

Best of the Rift Valley, Zambia

An Epic Luxury Safari Adventure

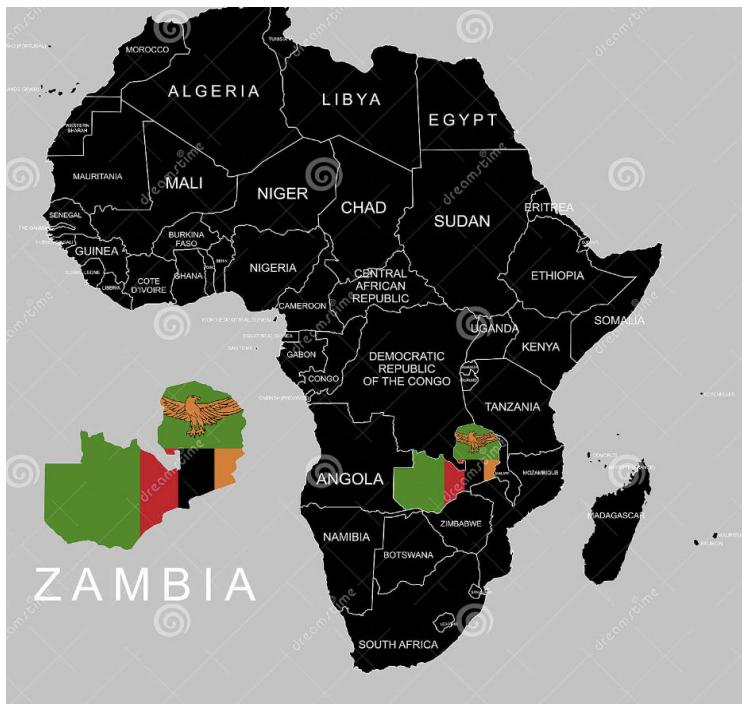
14 Incredible Days

May 29 - June 11, 2024



Photo Cathy Smith, Dazzle Africa

The Great Rift Valley in Africa runs dramatically down the continent's eastern half and is edged by some of the highest mountains in Africa, some of the deepest lakes in the world and is incredibly rich with diverse flora and fauna found nowhere else. At the southern end of the Great Rift Valley in Zambia, Dazzle Africa invites you on an absolutely magical safari adventure, fully hosted by our experienced safari directors. This exclusive epic journey will take you to four of the greatest wilderness areas in Zambia to experience exceptional wildlife adventures while staying in award-winning camps and lodges. The five scenic charter flights will make travel between wilderness areas and luxury lodges seamless and time-saving, allowing us more time to experience the incredible wildlife at each magnificent location.



"Africa is mystic; it is wild...it is a photographer's paradise and an escapist's utopia."

~ Byrl Markham

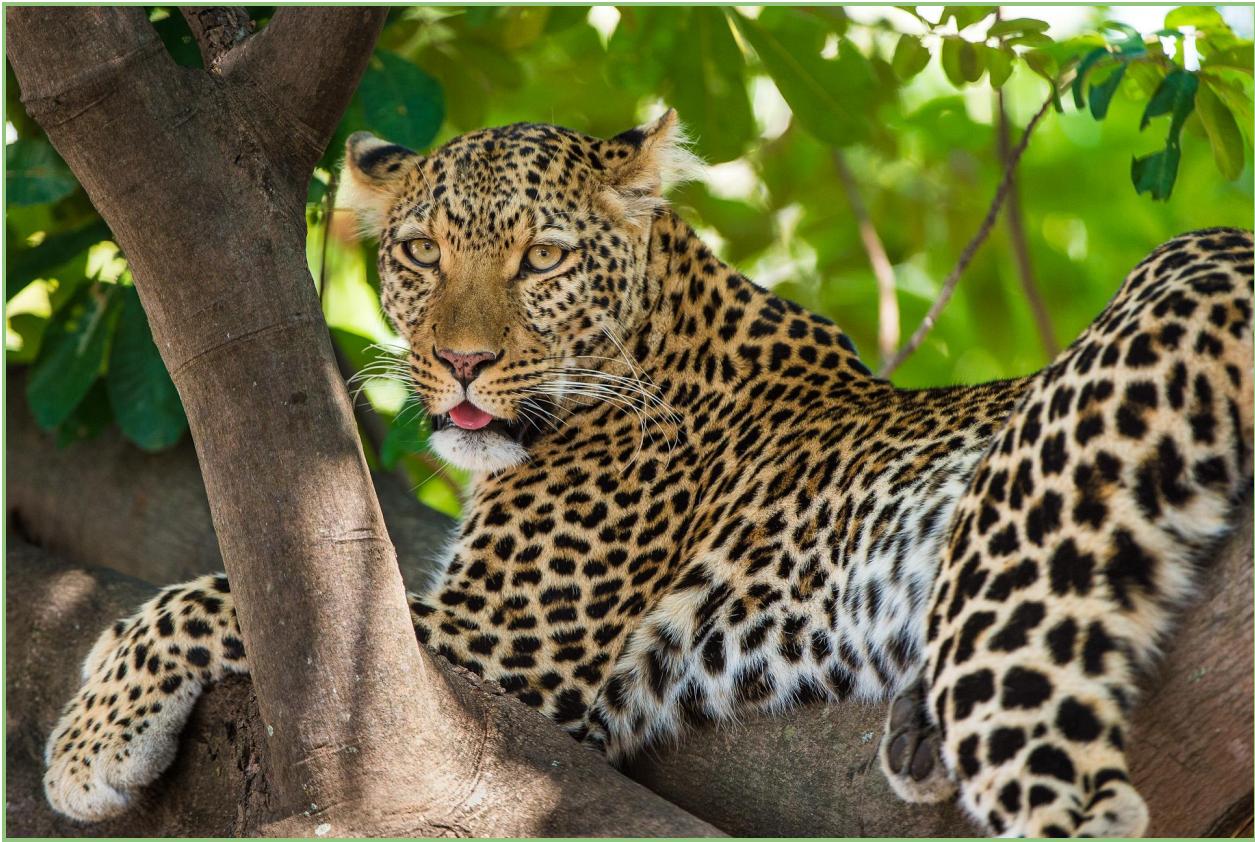


Photo Courtesy of Robin Pope Safaris

Zambia, the jewel of Africa, is wonderfully unspoiled and diverse with all of your romantic notions of the perfect Africa rolled into one beautiful country. Blessed with warm and friendly people, miles of wilderness, rivers that bring life-giving water and bountiful wildlife you will find yourself in what can only be described as an African paradise. To top it all off, you won't find the big crowds that overrun Zambia's cousins so that wildlife spotting doesn't involve hoards of safari vehicles ~ meaning time spent watching elephants play at a waterhole is often yours to enjoy exclusively. Lion and leopard, huge pods of hippos, elephants, buffalo and giraffes can be found in abundance along with spotted hyena, the highly endangered African wild dog, over 450 species of avians and all of the other cast members from the Lion King... Zambia offers the safari-goer a masterpiece of nature.



Photo Courtesy of Royal Zambezi Lodge

Safari Highlights

During the Best of the Great Rift Valley, Zambia we will visit some of Zambia's wildest places to experience unparalleled wildlife viewing:

* The pristine Lower Zambezi National Park, a place of sheer beauty, stark contrast and powerful picturesque landscapes set on the banks of the mighty Zambezi River where huge herds of elephants, some 100 strong, come to play.

*The magical Bangweulu Wetlands, a hidden gem in a wilderness area that few know about and even fewer visit ~verdant gardens of water lilies that stretch for miles and miombo woodlands provide an enchanting and breathtakingly alluring backdrop for great herds of black lechwe and the legendary prehistoric shoebill stork.

*The action packed South Luangwa National Park with its ebony groves, oxbow lakes and the escarpment as a backdrop to the Luangwa River, along with a staggering array of wildlife, one cannot deny its beauty and power as the crown of Africa's wild places.

*Private charter flights by Royal Air Charter will whisk us between wilderness areas providing us with a window seat over the dramatic rivers and landscapes of Zambia's Great Rift Valley; the time saved in flight will allow us more precious time at each magical place.

*We will stay in first-rate accommodations from some of the most reputable names in Zambia: the magnificent Royal Zambezi Lodge, Remote Africa's storied Shoebill Island Camp, the romantic Robin Pope Safaris' Nkwali Camp and the ultra-luxurious Sungani Lodge.

*Activities will include wildlife-viewing by boat, canoe, Land Rover and on foot, bringing us up close and personal, while highly trained and expert guides keep us safely just far enough away as they peel back the veil of the mysteries of the bush.

*Enjoy a deeper travel experience through cultural village visits and behind the scenes engagement with wildlife conservationists. We'll provide opportunities for you to meet our partner organizations Conservation South Luangwa and Zambian Carnivore Programme to learn more about the vital role these custodians play in protecting the wildlife and wild places in Zambia.



Photo courtesy of Royal Zambezi Lodge

Itinerary:

Day 1 Lusaka

Upon arrival in Zambia's capital City, Lusaka, we will be driven to Latitude 15° Hotel, a boutique African art-filled respite in Lusaka's Leopards Hill area. Enjoy a wonderful meal, a dip in the pool and a good night's sleep.

Day 2-5 Lower Zambezi National Park

From Lusaka, we'll wing our way south to the lower Zambezi National Park ~a stunning and magical place with its ethereal winterthorn forest, wide open floodplains and the mighty Zambezi River. Lower Zambezi National Park is a place of sheer beauty, stark contrast and powerful picturesque landscapes with an astonishing abundance of wildlife.



Our home for three nights in this remarkable wilderness will be Royal Zambezi Lodge, set on the banks of the lively Zambezi River in elegant splendor giving us a front row seat to this unique wilderness area. Enjoy luxury accommodations, fine dining, a tranquil bush spa and award-winning service in an intimate, family-owned lodge. We'll experience exciting safari game drives, sunset river cruises and hypnotic canoe adventures all framed by the backdrop of the moody and mystic Zambezi River. Your stay here will solidify an enduring love of Africa and leave you yearning to return to a place that will steal a piece of your heart.



Day 5-8 Bangweulu Wetlands

A charter flight on our way north and east over the divide will bring us to the vast and glorious Bangweulu Wetlands for our next stop on this incredible adventure. Under the direction of the nonprofit African Parks, it's the place "where the water meets the sky!". Here is our chance to see cheetah, huge herds of black lechwe and encounter a dinosaur right out of the picture books, the legendary and mythical shoebill stork. Our safari will take us by canoe into the verdant papyrus marshlands to observe these charismatic birds ~ one of the few places in the world left to see shoebills in the wild.



Nestled in a grove of trees, Shoebill Island Camp will be our home for three magical nights. Activities here include walking, deep hull (photographic) canoeing and mokoro trips as well as genuine and impromptu community visits with the seasonal fishermen of the region, and fireside talks under an African sky unbroken by civilization.



Day 8-11 South Luangwa National Park

We'll fly to the wild wonderful South Luangwa National Park, also known as "The Valley Of The Leopard". This premier wilderness area is an astonishing place where the meandering Luangwa River runs through woodlands and large plains that play host to huge concentrations of wildlife including elephant, buffalo, lion, leopard, giraffe, hippos and over 450 species of birds. It is here that we will also find one of the last strongholds of the endangered African wild dog ~ a thrill for any novice or experienced African safari lover.



Photo Michael Paredes, Dazzle Africa

We'll spend 3 enchanting nights at Robin Pope Safaris' Nkwali Camp which sits nestled under an ancient ebony grove on the banks of the Luangwa River. Day and night game drives as well as walking safaris will provide us with exceptional wildlife viewing. During our stay here, we will also have the opportunity for community, school and wildlife conservation engagement to learn more about how your safari dollars help the people and wildlife of the region thrive.



“There is no feeling like being absolutely alone with creation . . . with nothing spoiled or sullied or abused ...a whole world revolves in balance with itself more perfect than the finest symphony.”

—Elspeth Huxley, *The Mottled Lizard*



Photo Michael Davy, Sungani Lodge

Day 11-14 Lusangazi, South Luangwa National Park

We'll make our way south following the winding Luangwa River through the South Luangwa National Park and down to the southern reaches to the wild and untamed Lusangazi sector ~ true wilderness where nature is queen. Here you are in primordial wilds surrounded by astounding numbers of wild beasts that know no master other than themselves.



Photo Michael Davy, Sungani Lodge

In this remote and exclusive paradise is the unbelievably luxurious Sungani Lodge, edged by a bountiful lagoon and sheltered by magnificent indigenous trees. You will settle into pure luxury in an elegantly appointed custom-designed 1100 square foot tent with a private plunge pool and a luxurious slipper tub meant for long bubble baths at day's end. It's wild luxury at its finest. Enjoy game drives, walking safaris and wildlife-watching right from the deck as you surrender to the bliss of this magnificent lodge.



Photo Adriaan Louw, Sungani Lodge

Day 14 Lusaka & Homeward

After a bountiful Sungani breakfast and deep sighs of wistful regret we will say goodbye to our friends and the wild creatures of the South Luangwa. Climbing into the African skies will be bittersweet as we make our way toward home with Zambia forever in our hearts.

*“...no one can return unchanged, for tawny lions will forever prowl
our memory and great herds throng our imagination.”*

-George Schaller



From the Lower Zambezi National Park, the Bangweulu Wetlands and the South Luangwa National Park, “The Best of the Great Rift Valley, Zambia” is an African safari inspired by the conservation and protection of Zambia’s wild places. This safari is dedicated to the guardians who work tirelessly to afford us the privilege to witness our natural world in its most pristine form in this magical country. A safari of epic adventure, ever-changing landscapes and breathtaking wildlife, it is a chance to not only to see Africa but to feel its heartbeat and be immersed in its wild, wonderful wilderness.



Photo Michael Davy, Sungani Lodge

The Best of the Rift Valley, Zambia

\$15,387 (Per person, double occupancy)

The safari price includes:

- All Lodging
- All meals, alcohol & gratuities*
- All in-country charter flights and airport transfers
- Daily valet laundry service
- Game park, national park, and conservancy fees
- Accompaniment of highly experienced Dazzle Africa Safari Directors
- A donation toward our Zambian conservation projects
- The services of our flight booking partner, Exito, for personalized flights not included in the safari charter package.

The safari price does not include:

- International airfare
- Latitude 15° Hotel meals (except breakfast), alcoholic beverages & gratuities

Note: The order of arrival at Shoebill Island Camp and Nkwali Camp may vary



Photo Adriaan Louw, Sungani Lodge

“Sitting [by a safari campfire] listening to the lions far out in the darkness was like returning to the really true world again— where I probably once lived 10,000 years ago.”

—Karen Blixen, in a letter to her mother, Ingeborg Dinesen

Your safari hosts for the journey leading up to and during this epic adventure, are Dazzle Africa's experienced Safari Directors Nancy Law and Mike Paredes.

Mike and Nancy will be with you from touchdown to take off and have planned this safari meticulously to make sure your time is magical!



As a special bonus, we will be joined on this epic adventure by wildlife guide and photographer, Michael Davy. Michael grew up in the wilds of Zimbabwe which solidified his love of Africa, its people and its wild places. As a wildlife safari guide, based at Sungani in the South Luangwa National Park, Michael will share his guiding and photography expertise with us ~ and he is a ton of fun, too!



"There is a language going on out there – the language of the wild. Roars, snorts, trumpets, squeals, whoops and chirps have meaning derived over eons of expression... we have yet to become fluent in the language – and music – of the wild."

- Boyd Norton



Photo Michael Paredes, Dazzle Africa

Dazzle Africa

Dazzle Africa is a U.S. based nonprofit ~ we believe the only thing better than a traditional safari is a philanthropic safari that beneficially impacts wildlife and the local community. *The Dazzle Africa Modern Safari Experience* brings positive change in Zambia while giving you, the safari-goer, a deeper connection to this amazing country.

Come on *The Best of the Rift Valley, Zambia*
and experience the magic!

www.dazzleafrica.org

