



BAREFOOT SAFARIS & Adventure Tours

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TRIP DOSSIER

Zambia: Luangwa National Park (SLC)

(4 DAYS LAND ONLY) Camping Safari

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South Luangwa National Park in eastern Zambia, the southern most of three national parks in the valley of the Luangwa River, is a world-renowned wildlife haven. It supports large populations of Thornicroft's Giraffe, and herds of elephant and buffalo often several hundred strong, while the Luangwa River hosts abundant crocodiles and hippopotamuses. It is one of the best-known national parks in Africa for walking safaris. Founded as a game reserve in 1938, it became a national park in 1972 and now covers 9,050 km².

Within these woodland savannahs are larger patches of grassland, so that grazers such as zebra and leaf browsers such as giraffe are found in profusion in the same areas. Patches of flooded grassland habitats (floodplains) are found close to the river, on which hippopotamus graze at night. Their dung released into the river fertilizes its waters and sustains the fish population which in turn sustains the crocodiles.

The Luangwa valley, continued to the west by the Lunsemfwa River valley, contains some varieties of animals such as Cookson's wildebeest and Crawshay's zebra which are endemic or near-endemic to the valley. It also represents something of a natural barrier to human migration and transport, no roads cross it and this has helped conserve its wildlife. On this safari we camp close to nature to enable us to touch, feel and smell Africa.

This journey, rich in contrast and adventure, is full of unforgettable experiences.

Grading: *Anyone in good health with a sense of adventure should be able to take part. There's no real physical difficulty involved, but as in much of Africa – rough roads, limited facilities and basic accommodation may require you to adjust your levels of expectation.*

NB: *Although it is our intention to operate this itinerary as printed and detailed below, it may be necessary to make some changes as a result of alterations to flight schedules, climatic conditions, limitations of infrastructure such as accommodation, or other operational factors. As a consequence, the order or location of overnight stops may vary from those outlined. Included meals are indicated in the daily itinerary (i.e. BLD - Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner).*

Barefoot safaris views responsible, nature-based tourism, as the most effective and practical vehicle to ensure the sustainability of African conservation in the modern era. We are serious about what we do and believe fully in our vision of contributing meaningfully to conservation.

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.



Game drive in South Luangwa

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. We arrive at our

camp site and set up camp on the banks of the Luangwa River.

The afternoon is free to explore and to look at the animals coming to drink at the river. We have our dinner under the night sky served around 19h00.

Camping, 1 night (D)



Lioness South Luangwa NP

Day 2: South Luangwa NP

Today we start to explore this remote wilderness area that covers over 9,000 square kilometres, after an early morning wakeup call and coffee/tea and rusks. We depart on a morning game drive.

South Luangwa National Park encompasses a wide variety of habitats



with the Luangwa River describing a torturous 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. Our morning ends about at 11h00 and is followed by lunch. We can relax next to the swimming pool and have tea at 15h30 before we start our afternoon game drive.



Elephant South Luangwa NP

A night game drive (optional and not included. Your guide will assist you to book same if needed) gives us the chance 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.



Hippo - South Luangwa NP

We return at 20h30(if we go on an optional drive) to the lodge for our dinner. After dinner we sit under the African sky and listen to the night sounds before turning in.

Camping, 2 nights (2 X B, 2 X L, 2 X D)

Day 3: South Luangwa NP

We do a further morning drive after our early morning coffee/tea and return to our camp at 11h00. 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 a great insight into Africa's rich fauna and flora. We have the option to do a walking safari today. It is one of the best-known national parks in Africa for walking safaris. Norman Carr pioneered the now famous "Zambia walking safari", which originated in South Luangwa and this still one of the finest ways to experience this pristine wilderness first-hand.

The changing seasons add to South Luangwa's richness ranging from dry, bare bushveld in the southern hemisphere winter months to a lush green wonderland in the summer months. We offer Africa's authentic yesteryear safari and camping for those wanting to see wildlife away from the crowds.

The afternoon rolls into our afternoon game drive. This is followed by dinner and our last night next to the crackling camp fire.



Thornicroft's Giraffe, South Luangwa NP



Zebra, South Luangwa NP



Sun downer at the Luangwa River

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. By visiting the Tribal Textiles, a commercial business that produces the most beautiful hand crafted and designed batiks for a variety of uses and applications. They are a major employer of the local population and by supporting them, you support the wider community. Our ETA in Lilongwe is round about 18h ours.

End of service.
(B)

PLEASE NOTE – This is a no frills safari – guests are required to bring torches, Towels and items of a personal nature. This package does not entitle participants exclusive use of vehicles and guides.

RESPONSIBLE TRAVEL

Since January 2003, Barefoot Safaris has donated £10 for every person we take to Malawi and Zambia, to assist with the funding and development of **Chanyoli School**. Parents and school staff have recently fired 60,000 bricks and began 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. Any donations in cash are always welcome.

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 game viewing activities as per itinerary.
- All accommodation fees as per itinerary.
- Tents and sleeping mattresses.
- Safari equipment.
- Reference library.
- Deep freezer.

Price Excludes:

- Visa fees for Malawi/ Zambia
- Airport taxes.
- Meals not included in itinerary
- Drinks.
- Expenses of a personal nature.
- Any changes to the itinerary.
- Travel and medical insurance.
- Optional night drive
- Park entry fees
- Walking safari

NB: Whilst we are 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 colored 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 lip salve
- 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

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: 3 Breakfasts, 2 lunches and 3 evening meals are included. You must pay for all other meals yourself. Approximate costs are given for guidance only, and may vary widely according to location and type of establishment.

Coffee/tea	USD 2.00
Soft drink	USD 1.50
Medium beer	USD 3.00
Local snack lunch	USD 5.00

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.

Luangwa night game drive	USD 35.00
Walking safari	USD 40.00

Tipping: 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 USD \$ 30 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: Included in your air ticket.

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