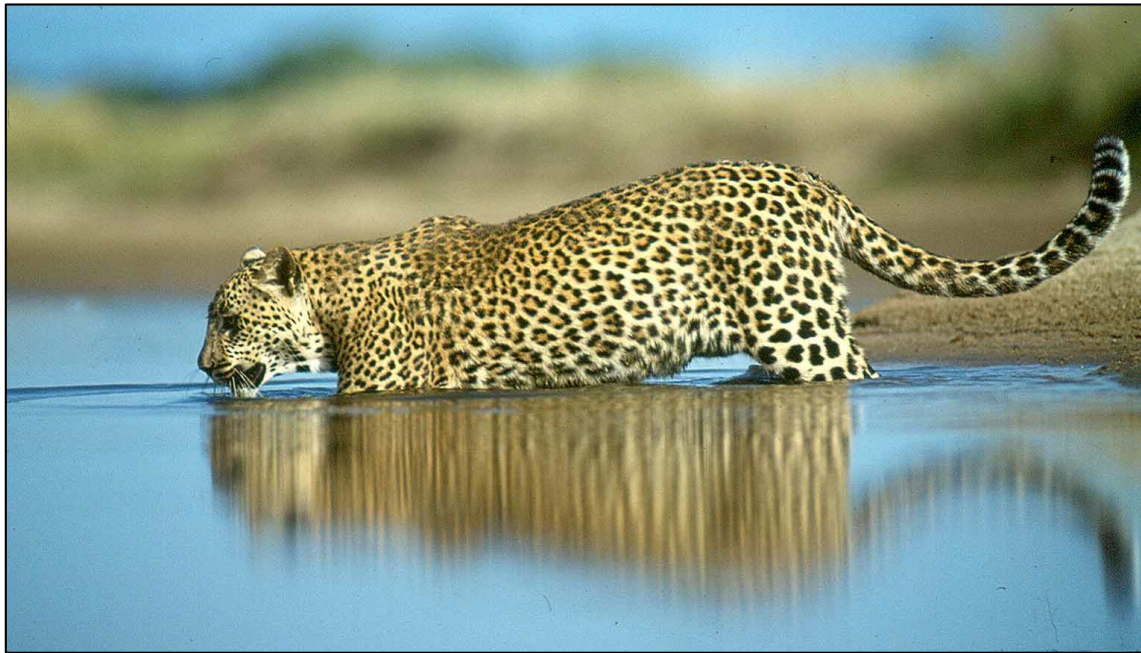


## My Life with Leopards



*Join author Fransje Van Riel and safari guide Graham Cooke on a unique walking safari in the South Luangwa Valley.*

*In April 1994, two young adult leopards were released into the wilds of the South Luangwa Valley by safari ranger Graham Cooke. Graham had personally reared the two six-week-old cubs Boycat and Poepface for a year before the time came for their return to the wild. A small and secluded bush camp was pitched on a remote island in the Luangwa River for the last stages of the rehabilitation. From here, Graham joined the cubs on daily walks, helping them to adjust to life in the African bush.*

*In 2012, author Fransje van Riel published *My Life with Leopards*, which recounted the story of Graham and the cubs.*

*'A Life with Leopards' is a six-night safari that allows you to relive this journey first hand. You'll travel with Fransje and Graham as they return to the region where this remarkable adventure took place, retracing Graham's steps and exploring the region of the Luangwa Valley where Boycat and Poepface were raised.*

*This unique safari takes place 1st – 7th June 2016 in the pristine South Luangwa National Park. There are just six places.*

### **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.

**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> June: South Luangwa**

Arrive Lusaka and transfer to the domestic airport for the flight to Mfuwe (included). On arrival at Mfuwe airport you will be met by Graham and Fransje and transferred to Kafunta River Lodge for 2 nights (full board).



**Kafunta River Lodge**

*Kafunta River Lodge is located in a quiet corner of the South Luangwa Valley, overlooking a game-rich floodplain adjacent to the National Park (the lodge is situated outside the boundaries of the park). Great game-viewing is literally on your doorstep at Kafunta River Lodge—elephants will often wander in front of the camp while you enjoy lunch on the decks, and puku and impala are often seen grazing close by. Access to the national park is easy. Kafunta has its own pontoon just five minutes from the lodge, allowing for adventurous river crossings into the more remote areas of the park – and extraordinarily good wildlife encounters!*

*There are just eight guest chalets at Kafunta, making for a very intimate, exclusive atmosphere. Despite the limited number of rooms, Kafunta is a large camp, with a spacious open-air lounge and dining area set beneath a canopy of mango trees. The lounge opens onto a wide deck raised above the floodplains. There's a fire pit where a campfire is lit each evening, allowing guests and guides to meet for a drink and to share their tales from the day, before migrating to the dinner deck for a candlelit dinner overlooking the floodlit waterhole.*





*Other facilities at Kafunta include a shaded swimming pool and a small hot spring pool. And, underneath the main deck is a wildlife hide which you can retreat to during the hottest part of the day to practice your wildlife photography.*



Arriving at the camp this afternoon, you'll have time to settle in and relax before enjoying a drink around the campfire prior to a dinner served under the vast African night sky.

#### **Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June: South Luangwa**

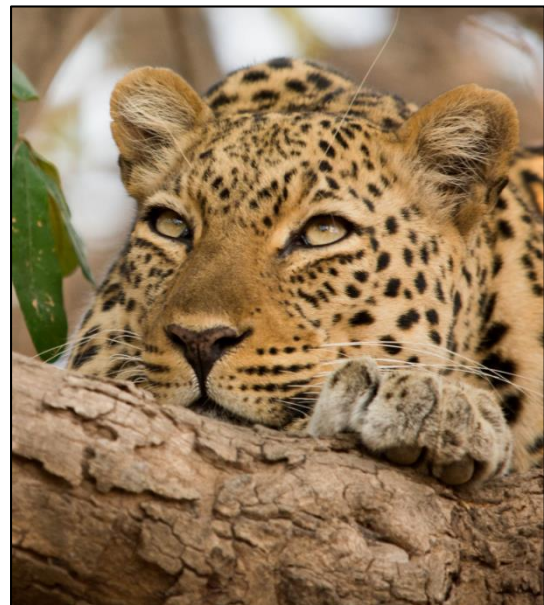
After breakfast at the lodge, travel across the Luangwa River via Kafunta's private pontoon and into the more remote areas of the South Luangwa National Park for an exceptional day of wildlife viewing.

Though less famous than the Serengeti and the Okavango, the South Luangwa is one of Africa's great natural wonders. It constitutes 3,500 square miles of splendid wilderness, and absolutely teems with game.

From the cool hills of the Muchinga Escarpment to the spectacular oxbow lagoons and open sand banks of the Luangwa River, the South Luangwa is a diverse region supporting a rich and varied array of wildlife. The Luangwa River system sustains the park and is the focus of the best game-viewing, but much of the Luangwa is wooded with large ebony forests that open out onto sweeping plains dotted with mopane, leadwood and baobab.

While at Kafunta, you'll have the chance to explore the park on morning and afternoon game drives, which will be conducted in 4x4 vehicles and will take you into some of the remoter corners of the park. Graham will be your guide.

Morning safaris at Kafunta usually start around dawn after a light breakfast at camp. This is the best time of day for game-viewing, as the animals are on the move and the light allows for marvellous photographs.





Evening game drives will take place after lunch and include a stop for a sundowner in the bush. The drives can be continued after dusk allowing you a chance to spot nocturnal creatures and, potentially, lion and leopard on the hunt.

At the end of the drive, return to the lodge for campfire drinks and a candlelit dinner.

### **3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> June: Island Bush Camp**

Depart Kafunta Lodge after breakfast for its sister camp, Island Bush Camp, a drive of approx. three hours. The drive will take you through a wooded section of the national park and onto the open plains, quite different from the terrain covered in yesterday's safari. Treat the journey as a game drive, with ample time to stop if you catch any interesting sightings.

Arrive at the bush camp, where you stay three nights (full board) in time for lunch.

### **Kafunta Bush Camp**

*Situated in the remote southern region of the park, Island Bush Camp is the rustic, back-to-basics alternative to the rather more swish Kafunta River Lodge. There's no hot spring pool here, but the location is superb, offering complete solitude and a real escape from the crowds.*





*Set underneath a canopy of mahogany trees on the Luangwa River's only habitable island, Island Bush Camp offers one of the most intimate and authentic safari experiences in the Luangwa. As a seasonal camp, Island Bush Camp is reconstructed at the start of the safari season, and so changes with each visit. Guests are accommodated in five grass-and-reed chalets, which are raised on stilts and hidden among the trees on the banks of the river. The chalets are all en-suite and open onto private decks with a view of either the Chendeni Hills in the eastern Luangwa or the Muchinga escarpment to the west.*



*Though game drives are possible, the emphasis at Island Bush Camp is on walking safaris. The camp overlooks the very island where Graham Cooke lived with and released Boycat and Poepface, and the next three days will give you a chance to explore the region in depth, accompanied by Graham, Fransje and a local wildlife scout.*

*Walking safaris, especially in this remote corner of the Luangwa, really allow you to appreciate the African bush in a way that game drives do not. Encounters can vary, from an unexpected meeting with a family of elephant to sitting and watching the weaver birds at work in the acacia trees, or a pod of hippo wallowing in the waters from the relative safety of the high sand banks of the Luangwa River.*



### **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June: Kafunta River Lodge**

Say goodbye to Island Bush Camp after breakfast and travel back to Kafunta River Lodge, enjoying a game drive en route.

Check back into River Lodge for one night. This evening, enjoy one last game drive in the valley, ending with a sundowner at a scenic viewing spot.

### **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> June: Homeward**

Transfer to Mfuwe Airport after breakfast where you will check in for your onward travel arrangements.

**NB.** Your domestic flights between Lusaka and Mfuwe are included at the start and end of this tour. Depending on your international flight schedule, it may be necessary to include a night in the capital at the start/end of the programme.



**Price Guide:** The cost of this itinerary is from **£2,795 per person**, based on twin share (single supplement: £320) and subject to availability at the time of booking. 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:**

- Domestic flights (Lusaka-Mfuwe-Lusaka)
- Accommodation as described
- All meals
- Drinks
- National Park entry fees
- Game viewing activities
- Workshop & Guiding by author Fransje van Riel and guide Graham Cook
- Return airport transfers
- Laundry services

**Excludes:**

- International flight to/from Lusaka
- Visa fees
- Gratuities
- Meals and drinks outside of camps
- Travel Insurance – ask us for a quote
- Items of a personal nature