

ACACIA AFRICA

SOUTH LUANGWA SAFARI – TOUR DOSSIER

Tour Code SLS5

MAFUWE AIRPORT – MAFUWE AIRPORT
OR CHIPATA OR CHIPATA

5 DAYS

Tour Starts – Pick up from Mafuwe Airport or Chipata on morning of day one

HIGHLIGHTS

South Luangwa National Park – game drives & night drive
Lupande Game Management Area – game drives
Chipembele Education Centre
Breakfast at Kakumbi Salt Pan



Take an adventure safari through the pristine wilderness of Zambia. Game drive through South Luangwa Park, spotting giraffe hyena, bushbuck and lion. Enjoy breakfast beside a salt pan and sit back under the stars at night swapping stories of your real African encounters

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

Lupande Game Management Area, South Luangwa National Park, Night Drive

Dx1

Permanent walk-in tents with beds

Your South Luangwa Safari starts at 9am, as you are collected in Chipata or at Mafuwe Airport and travel to our beautiful camp located within the surrounds of Wildlife Camp. The last 20 minutes of the trip we drive through the heart of Lupande Game Management Area, so eyes peeled! After a quick briefing and a short while to settle into the camp, we have a lazy lunch before heading off on the first game drive. We leave camp as soon as everybody is ready to enjoy the bush before dusk and allow for an afternoon and night drive in one. Our early start also gives us a start on all the other lodges and means we can enjoy sundowners at one of the beautiful lagoons in an area where very few other vehicles reach on their drives. Driving through the park after dark gives excellent chances of seeing leopard, lion, honey badgers and all the other nocturnal surprises this amazing park is waiting to reveal. We arrive back at camp between 20:00 and 20:30 for a delicious home cooked dinner.

DAY 2

South Luangwa National Park, game drive & walking safari

Bx1 Lx1 Dx1

Permanent walk-in tents with beds (or bush camp)

It is an early wake up call in preparation for the morning drive. Enjoy a light breakfast, served with coffee or tea before setting off for the second foray into the National Park. During the drive there are excellent chances of sighting elephant, buffalo, giraffe, hippo and Zebra. You return to camp at around 11:00, for a welcome brunch. The early afternoon is yours to enjoy at your leisure; perhaps you fancy a snooze, a swim in the camp pool, or

just swapping stories and photographs at the bar. Once it starts to cool down, we'll have lunch and then it is time to leave camp on foot with an experienced walking guide and armed escort scout, heading for the beautiful bush camp set on the edge of the Luangwa River. On the way the guide will explain the art of tracking and all about the varied fauna and flora of the Valley, all the while keeping eyes and ears open for the big game that frequent the area. The popular optional activity tonight is spending the night at a wild bush camp. What the camp lacks in facilities it makes up for in atmosphere in its fantastic location in the heart of the African bush. We arrive at the camp in time for sundowners followed by a delicious dinner cooked over an open fire. The evening is spent around the campfire, telling stories and stargazing, before being lulled to sleep by the sounds of Africa.

DAY 3

South Luangwa National Park, Walking safari

Bx1 Lx1 Dx1

Permanent walk-in tents with beds

After breakfast the second walking safari begins. En route you will learn more about the local significance of the unique Luangwa flora, including the many spiritual and medicinal uses for the plants and trees found in the valley. Following lunch you visit the Chipembele Education Centre (Chipembele means 'rhino' in the local Nyanja language). The centre is situated 45 minutes drive from camp in the Lupande Game Management Area and is run a British couple dedicated to the education of local communities about the importance of Wildlife Conservation. The Tolans have received international acclaim for their work, and you will spend a fascinating couple of hours touring the centre – possibly even getting to know one or more of the endless stream of orphan animals they always take in and raise to be returned to the wild. Sundowners are enjoyed in a beautiful spot overlooking the Luangwa River, before another night drive back to camp and a tasty dinner at 20:00.

DAY 4

South Luangwa National Park (Tena Crossing, Hippo lagoon, North of the park)

Bx1 Lx1 Dx1

Permanent walk-in tents with beds

The fourth day is really the highlight of the safari, as the drive heads deep into the South Luangwa National Park, venturing further than most visitors ever get. After an early start and a light breakfast at the camp, you set off on the all-day adventure, heading towards more northerly sections of the park, interrupted by a welcome breakfast break in the vicinity of the Tena Crossing. Then you continue your game drive north and lunch time finds you at an unnamed lagoon, which is home to several pods of (very vocal) hippo. The heat of midday is spent relaxing in the shade of a grove of Sausage trees, perhaps catching 40 winks in the process. In the afternoon the journey continues through the ebony groves and lagoons of the northern section of the Park. This is wild area and always carries the anticipation of sighting rare game such as wild dog or eland, en route to the sundowner spot. After the sunset the night drive begins with excellent opportunities to spot shy nocturnal animals such as genets, civets, bushbabies and maybe even the diminutive Sharpe's Ghrysbok, ending back at camp in time for a welcome BBQ dinner, drinks and a warming campfire. This is a long but hugely rewarding day, and you might fancy an early night on your return!

DAY 5

Kakumbi Salt Pan, Cathedral Mopane Forests

Bx1 Lx1

The final breakfast is a scrumptious affair, with a big fry up at the Kakumbi Salt Pan. Keep a sharp lookout for all the usual game, but this is a special day for the birders. The route passes through the hauntingly beautiful Cathedral Mopane Forrests, so besides the elephant and giraffe, eyes will be on full alert for the specialised woodland birds, such as racket-tailed rollers and white-helmet shrikes. The salt pan itself attracts a host of water birds, and large flocks of the majestic crowned cranes are a virtual certainty. Finally it is back to camp to get ready for the trip back to Chipata or Mafue Airport, but there will be some final free time to catch up on your safari journal or simply relax by the pool before we leave this afternoon.

TOUR INFORMATION

TOUR STYLE

Adventure Tour

WHAT'S INCLUDED

Tour highlights, transport, accommodation, Mfuwe airport or Chipata transfers, meals as indicated, park entrance fees, non alcoholic drinks on safari, services of tour guide/driver, road tolls & taxes, camping equipment & sleeping mattress.

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

Visas, travel insurance, flights, night in a bush camp, laundry, tips to driver & local guides & items of a personal nature.

ACCOMMODATION

Camping is in permanent walk-in tents with beds and bedding and shared wash facilities. The camp also has a bar and swimming pool. There is an option to wild camp on night, to experience an African camp fire and a night in the bush. The camp has minimal facilities including dig-and-bury toilets.

TRANSPORT

Transfers are in a 4x4 minibus, (7 seats) or 4x4 twin cab (4 seats). Park activities are organized in open 4x4 game viewers (9 seats)

OPERATOR

As this tour is run by a respected local tour operator, you will benefit from their extensive local knowledge and enthusiasm as well as helping Acacia support local businesses in Africa.

TOUR PREPARATION

BOOKING INFORMATION

When you make a confirmed booking for your tour you will be sent pre-departure information and related documents. Once you have paid in full you will receive a Travel Voucher giving full details of your joining point. Transfers are possible from Chipata or Mfuwe airport. Mfuwe can be reached by a flight from Livingstone or Lilongwe. Your travel agent can advise on flights to and from the start and finish of your tour.

JOINING INFORMATION

Meeting point:

Chipata
Contact details: Dean's Hill View Lodge
+260977767221
Email: deanmitch@zamnet.zm

OR

Tour start time: 10:00 on Day 1

Mafuwe Airport Please arrive before 12:30 on Day 1 in order to catch the afternoon's activities

Tour end point:

Chipata
Tour end time Dean's Hill View Lodge
Approx 18:00 on day 5

OR

Mafuwe Airport We advise you arrange your flight for after 13:00 on day 5 so that you do not miss the salt pan breakfast

EXTENDING YOUR STAY

If you would like any extra nights accommodation in Chipata, Acacia can help arrange some, usually booked on a direct pay basis. See below for a guide to extra accommodation costs. These prices may be subject to change so please contact Acacia or your agent to check current prices.

Description	Price (ZMK)	Description	Price (ZMK)
Chipata			
Extra night –dorm room p/p	50,000	Extra night – twin room p/p	50,000

WHAT TO BRING

Please try to keep your luggage to a minimum. The luggage limit on this tour is 12kg. A large soft holdall or backpack and a smaller day pack is ideal. On this tour you should bring a mixture of lightweight, cool clothing for the day and warm clothing (ie fleece, long trousers and hat) for mornings and evenings as it can be quite cool in open vehicles. Pack a light rain jacket from Dec- Feb, when it can rain. A small pair of binoculars and a camera with a good zoom is recommended for game viewing. Torch – a headtorch is very useful and a towel. A money belt/pouch, worn under the clothing is also a good idea. Please avoid bringing unnecessary valuables and use hotel safes wherever possible, to store your cash, passport and airline tickets.

VACCINATIONS/HEALTH

The table below indicates the vaccinations suggested for travel on this tour but **should be treated as a guide only**. You should seek professional medical advice from your GP or clinic at least six weeks prior to departure.

Country	Tetanus	Diphtheria	Polio	Hepatitis A	Hepatitis B	Typhoid	Meningitis	Rabies	Yellow Fever	Malaria
Zambia	R	R	R	R	R	R	-	R	R	R

C = Compulsory, R = Recommended, * = If travelling from infected countries a certificate of proof may be required.

VISA REQUIREMENTS

The table below indicates the visas required for travel to the countries on this tour but **should be treated as a guide only**. At least one month prior to travel seek confirmation from embassies or a visa specialist, that these requirements are still current. For UK citizens the Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO) offers free up-to-date travel info: www.fco.gov.uk For other nationalities a number of travel advice websites are listed on the Acacia website.

Nationality	UK	AUS	NZ	USA	CAN	BEL	IRE	NED	DEN	ITA	GER	AUT	SWE	FIN	NOR	MEX	KOR
Zambia	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

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\$10-15 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 local currency on arrival at the airport.
- **Currency:** Zambian Kwacha
- **ATM machines** can be found in Chipata
- **Credit cards** are not accepted on this tour
- **Travellers cheques** can be difficult to cash but make suitable emergency funds.

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

LOCAL PAYMENT

The Local Payment (LP) helps cover local operational costs and ensures that a major portion of your tour price goes directly into the country you are visiting, benefiting local communities. The amount, set out in the brochure is to be paid to the local tour guide on arrival, in **US\$ cash**. Travellers cheques and credit cards are not accepted.

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.

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

During the tour there is the chance to spend a night in a bush camp. If you would like to take advantage of this it must be booked at the time of booking the tour in your local currency. Please contact Acacia for exchange rates.

Activity	Price (US\$)	Activity	Price (US\$)
Night in a bush camp	\$40		

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

Facts

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 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

South Luangwa National Park

Often nominated one of the greatest wildlife sanctuaries in the world, the **concentration of game in this park is among the highest in Africa**. This spectacular, 9,050 kilometres big park is dominated by the **Luangwa River**. The river, one of the Zambezi's biggest tributaries, attracts a variety of about 60 different animals and 400 birds. Amongst others, you will find elephant herds, buffalo, zebra, giraffe, 14 different species of antelope, baboons, monkeys, hyenas, leopard, lion, wild dog, jackal, crocodile and many, many hippos. It is as if Noah came and assembled all animals – the only one missing is the rhino; unfortunately, poaching made them extinct.

The **countryside** is spectacular with its rugged beauty and varied vegetation which changes from dry, bare bushveld in the winter to a lush, green paradise in the summer months. Enjoy the eclectic flora and fauna on a day or night game drive or a **walking safari** which originated in this beautiful park.

ACACIA ON THE ROAD – NEWS & EVENTS



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

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. **Legalties:** 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

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