

ROBIN POPE WALKING SAFARI

A Robin Pope Walking Safari offers an amazing wilderness experience in the South Luangwa National Park. Located in the lush Luangwa Valley, enclosed by steep escarpment walls, South Luangwa National Park is one of the African continent's finest wildlife areas. Home to large herds of buffalo, family groups of elephant, a wide range of antelope and numerous prides of lion, this park is also a stronghold for leopard which are regularly seen. Of particular interest are three unique subspecies found here: the graceful Thornicroft's giraffe, Crawshaw's zebra and Cookson's wildebeest. This walking safari gives fairly adventurous travellers the chance to explore remote corners of this prolific wildlife park both on 4WD safaris and on foot – the latter allowing for a more intimate nature experience.



Day 1 – Mfuwe, South Luangwa National Park

After arriving at Lusaka Airport and passing through immigration, you are directed to a smaller plane for your flight transfer to Mfuwe Airport by South Luangwa National Park. The flight lasts 70 minutes and upon arrival a guide from *Robin Pope Safaris* will meet you and drive you to Nkwali Camp. The road journey takes about one hour and passes by colourful local scenes of village life, subsistence farming and the African bush. Situated on Robin Pope's private land, the lovely Nkwali Camp overlooks the Luangwa River and the South Luangwa National Park beyond. Ideally situated for the start of your Zambia safari, Nkwali Camp has six rooms, each with an open-air, en suite bathroom and overlooking the river. After a little time to relax and freshen up you'll join an expert safari guide on your first game drive into South Luangwa National Park. End your first day with a cool drink whilst watching the sun set, and possibly followed by a spot-lit night drive.

Dinner is included at Nkwali Camp.



Day 2 – Luangwa Walking Camp

After an early breakfast, you and your group will head north to start the walking mobile safari. Robin Pope Walking Safaris have become known as the wilderness experience of the South Luangwa. To reach your location you enjoy an interesting drive along bush tracks covering about 90kms into the northern reaches of the park and to the Mupamadzi River. You usually arrive in camp around midday, in time for a tasty lunch. The camp team travelled ahead and you'll find the camp already set up for your arrival. Accommodation is in spacious walk-in tents furnished with chairs, storage compartments, and camp beds fitted with mattresses and made up with comfortable bedding. There's time for a relaxing siesta before afternoon tea

and your first sortie on foot. You'll start by exploring the area in the vicinity of the camp as there is plenty to see here. Return in time for sundowners and dinner under the stars!

Includes breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Days 3 to 6 – Luangwa Walking Camps

Each morning you will rise early and head out on a walking safari at sunrise in order to make the most of the cool morning air. The area you explore with your knowledgeable guide is remote and wild, the terrain and habitats varied and the wildlife curious and unused to man. Walking safaris aren't route marches; they're about taking time to spot signs of wildlife and learn how the ecosystems work. From ants to buffalo, a bird's nest to tracking a lion, you will stop often to discover the many facets of the bush with your safari guide. Usually the group will return to camp for lunch and a siesta before afternoon tea. Then head out on a shorter walk in the afternoon, returning to camp as the sun sets over the horizon.



Whilst you explore, the camp team may pack up your tents and move on to set up in a new location. When you arrive at the new spot hungry for lunch, you'll find everything laid out and ready for you. The mobile camp is typically moved three times during the five nights on your walking safari. The exact number of times the move is made, and where the new camp is set up is dependent on wildlife movements at the time of your visit.

During the walking safari you will slowly make your way along the Mupamadzi River, a major tributary to the Luangwa River. Each walk will be led by your Robin Pope Walking Safaris guide who is an experienced naturalist and qualified walking guide. He will be accompanied by an armed game scout as required by Zambia national park regulations.

Includes breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Day 7 – Tena Tena or Nsefu, Nsefu Sector

After an early breakfast it's time to hop in a safari vehicle for the four to five hour transfer drive back through the bush to the Luangwa River and the crossing point into the park's Nsefu sector. In 1949 the Senior Chief Nsefu established a private game reserve on the Luangwa River's eastern bank. This has since been absorbed into the boundaries of the present day South Luangwa National Park and is known as the Nsefu sector. Upon reaching the river you'll be met by the camp staff and transferred across by boat. From there it's a short drive to your comfortable accommodation at either the lovely Nsefu Camp or smart Tena Tena Camp.



Nsefu was the first safari camp in Zambia. Dating back to the early fifties, it is one of four safari camps in South Luangwa that belongs to *Robin Pope Safaris*. Accommodation at Nsefu would be in en suite thatched rondavels built on wooden platforms, whilst accommodation at Tena Tena Camp, also *Robin Pope Safaris*, would be in large walk-in en suite safari tents. Each camp overlooks the Luangwa River and has a small waterhole nearby which attracts a variety of thirsty game. Which camp you stay at will depend on the safari departure date – talk to us at *Wild about Africa* for details.

When you arrive you will be shown to your tent and given time to freshen up before lunch. Then there's time to relax before the afternoon and evening game drive. Time to rest those weary legs!!

Includes breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Day 8 – Flight home

After breakfast you will be transferred through rural Zambia to Mfuwe Airport - a drive lasting about two hours. Arrive in time to meet your flight to Lusaka and check in for your international flight home.

Includes breakfast and lunch.

Note: It is possible to add more time on at one Nkwali Camp at the beginning of the safari and/or Tena Tena or Nsefu Camp at the end of the safari. Speak to us at *Wild about Africa* for more information and the costs for this option.

SAFARI INFORMATION

Guide

Each safari is led by seasoned and passionate guides who are enthusiasts and enjoy educating, enlightening and often entertaining guests with tales of the surrounding bush. The mobile walking safari will also be joined by an armed national park game scout.

Camp Team

Whilst at one of the safari camps or lodges in South Luangwa National Park you will be hosted by a camp manager and

cared for by a team of willing and professional staff. During the five nights on the mobile walking safari, the group is accompanied by a small team who will set up and operate the camp at each remote location.

Accommodation

Day 1 of your safari is spent at the lovely Nkwali Lodge which overlooks the Luangwa River and the National Park beyond. The chalets at Nkwali are constructed using bamboo and plaster for the walls and thatch for the roofs. Each room is built under shady trees and has an en suite bathroom.

Whilst on the Robin Pope walking mobile safari (Days 2 to 6) you'll stay in a series of at least three simple mobile camps. These camps are completely mobile and will move ahead in the care of the camp team on transfer days – set up ready at the next location for your arrival on foot. Their location and the moving days are decided by the guide and team and depend on wildlife movements in the area.

You'll sleep in a large walk-in tent with zips that open at either end allowing a cooling breeze to pass through. The tents are usually furnished with twin camp beds and mattresses made up with sheets and blankets. Towels are also provided. The dining table is set up under a shady tree with the 'bar' table and small gas fridge nearby keeping drinks chilled.

An open-air enclosure is set up and rigged with a bucket shower which is filled with water warmed over the fire as required. Two 'bush' toilets, his and hers, are shared by the camp. Each is a canvas enclosure containing a short drop hole covered by a toilet chair and a bucket of sand or ash to 'flush' with.

The last night of your safari (Day 7) will be spent in one of two excellent safari camps owned by *Robin Pope Safaris*. Speak to us at *Wild about Africa* to find out exactly which camp is scheduled for your particular safari date if you don't already know. Both camps are situated overlooking the Luangwa River and offer activities including guided morning walks, day and spot-lit night safari drives.

At Nsefu Camp you'd stay in one of six rondavels (circular thatched chalets) built up on wooden platforms. Each has a comfortable double or twin beds, an en suite bathroom and louvered doors and windows that open out to a view of the river. The camp's thatched lounge and bar overlook a waterhole and meals are taken on the river bank or in the covered dining platform.

In contrast, Tena Tena Camp utilises five large walk-in safari tents. These are specially designed with large windows that can be rolled up for a great view of the bush and a thatched roof which helps keep the interior cool. Each tent opens onto a large open-air, en suite bathroom with shower and flush toilet. As with Nsefu, there is a central lounge and bar tent and a nearby waterhole. Meals are enjoyed at various locations along the river bank or in the covered dining platform.

Single Travellers

There is no single supplement charged on the Robin Pope Walking Safari. Solo travellers will always be assigned their own tent or room.

Vehicles

4WD Toyota Landcruisers have been converted into open game viewing vehicles. There is no roof on the vehicle allowing for total 360 degree vision whilst on safari drives. Occasionally, when being transferred to and from the airport on main roads transport might be in an enclosed safari vehicle for comfort.

Battery Charging Facilities

It is possible to charge batteries in any of the rooms at Nkwali as the camp uses mains electricity. Nsefu and Tena Tena Camps run off generators and it is possible to leave your batteries with the management to charge for you during the morning or the afternoon when the machine is on. You will not be able to charge batteries whilst on the walking safari so make sure you travel with enough spares to cover this period.

Language

The Robin Pope Walking Safari is conducted in English.

Costs

This safari includes domestic flights between Lusaka and Mfuwe; transport in a custom-built safari vehicle; accommodation in a lodge or safari camp for part of the safari and in comfortable mobile safari camps during the walking safari in South Luangwa National Park; national park fees and usually three meals a day as specified in the itinerary.

Drinks

A complimentary bar offering a good variety of drinks and including bottled mineral water is always available.

Luggage

There is a luggage limit of 23kg (50lbs) per person for bags to be checked in on the domestic flight transfers between Lusaka and Mfuwe. It is possible to travel with an additional 5kg (11lbs) hand luggage but as there are no baggage compartments in the aircraft this must be small enough to fit under the seat or at your feet. It is very important that all luggage is packed in soft, squashable bags, with maximum dimensions of 157cm (61 inches).

Laundry

A complimentary laundry service is available at Nkwali, Nsefu and Tena Tena Camps provided there is time to ensure the washing dries. Ladies undergarments cannot be washed by the camp staff for cultural reasons. However, a bowl of washing powder is made available in each room or tent to do a bit of hand washing.

Due to limited facilities whilst on the walking safari, laundry is not offered at the mobile camps. However, washing powder and a bucket can be made available to you on request.

Torches

Torches are provided in each room or safari tent on the Robin Pope Walking Safaris.

Visa & Passport Requirements

It's important that you take responsibility for checking that you satisfy any visa and immigration requirements for the countries to which you travel on this trip. Only you know your own circumstances, and visa regulations do change periodically, often without any warning or announcement.

Having said that, and even though it remains your responsibility, we'll always do best to advise and help where we can. Firstly, we recommend most strongly that you check that your passport will have **at least six months left to run** when you travel, we recommend a validity of nine months to prevent any problems. Secondly, that you will have **at least 3 clean pages** for each time that you pass through customs (these must be visa pages, not pages for amendments and endorsements which are usually at the back of a passport). Most countries require this, and we have had recent reports of both Namibia and South Africa actively enforcing this restriction – and refusing entry to those who don't comply. (If you will be passing through customs in more than one country, you need to make sure that you have sufficient blank pages for entry and exit stamps at each destination.)

Travellers on British, American, Australian and New Zealand passports do require a visa for Zambia. Visa fees for entering Zambia are currently US Dollars \$50 per person for a single entry and US Dollars \$80 for a multiple entry. The visa fee is payable in US Dollars cash on arrival at Zambian immigration.

The above is given for guidance, but is not definitive. Always bear in mind that this situation can change.

Vaccines

All travellers entering South Africa on their way to or from Zambia will be asked to produce a Yellow Fever Certificate (unless in possession of a valid waiver certificate). This includes in-transit passengers as well as those staying overnight in South Africa. If you are visiting Zambia and passing through South Africa please make sure that you have been vaccinated against Yellow Fever and that you travel with all your documentation. For travellers flying direct to and from Zambia, it is not a requirement to have the vaccination. However it is still recommend in case of a medical emergency and you need to be evacuated to South Africa. Please contact your GP or nearest Travel Clinic for more information, and for advice on any other inoculations they might recommend.