

Wild Zimbabwe



This 12-night/13-day private tour offers a comprehensive overview of Zimbabwe. Beginning in Harare and ending at Victoria Falls, highlights include the Eastern Highlands, the Great Zimbabwe Ruins, Matobo and Hwange National Parks.

Day 1: Harare

You will be met on arrival in Harare and transferred to Jacana Gardens Guesthouse for one night (bed & breakfast basis).



Jacana Gardens Guest Lodge

This cosy Dutch-managed guesthouse occupies a small plot in the northern suburbs of Harare. Designed by Zimbabwean architect Mick Pearce, it offers six individually decorated bedrooms, all of which open onto the garden terrace & verandah. Facilities include an open-plan lounge decorated in a mixed European and Zimbabwean style, a small outdoor swimming pool, and a dining room where a light buffet breakfast is served each morning.

Days 2-3: Nyanga National Park

Departing Harare this morning, you drive 3-4 hours to Nyanga National Park, in Zimbabwe's eastern highlands.

On arrival, check in at Aberfoyle Lodge for 2 nights (fully-inclusive, including local drinks).

Your Financial Protection

All monies paid by you for the air holiday package shown [or flights if appropriate] are ATOL protected by the Civil Aviation Authority. Our ATOL number is ATOL 3145.

For more information see our booking terms and conditions.

Aberfoyle Lodge

Dating back to the 1960s, Aberfoyle Lodge is a lovely country estate situated in the Honde Valley region of the Eastern Highlands. The lodge has been thoroughly renovated in recent years, and now offers a fabulous selection of rooms accommodating up to 36 guests. All rooms are en-suite and feature patio doors that open onto verandahs for a view of the tea plantations and forests of the Honde Valley.



Aberfoyle Lodge boasts a wealth of amenities, including swimming pool, 9-hole golf course, tennis court, snooker room and lounge.

The next two days are free for you to relax at the lodge and explore the surrounding forests and highlands adjoining Nyanga National Park. Activities available at Aberfoyle include guided mountain hikes, tree canopy tours, birding tours with a specialist guide, and tea plantation visits.



Nyanga National Park

Situated in the Eastern Highlands, Nyanga is not typical safari territory. This is a mountainous region, notable for its green hills, rapids and waterfalls, rather than its big game. The climate in Nyanga is typically cool and fresh, and the scenery spectacular. The hills are home to a variety of game, including waterbuck, zebra, kudu and eland. The region, which is crossed by several fast-flowing rivers, is also famous for its Nyanga trout – a local specialty!

Days 4-5: La Rochelle, Mutare

Depart Nyanga this morning and transfer approx. 2 hours south to La Rochelle, a fabulous country house situated in Penhalonga, near Mutare. Check-in for two nights (dinner, bed & breakfast).

La Rochelle

La Rochelle is a newly re-opened Country House in Penhalonga, near Mutare. Built in the 1950s as the home of Sir Stephen and Lady Virginia Courtauld, it boasts over 40 acres of landscaped gardens, a beautiful dam, and 16 richly-furnished rooms.



La Rochelle's guest rooms are decorated in fabulous art deco style. The bulk of the rooms are located in secluded cottages scattered throughout the gardens, though a minority are situated within the main house and date back to its original construction. All rooms enjoy views of the gardens or dam.

La Rochelle's gardens are fabulous. Part of a 182-hectare estate, the property features beautiful landscaped and botanical gardens, an orchid house, and an arboretum adjoining the natural forest and woodland, housing over 800 varieties of tree.

The interior of the house bears all the signs of a much-loved home, filled with fresh flowers, art deco furniture and mementos of the Courtauld family.

The next two days are at leisure to enjoy the house and its extensive grounds.

Day 6: Masvingo, Great Zimbabwe

Depart Mutare this morning and transfer approx. 3-4 hours to Masvingo. On arrival, check-in at Norma Jeane's Lakeview Lodge for 1 night (dinner, bed & breakfast).

Norma Jeane's Lakeview Lodge

This attractive, lakeside lodge is situated overlooking Lake Mutirikwi on the outskirts of Masvingo, and offers comfortable, homely accommodation amid a tranquil setting.

Norma Jeane's offers just 8 en-suite rooms, each spaced apart and with a private balcony overlooking the lake. Guest areas include a comfortable lounge and dining room.

Norma Jeane's primarily attracts guests coming to Masvingo to see the Great Zimbabwe Ruins, but it has other attractions besides. The surrounding woodland offers great opportunities for birding, while guided game drives and bush walks are possible at nearby Lake Mutirikwi Park.



This afternoon, embark on a guided tour of the Great Zimbabwe Ruins.

Great Zimbabwe Ruins

The Great Zimbabwe Ruins are one sub-Saharan Africa's most remarkable ruins. With the exception of the magnificent monuments of Ethiopia, there is little else that compares.

The ruins are the remains of the 1,000-year-old Bantu civilization, one of the great lost African empires, which at its height incorporated much of East, Southern and Central Africa.



Great Zimbabwe is believed to have once been home to as many as 18,000 people and covered an area of 200 square miles. It was an important trading centre in the late middle ages, exchanging ivory and gold with the Arabian and Portuguese traders who would later come to dominate the East African coast.

Designated a World Heritage Site in 1986, Great Zimbabwe is remarkable not just for its history but also for its design. Similar to the Sabaen structures of Ethiopia, most notably Yeha, Great Zimbabwe's huge towers are built out of many thousands of carefully balanced bricks, without the aid of mortar.

Days 7-8: Matobo Hills National Park

Depart Masvingo this morning and drive to Matobo National Park, passing through Bulawayo en route. After about 4 hours on the road you'll reach your destination, Big Cave Camp, where you stay two nights (fully-inclusive, with local drinks included).



Big Cave Camp

Big Cave Camp sits on top of an enormous granite kopje, commanding marvellous views across the famous Matobo National Park. The thatched, African cottages, of which there are only 8, have been built amidst the rock formations and carefully spaced apart. Each is en-suite and features a private balcony.



The central living area at Big Cave Camp has been built against a dramatic backdrop of massive boulders. The rock formations have influenced the design of the lodge; the bar and dining area are built around a huge rock, while trees have been incorporated into the interiors, creating a natural atmosphere. Dining is at a communal dining table in the shared dining room. There's also a stylish teak bar.

Outside, there is a natural rock pool and sundeck. At sundown, the romantic cave-style boma is illuminated by lanterns.

The next two days will be spent exploring Matobo National Park on guided game drives and bush walks. A particular highlight of this region is rhino tracking.

Matobo National Park

A UNESCO world heritage site, Matobo is known for its spectacular scenery and striking rock formations. It is also known as one of the world's last remaining rhino sanctuaries, where both black and white rhino are found in stable numbers.

The 45,000-hectare park incorporates the fascinating Matobo Hills, a rugged range of granite domes, boulders and spires that make for terrific hiking territory. Matobo is not all hills and kopjes, however. Its lower foothills and grasslands provide a typical safari bush environment and support a diversity of game, including not just rhino but also many species of antelope, big cats including leopard and cheetah (no lion), rock dassies, wildcat, crocodile, giraffe, hippo and baboon.



Days 9-10: Hwange National Park

Depart Matobo this morning and journey north to Hwange National Park, a drive of 4-5 hours. On arrival, check-in at the Ivory Safari Lodge for two nights (full board).



Ivory Safari Lodge

Ivory Safari Lodge is situated in the forested outskirts of Zimbabwe's largest safari park, Hwange. The lodge offers a superb game-viewing experience, centring on 4x4 safaris to track the huge herds of plains game and elephant for which Hwange is famous. And you needn't leave the camp to view the wildlife; Ivory Lodge's raised viewing platforms overlook a busy watering hole that is frequented by a resident herd of elephant.

There are 9 raised treehouses at Ivory Safari Lodge, accommodating two guests each. All rooms overlook the waterhole. There is no air-con in the rooms, only ceiling fans (as well as electric blankets for the winter). All rooms have mosquito nets, 24-hour electricity and en suite bathrooms. The central bar area and dining room are well-furnished and overlook the waterhole and lodge swimming pool. Internet access is available.



Daily morning and evening game drives are offered during your stay.

Hwange National Park

Hwange is Zimbabwe's largest and most famous national park. Simply teeming with game, it provides a safari experience to rival the great parks of East Africa, the Serengeti and Masai Mara.

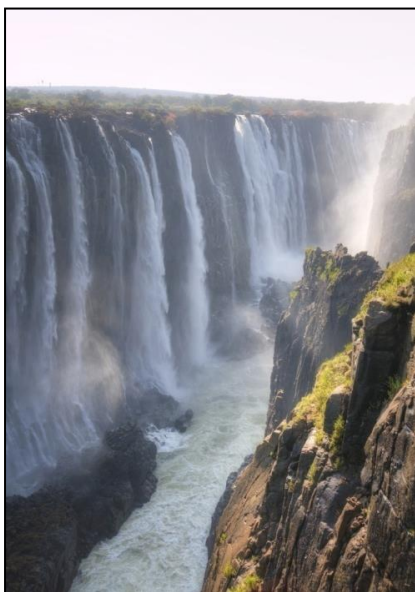


Formerly the royal hunting grounds of the warrior kings of Zimbabwe, Hwange became one of the first conservation areas in Africa when it was made a national park in 1929. Today it is not nearly as well-known as it once was, owing in large part to the difficult political situation in Zimbabwe, but safari enthusiasts still consider it one of the best game parks on the continent. Indeed, its years out of the spotlight have if anything improved Hwange, as it hasn't experienced the excessive visitor numbers that have affected some of the more famous safari parks of Kenya, Tanzania and South Africa.

Hwange is perhaps best known for its tremendous elephant populations, which are among the largest in Africa, but it boasts a diversity of game, including all of the Big 5.

Days 11-12: Victoria Falls

Begin the last leg of your journey by travelling north to the famous Victoria Falls, approx. 2-3 hours from Hwange National Park. On arrival, check in at Batonka Guest Lodge for two nights (bed & breakfast basis).



Batonka Guest Lodge

Located in the suburbs of Victoria Falls, Batonka Guest Lodge is a lovely new boutique style lodge offering luxury accommodation in an intimate and personal space.

The lodge is surrounded by landscaped gardens and is within walking distance of the town centre. Each en-suite room has a balcony, TV, complimentary Wi-Fi, AC and tea/coffee.

This afternoon, embark on a guided tour of the Victoria Falls. Afterwards, say goodbye to your driver who will be returning to Harare.

The rest of your stay at Batonka is at your leisure. There is a large variety of activities available in the area, from light aircraft trips, river rafting and bungee jumping to sunset Zambezi River cruises (activities at additional cost).

Day 13: Departure

Time allowing, you may like to enjoy another activity this morning before you depart – we recommend the helicopter flight over the falls.

When ready, transfer to Victoria Falls International Airport for your international flight home.

NB. You might like to consider adding a few extra nights at the end of the tour to experience all that Victoria Falls has to offer, or perhaps visit Chobe National Park, in Botswana, for a very different game-viewing experience. Ask us for suggestions.

Price Guide:

The cost of this itinerary is from **£3,345 per person**, based on twin share and travel in green season (Nov-Mar). High season rates start from **£3,590 per person**. For more information, or if you would like to enquire about a tailor-made holiday combining part or all of the above itinerary, please [contact us](#).

Includes:

- Airport transfers in Harare & Victoria Falls
- Private vehicle and driver/guide throughout
- Accommodation and board as described
- All excursions and game-viewing activities as detailed
- National Park fees
- Tour of the Falls and entrance fee

Excludes:

- International flights
- Meals and activities not specified
- Drinks unless stated otherwise
- Items of a personal nature
- Visa fees
- Gratuities
- Travel Insurance – ask us for a quote