

# Classic Luangwa Walking Safari in Style, Zambia

Track big game on foot through pristine African wilderness on this wonderfully wild walking safari in Zambia.



## Group departures

See overleaf for departure dates

## Holiday overview

Style	Walking Safaris
Accommodation	Stylish bush camps
Grade	Gentle
Duration	11 days from London to London
Trekking / Walking days	Walks on: Safari walks - 8 days
Min/Max group size	4 / 8. Guaranteed to run for 4
Trip Leader	Specialist Safari Guide
Land only	Joining in Mfuwe, Zambia

Private Departures & Tailor Made itineraries available



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Managing Director: Steven Berry. Registered in England No. 2118433. VAT No. 496 6511 08

# Departures

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## Group departures

### 2024 Dates:

Sat 22 Jun - Tue 02 Jul

Sat 21 Sep - Tue 01 Oct

### 2025 Dates:

Sat 28 Jun - Tue 08 Jul

Sat 20 Sep - Tue 30 Sep

## Group prices and optional supplements

Please contact us on +44 (0)1453 844400 or visit our website for our land only and flight inclusive prices and single supplement options.

## No Surcharge Guarantee

The flight inclusive or land only price will be confirmed to you at the time you make your booking. There will be no surcharges after your booking has been confirmed.

## Will the trip run?

This trip is guaranteed to run for 4 people and for a maximum of 8. In the rare event that we cancel a holiday, we will refund you in full and give you at least 6 weeks warning. Many trips do fill up quickly - we advise you to book early if you want to secure a place(s) on the dates of your choice.

## Insurance

We offer a travel insurance scheme - please contact us for details.

## Private Departures

We can also offer this trip as a private holiday. A Private Departure follows exactly the same itinerary as the group departure but at dates to suit you (subject to availability) - please contact us with your preferred dates.

## Tailor Made service

We pride ourselves on the level of quality and choice we provide for our clients who want a fully tailor made holiday. A holiday will be created especially for you by one of our well-travelled experts. They will be able to advise on the accommodation best suited to your needs, the sights you should visit (and those to avoid!) and the best walks and activities matched to your ability. In short, we will work together with you to create your perfect holiday.

If you would like to explore the idea of a Tailor Made holiday with Mountain Kingdoms then please call us on +44 (0)1453 844400 or see the Tailor Made pages of our website for further inspiration.

## Your guide

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Our Luangwa Walking Safaris are led by the experienced, English-speaking guides based in each camp, without doubt some of the best in Africa. They are all South Luangwa National Park experts and most have grown up nearby in Mfuwe. All the guides have passed stringent exams and have excellent knowledge of the region's bird and mammal species and the various habitats found in the park.

The quality of the guides on this walking safari will ensure that you get the most out of your safari experience, whether you're a first timer or an old Africa hand. Our partner in Zambia was winner of Best Walking Safari in Africa at the 2016 Safari Awards

Your guides may include John (pictured here) who has a keen eye for the small details in the bush, Julius an experienced walking guide based at Kakuli and Lawrence, manager at Luwi Camp an excellent bird mimic and super raconteur!

## Your trip highlights

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- Experience the thrill of encountering wild animals on foot
- Sip sundowner drinks in a magical setting looking out over a hippo-filled lagoon
- Relax between safaris in delightful intimate bush camps with superb ‘armchair’ game viewing
- Learn about the small details of the African wilderness from the legendary award-winning guides
- Enjoy evenings around the campfire, under a vast African night sky, listening to the distant call of lions
- Track big game through terrain inaccessible by vehicle, like the first Luangwa pioneers
- Extend your holiday with time at Victoria Falls or at a luxury safari camp beside the Lower Zambezi

## At a glance itinerary

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Days 1-2	Depart UK for flight to Lusaka. Fly to Mfuwe. Transfer to Luwi Camp in South Luangwa National Park
Day 3	On safari from Luwi Camp
Days 4-5	Walking safari to Nsolo Camp. On safari, walking and game drives from Nsolo
Days 6-7	Walking safari to Kakuli Camp. On safari, walking and game drives from Kakuli
Days 8-9	Walking safari to Mchenja Camp. On safari, walking and game drives from Mchenja
Day 10	Transfer to Mfuwe airport. Fly to Lusaka airport. Fly to the UK via Dubai
Day 11	Arrive UK

## Trip summary

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Peaceful Zambia is the home of the walking safari, and nowhere more so than South Luangwa National Park. This beautiful park in the northeast of the country has incredibly high game densities, few visitors and superb walking. Accompanied by legendary guides and scouts, you eschew the modern-day jeep safari, stepping back in time and into the natural landscape, walking from camp to camp to experience the pristine wilderness first-hand.

The Luangwa Valley (meaning ‘fishing basket’) is an ancient mineral-rich rift valley, and over the years the Luangwa River has wound its way through the bottom of the valley leaving a trail of scenic oxbow lakes and lagoons in its wake. The excellent soil and abundant water support lush and diverse vegetation which in turn attracts a wealth of wildlife.

You will follow two rivers during your time in the remote Luangwa. First, you will walk down the dry sand Luwi River, moving on to the next camp every other day, then after meeting the mighty Luangwa, heading north to your final camp set on a huge sweeping bend overlooking the river. You'll see a variety of habitats, wildlife and landscapes, the best Luangwa has to offer. The walking safaris between the camps will be complemented by day walks, game drives and night safaris; there is nothing like heading out on a torch-lit 4x4 adventure on a quest to spot an elusive leopard as it stalks its prey under the cover of darkness.

We have carefully selected the best camps for a walking safari, remote camps that actively specialise in exploring the bush on foot rather than merely offering walks as an alternative to game drives. All the camps have a friendly, relaxed atmosphere; comfortable and authentic rather than overtly luxurious. All meals, good South African wine, beer and soft drinks are included in the price of the holiday and there's even a complimentary laundry service. Built from local materials the camps are carefully designed to have minimal impact on the environment and are dismantled at the end of each season. Excellent facilities, service and attention to detail are a trademark of all the camps, and the fabulously friendly staff, from cooks to guides and scouts, will undoubtedly make your holiday.

Our partner in Zambia established the very first safari camp in Luangwa back in the 1950s, set up in partnership with the Luangwa community. This policy of involving local people in the management of wildlife was way ahead of its time, and the principles of conservation and community responsibility are still at the heart of everything they do.

## **The Bird and Wildlife of South Luangwa**

There are over 60 species of mammals in the park, including three endemic species, the beautiful Thornicroft Giraffe, Cookson's Wildebeest and Crawshay's Zebra. South Luangwa is undoubtedly one of the best parks in Africa to view leopard, and the Luangwa River has the most intense concentration of hippos and crocodiles on the continent. The birdlife is equally prolific with over 400 species of birds including 39 birds of prey and 47 migrant species. It is possible to see more than 100 species in a day! Our favourites include the brilliant carmine bee-eater, Pel's fishing owl and the majestic African Hawk Eagle. We provide both a bird and animal checklist as part of your comprehensive booking pack.

## **Life in camp**

The equally delightful bush camps are all very different in design. Your safari begins in Luwi, the most remote and rustic of camps and concludes in Mchenja, the most stylish but each has a unique charm and view. Rooms, which are hand built each year after the rainy season using natural materials, blend into the bush. Charming en suite open air bathrooms offer 'all day' hot showers. The camps are all unfenced so you will find wildlife wandering through, and there is usually plenty to view as you relax in camp between safari activities. Meals are usually eaten together around a big camp table and followed in the evening by drinks under the stars around the campfire.

## **On safari**

You will enjoy two safaris a day whilst in South Luangwa. Most mornings will start with a walking safari through the Zambian bush with an expert guide and armed scout. On the days when you are moving camp you will conclude the morning safari at the next camp. Walking is at a leisurely pace and your guide will share a wealth of fascinating facts about large and small species alike as you walk. It is possible to transfer to the next camp by vehicle if you prefer. Your second safari of the day could also be a walking safari, or your guides may take you further afield in the open-top 4x4 vehicles, carefully designed to allow everyone to have a 'window' seat. Even your transfer from Mfuwe airport will become a game drive. There is a tradition in Luangwa of stopping for sundowners, and the afternoon safari then extends into an evening game drive, exploring with a spotlight as the nocturnal animals start to emerge.

## Special notes

### Respecting the wildlife

The safaris on this holiday will be undertaken in an unfenced national park where the animals are wild. Your safari camps are also unfenced and dangerous animals are often found in and around the camps. Attacks by wild animals are rare, however, there are no guarantees that such incidents will not occur. Camp staff will give safety briefings and are always on hand should you require assistance or are in any way concerned.

Please respect the wildlife, never try to touch a wild animal and keep noise to a minimum whilst on the vehicle or on foot during your safari. It is important that you listen carefully to instructions from the camp staff and guides and, especially at night, don't wander about after being escorted to your room after dinner.

### Climate

Seasonal changes are very pronounced in Luangwa. The dry season begins in April and intensifies through to October, the hottest month, when game concentrations are at their height. Warm sunny days and chilly nights typify the dry winter months of May to August whilst in September temperatures routinely reach 35°C in the daytime and the nights remain pretty hot. Walking safaris are generally best enjoyed between the months of June and October.

# Your trip itinerary

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## Day 1: Depart London.

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Fly London to Mfuwe via Lusaka airport.

**Overnight: In flight**

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## Day 2: Arrive Lusaka. Fly to Mfuwe - 1 hour. Group transfer to Luwi Camp.

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Your international flight arrives into Lusaka late afternoon and you will be met and escorted to your domestic flight to Mfuwe airport, the gateway to South Luangwa National Park. Here you will be met on arrival and transferred to the first of your camps - Luwi - enjoying your first safari along the way. (If you are making your own way to Mfuwe please check with us that your flight will connect with our transfer to Luwi Camp). Depending upon what you see on the way, your drive to Luwi can take up to two hours, so have an extra layer and insect repellent to hand.



Luwi Camp, nestled in the shade of huge mahogany trees, is close to a permanent hippo and croc filled lagoon. It is situated deep in the heart of the National Park, on the seasonal Luwi River after which it is named. The Luwi is a sandy, dry river bed outside of the rainy season. The area is extremely remote with no other camps or people for many miles around. Luwi was one of South Luangwa's first wilderness safari camps.

Walks in the Luwi area may be complemented by game drives and explorations upriver to discover the source of the river or to find the elusive Roan antelope or reed buck, eland and hartebeest which are almost never seen in other parts of the park. The Luwi area is famous for its lions as well as an abundance of birdlife. This region of South Luangwa is also home to a family of wild dogs, with the best sightings of this endangered carnivore likely in June and July.

Your first evening will no doubt be spent around the campfire listening to tales of life in the Zambian bush as you begin to embrace life in the African wilderness.

**Overnight: Luwi Camp (Meals: D)**

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## Day 3: On safari from Luwi Camp.

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This morning you have the thrill of waking up in Africa, and typically your day will start early around the camp fire when you will discuss the noises and animals heard through the night.

After a light breakfast with a choice of fruit, yoghurt, eggs and toast, you set off on foot to pick up the fresh tracks of a pride of lion or investigate the alarm calls of the local troop of baboon. This is no nature trail - this is the real thing - you are tracking wildlife through the African bush, on foot like the first Luangwa pioneers. Your morning walking safari is likely to take three to four hours returning you to camp in time for a hearty late morning brunch.

The afternoon is free for you to relax, viewing the wildlife passing by camp before a further safari later in the day. This may be on foot ending at the lagoon hide for sundowners, or possibly exploring further upriver by 4x4. You return to camp by vehicle looking out for the eyes of nocturnal animals reflected in the search light on a night drive.

Dinner is taken under the stars accompanied by the many sounds of the Zambian night.

**Overnight: Luwi Camp (Meals: BLD)**

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#### Day 4: Walking safari to Nsolo Camp - 8km, 3-4 hours.

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Today you are moving on to your next camp so you will need to have your bags packed first thing, ready for them to be transferred by vehicle. Leaving camp early on foot your guide will lead you downstream towards Nsolo Camp. The river widens in this section and the Luwi's white sands carve a dynamic route through the palm and trichelia groves, thicket and game rich "dambos" for which the Luangwa Valley is so well known. One of the great joys of a walking safari is discovering the fascinating small details of the bush; the defensive mechanisms of plants and animals, how termite colonies operate, the medicinal properties of different trees, how lion ants catch their prey and how everything in the bush is recycled! These are just some of the amazing things you will learn on your walks. You will also see numerous birds and learn how to track different wildlife by looking at their prints and listening to their calls.



After a few hours gentle walking and exploration you'll arrive into camp to find a warm welcome, a cool drink, brunch on the table and your bags in your room. Nsolo is the local name for the honeyguide and the camp was named after this extraordinary little bird. By amazing coincidence it was later learnt that this area used to be home to a famous local hunter - also called Nsolo!

The light, airy chalets at Nsolo each have a raised wooden decks with private verandahs looking out onto the surrounding bush and riverbed. It's a great spot for birdwatching. Have a rest and soak up the magical atmosphere of this, one of the oldest bush camps in the Luangwa Valley, before you head out again after your siesta and afternoon tea.

**Overnight: Nsolo Camp (Meals: BLD)**

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#### Day 5: On safari from Nsolo Camp.

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Today you explore the wilds of the Nsolo area. The Luwi river system is renowned for its lion population, and various pride territories overlap in this area. The cats use the dry river bed as a thoroughfare and a means, not only of locating their prey, which come to drink, but also of locating their rivals who must be warned to stay away. Wild dogs have denned between Luwi and Nsolo for the last six years and chances are high of seeing these elusive creatures from Nsolo. Leopards also abound in the area.

There are few African experiences more exciting than heading out on a walking safari early in the morning, having heard lions calling through the night, finding their fresh tracks and following them through the bush. With voices hushed and hearts beating you think that there is a lion over every rise!

**Overnight: Nsolo Camp (Meals: BLD)**

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#### Day 6: Walking safari to Kakuli Camp - 12km, 5 hours.

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This morning after an early start you will meander along with the Luwi on your walking safari, arriving with the river at its confluence with the main Luangwa River and Kakuli Camp. Giraffes, elephants, hippopotamous, warthogs, impala and piku are all routinely seen in or around the water here and your first views of the Luangwa can be a real 'wow' moment.

The walk to Kakuli is the longest walk between camps and you may move on by 4x4 game vehicle if you prefer.

Named after Norman Carr, who was affectionately named Kakuli - an old buffalo bull - this camp has sweeping and majestic views over the Luangwa. Spend the afternoon relaxing in camp and making the most of the spectacular views over the hippo filled Luangwa River. There are more game viewing tracks in this area so later you may head out in an open sided 4x4 vehicle to explore the area which is famous for its high population of leopards.

Night time at Kakuli can be noisy as hippo congregate just below the tents on the river bed, and elephants wander through camp in search of their favourite winter thorn tree pods.

**Overnight: Kakuli Camp (Meals: BLD)**

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**Day 7: On safari from Kakuli Camp.**

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With the Luangwa river so close by, you are almost guaranteed superb animal sightings whether on foot or in vehicle at Kakuli. If you are travelling in September, the area around Kakuli is a great place to see large colonies of brilliantly colourful Carmine bee eaters which migrate here from the end of August. These beautiful birds make their homes en masse in small holes in the river banks and fly in numbers as they search for small insects in the sky. Kakuli is one of the best places to observe the bee eater colonies.

After your morning safari you may like to spend your time back in camp relaxing in the lovely thatched chitenje (lounge) at the heart of Kakuli. It is on a wooden deck overlooking the grazing area that leads down to the two rivers and is a perfect spot in which to watch the wildlife meander by. The views from here are quite spectacular.

This stretch of the Luangwa is bustling with predators and the best time to see them in action is late afternoon when you head out on your second safari and, later still, during those first few hours of darkness. The African night sky is simply magnificent and the Milky Way seems 100 times brighter here in the Luangwa Valley where there is no light pollution.

**Overnight: Kakuli Camp (Meals: BLD)**

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**Day 8: Walking safari to Mchenja Camp - 7km, 3 hours.**

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Today you walk to your last camp, heading northeast along the Luangwa river bank passing numerous hippos jostling for space in the ever-dwindling pools below. A taste of sophistication awaits you at Mchenja, the name meaning "ebony"; the final camp on your trail occupies a stunning setting beneath a magnificent grove of immense ebony trees on the banks of the Luangwa River. The five individually designed tents each have a bath inside as well as an open topped, en suite shower and toilet. The beautiful central chitenje is built around one of the old fallen ebony trees and you can cool off in the camp's plunge pool. Brunch is taken in the shady lounge but dinner is more often served on the riverbank under the stars.

You will be able to do both game walks and drives from Mchenja, and the wildlife viewing in this area is some of the best in the South Luangwa National Park.

**Overnight: Mchenja Camp (Meals: BLD)**

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**Day 9: On safari from Mchenja Camp.**

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As the sun rises over the river in front of camp a light breakfast will be served on the grassy river's edge. Choose from a good selection of cereals, porridge, and campfire toast accompanied by tea, coffee and fruit juice. On your safari this morning you may head north toward the Lion Plain area, or south toward Mfuwe Lagoon. The birdwatching from Mchenja is excellent; you may see yellow-billed storks, fish eagles and various kingfishers.

Later, after your midday siesta, you will gather for afternoon tea and delicious homemade cake before heading out again for your final evening safari.

The slightly more luxurious but unpretentious nature of Mchenja, makes it the perfect place to conclude your safari. Memories from your last evening around the campfire under the vast African night sky, listening to the distant call of lions, cicadas and a multitude of tree frogs under the crescent of an African moon will live with you forever.

**Overnight: Mchenja Camp (Meals: BLD)**



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**Day 10: Group transfer to Mfuwe. Fly to Lusaka. Fly to London.**

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A final safari this morning and then you say farewell to the bush after lunch, driving through the park on your way back to Mfuwe airport for your flight out of the Luangwa Valley.

In Lusaka you will be met and escorted to your international flight back to London.

If you're extending your safari experience with time at the magical Lower Zambezi National Park, you will also catch a domestic flight from Mfuwe in the morning.

**Overnight: In flight (Meals: B L)**

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**Day 11: Arrive London.**

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## Our grading system

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Classic Luangwa Walking Safari is graded as a Gentle walking holiday, as described below.

**Gentle**

Trips within this grade typically mix sightseeing with easy-paced half and/or full day walks. On these trips, walks will be on relatively low altitude trails, for a duration of around 4-6 hours. On all of our Gentle graded trips, some ascent and descent should be anticipated, and there may occasionally be a longer walking day. Holidays within this grade generally use hotels and comfortable lodges although a few do have some nights camping.

These holidays are suitable for people who enjoy easy-paced walks in the British countryside or exploring on foot rather than in a vehicle.

## What the price includes

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**Mountain Kingdoms** aims to offer the best value for money. We do not charge extra for meal packages or apply local charges and try to ensure that all the key elements of your holiday are included.

### What's included:

- ✓ Guiding by professional local guides
- ✓ Two guided safaris each day, mostly walking but also some driving safaris. Includes the walking safaris between camps
- ✓ Accommodation in four full-service bush camps
- ✓ All national park and conservation fees
- ✓ All meals, local wine, beer and soft drinks in camp
- ✓ Laundry service
- ✓ Safe drinking water throughout
- ✓ Group medical kit
- ✓ All road transport by private vehicles
- ✓ Economy class return air fares from the UK - business class upgrade is available (flight inclusive only)
- ✓ Single, timed, group airport transfers for international flights on arrival and departure
- ✓ Carbon offsetting with the Ecoan Tree Planting Project (for clients taking our flight inclusive option)
- ✓ A free Mountain Kingdoms Water-to-Go bottle

### Airport transfers

The cost of a transfer to/from the airport is included in the price of your holiday. This is a single group transfer which is arranged to coincide with the timings of the group flights. If you book your own flights which arrive/depart at different times to this, or we book flights at your request that have different timings, we will be happy to provide a quote for a separate transfer. Please contact us should you require any further information.

### What's not included:

- ✗ Travel insurance (guidance will be given in your dossier)
- ✗ Visa fees
- ✗ Immunisations
- ✗ Tips to camp staff, safari guides and scouts
- ✗ Premium drinks are not included.

### Water-to-Go Reusable Bottle Campaign

We have joined the campaign to help cut down on the use of plastics and, in particular, single-use water bottles. To do this we have teamed up with the revolutionary company, Water-to-Go who have developed a multi-use drinking bottle with a reusable filter that eliminates over 99.9% of all microbiological contaminants. This makes water from virtually any source safe to drink and significantly reduces the need for travellers to buy bottles of water wherever they are in the world.

Our clients who are not given a free Mountain Kingdoms kit bag for their holiday (these are required for certain treks), will instead receive a free Mountain Kingdoms Water-to-Go bottle. These unique Water-to-Go bottles can also be purchased from us at a discounted rate.

For further information about our campaign visit <https://www.mountainkingdoms.com/water-to-go-reusable-bottle-campaign>.

## Your accommodation

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### Luwi Camp

Described as ‘the best little bush camp in Africa’ Luwi is an authentic, remote and magical bush camp; the perfect camp for walking safaris. The rooms, which are built each season using grass, bamboo and thatch, blend into the bush and are simple yet extremely comfortable with en suite bathrooms and hot showers. With the emphasis on the use of natural materials in its construction, this camp is one of the most traditional of all of the Luangwa safari camps but still offers high levels of comfort and service. Daytime meals are served in the shade of the mahogany trees. There is a large hippo filled lagoon close by with a ‘hide’ for guests to watch the animals unnoticed high above the water. This permanent water source attracts wildlife from far and wide making the camp area constantly busy with animals.



### Nsolo Camp

As with Luwi, this is one of the South Luangwa's more remote, luxury safari camps with a wonderful dry river bed location in front of an active game lagoon. The five spacious chalets have grass and reed walls, large open-air en suite bathrooms and raised wooden decks. On the banks of the Luwi River is an open sided, shady chitenje lounge with a bush bar and dining area offering a peaceful refuge where you can browse the collection of books or watch a variety of game visiting the permanent pools of water in the Luwi riverbed.



### Kakuli Camp

Kakuli is a stylish camp perched above the Luangwa River giving it expansive views. Re-designed in 2018, there are four large thatch and canvas suites with private bathrooms. There is also a family suite. The suites look out across the Luangwa River and you even have a comfy sofa out front to truly relax and enjoy the superb wildlife viewing. In the centre of the camp is a large, thatched 'chitenje' with a dining area and a viewing deck overlooking the waterhole below. A recent addition to Kakuli is a wildlife hide with prime views of the animal activity around the waterhole.



### Mchenja Camp

Mchenja is a luxurious, elegant and stylish tented camp overlooking a huge sweeping bend in the Luangwa River. The wide windows of the five specially designed octagonal tented chalets frame the far-reaching views. Each has their own private en suite open air bathroom plus Victorian style baths looking out over the river. There is a small pool in camp. Mchenja is the perfect destination to complete your walking safari offering as it does, superb game viewing combined with a little extra comfort.

## Meal arrangements

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Full board including standard (local) bar drinks.

## Flight arrangements

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### Flight inclusive from price

Our 'Flight inclusive from' price is based on the best fare available at the time of printing. As airfares change on a constant basis, this should be used only as a guide price. Rest assured that, at the time of booking, we will endeavour to get the best possible price for the flights you need. Remember, the earlier you book the greater your chances of securing the best fare.

Flight inclusive packages booked through Mountain Kingdoms are protected through our ATOL bonding scheme.

### Flight upgrades and regional Airports

Please call us on +44 (0)1453 844400 for flight options from regional UK airports, Business Class upgrades, alternative airlines and stopovers. Please also check our website for the most up to date flight inclusive 'from' prices.

## Further information

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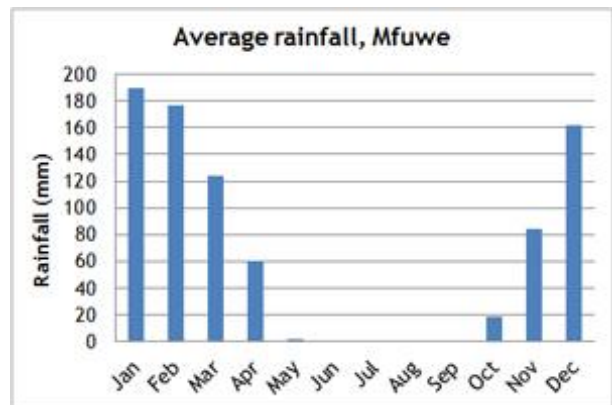
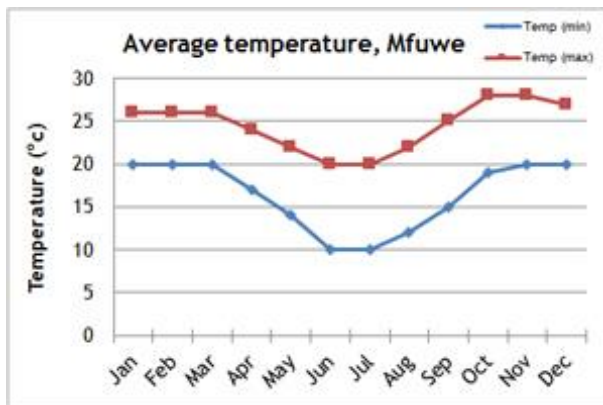
When we receive your booking, we send you a full Trip Dossier which contains details of any visas and vaccinations required, a suggested gear and clothing list and lots of useful information. If you do have queries at this initial stage do call us on 01453 844400 and we will be pleased to offer advice.

## The nature of adventure travel

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Every effort will be made to keep to this itinerary but we cannot guarantee that things may not change, either before you travel or while you are away. By its very nature, adventure travel involves an element of the unexpected, particularly in more remote areas. A variety of factors such as adverse weather conditions, changes to local schedules and difficulties with transportation can all contribute to the need to make changes to the itinerary, often at the very last minute. Our Operations Manager and your Trip Leader will make every effort to maintain the integrity of the original itinerary and minimise the impact of any changes, but an easy-going and flexible nature is a real asset! Please note that all timings and distances given are approximate.

# Climate information



# Extensions

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## Extending your holiday

If you would like additional inspiration on how or where to extend your holiday please call us on 01453 844400. Alternatively, you can download a range of extension information sheets on our website, at [www.mountainkingdoms.com](http://www.mountainkingdoms.com).



### Chongwe River Camp

On the confluence of the mighty Zambezi and Chongwe Rivers is a place where African wilderness meets old-fashioned hospitality in a fusion of natural beauty and luxury accommodation. Gaze onto spectacular mountain and river views from your safari tent whilst elephants walk only meters away. Alongside walks and jeep safaris there is also the opportunity to canoe, cruise the waters on a small boat, go fishing for Tiger fish or visit a local community. We think that a three or four-night extension to Chongwe is the perfect way to conclude your wildlife experience in Zambia.



### Victoria Falls Extension

Combine your wilderness experience in South Luangwa with a two-night stay at secluded Toka Leya camp on the Zambian banks of the Zambezi River. Spectacular Victoria Falls lies just 12 kilometres away from camp, straddling the border between Zambia and Zimbabwe. Other activities available from Toka include game drives into Mosi-oa-Tunya National Park, sunset river cruises, rhino tracking and cultural community visits. There is also a small camp wellness centre.

## Why book this holiday with Mountain Kingdoms?

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- This is a rare opportunity to experience a camp to camp full walking safari in Zambia - progressing on foot to the next camp every other day.
- We have selected authentic safari camps in remote locations that actively specialise in exploring the bush on foot.
- There are two guided safaris every day plus other wildlife viewing activities including night safaris
- On game drives in the 4x4 open-sided vehicle everyone has a 'window' seat.
- The legendary camp guides are all South Luangwa experts with many having over 17 years' guiding experience each.
- Our partners in Zambia were the pioneers of walking safaris in Zambia, and their camps are still owner operated with a very personal touch.
- This is a fully inclusive holiday with all meals, beer, good South African wine and spirits and soft drinks included in the price, together with a complimentary laundry service
- There is the opportunity to extend your stay in Zambia with a fabulous four-night extension to the Lower Zambezi National Park.
- Small numbers, minimum impact and a true wilderness experience makes this a very special holiday - therefore we have a maximum group size of just 8 clients.
- We research our new holidays ourselves and staff member, Jude Limburn Turner travelled to south Luangwa in August 2016. Marketing Assistant, Kirsty Parsons, also went on safari in Luangwa and the Lower Zambezi in 2017. If you have any questions about this trip please contact Jude or Kirsty at the Mountain Kingdoms office, they will be very happy to help.
- As part of our commitment to 'Tourism Declares a Climate Emergency', we will be carbon-offsetting all international flights booked through us by donating funds to the Ecoan Tree Planting Project in Peru.
- If you wish to fly with a specific airline, from a regional UK airport or on alternative dates to the main group we would be happy to arrange this for you. Please contact our Flights Manager, April, for flight options, quotes and further information.

If we've tempted you to take your next holiday with us, we advise you to check availability and you can do this via our website: [www.mountainkingdoms.com](http://www.mountainkingdoms.com) or by calling the team on +44 (0)1453 844400. Bookings can be made online, by phone or by completing a booking form and returning it to us. We can also provisionally hold places if you need time to consider your options.

## What our clients say

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*This was a most memorable experience and I could not have imagined I would see so many wild animals and beautiful birds. I learnt so much about the flora and fauna which can only be done in such detail when walking with guides who have infinite knowledge on their surrounds. I fully recommend this to anyone who enjoys being up close to nature and this is certainly the best way to experience it.*

*-Mrs J M, Australia*

*This is an excellent trip. We have been on safari before but not with the same amount of walking. Being on foot, the guides could give much more information on how the ecosystem works from lion to ant lion.*

*-Mrs R, Leicestershire*



*It was completely magical! Each camp had it's unique charm and I loved the perfect blend of luxury and simplicity. Everyone I met had an absolute passion for giving me the best experience possible, and took the time to get to know me. They shared so much knowledge but also insights into Zambian culture and history. And they made it such fun.*

*The people completely made it special. The walking was exceptional and I especially valued the enormous respect the guides showed for the wildlife and their passion for sharing their knowledge. And the drives gave me experiences that were new to me despite having been on many safaris. The joy of watching lions and leopards and not sharing it with any other vehicle. And being able to witness 5 lionesses hunting at night is a memory that will stay with me for ever.*

*- Ms R, Cheltenham*



*The Africa I'd always dreamed of. A personal experience from start to finish with no intrusive crowds, outstanding guides and fabulously friendly camp hosts. And eating out under the stars was truly magical.*

*-Mrs L, Somerset*

# Mountain Kingdoms - distinctly different

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## **Truly independent**

In an age where many so-called 'independent' travel companies have in fact been bought out by multi-national giants, we remain fiercely independent with all the benefits this offers our clients.

## **Value for money prices with an emphasis on quality**

We are not in the business of cutting our itineraries and services to the bone to offer eye-catching cheap prices. We use some of the best airlines, and typically 3 or 4 star hotels in cities. We include the majority of meals and private transport for road travel. We use excellent equipment and appoint well-trained staff and leaders. Last year, over 98% of our clients rated their Mountain Kingdoms holiday as 'excellent' or 'good'. We are members of AITO and bound by their quality charter.

## **Complete financial security**

You can book with us confident that your holiday has full financial protection. Flight inclusive holidays are financially protected by the Civil Aviation Authority under ATOL licence number 2973 and 'Land Only' holidays are covered by a bond secured with ABTOT.

## **No Surcharge Guarantee**

Your peace of mind is important to us so we have a No Surcharge Guarantee on all Land Only and Flight Inclusive bookings. This means that there will be no change to the price of your holiday once we have confirmed your booking, regardless of fluctuations in exchange rates or fuel prices.

## **Award winning Responsible Tourism**

We feel strongly that all our holidays should benefit local communities, protect the environment and respect local traditions, religion and heritage. You can read more about the charities we support and our Responsible Tourism commitments and initiatives on the following page or at [www.mountainkingdoms.com](http://www.mountainkingdoms.com).

## **Genuine small group travel**

Almost all of our holidays have a maximum group size of just 12, plus leader. This provides more contact with your leader, readier access to off-the-beaten-path areas, greater interaction with local communities and a reduced environmental impact.

## **Loyalty Discount**

If you have previously travelled with us we recognise your loyalty with a discount on future trips.

## **Booking your holiday - it couldn't be easier**

Once you've chosen your Mountain Kingdoms holiday you can book online, call the office or complete and post a booking form which can be found in our brochure or downloaded from our website. If you would like to hold a place on one of our trips, whilst you make up your mind, please give us a call to make a provisional booking. This is a no-obligation, no-cost booking and we will hold your place until space comes under pressure or we need your decision.

## **Comprehensive information**

When we receive your booking we send you a full trip dossier which contains details of visas and vaccinations required, a suggested gear and clothing list and lots of useful information. In fact, everything you need to know to give you peace of mind and allow you to prepare for your trip of a lifetime.



## RESPONSIBLE TOURISM STATEMENT CLIMATE EMERGENCY PLAN



For over 33 years, Mountain Kingdoms has been offering people the chance to visit amazing places on this extraordinary planet. We now offer trips to all corners of the world, but we are conscious that inevitably our holidays have a detrimental impact on the world around us, and we want to do all we can to reduce our carbon emissions. We are a signatory to Tourism Declares a Climate Emergency, along with a growing number of like-minded, reputable tour operators. For more information, please visit [www.tourismdeclares.com](http://www.tourismdeclares.com)

From 2020 onwards, we will be focusing on how we can reduce the carbon emissions that our holidays produce, and how to counterbalance this carbon by supporting carbon offset measures. Here are some of our current and future plans to minimise the impact of our business as a whole:

### **Carbon Offsetting**

#### **Already doing:**

- ✓ We have been offsetting carbon since 2007, but will be increasing our donations to the [Ecoan tree planting project](#) in Peru this year. This is with a trusted partner where the funds go directly to a project where the community plants trees on its own land.

#### **Will do:**

- ✓ We are working on making our carbon offsetting more accurate and targeted.
- ✓ In future, we will add to that a further estimate for carbon produced by hotels, local road travel, trains and internal flights to arrive at a carbon offset sum for each trip we operate.
- ✓ Carbon offsetting will be included in our holiday prices. For our Flight Inclusive holidays it will include the international flight and any emissions produced by inland travel and accommodation. Our Land Only prices will include the cost of offsetting emissions caused by inland travel and accommodation.

### **Reducing Carbon Emissions**

#### **Already doing:**

- ✓ We already offer the majority of our customers a free filtered water bottle which means they can instantly cut down on their single-use plastic consumption. This will be an ongoing project.
- ✓ We already predominantly use locally owned hotels, but will continue to ensure that, where possible, we use these rather than multinational chains.
- ✓ We have joined the Tourism Declares a Climate Emergency initiative to stand alongside like-minded travel companies, to work together to initiate best practices to make tourism as sustainable as possible.

#### **Will do:**

- ✓ We will re-evaluate our flights to make sure we are using the most fuel efficient airlines with the youngest fleets and, where possible, direct flights for each trip.
- ✓ We will stop offering unnecessary optional flights – for example our Everest sightseeing trip.
- ✓ We will eliminate unnecessary staff flights wherever possible.
- ✓ We will look at minimising internal flights.
- ✓ We will be asking all our worldwide agents and suppliers to look at their own carbon footprint and encourage them to reduce it.
- ✓ We will promote our more low impact trips to give customers an informed choice.

As part of our wider commitment to Responsible Tourism, we will continue to support a number of charities with whom we have had a long standing relationship over many years. These include: Shiva Charity in Nepal (Ginette Harrison School), Simien Mountains Mobile Medical Service and Porter Welfare, as well as setting aside a sum for emergency disaster relief should the need arise.

