangements.

ARRIVAL & MEETING PLACE

Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe

Suggested Airport: Victoria Falls Airport (VFA)
Suggested Date & Time: Day 1, before 2:00 pm

Meeting Place: A Wilderness Travel representative will meet all trip members at the Victoria Falls Airport on Day 1 for transfer to Shongwe Oasis. For those arriving early in the day, you are invited to join an optional sundowner cruise before the Welcome Dinner (departure time from Shongwe Oasis is 3:30 pm). Alternatively, you are welcome to enjoy the afternoon at leisure and meet the group at the lodge in the evening for a trip orientation and Welcome Dinner.

DEPARTURE

Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe

Suggested Airport: Victoria Falls Airport (VFA)
Suggested Date & Time: Day 10, anytime

On Day 10 a complimentary transfer will be provided from the Victoria Falls River Lodge to the Victoria Falls Airport.

INTERNATIONAL AIR TRAVEL

You are responsible for making your own arrangements for flights to and from Zimbabwe. There are many online consolidators for booking travel, but for more personal help arranging air transport, you can contact Exito Travel at 970-818-8459 in the US or Canada. They are very adept at putting flight itineraries together, to even the most far-flung places. More information can be found on Exito's website at www.exitotravel.com.

Depending on your routing, it is necessary to depart from the US one or possibly two days prior to Day 1 of the trip itinerary. The name on your airline ticket must match the name on your passport exactly, and your passport must be valid for at least six months after your date of return to the US.

Please do not purchase your tickets until you are confirmed on the trip. Once your tickets have been purchased, please send us a copy of your airline schedule so we can reserve your airport transfers. It is your responsibility to ensure your flight times coordinate with the arrival and departure logistics for this trip.

EXTRA AIRPORT HOTEL NIGHTS IN JOHANNESBURG

We recommend the following airport hotels in Johannesburg for extra overnights. To obtain the best rate, please book directly with the property online.

Johannesburg O.R. Tambo Hotel
www.intercontinental.com

Protea Hotel O.R. Tambo Airport
www.proteahotels.com/protea-hotel-or-tambo-airport

What to Expect

WHAT THE TRIP IS LIKE

This trip is Level 2+ (Easy to Moderate) according to our trip grading system. It can be enjoyed by anyone in reasonably good health. Optional game walks are available.

Average Walking Day

- 1-2 hours
- 1-2 miles
- Flat terrain

How Tough is This Trip?

While we do not see major elevation gain or loss, you need to be able to walk on uneven surfaces and feel comfortable on your feet for up to 2 hours a day.

WEATHER

Generally, Zimbabwe has a mild climate because of its altitude (about 3,000 feet above sea level). In the months of June and July, temperatures are colder (67°-77°F during the day, 40°-45°F at night) so warm jackets and insulating layers are necessary on early morning game drives. In August, the weather warms up a bit (75°-80°F during the day, 45°-55°F at night), and in the months of September and October, temperatures are even warmer (85°-95°F during the day, 60°-77°F at night), so you can pack lighter clothing.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Each of our safari lodges and camps has been meticulously designed to offer all your home comforts, a splash of luxury and an exciting dash of African charm. On top of this, our locations have been carefully selected for two vital reasons; the local communities' dedication to our conservation partnership and their proximity to some of nature's most impressive wonders, from the famous Victoria Falls, to the mighty Zambezi River and Hwange National Park, famed for its thousands of elephants.

CUISINE

While on safari, breakfasts and evening meals are served at the lodge you are staying in. Lunches while traveling between destinations will be served picnic-style en route. Bottled water, soft drinks, juice, house wine, and beer are included throughout the trip. All vehicles are equipped with a fridge or cool box stocked with bottled water. Tea and coffee are offered by all accommodations free of charge with meals and at afternoon teatime.

TRANSPORTATION

On safari, there are long driving days over rugged dirt tracks, we can be in and out of the vehicles all day long, usually only driving approximately 2 hours at a time. We will be in a 7-seat open sided 4WD vehicle with a roof for sun protection. We sit 6 people max per vehicle to optimize everyone's view and provide wool blankets for early morning and evening game drives.

This is a truly unique safari in that we will be traveling by many different forms of transportation—in addition to game drives in custom made safari vehicles and travel by bush plane, we'll take a vintage train car on safari for 2 hours and a sunset boat cruise for 2 hours.

SAFETY

During drives and game walks, we can get quite close to wild animals at times. Being very quiet improves everybody's chances of observation. In the interest of safety, your Trip Leader explains limitations on movement while on game drives, on walks, and around camp. Incidents with wild animals are extremely rare on safaris, but no safari can guarantee immunity from such incidents. Wilderness Travel is not to be held responsible for incidents involving the behavior of wildlife.

ZIMBABWE LANDING PAGE

Visit our *Zimbabwe Landing Page* for more great information including when to go, our other trips in Zimbabwe, and our community & conservation efforts.
www.wildernesstravel.com/africa/zimbabwe/

CHOOSING THE RIGHT TRIP

Adventure travel often involves exotic destinations, unusual levels of physical exertion, or activities you may not have participated in previously. We work hard to help you choose the right trip for you, paying attention to your individual interests, abilities, and needs. If you have questions about the level of comfort or any of the activities described in this itinerary, please call Wilderness Travel at 1-800-368-2794 and ask for the Africa Manager or email us at africa@wildernesstravel.com.

REFERENCES

We'd be happy to put you in touch with a past client that has traveled with us on this or a similar trip.

TOUCAN CLUB

We're proud to have one of the highest rates of repeat travelers in the business! The Wilderness Travel Toucan Club was established to reward our travelers for their loyalty. For details, please visit the Toucan Club page of our website at www.wildernesstravel.com/resources/toucan-club/.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

At www.wildernesstravel.com, you can book your trip online or find out about added departures, last-minute deals, and one-time Limited Edition adventures that aren't listed in our catalog. You can also access our complete library of detailed itineraries filled with enticing photos and videos, read bios of our Trip Leaders, find descriptions of trip accommodations, and check real-time availability of any trips that interest you.

Community and Conservation

Along with our Zimbabwean partners, WT is deeply committed to the interconnected relationship between responsible tourism, local communities, and conservation. We strongly believe that tourism can be a force for good—to provide employment and sustainable income for local communities, which then in turn promotes the conservation of the local wildlife and natural resources.

COMMUNITY LODGES – BRINGING TOURISM, COMMUNITY, AND WILDLIFE TOGETHER

One of the lodges we have selected in Zimbabwe (Camelthorn Lodge) is built on communal land bordering the national park. By supporting this lodge, our tourism dollars go directly to the local villages, creating employment opportunities (over 100 people from the surrounding communities are employed on a long-term basis as guides or camp staff) and directing concession fees and royalties directly to the local councils (not to the central government). Through this effort, the community has a strong stake in wildlife conservation and is much more likely to help deter poachers and tolerate problem animals in their villages.

In addition, the partnership with these local villages provides opportunities for authentic and unscripted cultural experiences with our guests. We are welcomed to a nearby village as visiting friends not just as tourists.

OTHER COMMUNITY AND CONSERVATION INITIATIVES

Here are some examples of the incredible work your tourism dollars help support:

- Zimbabwe School Lunch Program—more than 2,600 schoolchildren receive a hot lunch daily during terms 2 and 3—a total of 450,000 meals throughout the year
- Construction of 36 projects (toilets, showers, classrooms, teacher cottages, student accommodation)
- Supply of school stationery, textbooks, and teacher resources to 14 schools in Hwange
- Support and funding for two community wildlife and rhino protection teams in the form of wages, training, supplies, bedding, tents, and communication equipment
- Operation of 26 boreholes inside and around Hwange National Park, pumping more than 200,000 gallons of water at the peak of dry season, which sustain an estimated 20-25% of Hwange's wildlife and as many as 10,000 elephants alone

WILDERNESS TRAVEL HAS BEEN AWARDED:

World's Best Tour Operators: *Travel + Leisure*, 2026, 13-time winner
Best Travel Specialists in the World: *Conde Nast Traveler*, 2026, 6-time winner
Best Wildlife, Hiking & Walking Trips: *AFAR Magazine*, 3 years in a row
Best Adventure Travel Companies: *USA Today*
Trip of the Year: *Outside Magazine*, 9-time winner
50 Tours of a Lifetime: *National Geographic Traveler*, 9 years in a row
Best Adventure Travel Companies: *National Geographic Adventure,* 3-time winner

Please be advised that California has established a Travel Consumer Restitution Fund under the California Seller of Travel Law that took effect January 1, 1996. This fund is designed to protect consumers from unscrupulous practices by discount airfare ticket sellers or air charter operators. Unfortunately, this law does not cover non-California residents and, even in the case of California residents, it does not cover any foreign travel where the foreign "providers of transportation or travel services" are not in compliance with the Sellers of Travel Law (compliance being defined as registered as a Seller of Travel in California and a participant in the Travel Consumer Restitution Fund). Thus none of Wilderness Travel's tours qualify and we are required by law to advise each client that they are not covered by the California Travel Consumer Restitution Fund. California law requires sellers of travel to maintain a trust account or bond. This business has a trust account. California Seller of Travel #100769640

While as accurate as possible at the time of printing, this itinerary should be considered an approximate indication of the schedule and scope of activities and trip routing, rather than an inflexible schedule of events; it is subject to change due to circumstances beyond our control. This trip is subject to the Limitation of Liability and all the terms and conditions as detailed in the General Information section of the Wilderness Travel Catalog.

Revised: October 1, 2026 2:16 PM

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