

Zambia: Wildlife Photographic Safari

- Expert-led by professional photographer and author Sue Flood
- 9 days photographing in Zambia's wildlife-rich South Luangwa
- Coinciding with the Green Season, the perfect time for photographers
- Staying at intimate bush camps run by the renowned Bushcamp Company



SUMMARY

For the wildlife photographer, South Luangwa National Park in the Green Season is what dreams are made of. The air is clean and fresh, the wildlife has a spring in its step and the bush is in rude health following the long rains that fall on Zambia between November and April. Kapamba and Chindeni Bushcamps are located in the remote south of the National Park. This is pristine bush, where the animals reign supreme and the wildlife viewing is spectacular without the distraction of other vehicles. Being remote doesn't mean you'll be missing out on creature comforts though as the Bushcamp Company has a reputation for providing unparalleled comfort and exceptional service.

This trip is perfect for keen wildlife photographers and lovers of wild places who appreciate that wildlife viewing requires time and patience. Sue Flood, our expert photographic leader will be on hand to help hone your photographic skills and ensure you get the best from your cameras. All levels of ability and interest are welcome as are non-photographers.

YOUR EXPERT

Sue Flood



Your guide on the trip is Sue Flood, a photographer, author, wildlife filmmaker and passionate conservationist. Sue was an Associate Producer on the award winning BBC series 'The Blue Planet', and also more recently worked on Planet Earth. Both The Blue Planet and Planet Earth featured several animal behaviours which were filmed for the first time, and Sue obtained unique images for the series. Her photographic highlights include diving with humpback whales in the South Pacific, face-to-face encounters with leopard seals in the Antarctic, filming polar bears in the Arctic, and photographing the wildlife of Namibia and Botswana. More than all of this Sue is great fun to be with and while you will doubtless hone your photographic skills under her tuition, you are also guaranteed a fun and rewarding time in her company.

QUICK REFERENCE ITINERARY

SAFARI 1

13/05/2012	Arrive Lusaka and fly to Mfuwe Lodge
14/05/2012	Mfuwe Lodge
15/05/2012	Kapamba Bushcamp
16/05/2012	Kapamba Bushcamp
17/05/2012	Kapamba Bushcamp
18/05/2012	Chindeni Bushcamp
19/05/2012	Chindeni Bushcamp
20/05/2012	Chindeni Bushcamp
21/05/2012	Fly to Lusaka where trip ends.

SAFARI 2

24/05/2012	Arrive Lusaka and fly to Mfuwe Lodge
25/05/2012	Mfuwe Lodge
26/05/2012	Chindeni Bushcamp
27/05/2012	Chindeni Bushcamp
28/05/2012	Chindeni Bushcamp
29/05/2012	Chindeni Bushcamp
30/05/2012	Kapamba Bushcamp
31/05/2012	Kapamba Bushcamp
1/06/2012	Kapamba Bushcamp
2/06/2012	Fly to Lusaka where trip ends.

DETAILED TRIP ITINERARY - SAFARI 1



Day 1: Lusaka - Mfuwe Lodge

On arrival in Lusaka you will be met & transferred to your domestic flight to South Luangwa. Your first 2 nights are at the award winning Mfuwe Lodge, set inside the park, just five minutes' drive from the main gate.

Beneath a canopy of ebony and mahogany, Mfuwe Lodge's thatched buildings are arranged around the banks of two lagoons where an endless stream of wildlife will keep you enthralled as you lounge on the open deck or take a dip in the swimming pool. Thanks to a thorough refurbishment in 2010 the airy interior of the lodge is an exquisite complement to its natural surroundings.



After lunch and time to relax at the lodge you will go out on your first game drive this afternoon. As one of Africa's most unspoilt and remote national parks, the South Luangwa is renowned for its wide diversity of habitats and high game density. With more than 60 different mammal species in the park, there is an abundance and diversity of wildlife that sets the Luangwa apart from other wildlife destinations. The survival of these animals depends on the meandering Luangwa River; crowded with hippos, crocodiles and wading waterfowl.



Elephants, baboons and vervet monkeys seem to be everywhere from the moment you enter the park. Antelopes, zebra and other plains game congregate on the open floodplains and grasslands along the River and its numerous tributaries that course through the Park. Large herds of buffalo roam the park, impala are ubiquitous, the puku - rarely seen outside Zambia - is almost as common and there are plenty of waterbucks and bushbucks too. The endemic Thornicroft's giraffe is indigenous to the park, as are Crawshay's zebra and Cookson's Wildebeest. The South Luangwa has become one of the best places in Africa to see wild dogs - which are endangered - with numerous resident packs requiring large traversing areas to hunt. Night drives are renowned for sighting lion on the hunt and leopard (the density of leopards is among the highest in the world). And even rarely seen nocturnal animals like the honey badger, porcupine and civet, are often seen by spotlight.



Birdwatching is superb in the Luangwa Valley; with over 400 species of birds recorded you could easily see over 100 different species in a three day visit. Some particularly attractive ones include; Carmine Bee-eaters, Malachite Kingfishers, Lilac-breasted Rollers, Bateleur Eagles, Saddle-billed Storks, Crowned Cranes, Pel's Fishing Owls and Fish Eagles



Day 2: Mfuwe Lodge

This region of the park is renowned for its prolific game - giraffe, buffalo, antelope, hippos and crocodile are constant visitors to Mfuwe Lodge's lagoon. While walking safaris can be arranged, you will mainly explore this region of the Luangwa Valley by vehicle in order to enhance photographic opportunities. Drives are led by experienced guides from the



lodge, setting out at first light and then again in the late afternoon when the wildlife is at its most active and the light for photography is at its best. Sue will of course be on hand at all times to help you get the best from your camera. After sundowners, spotlights are used to pick out a new cast of nocturnal creatures.

Days 3 - 5: Kapamba Bushcamp

After a morning game drive you will be driven to Kapamba Bushcamp a journey of approximately 3½ hours through the prolific South Luangwa National Park.



Renowned for its sense of isolation, superb game viewing and sophisticated luxury, Kapamba is located in a remote corner of South Luangwa National Park. Perched on the banks of the shallow, spring-fed eponymous river, Kapamba is surrounded by some of the park's richest wildlife. Watching an elephant take a dip in the river can be quite an experience when you're lounging in your own private plunge pool! The central bar and dining room is positioned under a huddle of Matumi and Sausage Trees, with a wide deck that stretches out with stunning views of the Kapamba River. Kapamba comprises of four spacious en-suite chalets. Cool, simple and original, these entirely open-fronted rooms boast wide verandas with river views, twin showers and sunken stone plunge pools - the ultimate in bush indulgence. Clever wrought-iron shutters are drawn each evening so that you can enjoy the sights and sounds of the African night without worrying about unwanted visitors wandering into your room whilst you sleep. Two of the chalets have twin beds (queen-sized beds), while the other two have king-sized doubles.



For three days, courtesy of Kapamba's highly regarded guides, you will explore this remote region of South Luangwa by vehicle and on foot. Photographic opportunities will be plentiful - from beautiful river landscapes to an array of dazzling birdlife. And of course predators...lions, leopards and wild dogs are all regularly seen in this area (South Luangwa has one of the highest density of leopard in the world.) Sue will spend time with each guest, both in the field and back at the camp, coaching, cajoling and mentoring on all things photographic. For those with an interest in macro photography, walking safaris will allow you to photograph insects and plants. Getting out on foot also allows you to change the perspective on some of the bigger animals and set up landscape shots that you wouldn't get from the vehicle. The South Luangwa is the home of the walking safari - this is where it was first pioneered back in the 1960s and, with the continent's finest local guides to lead you, nobody does it better. To stride out on your own two feet is the only way to understand the wilderness, and it's the best zoology lesson you'll ever have.



The Kapamba guides will let you in on the secrets of the bush, from teaching you how to track a leopard by identifying spoor and listening for tell-tale alarm calls, to explaining how to soothe insect bites with the juice of a sausage tree. With every step there is something new to learn, a new bird or animal to spot and a new unforgettable experience.





Safety is, of course, paramount. Bushcamp Company guides are highly trained and they will instruct you on how to behave when approaching some of the larger animals. Alongside your guide, an armed national park escort scout, provided by the Zambian Wildlife Authority (ZAWA), is required to accompany you on walks. Bushcamp Company has an untarnished safety record so whilst your heart may inevitably race, you need not fear that you will come to any harm.



The final member of your walking safari group is the all-important tea-porter. As well as being another valuable set of eyes and ears, he will carry refreshments for your walk. At a suitably scenic point, his bag will open to produce tea and biscuits in the morning, or cold beers and G&Ts in the evening. Should you need a drink of water at any point during the walk, he's the person to ask.

It is a rare privilege to be able to walk in an African national park. With so many different habitats to explore, from open plains to sandy river banks, eerie mopane forests to swampy lagoons, no two outings will ever be the same.

Day 6 - 8: Chindeni Bushcamp



Less than an hour's drive away is Chindeni Bushcamp; your bush home for the next 3 nights. A sublime tented camp on the edge of a permanent lagoon with the Chindeni Hills providing a truly breathtaking backdrop, this is undoubtedly one of the most beautiful tented camps in the South Luangwa.



There's something about sleeping under canvas that ignites a sense of adventure in everyone. At Chindeni you can combine that thrill with style and comfort in one of its four opulent tents. Gaze out from your private veranda onto the lagoon which attracts birds and animals from miles around. Or settle back with a gin-and-tonic in the central lounge and dining area - a glorious expanse of varnished decking arranged on several levels around the surrounding ebony trees, boasting the same spectacular view of the serene lagoon and its inhabitants. With stripped wooden floors, four-poster beds, cosy sitting rooms, en suite bathrooms and vaulted canvas ceilings, Chindeni's spacious tents are so inviting you could be forgiven for never wanting to leave your room. Especially when you can see so much wildlife just by stepping onto your own private deck jutting out over the lagoon. Two of the tents have twin beds (queen-sized beds) and two have doubles (king-sized bed).



The beauty of Chindeni is that one does not have to travel far to enjoy the resident game. You will of course be taken on game walks, game drives, night drives and scenic sundowner trips in the surrounding Chindeni Hills however Sue will also conduct photographic workshops from the camp where an abundance of game is drawn to drink, feed and wallow in the lagoon.

Day 9: Return to Lusaka

Transfer back to Mfuwe for flight back to Lusaka where the trip ends.



Sue's Photographic Tips

Whether you're already an enthusiastic photographer, or simply want to take home a few snaps to show friends and family, your trip to Zambia will offer a wealth of outstanding photographic opportunities.

Are you treating yourself to a new camera and lenses for your trip, or bringing one that you've been using for a while? Either way be sure to familiarise yourself with your camera and accessories before leaving home, so that the functions are second nature. You don't want to be fiddling with dials and buttons when you've got a leopard next to your game vehicle! Know your kit before the trip.



I use Canon equipment and will be bringing my Canon 1DSIII with a variety of lenses to make the most of the incredible opportunities we'll be enjoying in the south Luangwa Valley. These include a 16-35mm, 24-105mm, 100-400mm lenses and (if I'm feeling strong!) my 600mm lens, plus my Gitzo tripod and polarising filters for cutting down glare on sunny days. But don't worry - you don't have to have such a wide range of expensive kit. A digital SLR with a wide angle lens for scenery, and a zoom (eg the Canon 100-400 or similar) should suffice in most cases. And if you don't have a digital SLR you can still get some decent photos with a "point and shoot" camera without interchangeable lenses if you know how to use it!



If you have questions about kit before the trip I will be happy to advise by phone or email, when I'm not in some far-flung location, and will provide a list of top tips before our safari to help you prepare.



Throughout the trip I will be available to ensure you get the most out of your camera - with coaching "in the field" to improve your wildlife photography skills. In the evenings we will have chance to review the day's photos and experiences in a series of informal chats. I will also be happy to critique your work (if you would like me to!) and help you select your best (and worst!) shots, should you want to have a portfolio review.



However, even as a professional photographer, I think it's vital to take time to soak it all in and sometimes focus on the beauty of the natural world other than with a camera lens! Simply enjoy the experience of being there and watching wildlife with your naked eye, not just down the viewfinder. After all, you don't need a camera to enjoy Zambia's incredible wildlife - it will be frozen in your mind's eye forever!

But it will certainly be rewarding if you can take back a portfolio of lovely images as a reminder of what is sure to be a wonderful experience - and I will be there to try to help you do that.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Dates: Safari 1: 13th May - 21st May, 2012 - 9 day trip
Safari 2: 24th May - 2 June, 2012 - 10 day trip

Please note that Safari 2 is staying at the same bushcamps yet in different order and for 1 extra night at Chindeni. Please see page 2 for a quick reference itinerary.

Total cost: 9 day trip - £3,845
10 day trip - £4,195

Single Supplement: 9 day trip - £1,545
10 day trip - £1,675

If you are happy to share accommodation with a fellow traveller of the same sex then you will not be charged a single supplement for your holiday. This is of course dependent on there being another same sex traveller on the trip who is also wanting to share. If we cannot find a partner with whom you can share then unfortunately we will be left with no choice but to pass on the single supplement, imposed by the properties we are using. We will endeavour to keep this supplement to a minimum.

Naturally should you wish to have a single room then this is possible by simply opting to pay the single supplement as per the itinerary.

Includes: Internal flights, local transport and excursions as detailed, park fees, group transfers throughout, accommodation (twin/double with private facilities), laundry (limited), full board and all drinks except at Mfuwe Lodge.

Excludes: The price excludes return flight from UK, Extras include travel insurance, visas, and items of a personal nature, such as tips etc

TRIP NOTES

International Flights

We are aware that when it comes to booking international flights there are a number of different options available to you which may be cheaper than the fares Steppes Discovery are able to offer. Please bear in mind however that when booking international flights with Steppes in conjunction with your holiday you are afforded a much greater level of financial protection than if you book your flights separately through a different source. This is down to EU Package Regulations which state that if a tour operator is booking international flights combined with ground arrangements on your behalf and the flight from the UK is unable to take off, then the tour operator is obliged to refund the full cost of your holiday. Recently, this has become most pertinent on the occasions when flights were grounded in April 2010 due to volcanic ash and in December 2010 due to snow and frozen runways. Those travellers who had booked hotels and ground arrangements through a tour operator but had booked flights independently were still liable for the cost of their holiday, despite not being able to fly from the UK. Those travellers who had booked a 'package' through a tour operator including flights and ground arrangements were fully

refunded the total cost of their holiday or, as in most cases with Steppes' clients, were found alternative arrangements at a later date at no additional expense. This additional insurance against unforeseen circumstances can offer not only peace of mind but valuable cover should the unexpected occur.

Weather

The weather in South Luangwa at this time of year can be hot and humid during the day however a fleece will be necessary to protect against cooler temperatures in the morning and at night time.

Vaccinations and Visas

UK nationals require a visa for entry into Zambia which can be obtained on arrival for a fee of \$50. Passports should have a minimum of six months validity.

Please consult your GP or local travel clinic for advice on immunisations. Please note that Zambia is a malarial area and as such you should seek advice from your GP about which prophylaxis you should take.

Health and Fitness

A reasonable level of fitness will mean you are likely to better enjoy the many opportunities you will encounter to take game walks in South Luangwa.

Essential Items and important information

Dress at all of the camps is informal. During the day time light weight clothes such as T-shirts and shorts are the right choice. Comfortable, closed walking shoes/boots are strongly advised for your walk. Acceptable bush colours for your clothing are dull, neutral colours, such as khaki, green, brown or grey. We do NOT recommend you wear blue or black, as this attracts tsetse flies, while bright colours, especially white, can stand out to animals & may be dangerous. A hat/cap, sunglasses and sun screen are also strongly recommended. All camps have a complimentary daily laundry service - so there is no need to bring too much (towels are also provided).

It is important not to forget items like a sun hat, sunglasses, sun block and insect repellent to be able to have a comfortable and relaxing safari. A swimming costume will allow you to cool down in the pool at Mfuwe Lodge (or if you are feeling adventurous the Kapamba River) during the hottest hours of the day. Make sure you have enough memory for your cameras, and that you take the correct battery charger for your camcorder. Good binoculars are essential!

Luggage Restrictions on the Mfuwe Airport Sector:

There is a 15kg/33lb luggage allowance restriction per person on all flights to and from Mfuwe Airport (packed in soft bags).

Electricity:

All camps have charging facilities for camera batteries etc. These are limited as they run from solar power or generators. At Mfuwe Lodge 240 volts electricity is available from the national grid. Throughout Zambia three-pin square 'British' plug sockets are used.

Money & Credit Cards:

The US Dollar tends to be the foreign currency that is most widely used in Zambia (although old “small headed” \$5-\$100 notes are not readily accepted). It is advisable to bring a range of US Dollar note denominations (\$1 to \$100) with you on safari, as often there is no change for departure taxes, taxi journeys, shopping etc. Rand, Euro and Pounds Sterling are also accepted, but not as readily as US Dollars.

It should not be necessary to carry with you any of the local currency, the Zambian Kwacha, while at Mfuwe Lodge or any of our bushcamps, since all bills can be settled in US\$ or GP£. However, if required money can be changed at the Lodge or at the bank at the Mfuwe Airport. Visa and MasterCard is accepted at Mfuwe Lodge but not at the bushcamps. However an additional 5.5% is charged to all bills settled by credit cards to cover bank charges.

Airport Taxes:

All visitors are requested to pay airport departure tax for international flights and also for all domestic departures preferably in US Dollars cash (Rand, GB£ and Euros cash is usually also acceptable). Please make sure you have enough cash with you to cover these - approx \$55 will cover it.

SUPPORTING CONSERVATION



An unavoidable consequence of travel is the emission of carbon dioxide into the high atmosphere and while Steppes Discovery takes measures to reduce the carbon footprint of its holidays, regrettably it is not yet possible to make them carbon neutral. If you are able to, we suggest you consider offsetting the carbon emission of your long haul flight by using Rainforest Concern's Forest Credits scheme. Details can be found at www.forestcredits.org.uk

Rainforests have a central role to play in the slowing of climate change and yet we are removing forests from the planet at a faster rate than they can grow back. Rainforest Concern supports projects that look to preserve the forests that we have. Rather than replanting new ones, working to safeguard biodiversity and local communities and in so doing mitigate climate change.



As part of The Bushcamp Company's commitment to the wildlife and people of the South Luangwa, they work with the local community to develop projects that help conserve precious resources and generate a sustainable source of income. Back in the 1960s, when Norman Carr first started to operate walking safaris in the Luangwa, he realised that conservation could not work without the local people truly benefiting from the wildlife around them. Today, this approach to responsible tourism is more pertinent than ever.

In 1999, The Bushcamp Company started providing much-needed help to two local schools; Chiwawatala Basic School in Mfuwe and Chilongozi School in a remote area close to our bushcamps. Since our support began, the progress of the schools has been remarkable. With generous donations they have been able to sponsor pupils, pay teachers' salaries, build classrooms and staff houses, and take the school children into the park on game drives.

Bushcamp Company also support other community projects that focus on reducing deforestation and encourage tree planting; for example, one of their guides has set up a successful solar-cooker project and is helping run food-security eco-initiative workshops in Mfuwe. They run programmes on HIV and AIDS awareness for our staff and also support a local theatre group, which perform plays to our guests about human-wildlife conflict.

Current schemes that Bushcamp Company hope to develop further with funds from the Luangwa Conservation & Community Fund (LCCF) include fruit-tree planting, vegetable market-gardens, solar cookers and 'rocket' stoves, bio-fuel briquettes and honey production.

WANT TO DISCUSS THIS TRIP

Please call Jarrod Kyte on **01285 643333** for more details or to make a booking



A love of wildlife and wild places has long been Jarrod's motivation for travelling. At his happiest when photographing big cats in Africa, Jarrod spent two years in Kenya managing a luxury tented camp in the Masai Mara, together with his wife and young son.

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