PHOTO SAFARI TO SOUTH LUANGWA

09 – 15 December 2020
PRICING

Date 09 - 15 December 2020
Service starts Lusaka International Airport, Zambia
Service ends Lusaka International Airport, Zambia
Tour BirdLife South Africa Photo Safari to South Luangwa
Sharing cost p/p USD $ 3 500
Single cost p/p USD $ 4 200
Deposit 30% deposit confirms your booking
Balance payable 8 week before tour start date
Group size Maximum 40 and a minimum of 18 guests

The above costs include
• Pickup and transport for the entire tour
• Entrance to concession and accommodation in camp
• All meals, based on three meals a day
• The services of our guides
• Luggage allowance per person is 23 kg and 5 kg hand luggage
• Internal flight transfers: Lusaka - Mfuwe return

Costs not included
• Gratuities to staff and guides
• Non-alcoholic and alcoholic drinks
• International flights
• Personal expenses
• Travel insurance
• Travel visas
INTRODUCTION

South Luangwa's green season is a magical time and place for birders and wildlife photographers alike. This is not common knowledge and is still considered a secret. The colourful vegetation, animal action and interaction of the breeding season, amazing cloud formations and few tourists in the Park makes this an ideal time to add something spectacularly different to your photo portfolio.

In addition to the photography, South Luangwa is a birder’s paradise. With about 400 of Zambia’s 732 species of birds occurring in the park, including 39 birds of prey and a large number of migrants from northern climes, there is plenty for the birdwatcher to spot. Not to mention the African Pitta that is regularly seen around the Bilimungwe Bushcamp during early December and considered as one of the best places to see this elusive bird.

This photo safari, hosted by BirdLife South Africa’s CEO, Mark D. Anderson, and specialist wildlife photographic guide, Isak Pretorius, is specifically designed to offer the most affordable way to experience a safari to one of Africa’s top National Parks in Mark and Isak’s favourite season. You will have the chance not only to engage in conversation about all matters related to birds with Mark during the entire safari, but you’ll also have the chance to learn the techniques to create your own stunning portfolio of wildlife photographs. This is achieved by having a professional photographer close at hand, both on the two game drives a day, and the classroom style presentations that will be conducted between the game drives.

Photographers of any level are welcome, whether you are picking up a camera for the first time, or if you are already an expert photographer. Your guide will help you take your photography to the next level.

The Luangwa Valley is a magnet for wildlife. It is one of the few wild and untamed wilderness areas left in Africa, making it no surprise that it’s one of Isak’s favourite wildlife photography destinations. Lions, leopards, wild dogs and hyenas flourish in this rich ecosystem that is a paradise for elephants, buffalo, zebra, giraffe and other general game. With the backdrop of the winding Luangwa River, the massive forests of African Ebony Trees, and the oxbow lagoons, you can’t beat this as one of Africa’s top wildlife photography experiences.

From December to April each year, South Luangwa transforms into an emerald green jungle. The colourful vegetation adds a new dimension to the typical brown-toned photo portfolio of South Luangwa’s popular dry season. Mfuwe Lodge is the perfect location for the green season. All the general game and predators are still active around the Mfuwe Lodge area. The Lodge’s all-weather roads is the reason that the lodge is one of only a few that can stay open in the wet season, and being one of the only open lodges located inside the park it conveniently eliminates the drama of entry through the park gates on each drive. There is a good chance that you will experience a rain shower during this safari, which is considered a great advantage to capture those unique “animals-in-the-rain” photos. So, be prepared not only with a good rain coat and camera protection, but also to add a new dimension to your photo portfolio!
HIGHLIGHTS

Birder’s Paradise

With about 400 of Zambia’s 732 species of birds occurring in the park, including 39 birds of prey and a large number of migrants from northern climes, there is plenty for the birdwatcher to spot. Not to mention the African Pitta that is regularly seen around the Bilimungwe Bushcamp during early December and considered as one of the best places to see this elusive bird.

Mark D. Anderson

Enjoy seven days on safari with the BirdLife South Africa CEO, where you’ll have the chance to engage in conversation and hear all kinds of stories related to birds.

Ideal Location

Mfuwe Lodge is located in the main game-viewing area of the Park. You can start to photograph wildlife and birds as soon as you drive out of the lodge, unlike everyone else who has to go through the Park entrance gate.

Photographer’s Dream

The abundance of wildlife, good network of roads, and guides that understand the particular requirements of photographers, are all the ingredients you’ll need for world class wildlife photography.

Predator Action

Known as “The Valley of Leopards”, the Park boast some of the best predator sightings in Africa, including now having the healthiest wild dog population of any park.

Stunning Night Drives

Extended night drives offers the best chance to see genets, civets, mongooses, porcupines, owls and leopards in Africa.

The Real African Wilderness

Wild, remote and unfenced with free roaming animals, this is an authentic African wilderness experience. It’s a place where the original spirit of safari still lingers.
## ITINERARY BREAKDOWN

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Days</th>
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<th>Transfer</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Day 1</td>
<td>09 Dec 2020</td>
<td>• International arrival to Lusaka Airport, Zambia&lt;br&gt;• Internal flight to Mfuwe Airport&lt;br&gt;• Road transfer to Mfuwe Lodge&lt;br&gt;• Afternoon game drive&lt;br&gt;• Accommodation at Mfuwe Lodge</td>
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<tr>
<td>Day 2 - 6</td>
<td>10 - 14 Dec 2020</td>
<td>• Morning game drive&lt;br&gt;• Classroom style presentation and photographic training&lt;br&gt;• Afternoon game drive&lt;br&gt;• Accommodation at Mfuwe Lodge</td>
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<td>Day 7</td>
<td>15 Dec 2020</td>
<td>• Morning game drive&lt;br&gt;• Road transfer to Mfuwe Airport&lt;br&gt;• Internal flight to Lusaka Airport&lt;br&gt;• International flight home</td>
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YOUR SAFARI

DAY 1
Arrival and First Game

You will arrive at the Lusaka International Airport where you will be met by a Tours Africa representative. They will help you with your luggage and to check in for the scheduled internal flight to Mfuwe Airport. That flight duration is 70 minutes. Once you arrive at Mfuwe Airport, you will be met by a guide from Mfuwe Lodge who will transfer you by road to the lodge, roughly 45 minutes away.

At Mfuwe Lodge you will be met by your safari hosts, Mark D. Anderson and Isak Pretorius. Once checked into the lodge and settled into your room, you will meet for high tea before embarking on your first afternoon game drive that will extend into the early evening.

After the game drive we will return to the lodge to meet for drinks and a group dinner.
DAY 2 - 6
Morning and Afternoon Game Drives

During the next five full days the daily schedule will remain more or less the same. The times are flexible and might vary slightly depending on the sunrise times, the sightings and our activities (e.g. we might decide to have an extended morning to a remote area in the Park).

Generally we follow this schedule:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>05:00</td>
<td>Wake-up and meet for coffee and a small meal</td>
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<tr>
<td>05:30</td>
<td>Morning game drive</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00</td>
<td>Brunch</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:00</td>
<td>Rest and own time</td>
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<tr>
<td>14:30</td>
<td>Photo presentation, workshop and guest photo feedback</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15:30</td>
<td>Meet for high tea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16:00</td>
<td>Afternoon game drive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20:00</td>
<td>Group dinner and then retire to bed for another day of more great photography</td>
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The topics of the photo presentation and workshops are not fixed and will be altered to meet the specific requirements of all the guests.

**These could include the following:**

- Understanding light
- Understanding composition
- Tutorials on advanced photo techniques
- Use of Lenses for various effects
- Post processing your images in Lightroom or Photoshop
- Cataloguing images
- Startrail and starscape photography
- Flash use and advanced flash use

During the photo workshop sessions there will be a chance for guests to bring their own photos for feedback and critique by the guides.
YOUR SAFARI

DAY 7

Last Game Drive and Homeward Bound

Our last day begins with an early morning game drive. We will return to the lodge for a small snack before the 45 minute road transfer to Mfuwe Airport for the scheduled internal flight to Lusaka International Airport. The duration of this internal flight is 70 minutes. This is unfortunately the end of your safari. At Lusaka International Airport you will depart for your international flight home.

If your international flight home is scheduled for much later that day, or scheduled for the next day, we can help book transport and comfortable accommodation in Lusaka for you at an extra cost. In that case, please enquire with Devina (contact details on the last page).
Experts have dubbed South Luangwa to be one of the greatest wildlife sanctuaries in the world, and not without reason. The concentration of animals around the Luangwa River, and its oxbow lagoons, is among the most intense in Africa.

The Luangwa River is the most intact major river system in Africa and is the life-blood of this 9059 km² Park. The Park hosts a wide variety of wildlife, birds and vegetation. The now famous 'walking safari' originated in this Park and is still one of the finest ways to experience Africa's pristine wilderness first-hand. The changing seasons add to the Park's richness, ranging from; dry, bare bushveld in the winter, to a lush, green wonderland in the summer months. There are 60 different animal species and over 400 different bird species in South Luangwa National Park. The only notable exception is the rhino, sadly poached to extinction.

With about 400 of Zambia's 732 species of birds occurring in the park, including 39 birds of prey and a large number of migrants from northern climes, there is plenty for the birder to spot, whatever the season. An interest in the vegetation of Zambia will enhance your experience of the bush. Some magnificent trees and plants grow in the Luangwa Valley and it certainly adds to the richness of one's experience to be able to recognize the different tree species and to discover beautiful wildflowers. Among the more common trees in the valley are the mopane, leadwood, winterthorn, the tall vegetable ivory palm, the marula and the magnificent tamarind tree. There are some magnificent baobab specimens and a few large ebony forests to admire.

Seasonal changes are very pronounced in Luangwa. The dry season begins in April and intensifies through to October, the hottest month, when game concentrations are at their height. Warm sunny days and chilly nights typify the dry winter months of May to August. The wet season begins in November as the leaves turn green, and the dry bleak terrain becomes a lush jungle. The rainy season lasts up until the end of March. Each lodge stays open for as long as access is possible, depending on its location in the area. There are several lodges that remain open all year in the central area of the park.
GUIDES

WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHER
Isak Pretorius

Isak Pretorius is a sought-after specialist wildlife photographic guide and full-time professional wildlife photographer. He has been running photographic safaris in Southern and East Africa for the past 15 years. What sets him apart is his ability to help clients to take their own top photographs.

BIRDLIFE SOUTH AFRICA CEO
Mark D. Anderson

Mark D. Anderson is the CEO of BirdLife South Africa. He has been involved with bird research and conservation for almost 30 years, and is a passionate wildlife photographer.
Mfuwe Lodge

Ease yourself into Luangwa life with a stay at the award-winning Mfuwe Lodge. Set inside the park, just five minutes drive from the main gate, the lodge’s allure is instantly obvious. Beneath a canopy of ebony and mahogany, its thatched buildings are arranged around the banks of two lagoons where an endless stream of wildlife will keep you enthralled as you lounge on the open deck or take a dip in the swimming pool. The airy interior of the lodge is an exquisite complement to its natural surroundings.

This region of the park is renowned for its prolific game – giraffe, hippos, buffalo, antelope, and crocodile are constant visitors to Mfuwe Lodge’s lagoon, whilst in early summer the local elephants regularly wander right through the lobby, lured by a nearby wild mango tree. Whether you stay overnight, or just have lunch en route to a Bushcamp, Mfuwe Lodge’s relaxed charm and enviable surroundings make it the perfect stopover. Voted Best Lodge in Zambia in 2009, Mfuwe Lodge also offers you the chance to relax at its Bush-Spa or buy a few mementos of your time in Zambia at our curio shop.
If you would like to give yourself the best chance to see the elusive African Pitta, then consider adding on a few days before or after your safari to visit Bilimungwe Bushcamp.

Bilimungwe Bushcamp is considered one of the best places in Southern Africa to see the sought-after African Pitta. This camp is one of six intimate and exclusive bushcamps operated by The Bushcamp Company. It is located on the banks of the Luangwa River, about a three hour drive from Mfuwe Lodge. If you would like to give yourself the best chance to see this elusive bird, then consider adding on a few days before or after your safari to visit Bilimungwe Bushcamp.

The best chance to see the African Pitta is usually during the first two days after a heavy downpour in early summer. It is impossible to predict exactly when this will be but, considering the rainfall of the last few years, and recorded sightings around Bilimungwe Bushcamp, the first three weeks of December is statistically the best time.

The bird is best located by its call. In the last few years it had been found in the branches of the Natal Mahogany trees in the camp itself, but can also be found on game drive, or when you hunt it on foot while being escorted by your guide and a scout from the National Parks.

Enquire with Devina (contact details on the last page) about prices and availability at Bilimungwe Bushcamp to find this special bird.
Bilimungwe Bushcamp

Set beneath huge mahogany and wintertree, Bilimungwe's four raised thatched rooms have been carefully designed to ensure they provide the height of comfort whilst still retaining that authentic bushcamp feel. The elegant and stylish heart of camp is the cool, shady lounge area looking out over one of Bilimungwe's three waterholes where wildlife congregates day and night. Warm and welcoming, this beautiful camp blends seamlessly with its surroundings and offers unrivalled wildlife viewings. The camp can accommodate up to eight guests.
HOW TO BOOK

For any enquiries or bookings, please contact Devina Asia.

Devina Asia

Call +27 21 876 2153
E-mail devina@bushcampcompany.com

For more information about this tour visit

www.bushcampcompany.com/birdlifesafari