



# **BAREFOOT SAFARIS & Adventure Tours**

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Private Bag 357  
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Malawi

## **TRIP DOSSIER**

### **Zambia: Luangwa National Park (SL)** **(4 DAYS LAND ONLY) Chalet (Camping Optional)**

*Updated 30/01/2008*

The first Europeans to arrive in Malawi and Zambia were Portuguese explorers who reached the interior from the East Coast. However, the most famous visitor was David Livingstone, whose exploration heralded the arrival of Europeans in a way, which was to change the nature of the region forever. The establishment of missions to promote the spread of Christianity and the abolition of slavery soon followed. We tread in the footsteps of those early pioneers through a land of spectacular scenery, unparalleled hospitality and unique wildlife. Malawi, lying within the tropics at the southern end of the Great Rift Valley, is affectionately referred to as 'The warm heart of Africa'; not only is the climate warm, but Malawians really are among the friendliest people you could hope to meet.

Anyone who enjoys scenic beauty will find the country richly endowed, from forested reserves, National Parks and broad highlands to the peaceful shores of Lake Malawi. In contrast Eastern Zambia offers the chance to explore one of the best wildlife areas in Africa. Luangwa National Park contains one of the largest concentrations of elephant, as well as supporting a wealth of other species and habitat. This journey, rich in contrast and adventure, is full of unforgettable experiences.

#### **Day 1: Lilongwe**

From Lilongwe we drive to the Zambian border at Chipata on our way to South Luangwa National Park.

The Luangwa valley is one of Africa's prime wildlife sanctuaries, with concentrations and varieties of game and birdlife that have made it world famous. This is the landscape of the 'real Africa', with herds of antelope roaming the plains, predators stalking through the shadows, and primordial flora in every vale.

Vegetation ranges from dense woodland to open grassy plain, where oxbow lagoons act as natural water holes.



The list of animals that frequent the park is endless. Mammals include zebra, buffalo and lion, as well as endemic species such as Thornicroft's giraffe and Cookson's wildebeest. The park successfully supports one of the largest concentrations of elephant in Africa and also has an expanding population of leopard.

*Chalet, 1 night (LD) (Option to camp)*

#### **Day 2 & 3: South Luangwa NP**

For the next two days we continue to explore this remote wilderness area that covers over 9,000 square kilometres. The park encompasses a wide variety of habitats and the Luangwa River describes a tortuous course along the valley floor. Near the river the vegetation is lush and dense, and along its many tributaries riverine forest remains emerald green all year round.

The afternoon we do a game drive in the National Park followed by a morning and afternoon game drive the next day. We may also make a night game drive (optional) to catch a glimpse of the nocturnal world within the park illuminated by spotlight. Viewing game at night allows us to see species that would normally be hidden throughout the day, and may include porcupine, hippo grazing on land and Honey badger.

For scenery and sheer variety of animals, South Luangwa is one of the best wildlife parks in Africa. Multitudes of species thrive in this sanctuary, and the size of the national park allows large herds to develop and live in harmony with each other. South Luangwa National Park is one of the world's great wildernesses and provides the grand finale to this intriguing tour.

*Chalet, 2 nights (2xB 2xL, 2xD) (Option to camp)*

#### **Day 4: Return to Lilongwe**

After the leisurely breakfast we depart back to Lilongwe. En-route we may have the opportunity to visit the Batik Factory where the local population trade their craft.

End of service



Kenneth Smith established Project African Wilderness (PAW Ltd) as a not for Profit Company in 2006 to save Mwabvi Wildlife Reserve, a pristine piece of Malawi, which had stood on the brink of losing its status as a protected area.

Project African Wilderness was created to provide Mwabvi with a future without which this precious corner of Africa would have soon disappeared.

Thus to ensure the reserve, its wildlife and surrounding villages are protected for generations to come Barefoot Safaris donates 10% of all profits for use and support of conservation and community based projects in and around the reserve.

If you too would like to help please visit:  
<http://www.projectafricanwilderness.com>

#### **RESPONSIBLE TRAVEL**

Since January 2003, Barefoot Safaris has donated £10 for every person we take to Zambia, to assist with the funding and development of Chanyoli School. Parents and school staff have recently fired 60,000 bricks and will begin building this year. You may like to bring some books or school equipment to assist this very deserving project and see for yourself how well received it is.

We also support the SOS Children's Village, which you can visit in Lilongwe. They would be most grateful for any children's clothes or toys that you might donate.



## Price Includes:

- All transport on tour.
- All meals as per itinerary.
- All park entry fees.
- All game viewing activities as per itinerary.
- All armed scout fees as per itinerary.
- All accommodation fees as per itinerary.
- Tents and sleeping mattresses.
- Safari equipment.
- Reference library.
- Deep freezer.

## Price Excludes:

- Airfare.
- Visa fees.
- Airport taxes.
- Meals as per the itinerary.
- Drinks.
- Expenses of a personal nature.
- Any changes to the itinerary.
- Travel and medical insurance.

**NB:** Whilst camping everyone is expected help with camp cooking, camp chores, loading and unloading of the vehicle as well as making & breaking camp.

**\*\* Excursions:** A qualified grade 1 safari guide from Barefoot Safaris will accompany clients on all excursions except where it is necessary to employ a guide from local parks.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

**Climate:** Malawi's wet season runs from mid October or early November to March or April. During the rainy season, daytime temperatures are pleasantly warm, but low lying areas can sometimes be humid. The heaviest rain is confined to the highlands, while while the lakeshore is much drier.

The dry season tends to be cooler and generally runs from May to early October. During the dry season, daytime temperatures in the lower areas are fairly consistent at 21°C to 26°C. In the highlands daytime temperatures can be considerably cooler ranging between 10°C and 20°C. Nights can be particularly cold during the dry season, so warm clothing is essential. Eastern Zambia's climate is very similar to Malawi's. The cool and dry season runs from May to Aug; the hot and dry from Sep to Oct, and the wet season from Nov to Apr. South Luangwa is relatively low lying, so evening temperatures shouldn't be too low!

## Baggage:

- One piece of main luggage only (**max 12kg**), this should be a soft bag rather than a hard suitcase, so it can be easily stowed and not take up too much room in the vehicle or in the tent. space in the vehicle is restricted.
- A day sack (large enough to carry your camera, water bottle, & binoculars etc) is also essential.
- Sleeping Bag

## Clothing and Footwear:

- For comfort in the heat, lightweight cotton is best. Brightly coloured clothing is not appropriate for safari because it is easily seen by animals and has the added discomfort of attracting insects (wear muted tones in natural colours i.e. beige, khaki, olive, etc, but **not** army-style camouflage clothing).
- A long-sleeved shirt is essential to protect neck and arms while on game walks/drives.

- Long trousers and socks for evenings.
- Windproof/waterproof jacket.
- Lightweight trail boots.
- Trainers or sandals for relaxing.
- Sunhat.
- Swimming gear.
- Warm mid layers i.e. fleece or jumper for cool nights and early mornings
- Kagoul if you are travelling during the rains.

## Equipment:

- A laundry service may be available in some hotels, but we recommend you take biodegradable travel detergent
- Sleeping bag
- Torch (Head torch is ideal)
- Water bottle
- Sunglasses, sunscreen and lipsalve
- Insect repellent
- Binoculars
- Dust can be a problem for cameras; take a dustproof bag

## Medicine:

- Basic personal first aid kit
- Any prescription drugs required
- Female sanitary products
- Malaria prophylaxis

## Visas and Permits:

**Malawi:** Holders of UK, USA, CAN, AUS, NZ, IRL, NOR, NL passports do not require a visa.

**Zambia:** Holders of UK, USA, NZ, NOR, NL passports do require a visa. In view of the unreliability of local communications however, you must be prepared to pay for your visa at the Zambian border (check our website for latest details). It is unnecessary to acquire your Zambian visa in advance.

This information is given in good faith, but may be subject to change without warning. Please note that, where appropriate, obtaining a valid visa is ultimately your responsibility. Please consult a visa agency or the consular authorities 4-6 weeks before departure for the most up-to-date information.

## Vaccinations & Health Advice:

Vaccination requirements & other health advice can change, so please check with a specialised travel clinic for up to date information before you depart. For useful advice you can visit The Medical Advisory Service for Travellers Abroad [www.masta.org](http://www.masta.org)

Nevertheless we recommend that you protect yourselves against: *Malaria, Hepatitis A, and Polio & Typhoid as a minimum.*

**NB:** The Yellow Fever vaccination is compulsory if travelling via an infected country. As you enter Zambia at a land border, coming from Malawi where yellow fever is endemic, the Zambian authorities will require you to produce a certificate to prove you have been vaccinated against yellow fever.

**Food:** Although every effort will be made to accommodate any dietary requirements, the availability of certain products is limited in Malawi and Zambia. Any special dietary requirements should be explained to us in writing at time of booking. Gluten free flour should be brought with you if required. Decaffeinated coffee should be brought with you if required.

**Local Costs:** 8 Breakfasts, 7 lunches and 7 evening meals are included. You must pay for all other meals yourself (you can eat very well for £10 a day). Approximate costs are given for guidance only, and may vary widely according to location and type of establishment.

Coffee/tea	UK£0.30
Soft drink	UK£0.30
Medium beer	UK£0.60
Local snack lunch	UK£2.00
3-course dinner*	UK£7.00

\*reasonable mid-range tourist class restaurant.

## Optional excursions:

Some or all of the excursions detailed below may be available; others not listed may also be available. Approximate per person costs are given for guidance only, and may depend on the number of participants. Your safari guide should be able to assist you in arranging them.

Snorkeling; half day	UK£7.00
Windsurfing; one hour	UK£13.00
Motor boat; half day	UK£13.00
Dug out canoe; half day	UK£1.50
Sunset Boat Cruise	UK£10.00
Luangwa night game drive	UK£16.00
Horse riding	UK£20.00

**Tippling:** For better or worse, tipping is an accepted part of everyday life, and - although it is always at your discretion - you will be expected to tip to reward service. Your group leader will give you an indication of when and how much is appropriate. This can vary widely, but please allow £25 per person for this tour.

**Seasonal changes:** Although all rooms and tents that we use are protected with mosquito netting; there will be insects and mosquitoes about. The camps are essentially "al fresco" so you should be prepared with insect repellent and appropriate long sleeved/legged clothing.

Insects are attracted to lights at night and are especially prevalent during the rainy season. Switching the lights off and placing a hurricane lamp a distance from you will remove the problem.

The evenings and mornings will be chilly from about June to August; so it is advisable to take a light sweater or fleece. The Highlands in Malawi has a much cooler climate, so if you are visiting these areas warmer clothes will be required during these months.

**Currency:** Malawian & Zambian Kwacha. We recommend that you bring all you need for the trip as cash in US\$.

**NB:** Pre 1990 dollar bills are not accepted in most African countries. In reality there is little opportunity to change money other than at the airport on arrival, so it makes sense to change what you will need for the duration of the tour. NB: small note denominations are not acceptable in Zambia, i.e. 1,5,10 & 20. Beware of marked, torn or dirty notes, as they may not be accepted. Your group leader will be able to advise you when and where else it may possible to change currency. Optional excursions can generally be paid in US dollars cash.

**Airport Tax:** Please allow US\$30 payable on leaving Lilongwe

## CLIMATE CHART

Lilongwe (1100m)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Lilongwe: Temp average high / low °C	27/17	27/17	27/16	27/14	25/11	23/8	23/7	25/8	27/12	30/15	29/17	28/18
Lilongwe: Average monthly rainfall (mm)	208	218	125	43	3	0	0	0	0	0	53	125
Lusaka: Temp average high / low °C	26/17	26/17	26/17	26/15	25/12	23/10	23/9	25/12	29/15	31/18	29/17	27/17
Lusaka: Average monthly rainfall (mm)	231	191	142	18	3	0	0	0	0	10	91	150