



Painted Wolf Expedition

Trip Summary

Day 1-3 Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe

Day 4-7 Hwange National Park, Zimbabwe

Day 8-11 Zambezi River, Mana Pools National Park, Zimbabwe

Day 12-14 Chitake Springs, Mana Pools National Park, Zimbabwe



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Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe.

The famous Victoria Falls is a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Day 1 (Dinner) – On arrival at Victoria Falls Airport we are met by our Last Chance specialist and then transferred to our Lodge (Stanley and Livingstone) where we have time to settle in before proceeding to the famous Victoria Falls to view this incredible World Heritage site. If time allows we will visit the Victoria Falls market for some souvenir shopping.

Day 2-(FB) The Stanley & Livingstone Private Reserve is a 6,000 acre conservancy that is a registered 'Intensive Protection Zone' for Black Rhino. Currently there are 9 Rhino that roam freely on the reserve which is fenced and patrolled for their protection. Since its inception no rhinos have been lost to poaching. A pre-dawn wake up call ensures that the game drive leaves at sunrise, maximising the chances of finding rhino as they are mostly active in the cooler hours of the day. Along the way there is a chance to see and photograph other animals in this 'Big Five' reserve, including Painted Wolf. Although at the northern range of the sub-population, wild dogs do occasionally frequent the Victoria Falls area

A sumptuous breakfast is served on return from the drive and at noon a guest speaker from the Victoria Falls Anti-Poaching Unit will introduce us to their work and efforts to curb the illicit consumption of wildlife. The afternoon is once again reserved for a game drive on the reserve, or alternatively many of the other activities on offer in the Victoria Falls area can be arranged. Before dinner a representative of the reserve's wildlife management team will give a brief presentation on the work they are doing and participate in a Q&A session.

Day 3(FB)- We will be travelling to the The Africa Centre for Holistic Management (ACHM) which is situated on the Dimbangombe Ranch a short drive (approx. 1 hour) outside of Victoria Falls town. This program aims to enhance food and water security and human livelihoods through training that utilizes livestock to restore degraded watersheds and croplands to health. This will be a full day activity and we will have lunch at the ranch before returning to our lodge.

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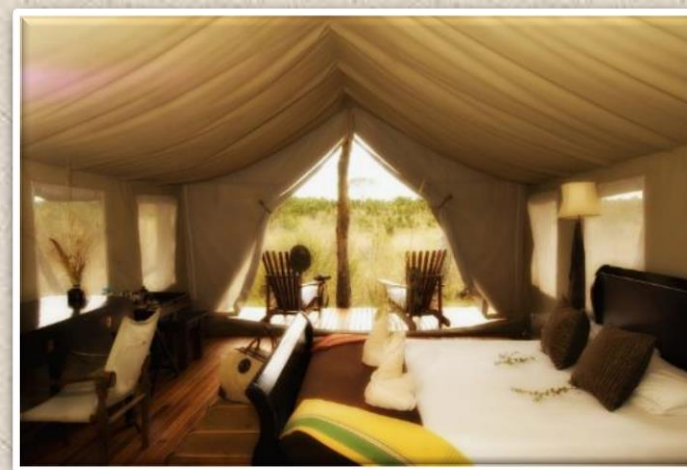
Painted Wolf Expedition

Hwange National Park Zimbabwe

As the largest protected area in Zimbabwe, and home to over 100 mammals and 400 different bird species, Hwange has one of the highest diversities of wildlife of any National Park in the world.

Day 4 (FB)- We embark on a short 40min flight from Victoria Falls Airport to Hwange National Park Airstrip where our hosts welcome us to Hwange. We head straight to the Painted Dog project, run by the not-for-profit Painted Dog Conservation, for an in depth look at what measures are being successfully employed to bolster Wild Dog populations in the region. A picnic lunch is followed by a game drive to our tented bush camp situated in the heart of Hwange National Park . We will arrive in time for a sundowner and to freshen up before dinner and campfire under the stars. Our accommodation is in luxury en-suite tents with a main area to relax and small swimming pool to cool off in the heat of the day.

Day 5, 6, & 7 (FB)- Our activities are centred around trekking to see the Painted Wolves. Our search will involve both walking and driving to specific areas that dogs have been recently sighted. While our trip mainly focuses on wild dogs we may be lucky enough to have some other wildlife encounters while on foot and in our vehicles, such as lion, leopard, cheetah, elephant, buffalo, zebra, sable, roan antelope, eland, giraffe and zebra to name a few. In the evenings before dinner informative talks will be given on the plight of the Painted Wolf and what is being done in Hwange and further afield to combat the decline.



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Mana Pools National Park, River Camp, Zimbabwe

Another UNESCO World Heritage Site, Mana Pools National Park is a treasure trove of wildlife. Nutrient rich floodplains and the signature Winter Thorn forests draw in a wide variety of animals and birds – including the African Wild Dog.

Day 8 (FB)- In the morning after breakfast we are picked up at the bush strip by a light aircraft for our flight to Mana Pools National Park. Enjoy the breathtaking views as you descend from the escarpment towards the Zambezi River. On arrival at the airstrip we are met by our hosts and drive to our mobile tented camp overlooking the Zambezi River. Our accommodation is in a private camp with comfortable, en-suite meru tents complete with bucket showers under the stars. After our welcome chat and orientation we will have time for a game drive and sundowner along the river.

Day 9, 10 & 11 (FB)- We have 3 whole days to explore Mana Pools in search of the Painted Wolf. Our expert guide will take us on game drives in search of signs of the Dogs and once we pick up spoor we may leave the vehicle and try to follow on foot. Sightings of Wild dog in Mana Pools are frequent and our specialist guide will know their latest movements including any denning sites that may be in use. Mana Pools is also famous for its huge, tolerant elephant bulls who frequently visit camp. Buffalo, lion, eland, nyala, waterbuck, kudu, leopard are also some of Mana's residents. The scenery is truly spectacular: floodplains adorned with Mana's iconic winterthorn Acacias, giving way to thicker Mopane forest as you move away from the river.



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Chitake Springs, Mana Pools National Park, Zimbabwe.

Chitake Springs is nestled back towards the Zambezi escarpment and is the only water source for many kilometres. A truly wild, unspoilt place and described as the 'predators playground'. A highlight of this expedition.

Day 12 (FB)- Our morning game drive starts along the floodplains we now know so well, but before long we head inland and the floodplains give way to mopane woodland and jesse scrub. Here we hope to see some animals not yet encountered: the diminutive Sharpe's Grysbok, the enigmatic Nyala, and perhaps something special and unexpected. By late morning we arrive at Chitake Springs where our mobile camp has been set up and a much anticipated lunch awaits us. We will be staying in the comfort of large dome tents with en-suite showers and toilets. Our camp will be fully backed up by a professional team that take care of all that we need while we are enjoying the true wildness of Chitake. Our afternoon is spent exploring the springs on foot and just observing the to'ing and fro'ing of the thirsty local inhabitants. Sundowners and a starlit dinner back at camp are serenaded by the echoes of lions and hyaenas up and down the Chitake amphitheatre.

Day 13, 14 (FB)- In such a dry area, the naturally seeping springs of Chitake are the life blood for those animals who choose to spend the dry season at the base of the escarpment. Our days are governed by the wildlife activity along the riverbed and springs of Chitake. Early mornings avoid the heat so it is best to be out, but as the day warms so more and more animals seek relief from their thirst – and the predators know this.. The Chitake Springs are renowned during the dry months of the year, when large herds of elephant, buffalo and other plains game use this isolated water source. Of course this also attracts predatory animals such as Lion, Leopard, Hyeana and of course our Painted Dogs! The dry river bed offers a great chance to track animals and the cliffs act as observation platforms that will allow us to sit back and watch all the interaction below.

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Day 1 – Arrive Victoria Falls on scheduled flight from Jo'burg

Day 4 – Transfer by light Aircraft to Hwange National Park

Day 8 – Transfer by light aircraft to Mana Pools NP

Day 12 – Transfer by road to Chitake Springs

Day 15 – Transfer by light aircraft to Victoria falls for scheduled flight to Jo'burg



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