

# ACACIA AFRICA

Updated 23/03/2009  
FOR ALL 2009  
DEPARTURES

## CANOE THE ZAMBEZI - TOUR DOSSIER

Tour Code – CTZ5

CHIRUNDU – CHIRUNDU

5 DAYS

Departure Point & Time: **At joining lodge at 11:00**

### HIGHLIGHTS

Canoeing Safari  
Game Drive  
Game Walk  
Cultural Village Experience

**An adventurous canoeing, game driving and walking safari through the flood plains of the Lower Zambezi. Enjoy opportunities to get close to wildlife, wandering in and around the channels and tributaries of Southern Africa's most iconic river.**



### INTENDED ITINERARY

Whilst it is our intention to adhere to the route described below, there is a certain amount of flexibility built into the tour and on occasion it may be necessary or desirable to make alterations to the published itinerary.

**This tour is operated in association with a local operator. Acacia is proud to be working with local companies supporting local communities.**

**Duration:** 5 Days  
**Countries visited:** Zambia

#### DAY 1

##### Half Day Canoe Safari

Lx1 Dx1

Camping with basic shared facilities

We begin our trip with a late morning canoe briefing at the lodge where the guide will outline the next few days activities, give a safety demonstration and general canoe orientation. Don't worry if you have never been in a canoe before. Everything will be explained and no previous experience is necessary. We two-man 18 foot Canadian canoes with containment nets to ensure both our safari and personal belongings are secure. Each canoe has 5 buoyancy chambers, while the bucket seats are cushioned to allow a certain amount of back support. We enjoy a light lunch before embarking in our canoes for the first time - canoeing to our evening camp. The afternoon is used primarily to familiarise yourself with the river and your oars so the pace is gentle and relaxing. Tonight we camp on an island in the middle of the river - a fantastic setting that should make our first night on safari a memorable one.

#### DAY 2

##### Full Day Canoe Safari – Evening Game Drive

Bx1 Lx1 Dx1

Camping with basic shared facilities

An early start affords us 30 – 60 minutes on the water before breakfast. Geographically, the section of Zambezi that we will be canoeing is known as the Middle Zambezi and it is the Mana Pools region of this section which is said to contain the highest recorded numbers of game and bird life on the entire Zambezi River. We canoe all day stopping along the way. We hope to spot elephant, hippo, crocodile, buffalo, waterbuck and a wide array of birdlife as we go. If we are particularly fortunate we may even come across lion and leopard. We stop for an

extended lunch break out of the midday sun for before heading to our mainland camp before dinner. This evening we enjoy a sunset and night game drive in a private game sanctuary where nocturnal animals such as hyena, porcupine, civet, genet, honeybadger, lion and leopard can be seen – an exciting way to finish an exciting day's safari!

**DAY 3**  
**Morning Game Walk – Cultural Village Tour**

Bx1 Lx1 Dx1  
Camping with basic shared facilities

This morning we start with a two hour game walk before breakfast. Game walks are a great way to start the day – not only are animals at their most active, but you get to experience this magical time of day on a level with the wilderness you have come to see. We hope to come across then follow signs of animal life, through tracks left overnight, or through fresh animal droppings. As we track animals our guides will inform you about the plant, bird and wildlife we encounter. Returning to camp for breakfast we then head out to visit a local village. An important element of any visit to Africa is meeting its people! Meeting some of the local tribes, we'll learn about their daily lives, the hardships they encounter and the social structure within this area of the Zambezi Valley. We enjoy lunch on an escarpment overlooking the Zambezi before a short afternoon canoe brings us to our island camp for the night.

**DAY 4 - 5**  
**Full Day Canoe Safari – Drive back to Chirundu**

Bx2 Lx1 Dx1  
Camping with basic shared facilities

We enjoy a full day out on the water, stopping for breakfast and lunch. With luck we will spot some wildlife not yet seen and get some great close up photographs. For those wanting a little something different to photograph today, the birdlife in this area is amazing. Trumpeter hornbill, Meyer's parrot, Lilian's lovebird and Narina Trogon are but a few of the bird species which can be observed in the Zambezi Valley. The following day we drive back to Chirundu, through game management areas and traditional villages, where our safari ends.

## TOUR INFORMATION

### TOUR STYLE

Adventure Tour

### WHAT'S INCLUDED

Tour highlights, transport, accommodation, sleeping mat, sleeping bag, meals as indicated, camping equipment, and services of an English speaking excursion leader

### WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

Visas, travel insurance, airport transfers, flights, laundry, tips to driver & local guides, passport & visa fees & items of a personal nature.

### ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation is camping in 2-person dome tents, with shared bathroom facilities.

### TRANSPORT

The safari canoes are 18 foot canadian canoes with containment nets, buoyancy chambers and cushioned bucket seats. We use 4x4 vehicles as support vehicles and for game drives.

### MEALS

Meals are as indicated. Breakfast (B) x4 Lunch (L) x4 & Dinner (D) x4

### PARTICIPATION

This is a participation safari where clients are expected to help set up camp and help prepare meals. Getting involved helps bond the group and many people find the more you put in the more you'll get from the whole experience. General fitness is required for canoeing, to make camp every day, but support vehicles area available for assistance. The canoeing pace is gentle and relaxing. However at certain times of the year strong winds may occur and paddling may be difficult.

### PERSONAL REQUIREMENTS

Clients are asked to keep their luggage down to a maximum of 7kgs. Excess baggage can be kept safely at the local office to be collected on your return. Appropriate shirts, shorts in trousers in bush colours (green, khaki, grey and brown) should be worn and sufficient protection fro the sun should be bought (hat, sunscreen, and sunglasses). A water bottle and comfortable shoes that you don't mind getting wet should also be taken.



## MONEY MATTERS

### PERSONAL EXPENSES

Naturally you will require extra money for your own personal spending on the tour, for snacks, drinks, souvenirs, tips and items of a personal nature. Everybody has different spending habits but as a guideline we suggest you budget US\$15-20 per day. Also keep US\$ cash for relevant airport taxes and visas needed, optional activities and any additional accommodation before or after your tour.

- **Spending money** is best carried as cash in US dollars, Sterling or Euro which can then be transferred into the Rand on arrival. Your guide can advise how and when you can change the rest of your money throughout the tour.
- **Currencies** are as follows: Zambia – Zambian Kwacha.
- **ATM machines** are found in are found in Lusaka. Please note they are sometimes unreliable.
- **Credit cards** can be used to pay for larger optional activities although there may be a fee for their use.
- **Travellers cheques** can be difficult to cash but make suitable emergency funds.

It is recommended you bring your money in a mixture of ways and your guide can best advise on what to use where.

### TIPPING

As in many areas where tourism is an important contributor to the economy, it has become customary to give a small gratuity to local staff at the end of a tour for services rendered. This is at your own discretion.

### INSURANCE

It is a booking condition of Acacia that you have full travel insurance valid for the duration of your tour to cover you for medical emergency and repatriation to your home country. Your guide will ask you for a copy of this when you join the tour. It is also important that you leave a copy of your insurance with the person nominated as your emergency contact. We can recommend a respected, specialist travel insurance provider for this tour. Please contact Acacia for more information.

## Country Information - ZAMBIA

Capital:	Lusaka
Size:	752 614 sq km / 290 586 sq miles
Population:	11,261,795 (Sept. 05)
Groups:	Native African, European
Languages:	English, Bemba, Kaonda, Lozi, Lunda, Luvale, Mambwe, Nyanja, Ngoni, Tonga, Tumbuka
Local time:	GMT + 2
Seasons:	Warm and rainy (November-April), cool and dry (May-August), hot and dry (September/October)
Currency:	1 Zambian Kwacha = 100 Ngwee
Telephone:	Country code 260 , international access code 00
Electricity:	220 V / 230 V / 50 Hz, round pin attachment plug, round pins with ground or rectangular blade plug

Formerly Northern Rhodesia, Zambia is made up of a highland plateau (approximately 1000 metres above sea level) which rises toward the east and which - in the north, along the border of Zaire - houses enormous reserves of copper, cobalt, coal, zinc and lead, the mining of which is of extreme importance to the economy. Tourism is of increasing importance with the magnificent Victoria Falls on the Zambezi River marking the border with Zimbabwe. The game parks of Zambia, although not so well known as those of Kenya and Tanzania, are large and well stocked with wildlife of all types. The long standing leader Kenneth Kaunda was defeated in elections in 1991, the country's first multi-party elections in 19 years, and today Zambia is one of Africa's newest democracies - although it is struggling to maintain living standards at a time when earnings from its mineral exports are dropping.

## Points of Interest

### Victoria Falls

'Mosi-oa-Tunya' - the smoke that thunders is what the locals call Victoria Falls, one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World and a World Heritage Site. The **waterfalls** are 1,708 meters wide and drop between 90 metres and 107 metres into the Batoka Gorge and an average of 550,000 cubic metres of water plunge over the edge every minute. Even from as far as 70 kilometres away this spectacle can be seen. Batoka Gorge also forms the border between Zambia and Zimbabwe. David Livingstone first came here in 1855 and reported about 'Scenes so lovely, they must have been gazed upon by angels in their flight'.

Today, visitors come here not only to look at the waterfall, but also to experience it in different ways. From Livingstone (named after the explorer), you can book activities like white water rafting, river boarding, jet boating, bungee jumping, microlighting, helicopter flights, sunset cruises and elephant back safaris.

**ACACIA ON THE ROAD – NEWS & EVENTS**

**FOOTBALL’S COMING TO AFRICA**

**In line with the 2010 Football World Cup, in Cape Town, Acacia’s keeping its eye on the ball. We’ve got together with the charity Footballs for Fun to spread some goodwill and love for the beautiful game across the continent.** In 2008 all our trucks will carry footballs which can be bought and donated to children in the local towns along our route. The footballs are a perfect ice breaker and a game with locals is a great way to make friendships despite language differences. And all the profit (at least £2 from each ball) goes straight back into Africa, helping support a selection of AIDS charities and children’s homes. Make a difference, get kicking and buy a ball when you’re next on one of our trucks.



**RESPONSIBLE TRAVEL**

We believe that you get the most out of a journey by respecting the culture and people of the places you visit. On our tours we try to travel in a way that benefits the communities we pass through and minimises negative impact on the environment. This can be from ensuring the campsites we use are clean when we leave and dressing respectfully in conservative areas to getting involved with local charity projects. We ask that you are open to this when you travel with us. Being proactive in responsible travel helps develop cross-cultural understanding and friendships with the local people, and will greatly enhance your experience in Africa.

**PHOTOS & STORIES SEARCH**

**If you’ve ever thought you can take better pictures than the brochures or have a great travel story and want to see yourself in print, then we’re looking for you.** If you’ve captured a great moment on tour, whether it’s of the wildlife, local people, landscape or life on the road why not enter our monthly photographic competition starting in 2009. Not only do we give away a monthly prize, you may also see your photos published in a future brochure or on our website. We are also on the lookout for stories of life on the road, the funny, exhilarating, moving or simply unforgettable things you did on tour. We publish the best stories on the Tales from the Road section of our website. Send your photos or stories to [acaciaontheroad@googlemail.com](mailto:acaciaontheroad@googlemail.com)

Photos should be in digital format & good resolution (max 6 pics per person) and labelled with the location of where the photos were taken. Meanwhile if you have a story or anecdote about your tour (up to 400 words) it needn’t be word perfect, we’d love to hear about it.

**Legalities:** You, the photographer/author, retain copyright of all images & words submitted but we reserve the right to use of them for Acacia brochures, promotions & advertising.

**For information on our Acacia Small Group Safaris, Adventure Tours, Comfort Class Safaris, Short Breaks & City Stays, Voluntours, Dive Tours, New Horizons and Access Tours or to contact us please visit [www.acacia-africa.com](http://www.acacia-africa.com)**

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