

Squiver

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DAY-TO-DAY PROGRAM ZAMBIA SEPTEMBER 2015 – 10 days/9 nights

Join award-winning professional nature photographer Marsel van Oosten, videographer Daniella Sibbing and expert local guides on a Squiver photography tour to Zambia. Marsels photographs are featured in galleries and museums, and are used in advertising, design, and magazines such as National Geographic, Science Illustrated, and Geo. During this trip, he will be sharing his photographic knowledge with you.

Squiver Photo Tours are designed exclusively for nature and wildlife enthusiasts. The trip includes casual lectures, briefings appropriate to each day's activities, in-the-field tips, image reviews and flexible instruction topics to suit photographers of any skill level. Our group size is very small (a maximum of 6 guests in Zambia), enabling us to give personal attention to all participants. Our guests are like-minded photo enthusiasts, which makes the tour even more enjoyable.

Marsel will be available for any questions or extra tutoring you might want. He is shooting alongside you and will be circulating amongst the group, for extra guidance in the field. During the day, when the light is harsh, you'll have time to relax, upload your images to your laptop and select images you would like to have discussed by Marsel during the image reviews. At location we make use of expert guides with in-depth knowledge of the region and we will have the owner of the lodge (Grant Cummings) join our group. He is a very enthusiastic photographer himself and will help us make sure that you get the best photographic opportunities available in the region.

On the Squiver tour to Zambia we will not only provide the best locations for unique photographic opportunities, we will also make sure you return with great images!

With over 17% of Zambia's protected as a National Park, the country is one of last remaining unspoiled safari destinations, located the center of Africa. Zambia *the* place to experience the freedom and spirit of the Africa.

You can view a video impression of Zambia: [here](#).



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Day 1 (29 September 2015)

Assuming that everyone has flown in to Johannesburg (as it is the main hub in Southern Africa), your day starts with flight from Johannesburg to Lusaka. We suggest you book the following flight, on which we will base our transfers to the hotel:

SA64, departure 13:20 from Johannesburg, arrival in Lusaka at 15:20

Depending on which nationality you have, you can buy your VISA for Zambia upon arrival at the airport. Please have a look here, to see if you can this, or if you need to apply for one before the tour starts, in which case we will send you a letter of invitation to apply for a visa.

If you choose to fly in at another time, we can arrange a transfer for you, at an additional charge of 25 USD per person.

You will be transferred to our beautiful luxury boutique hotel in Lusaka, where you can relax and maybe even enjoy a dip in the lovely pool! At 18.30 we meet for a delicious meal at the hotel restaurant, prepared with fresh herbs from their own garden and locally sourced organic vegetables. A great start to 10 days of adventure!



Day 2 (30 September 2016)

After a sumptuous breakfast, we get picked up and transferred to the airport for our flight to the Lower Zambezi National Park. We have arranged a chartered flight for our group, in order to avoid the standard 12 kg luggage restriction on scheduled flights, as our equipment alone will already weigh more than that! Your luggage allowance is 40 kg and that includes your hand luggage.

After our short flight of just 35 minutes, we will be picked up from the Royal airstrip, and transferred by vehicle to the river. From there we travel by boat into Lower Zambezi National Park, which will become your home for the next 8 nights.

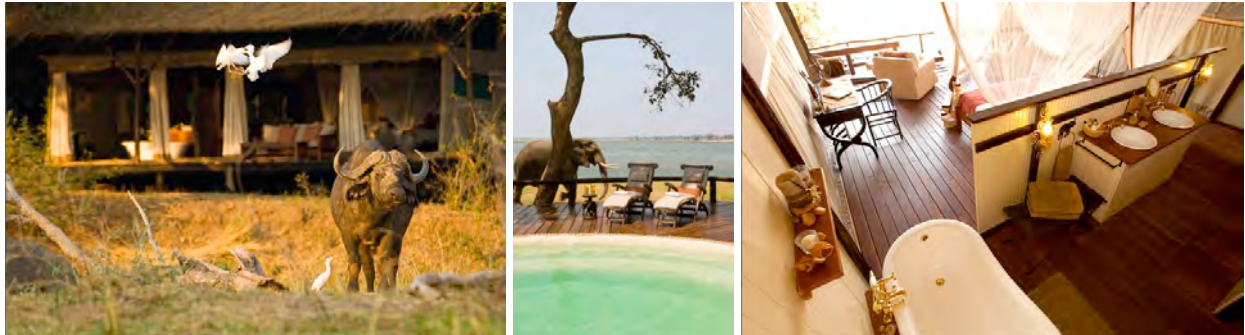
The lodge we stay in for the first 4 nights, is located beneath a canopy of winterthorns at the bank of the Zambezi River.



This award-winning camp combines the best of everything, from first-class service and luxurious accommodation to exceptional game viewing.

It consists of 9 tents, light, airy and spacious, each is equipped with enough luxuries to ensure your stay in the bush is exceptional.

Cotton linens, local textiles and hand-crafted furniture blend seamlessly with organic fittings and fixtures, all designed to make the most of what Mother Nature has provided, including the incredible views.



The bathrooms are simply magical; you can shower under the stars or in the sunshine. There are no fences in the area (except around the pool) and the animals roam freely through camp. All of the tents are under thatch, ensuring maximum coolness in the heat of the day. Each has a large bathroom with hot and cold running water, shower and toilet. The tents also have their own private verandahs overlooking the river, making them an ideal place for relaxation and contemplation of Africa's wonderful wilderness.

You will receive an extensive briefing on what to expect for the coming days and all the activities you can do: safaris on a vehicle, canoe, boat or on foot! After lunch, we settle in to our rooms and get ready for our first game viewing!

Your own row of seats on a vehicle

We have exclusive use of boats and vehicles for our group. On the drives we offer each participant his or her own row of seats, allowing for you to move freely from side to side in the car, without being bothered by someone sitting next to you, blocking your view.

Our daily routine in the bush

The day starts early! We get up before dawn and have an early breakfast at the campfire. After breakfast and a quick cup of coffee or tea, we head out into the park on a game drive.

We leave just before sunrise, in order to make maximum use of the good light. After a few hours in the bush the temperature slowly starts to rise and the light is harsh - time to go back to camp and download the images we have just shot.



Around 11:30 we have lunch, followed by either a siesta or an image review. In the afternoon we have tea with a delicious sweet & savory snack, and we head out again in search of animals - either on land or on the river, only to return after the light has gone.

Apart from the game drives (day & night) in vehicles, we do canoeing and game viewing by motor boat. This means that we have a large variety of viewpoints to choose from, while we go looking for the many animals in this park.



The Lower Zambezi National Park lies on the north bank of the Zambezi River in south eastern Zambia. Until 1983 when the area was declared a national park, the area was the private game reserve of Zambia's president. This has resulted in the park being protected from the ravages of mass tourism and it remains one of the few pristine wilderness areas left in Africa.

On the opposite bank is Zimbabwe's Mana Pools national Park. The two parks sit on the Zambezi flood plain ringed by mountains; the area is a world heritage site. In fashion with the current trend in Southern Africa there is talk of linking the two parks to form a massive trans-frontier park.



The park occupies 4092 sq. kms, with 120kms of river frontage. Its distinguishing features are the rugged escarpment to the north, the river itself, and its numerous islands, lagoons and floodplains, which attract most of the wildlife. There are approximately 50 mammal species and 400 bird species, which thrive in the Park, as well as a wide variety of spectacular trees, grasses and flowers.

The attraction of the Lower Zambezi park is its remote location. There are no tarred roads and you are very unlikely to encounter another tourist. Tourist numbers are kept down due to the park being inaccessible by road. Guests are taken in, either by boat on the Zambezi or by light aircraft. This has led to the Lower Zambezi National Park providing one of Africa's finest wilderness experiences.





Day 6 - change of camps (4 October 2015)

After our early morning game drive and another superb lunch, we are picked up by boat and transferred to a different area of the Lower Zambezi National Park. The boat transfer takes about 1,5 hours.

Our next location is a private bush camp, where we stay for the next 4 nights. Just our group and the bush! It is set in a grove of Acacia trees on the banks of the Zambezi River, situated on a beautiful site overlooking a maze of hippo-inhabited islands and channels.

You will enjoy the very "back to the bush" atmosphere of our lodge, which we will have all to ourselves. The 5 rooms are constructed of reed and canvas, each with shaded decks overlooking the Zambezi. The rooms have en-suite facilities with flush toilets, and 24 hour hot and cold water with an outdoor shower and bath with views towards the Zambezi.



The camp has an open adventurous feel, which provides a more than comfortable retreat after a day filled with excitement in the bush. A traditional bush kitchen supplies outstanding meals and fresh bread baked daily from a homemade oven. All meals and drinks are included during our stay in this camp.

The Lower Zambezi NP is characterized by vast flood plains and open woodland making for ideal walking and game viewing opportunities.

The part where we stay is very different from the rest of the Lower Zambezi NP, which is on higher ground characterized by thicker bush and large inland lagoons. There are some excellent walking areas right out of camp, and more just a short drive away. It is unquestionably the best walking area in the Lower Zambezi and the excellent guides will take you very close to the animals.

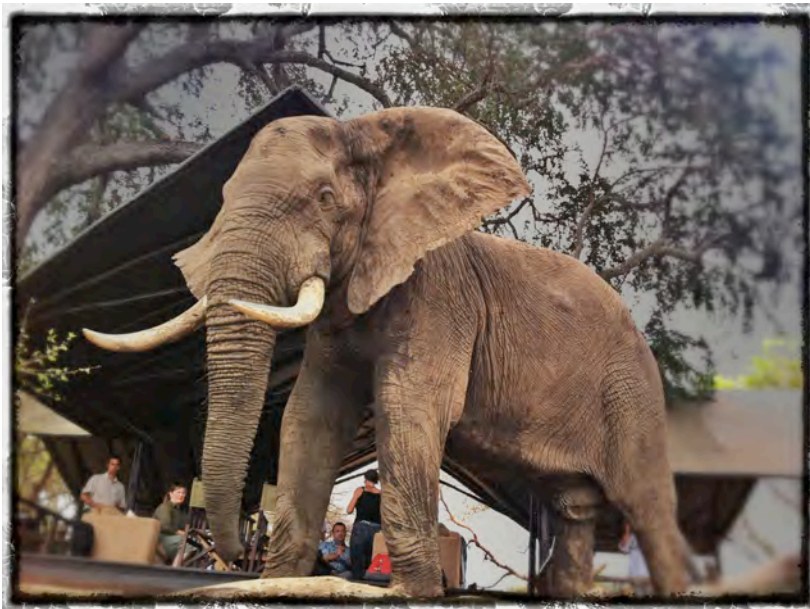
We stay 4 nights in order to make full use of all the possibilities this camp has to offer! There is also a possibility to go on a night drive in search of nocturnal action. Night drives are fascinating in the Lower Zambezi. Not only for the chance of seeing a leopard but for the many interesting animals that only come to life at night. Genets, civets, servals, hyenas, and bush babies, as well as owls, nightjars, the foraging hippos, honey badgers and lion.



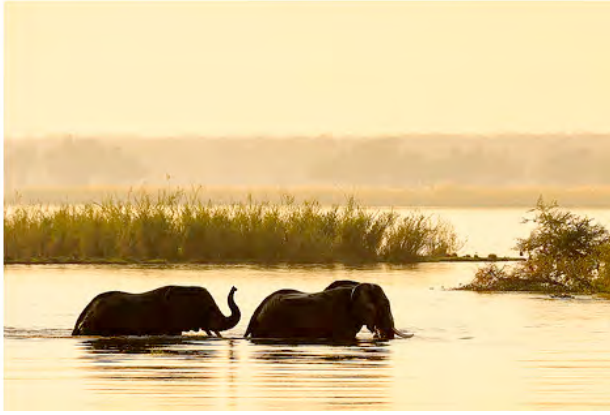
Our location within the park gives you excellent wildlife photography opportunities, with there being more elephant, lion and buffalo activity to the west, and more frequent leopard and serval sightings, and more plains game such as zebra and kudu, to the east.

The amount of hippos in the river is staggering. And we keep a watchful eye on elephants and buffalo crossing the Zambezi to get to the juicy grasses on the many small islands in the Zambezi River. Expect elephants to visit our camp also every now and then!

In the afternoon, we head out again by safari vehicle, boat or canoe.



Most large mammals in the national park congregate on the floodplains, including buffalo, numerous elephants, lions, leopards and many antelope, crocodiles and hippopotamuses. There are also a large number of species of birds, as well as a bee-eater colony.



The legendary Zambezi River is in itself a spectacle and is the namesake of this pristine wilderness. Along its 2700km course, the Zambezi fertilizes the Barotse floodplains, plunges over the Victoria Falls and replenishes the massive Lake Kariba before reaching the Lower Zambezi. Here, a myriad of islands have formed, creating a home and feeding ground for an incredible amount of diverse wildlife.

The routine stays the same: each morning, we start with a safari at sunrise, come back for lunch and head out again in the afternoon. We have daily image reviews back at the camp, and finish the day with a nice 3-course meal eaten outside under the stars.

What makes this section of the park super special, is the woodlands you can find here. The lack of low vegetation in combination with the large winter thorn trees is spectacular. And a reason in itself to come here to photograph any animal you can find in the beautiful forested areas!



Day 10 (8 October 2015)

It will be very hard to leave this wonderful place that has been our home for the last 4 nights! We do another early morning game drive and pack our bags. After another nice lunch, we head out to the airstrip, to meet our privately chartered plane that will take us back to Lusaka.



You will arrive in Lusaka around 14:00 hours in order to connect to your international flight back home through Johannesburg. Always a sad moment, having to say goodbye, but the memories of this wonderful trip will last you a lifetime!

If you fly back to Johannesburg, you can connect to SAA flight 65, leaving at 16.05 from Lusaka.

What is included in the tour and what is not?

Included are all activities mentioned, chartered flights from Lusaka to Lower Zambezi and back, entrance fees to the national parks and all accommodation, all meals and all drinks during the tour.

Not included are international flights (to and from Lusaka), landing fees, departure tax, visa fees, tips and personal items. Prices in 2014: visa Zambia 50 USD per person, departure fee within Zambia 8 USD, landing fees Royal (Lower Zambezi NP) 25 USD. The reason they are not included in the tour price, is that they are subject to change and will be added to your final invoice.

Special arrangements & pricing:

- Extremely small group size, maximum 6 guests
- Safari vehicles with only 3 guests per vehicle (you will get your own row of seats)
- Private boats for our group
- 4 nights in a 5-star luxury tented camp
- 4 nights in a private bush camp, with exclusive use for our group
- special luggage arrangement of 40 kilo per person (in stead of the standard 12 kg per person)

