

South Luangwa Explorer

5-night bush safari in Zambia's South Luangwa National Park



Combining the comfort of Kafunta River Lodge with the rustic beauty of Island Bush Camp, this five-night camping and lodge safari will allow you to explore two distinctive regions of the South Luangwa Valley on a mix of game drives and guided walking safaris. The first two nights are spent at Kafunta River Lodge, giving you an opportunity to discover the game-rich Mfuwe area on day and night game drives. Departing Kafunta Lodge on day 3, a four-hour drive through the remote wilderness takes you to Island Bush Camp, in the far south of South Luangwa National Park, where walking safaris are the primary activity.

Day 1: Arrive Lusaka; Fly to South Luangwa

Arrive Lusaka and connect with the domestic flight to Mfuwe. On arrival in Mfuwe, you will be met and transferred to Kafunta River Lodge, where you stay two nights on full-board basis. Depending on the time of your arrival, you may be able to enjoy a game drive into the park this afternoon.

Kafunta River Lodge

Kafunta River Lodge is located in a quiet corner of the South Luangwa Valley, where it overlooks a game-rich floodplain adjacent to the National Park. This ensures great game-viewing throughout the year, and not only on game drives – elephants may join you in front of the deck while you enjoy lunch, and puku and impala can often be seen grazing close to the lodge!



Kafunta River Lodge has its own river pontoon, which allows for river crossings into the more remote regions of the park, where you can expect extraordinary wildlife encounters.



Kafunta Lodge comprises ten thatched safari cottages, each built on raised wooden decking and positioned with a view of the floodplain. They feature large queen-size beds draped in mosquito nets, en-suite bathrooms, and private verandahs.

The spacious lounge and dining area is built around a wild mango tree. Meals are typically served outdoors on the raised dining deck, which directly overlooks the floodplains, or under thatch when the weather necessitates.

Facilities at Kafunta include a pool, spa, and the only natural hot spring tub in the Luangwa Valley!

Day 2: South Luangwa (4x4 game drives)

The South Luangwa National Park is one of the great wilderness regions of Africa. Irrigated by the Luangwa River, which cuts across Zambia from north to south before merging with the great Zambezi River, the valley provides a haven for a diversity of wildlife, including vast buffalo herds, masses of hippo, huge lion prides, and endemics such as Thornicroft's giraffe. It is among the greatest concentrations of game in Africa, rivalling even the Ngorongoro Crater in Tanzania.

The South Luangwa is also one of the best places in central Africa to see carmine bee eaters from August to November. These beautiful birds make their nests, which can be as deep as 2 metres depending on the size of the colony, along the banks of the Luangwa River. They love to chatter and can be heard as far as 1km from their nests!



You'll be able to explore the park at length today on morning and afternoon game drives, returning to camp around midday for lunch before setting out again just before dusk. The game-viewing will focus on the river, where the highest concentrations of game can be found, but you'll also search for rare game-sightings away from the river's edge, among the wild bush and dense vegetation.



Day 3: Island Bush Camp

Depart Kafunta River Lodge after an early breakfast and transfer through the park to Island Bush Camp, enjoying a game drive en route.

Expect to arrive at Island Bush Camp, where you stay for two nights on full-board basis, in time for lunch.

Island Bush Camp

Island Bush Camp is located in a secluded part of the South Luangwa National Park, and is the perfect base from which to explore the surrounding wilderness. The camp has been built from natural, locally sourced materials, lending it a decidedly rustic vibe. Guests are accommodated in grass and reed thatched chalets positioned on the banks of the Luangwa River.



Though very much a bush camp, Island Bush is exceptionally comfortable. Each of the five chalets is furnished with a queen-size bed decked in fabulous linens, and features an open-air bathroom and private deck. The rooms are raised on stilts, providing a view over the Luangwa River just below.

In the afternoon enjoy a walking safari in the local area, accompanied by an experienced guide and ranger.

Day 4: South Luangwa walking safari

Continue your exploration of the South Luangwa on foot.

Walking safaris are a great opportunity to get as close as possible to the African wilderness. During these guided excursions, you'll be accompanied by experienced safari guides and armed rangers, ensuring your safety.



The Luangwa Valley is one of the few major national parks in Africa where it is still possible to walk amongst the wildlife. You'll be exploring a region of the valley that is rich in game, so encounters with larger mammals such as lion or buffalo are not unlikely. Maintaining a sensible distance, and following the example set by your guide and ranger, is important.

As well as tracking the larger mammals, your walking safari is also an opportunity to learn more about the smaller creatures often overlooked on game drives, as well as the wider ecology of the park, as interpreted by your guide.

Day 5: Kafunta River Lodge

Depart Island Bush Camp and return to Kafunta River Lodge for one night on full-board basis.

Day 6: International departure

Enjoy an optional early morning game drive before transferring to Mfuwe Airstrip to catch the late morning flight to Lusaka. In Lusaka, connect with your international flight home/onward travel arrangements.

Price Guide:

*The cost of this itinerary is from **£2,980 per person** in high season (July to October), based on twin/double share and travel between May and October. Please note that this rate incorporates domestic flights at an estimate rate and the fares may fluctuate, particularly for bookings made close to departure.*

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 inc. taxes)
- 3 nights at Kafunta River Lodge on full-board basis with game-viewing activities included
- 2 nights at Island Bush Camp on full-board basis with game-viewing activities included
- National Park entry fees
- Return airport transfers

Excludes:

- International flights - please ask us for a quote
- Visa fees
- Drinks
- Porterage
- Travel insurance
- Items of a personal nature
- Single supplement (£490)

