

Zambia Walking Safari

TRACKING LIONS AND LEOPARDS IN UNTOUCHED AFRICA



TRIP DATES

2025

July 21-30, 2025

August 10-19, 2025

September 11-20, 2025

September 21-30, 2025

2026

July 3-12, 2026

August 4-13, 2026

August 24-September 2, 2026

September 13-22, 2026



Wilderness Travel

ITINERARY	3
TRIP COST, PAYMENT & INSURANCE	5
EXTEND YOUR ADVENTURE!	6
LODGING	7
ARRIVAL & DEPARTURE	8
TRIP LEADER	9
TRIP DETAILS	10
BACKGROUND INFORMATION	11



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TRACKING LIONS AND LEOPARDS IN UNTOUCHED AFRICA

Remote and untamed, Zambia is the legendary birthplace of the walking safari. With our expert Trip Leader Jason Alfonsi, step out of the vehicle and experience wild Africa—on foot. Exciting game walks reveal aspects of the bush in a way that is impossible from a vehicle, and with our expert guides, you'll learn the secrets of the bush environment. As they say, from a vehicle, you see the bush—on foot, you feel it! South Luangwa National Park—3,500 square miles of untouched wilderness—is an unforgettably beautiful place and our private Hemingway-style mobile camps ensure cozy comfort. Our group size is six maximum!



1102 Ninth Street, Berkeley, CA 94710

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Itinerary

DAY 1

LUANGWA VALLEY

We arrive in Mfuwe, then take an hour's drive to beautiful Nkwali Camp, set beside the Luangwa River on private land overlooking South Luangwa National Park. The game in the area is excellent, and includes many families of elephant and the endemic Thornicroft giraffe, which is often seen near camp. Nkwali is surrounded by thickets and wooded glades that provide cover for the valley's spectacular and colorful birdlife (more than 400 recorded species). After arriving at camp, if time permits, we head out for our first evening game drive. With the setting of the sun, a different world awakens, revealing the nocturnal realm of leopards, lions, genets, and hyenas (the immediate region around Nkwali Camp is famous for its large and thriving population of leopards that have been the subject of BBC documentaries). Overnight at Nkwali, with its large and spacious chalets with views of the river, and a small swimming pool. The wildlife is all around us—in the night, we may be awakened by the sound of a giraffe browsing outside our chalets!...D

DAY 2

WALKING SAFARI / MOBILE CAMP

After an early breakfast, we head north to the Mupamadzi River, driving for about 70 miles along a bush road through remote parts of the park. We'll stop often to stretch our legs and enjoy a picnic lunch along the way. We arrive at our fully serviced mobile camp, which has already been set up for our arrival. After settling in, we head out in the late afternoon for our first walking safari from camp, an entirely different experience from gameviewing by vehicle. Our maximum group size of six people makes for an intimate experience. We return to camp for sundowners and a delicious dinner under the stars...BLD

DAYS 3-6

WALKING SAFARI

For the next four days on our walking safari, we follow the Mupamadzi River, a major shallow, clear-water tributary of the Luangwa, covering approximately 6-8 miles a day (4-6 hours of walking) in remote and wild terrain. All our walks are led by our Trip Leader, a very experienced naturalist, and we are accompanied by an armed game scout and a "tea bearer" who carries our mid-morning tea and snacks to be enjoyed in the shade of an accommodating tree.

A walking safari is the ultimate wilderness experience of South Luangwa, which absolutely teems with wildlife. In these unpopulated wilds, the terrain and habitats are varied and the game is shy and unused to humans. We cross spectacular and diverse countryside, walking over hills, through woodlands, and across vast grassy plains. Wildlife in the Mupamadzi region includes elephant, waterbuck, zebra, warthog, buffalo, and the full complement of predators including lion, hyena, and leopard. From examining a bird's nest to tracking a lion (and perhaps hearing its roar), or following a leopard's tracks through the tall grass, we learn the many facets of the bush and gain a deep understanding of how the complex ecosystem works. Typically, we rise with the sun for a



TRIP DETAILS AT-A-GLANCE

- Length:** 10 days
Arrive: Mfuwe, Zambia
Depart: Mfuwe, Zambia
Lodging: 5 nights mobile tents, 4 nights tented camps
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
5-day walking safari in Luangwa Valley, 6-8 miles a day over uneven terrain, 4WD game viewing

HIGHLIGHTS

- Experience an incredible walking safari with a small group (maximum 6!) for an authentic and intimate experience
- Learn about the amazing skills of our bush trackers as you walk with them
- Enjoy great leopard sightings and the possibility of predator-prey interactions
- Take night drives to get closer to many nocturnal creatures
- Stay in delightful full-service private mobile camps with a chef
- See elephant, waterbuck, zebra, warthog, buffalo, hyena, lion, and more
- Appreciate the exquisite settings of each bush camp
- Savor a safari experience far from the lodge crowds

Itinerary (cont'd)



“On the walking safari, we saw no other people! The animals were splendid, and Zambia is so wild and special.”

Dianne L., Fairfax Station, VA

morning game walk (the bush is at its most active in the early morning). Our mobile camp is packed and moved to our next campsite, and our lunch is ready when we arrive there on foot by late morning.

Each of the mobile camps has its own atmosphere and setting. Some are nestled in cozy wooded areas while others are positioned high on a riverbank with great views and a wonderful open feeling. (And you won't believe the miracles the camp chef can perform in his bush kitchen!) After lunch and a siesta, we take a short afternoon walk right from camp, often enjoying a sundowner out in the bush (our vehicle meets us) and on our night drive with spotlights on the way back we'll search for nocturnal wildlife such as bushbaby and genet. At dinner we may be serenaded by a local lion pride or hyena!..BLD each day

DAYS 7-9

NSEFU CAMP, LUANGWA VALLEY

On the morning of Day 7, we end our mobile walking safari and transfer to Nsefu Camp, a beautiful lodge set on a sweeping bend of the Luangwa River in the remote Nsefu sector of South Luangwa National Park. Nsefu is the local name for eland, and this part of the park has always been a stronghold for eland. Nsefu camp is actually named after a senior local chief who is named after this area; he created one of the first community reserves, Nsefu sector, in partnership with the parks service in the early '50s. From Nsefu, we take bush walks as well as morning and evening drives by open 4WD vehicle. Night drives, in particular, are always fascinating. During the day we may see lions resting indolently, but at night, the “hunt is on” and we may see them actively prowling for prey. Our schedule is flexible, with meal times based around the all-important game drives...BLD each day



DAY 10

MFUWE / DEPART

Transfer to Mfuwe and fly to Lusaka, where we connect with homeward flights (or join one of our trip extensions)...B

Trip Cost, Payment & Insurance

TRIP COST

Prices are per person, valid through 2025

\$8,395 (2-6 members)

Park fees: \$850

No extra charge for singles!

Victoria Falls Extension: from \$1,545

Among the Elephants and Rhinos Extension: from \$2,795

Please contact us 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. 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.

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.

TRIP COST INCLUDES

- Expert leadership of a Wilderness Travel Trip Leader and local guides
- Accommodations, based on double occupancy
- All meals included as indicated in the Detailed Itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner)
- Safari camp staff
- Land transportation, airport transfers for passengers as noted in the Detailed Itinerary, and baggage handling

TRIP COST DOES NOT INCLUDE

International airfare to and from Africa, internal flights, park fees, any meals not specified after each itinerary day in the Detailed Itinerary, airport departure taxes, optional tipping or gratuities to leaders or staff, additional hotel nights that may be necessary due to airline schedule changes or other factors, cost of medical immunizations (if any), travel insurance, and other expenses of a personal nature.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE

At time of reservation: \$600

130 days prior to departure: Balance

CANCELLATION AND TRANSFER FEE SCHEDULE

Minimum fee: \$600

61-130 days prior: 25% penalty

46-60 days prior: 50% penalty

45 days or less: 100% penalty

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

Extend Your Adventure!



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 *Zambia Walking Safari* webpage and click on "Extend Your Trip": www.wildernesstravel.com/trip/zambia-luangwa-national-park-walking-safari

VICTORIA FALLS EXTENSION

Victoria Falls, or Mosi-oa-Tunya, "the smoke that thunders," is one of Africa's most famous sights. Here the mile-wide Zambezi River drops 300 feet into a sheer chasm to create a spectacular thundering cascade. Above the falls, the river is placid, with palm-fringed islands and rainforested banks. In 1860, Scottish missionary and explorer David Livingstone was the first Westerner to report the existence of this mile-wide cascade, and he named this magnificent wonder for his queen. Since then, it has attracted visitors from around the world. The Zambezi River marks the border between Zambia and Zimbabwe, and visitors can walk across a bridge to view the falls from both countries. *3 days. From \$1325.*

AMONG THE ELEPHANTS AND RHINOS EXTENSION

Magnificent Hwange National Park, one of the largest national parks in Africa, is home to some 40,000 elephants along with lion, hippo, cheetah, and more. You'll also have the unique opportunity to visit two white rhinos at the Ngamo Rhino Sanctuary in Hwange—these are the first white rhinos to be reintroduced in this part of Zimbabwe. Enjoy game drives with the flexibility to get out and walk, lantern-lit dinners in the bush, a ride on a vintage railway car, and a walk to school with the local kids (you'll even learn a few words of their click language).

4 days. From \$2595



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

Mfuwe, Zambia

Suggested Airport: Mfuwe Airport (MFU)

Suggested Date & Time: Day 1, anytime

Meeting Place: Your Trip Leader will meet you at the Mfuwe airport and accompany you on the drive to Nkwali Camp at South Luangwa with gameviewing en route.

DEPARTURE

Mfuwe, Zambia

Suggested Airport: Mfuwe Airport (MFU)

Suggested Date & Time: Day 10, anytime

You can schedule your ProFlight from Mfuwe to Lusaka at any time to connect with your onward flights via Lusaka and Johannesburg.

INTERNATIONAL AIR TRAVEL

You are responsible for making your own arrangements for flights to and from Zambia.

The most common carriers are South African Airways via Johannesburg to Lusaka and ProFlight Zambia to Mfuwe. ProFlight (www.proflight-zambia.com) offers several daily charters from Lusaka to Mfuwe roundtrip; however, we recommend booking one of the earlier flights in order to get into Mfuwe by 1:00 pm. To ensure the best connection, we recommended you book and confirm the necessary ProFlight tickets immediately after booking your international flights.

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 tickets are purchased, please forward a copy of your email flight confirmation from the airline. It is your responsibility to ensure your flight times coordinate with the arrival and departure logistics for this trip.

AIRPORT HOTEL NIGHTS JOHANNESBURG/LUSAKA

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

Johannesburg

InterContinental Johannesburg O.R. Tambo Hotel

www.ichotelsgroup.com

Protea Hotel O.R. Tambo Airport

www.proteahotels.com/protea-hotel-or-tambo-airport

DaVinci Hotel and Suites

www.legacyhotels.co.za/en/hotels/davincihotel

Lusaka

InterContinental Lusaka

www.ichotelsgroup.com

Protea Hotel Lusaka

www.proteahotels.com/hotels/Pages/protea-hotel-lusaka

Radisson Blu Hotel Lusaka

www.radissonblu.com/hotel-lusaka

Accommodations



NKWALI CAMP

Luangwa Valley, Zambia

Day 1 (1 night)

Beautifully set in an ebony grove overlooking South Luangwa National Park, Nkwali features six bamboo chalets, each with an attached private bathroom partly open to the sky (for the delightful experience of showering under the sun or in the moonlight!). The bar, on the banks of the snaking Luangwa River, is built around a massive ebony tree and is a fantastic place for watching the sunset across the river, and the camp's swimming pool is a great place to cool off after a day of gameviewing. There's a small lagoon in view from the dining room where elephants, bushbucks, and other wildlife can be seen, and hippos are almost always around this charming camp. The atmosphere at Nkwali is relaxed and friendly, the food is excellent, and the staff is top notch.



ZAMBIA WALKING SAFARI—MOBILE CAMPS

South Luangwa National Park, Zambia

Days 2 to 6 (5 nights)

For our walking safari, we use lightweight yet fully serviced mobile camps that allow us access to remote sections of the park. Our mobile camps have walk-in tents with camp beds, and there is a shower tent plus a shared toilet with a seat. The camp's dining table and bar is usually set under a shady tree, and a small gas fridge keeps the beer and wine chilled. The food at these mobile camps is first class, the same standard as the permanent safari camps on our trip.



NSEFU CAMP

Luangwa Valley, Zambia

Days 7 to 9 (3 nights)

Founded by pioneering *Zambian* conservationist Norman Carr in the 1950s, Nsefu has a great location on a huge bend in the Luangwa River in the remote Nsefu sector of South Luangwa National Park. It was Zambia's first safari camp and still retains its authentic ambience. The six guest rooms are the original small rondavels (round cabins), now restored, each with their own en suite bathroom with flush toilet and shower, plus a veranda for enjoying sweeping views of the river. The thatch-roofed dining room and bar are great places to watch elephants, who regularly cross the river. Many types of antelope gather at the river (and sometimes walk through camp), and the small lagoon by the bar has a continuous stream of animals throughout the day.

These are our signature accommodations for this trip. Although it is highly unlikely, we may make substitutions when necessary. To see more photos and descriptions, please visit our *Zambia Walking Safari* webpage and click on the "Lodging" tab.

Trip Leader

Wilderness Travel Trip Leaders have a passion and a joy for creating an unforgettable journey. We are extremely proud of them and the incredible travel experiences they make possible. For more information, including client comments about them and which specific trips they will be leading, please visit our webpage and click on “Trip Leaders”: www.wildernesstravel.com/trip/zambia-luangwa-national-park-walking-safari



JASON ALFONSI

His father was a hunting guide, and he was on track to be an engineer, yet somewhere along the way Jason Alfonsi found himself in love with the wilderness of Zambia. His incredible insight into the Zambian region is evident in the many trips he leads, guiding clients for more than 20 years now. “It’s a magical moment when we manage to interact with a wild animal,” he says, “it is an experience few people have ever had.” Jason is a member of the Zambia Ornithological Society and has a strong interest in Luangwa’s fantastic birdlife. He also belongs to the local astronomy club, and his knowledge of the night skies of the Southern Hemisphere make him a great companion for star-gazing around the campfire in the evening. In addition to English, Jason speaks the local Luangwa language called Chinyanga.

“Can’t say enough good things about Jason. He gave us the opportunity to experience Zambia with all five senses. I’m bringing home so much knowledge about the area and the life there, plant and animal. Jason is also very knowledgeable about politics, the environment, and history. Plus, he’s simply a great person to be around!”

Nancy B., Albany, CA

Trip Details

WHAT THE TRIP IS LIKE

This trip is rated Level 3, Moderate. It is an active safari featuring extensive bush walking, a mix of moderate cross-country walks and hikes off trail, supplemented by game drives. Participants must have endurance, be agile, in good health, and in good shape. At Nkwali and Nsefu we stay in comfortable, airy bungalows that have en suite bathrooms with flush toilets and showers. Our day starts with an early wake-up call and tea, coffee, cereals, and toast. After breakfast, we depart on a game drive, with a midmorning stop for tea/coffee and cakes. We return anytime between 9:30 am and midday. After lunch, there is a chance to rest, read, or spend a few quiet hours viewing animals near our accommodation. Around 4 pm, following tea and cakes, we depart on a game drive that continues through sundown—and sometimes into the evening for exciting nighttime gameviewing. We return for hot showers, drinks at the bar, a three-course dinner, and perhaps a nightcap sitting around the fire under the stars. We retire around 10:30 pm, as the hyenas begin to call.

During the walking safari, we are in mobile camps and our schedule is a bit more flexible. We walk 6–8 miles per day, typically in the early morning and in the late afternoon. We walk cross-country and the terrain can be challenging from dried broken-clay riverbeds to overgrown brush. Well broken-in lightweight hiking boots or walking shoes with lug soles and ankle support are recommended. Our fully serviced mobile camps are set up with well-equipped walk-in tents with full bedding. At each camp, there is a shower and a shared latrine-style toilet. Delicious meals of a high standard are served on the walking safari.

Game Drive and Wild Animals: Our game drives are in open 4WD vehicles, a boon for great photographic opportunities. During drives and walks, we can at times get quite close to wild animals. 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, in the safari vehicles, and around camp. Incidents with wild animals are extremely rare on safaris, but no trip can guarantee immunity from such incidents. Wilderness Travel is not to be held responsible for incidents involving the behavior of wildlife.

WEATHER

The best months for viewing wildlife are from May to October, when minimum rainfall forces the animals to the river and the grasses of the bushveld are short, improving gameviewing visibility. Most of Zambia lies on a wide plateau at about 3,000 feet, with the Zambezi and its tributaries (the Luangwa and Kafue) cutting deep valleys into the edges of the plateau. Although Zambia is in the tropics, the altitude of the plateau ensures that the climate is generally less hot than in surrounding countries. Average summer temperatures range between 77°F to 95°F. May to August is the cooler dry season, and temperatures can get as low as 50°F at night.

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.

Average Daily Max/Min °F												
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
South Luangwa	84/63	84/64	85/63	85/59	83/51	80/45	81/44	86/50	92/58	91/62	86/63	84/64
Rainfall - Inches												
South Luangwa	9.3	7.7	6.8	1.6	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	2.0	5.6	8.3



WILDERNESS TRAVEL HAS BEEN AWARDED:

Best Travel Specialists in the World: *Conde Nast Traveler*, 2024, 4-time winner

World's Best Tour Operators: *Travel + Leisure*, 11-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.

November 12, 2024 1:32 PM