



**BELLINGHAM SAFARIS**  
WORLDWIDE WILDLIFE EXPERIENCES



# MANA POOLS, HWANGE AND VIC FALLS

Bellingham Safaris Scheduled Tour

ZIMBABWE



## TOUR AT A GLANCE

Day	Date	Location	Service
01	2 May	Mana Pools	Mana Shoreline Canoe Safari
02	3 May	Mana Pools	Mana Shoreline Canoe Safari
03	4 May	Mana Pools	Mana Shoreline Canoe Safari
04	5 May	Hwange National Park	Somalisa Acacia
05	6 May	Hwange National Park	Somalisa Acacia
06	7 May	Hwange National Park	Somalisa Acacia
07	8 May	Victoria Falls	Victoria Falls Hotel
08	9 May	Victoria Falls	Victoria Falls Hotel
09	10 May	Depart	

## DATES AND COSTS

These costs are based on 6 adults travelling

Per adult in double or twin room 2 - 10 May 2017	<b>\$ 6 860.00</b>
Single supplement 2 - 10 May 2017	<b>\$ 465.00</b>
Per adult in double or twin room 2 - 10 May 2018	<b>\$ 7 545.00</b>
Single supplement 2 - 10 May 2018	<b>\$ 510.00</b>

## INCLUDES

- Accommodation
- Meals and local beverages
- Internal flights Harare to Mana Pools to Manga airstrip
- Ground transportation
- Activities per the itinerary
- Reserve entrance fees
- Services of a specialist Bellingham Safaris Guide
- Local staff gratuities

## EXCLUDES

- Premium brand drinks, champagne, cognacs, cellar wines, cigars and cigarettes
- Items of personal nature
- Visa fees (please be sure to check if visas are required)
- Travel Insurance
- Excess baggage costs
- Changes to the itinerary
- Any items not included in the inclusions above



## DAILY DETAIL

Day 1, 2 May

Mana Pools



PHOTO CREDIT: SIMON BELLINGHAM

On arrival at Harare International Airport you will board your scheduled light aircraft into the Zambezi Valley – Mana Pools. The flight gives a wonderful aerial perspective of the habitat where you will spend the next few days and you may even have your first big game sighting from the air! Mana Pools National Park lies deep within the Zambezi Valley and is one of the least commercial but most loved National Parks in Southern Africa (amongst safari veterans). The river here is lazy and meanders slowly towards Mozambique flanked on either side by Natal Mahogany, giant Faidherbia trees and wild fig forests. Within its clear waters are not only Hippos and Crocs, but also a good population of freshwater fish including the world famous Tigerfish. A cross section of mammals come to satiate their thirst at the river's edge including great herds of Elephant, Buffalo, Eland, Waterbuck, Impala, Bushbuck and Baboons. As a result of the abundance of game, predators such as Wild Dog, Lion, Leopard and Hyena gather and you will no doubt locate some of these magnificent carnivores.

On arrival at "Vundu", the first camp, lunch will be served. Usually consisting of cold meats, a variety of salads and freshly baked breads. After a refreshing lunch break you will take a short drive to the canoe launch-spot near the confluence of the Ruckomechi and Zambezi Rivers. Here, the local guide will give a full safety briefing and cover the basic techniques of steering and controlling the Canadian-style 5.5m (18 ft.) canoes. The first afternoon of paddling is taken at a slow pace, allowing you time to become acquainted with the canoes. Arrival back at camp is around sunset. The camp will be fully prepared and you will be able to sit back and relax with sundowners and snacks – tea and coffee and hot showers are also available. A campfire is already burning and this is invariably where guests will gather to discuss the day's events and plan for the morning. In the background your support staff and resident bush cook will be busy preparing a three-course dinner for you.



Flight: Harare to Mana Pools on Altair - approx. 1 hour



Transfer: Mana Airstrip to Mana Shoreline Canoe Safari





## Day 2 & 3, 3 to 4 May

## Mana Pools



PHOTO CREDIT: SIMON BELLINGHAM

Day 2: The aim today is to be on the water in time to watch the sunrise. Hot water for freshening up will be placed in raised basins outside each tent, while tea, freshly brewed coffee, muffins or home-made biscuits will already be waiting at the campfire. While you pack up your personal kit, the support staff load the canoes with all required for the day ahead. Guests need only worry about a small daypack, carrying essentials such as sun block, camera, hat and binoculars. Since this is one of the most magical times of day, you will drift along quietly and listen to the sounds of the African dawn. After a couple of hours of paddling, you can enjoy a well-earned breakfast under a grove of Acacia trees. Thereafter you will have the opportunity to set off on a walk on the floodplain and into the surrounding woodlands. Aside from the game viewing opportunities, this walk will also give you a chance to explore some of the smaller aspects of this fascinating environment; such as learning about the various tracks or spoor, to strange insects and impressive birdlife. Your guide will impart his wealth of knowledge about this miniature world that forms such an integral part of the bush, after which you will return to the canoes and head downstream to an area renowned for its huge, old Elephant bulls. With some good fortune you may catch them swimming or wading out to the grass islands, where your canoes will be able to glide quietly alongside to view these awesome giants. Their age tends to make them placid enough to take no notice of the canoes.



PHOTO CREDIT: MANA CANOE SAFARI







PHOTO CREDIT: SIMON BELLINGHAM

Around midday, the canoes are pulled up below a grove of Mahogany trees, whose dense shade provides some welcome relief from the heat of the day, and lunch is served. Freshly prepared salads, pizza or quiche, cold meats, cheese and biscuits and refreshing ice-cold drinks are on offer. Once you have enjoyed your meal, you may either take another short walk through the Mahogany forest or indulge in afternoon siesta. The late afternoon is spent drifting down to camp and revelling in the game and birding along the river's edge. The welcoming support staff will be waiting at camp which is reached by sunset. Chessa, your camp for tonight, overlooks a small channel, with a large grass plain separating it from the main Zambezi, 500 metres away. Frequently, the plain hosts Buffalo, Waterbuck, Elephant and Hippo in the evenings.



PHOTO CREDIT: SIMON BELLINGHAM

Day 3: As with the previous day, you will wake up before dawn and marvel in the beautiful sunrise whilst drifting down the Zambezi. This is an exciting day as you will enter where very few people or vehicles are able to access; the remote Mana Pools National Park's "Wilderness Area". In fact, the only road is 3 to 5 kilometres inland (the same one our support team will use).

Breakfast may be taken on the Mbera River floodplain, which comprises stunning Acacia woodland with large patches of thick "adrenaline" grass – a habitat much favoured by all the predators. Towards the end of the dry season it also hosts large groups of Elephant breeding herds. You will spend the day paddling through a maze of small channels before once again joining the main Zambezi. An extraordinary set up of tables and chairs, on one of the shallow sandbanks in the middle of the river in ankle deep water, with the whole width of the river stretching out



on either side, will be today's stunning venue for lunch. This afternoon will be your last opportunity for canoeing in this exquisite habitat. Depending on water levels and allotted time, there may be a prospect to explore Chikwenya Island on foot. This unique island is the largest on this section of the river and is host to prolific bird life as well as a broad selection of mammal species. At dusk, you will paddle into Illala and revel in the rustic luxury of the Odyssey Camp.

## Day 4, 5 May

## Hwange National Park

Today begins with an early morning walk, to soak up the beauty of the Zambezi before breakfast, and then a short game drive back to the airstrip, where you will board your flight to Hwange National Park. Hwange National Park, one of the most highly rated reserves in Southern Africa, is Zimbabwe's largest National park and is a haven for wildlife. The numerous waterholes attract game of great variety and in large numbers - especially in the winter months when animals gather around the waterholes to quench their thirst.



PHOTO CREDIT: SOMALISA

This evening you will head out on an open 4x4 vehicle and after dark, your guide will use a spotlight to locate some of the nocturnal species. You may locate predators such as Lion, Leopard, which along with African Wildcat, Serval, Honey Badger and Civet are present in good numbers. Other star mammals include African Wild Dog and Cheetah, no less than 5 species of Mongoose, Black-backed and Side-striped Jackal, Bat-eared Fox, Lesser Bushbaby, Vervet Monkey, Aardwolf, Southern Giraffe, Hippo, and Burchell's Zebra. Antelope often seen in the area include Common Duiker, Eland, Impala, Kudu, Steenbok, Waterbuck, Blue Wildebeest and the regal and highly sought after Roan and Sable antelope. Birdlife in the area is prolific with more than 400 species. Arnott's Chat and the Racket-tailed Roller frequent the teak woodlands, while the Kori Bustard, Red-eyed Bulbul and Southern Pied Babbler are typical of the drier Kalahari birds. Raptors are plentiful including Martial Eagle as well as four vulture species.



Transfer: Mana Shoreline Canoe Safaris to Mana Airstrip



Flight: Mana to Manga Airstrip on Altair -approx. 2 hours



Transfer: Manga Airstrip to Somalisa Acacia





## Day 5 & 6, 6 to 7 May

## Hwange National Park

Here you will enjoy two full days in the beauty that is Hwange National Park with morning and afternoon game drives and optional walking safaris.



PHOTO CREDIT: SIMON BELLINGHAM

## Day 7, 8 May

## Victoria Falls

Today you will transfer to your beautiful abode for the next couple of days, the Victoria Falls Hotel, popularly known as "the grand old lady of the falls", is a luxurious 5-Star Hotel on a World Heritage site overlooking the magnificent "Victoria Falls". The hotel lies within a tranquil leafy garden, replete with unobstructed views of the Victoria Falls Bridge and the ascending spray from the falls. A private path will lead you into the Victoria Falls rainforest, a mere ten minute walk along the path. "The Smoke that Thunders", accurately describes the rising shining spray and foaming waters that roar deafeningly as the river hurls itself 103m down the falls.



PHOTO CREDIT: THE VICTORIA FALLS HOTEL

This afternoon will be spent at leisure or if time permits you may board a tranquil sunset cruise on the Zambezi replete with canapés and sundowners to toast your days spent in the African bush.



David Livingstone “discovered” the falls in 1855, giving them the highest honour he could by naming them after his Queen. The continual spray from the falls has created a verdant rainforest and you will undoubtedly find some interesting birds here which may include Trumpeter and Crowned Hornbills, Bearded Scrub Robin, Yellow-breasted Apalis, various sunbirds including Amethyst, Collared and Purple-banded, Black-backed Puffback, Tropical Boubou and Red-winged Starling. The paths along the edge of the falls may produce glimpses of mammals and you should keep an eye out for shy Bushbuck, Banded Mongoose, Vervet Monkey and Baboons.

## Day 8, 9 May

## Victoria Falls

Today you'll set off after breakfast to be mesmerised by this extraordinary phenomenon and you'll see why there is no doubt that the Falls have been given the status of one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the world! You will also have the option (at an extra cost) to embark on an exhilarating “flight of the Angels”, an unforgettable helicopter flip over the falls.



PHOTO CREDIT: DANA ALLEN

Victoria Falls is also one of the meccas for purchasing traditional African art and crafts and depending on time you may have a chance to browse through the market, which offer a wide range of carvings (in both wood and stone), kitchen utensils and basket-ware.

This afternoon you may wish to partake in the sunset cruise on the Zambezi if you missed out on it the day before or perhaps just sit back with a sundowner soaking up your African experience.

## Day 9, 10 May

## Depart

Today you will be transferred back to the Victoria Falls airport in time for your onward flight home.





## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

### Payment

In the event of a go ahead we will require a 30% deposit on confirmation and the balance to be settled 2 months prior to arrival.

We may have to impose more stringent payment and cancellation terms, should that be demanded of us by any of our individual suppliers that have been included in your itinerary.

The tour price is always fixed in the currency quoted, and the actual cost in the other currencies will be adjusted according to prevailing exchange rates at the time of final invoicing (payments can be made either in USD or ZAR). We use the exchange rate of the day minus 3% (the typical exchange rate applied by credit card companies), using this source: <http://www.oanda.com>. Guests are given 7 days to process with wire, after which we may need to update the exchange rate.

### Please note

- Upon confirmation of this tour, the cancellation policy for Bellingham Safaris will be effective immediately and the parties agree to be bound by the Terms and Conditions as stated in our booking form. In the event of the Booking Form not being signed, the placement of any booking/s, by any means including e-mail, shall be deemed to be confirmation that the Terms and Conditions have been read and that the parties agree to be bound by these.
- Rates quoted are subject to change if there are any increases in park fees, fuel, sales tax or VAT, third-party services, currency fluctuations or any other circumstances beyond our control.
- Prices are subject to unforeseen increases in tour related costs. Should an amendment in a routing or itinerary be necessary, we will re-quote accordingly.
- If the number of nights or dates of travel or number of participants should change, this may have an effect on the cost.
- Please be sure to carefully check your visa requirements before your intended date of travel, as Bellingham Safaris cannot be held responsible should the necessary visa requirements not be fulfilled. Please remember that in some cases you may need to apply for a multiple entry visa.
- Please be sure to carefully check your passport requirements before your intended date of travel, as Bellingham Safaris cannot be held responsible should the necessary number of blank pages and passport validity dates not be fulfilled.
- Please consult your physician before you travel for advice on vaccinations and prophylaxis.
- Bellingham Safaris strongly advises that you take out comprehensive travel insurance covering yourself for personal effects, cancellation and curtailment. Personal accident, medical and emergency travel expense insurance is mandatory on any of our tours.
- Some activities and services may have weight and/or height restrictions per guest. For the sake of your own comfort, please advise us at time of booking if you are particularly bulky or tall and we will do our best to accommodate you. Please note additional costs may apply.
- Luggage restrictions are applicable including the use of hard suitcases. Details of luggage restrictions per region are available on our pre-departure documentation.
- Some flights may involve stops before reaching the final destination.
- Although we will try to stick as closely to the itinerary as possible and include all the activities mentioned there may be changes due to weather or other unforeseen circumstances.
- Flights, times and routes are subject to change without notice. Please make sure that you are aware of the check-in times for flights and give yourself ample time in this regard.
- Please advise us prior to booking should you have any health concerns. Also please notify us if your age is above 80 as you may require a doctor's certificate.
- There may be some age restrictions with certain activities, most notably canoe rides and walking.



- All accommodations, activities and other services are subject to availability at the time of booking

## BELLINGHAM SAFARIS

### WORLDWIDE WILDLIFE EXPERIENCES

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