



Zimbabwe - The wilds of Mana Pools

Safari Itinerary - 14th to 25th October 2022



ALEX ROLDAN PHOTOGRAPHY

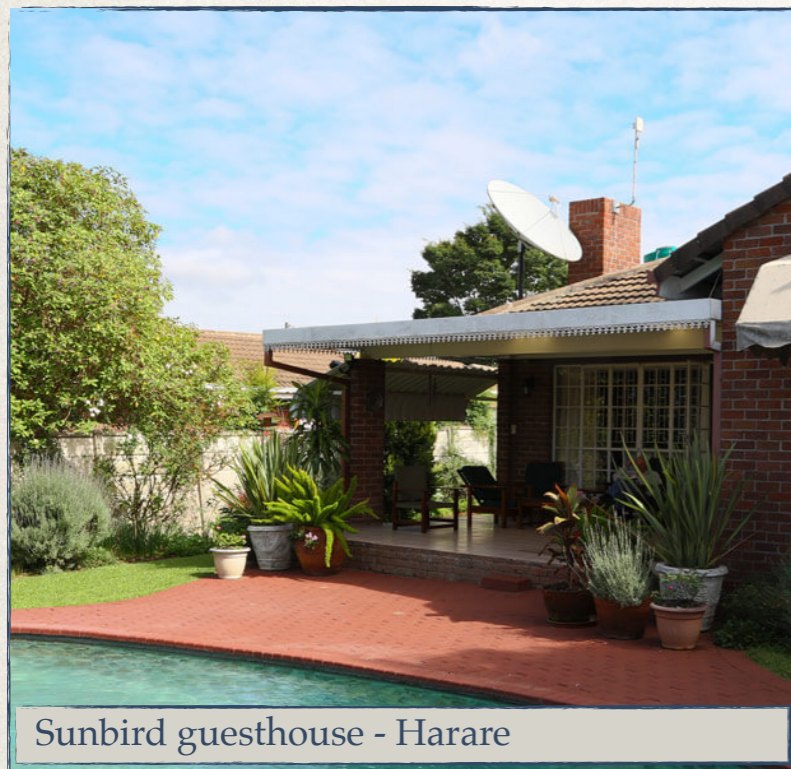
WILDLIFE - NATURE - SAFARIS

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Day One - 14th October 2022

Arrive by air into Harare, Zimbabwe at the international airport and be met by Alex and drive the short distance to the comfortable Sunbird guesthouse in Harare.

Once our group is assembled, Alex will talk through the upcoming safari and logistics, answering any questions you may have and share insights and inspiration for photography; discussing settings and inspiration to begin creating your own wonderful portfolio. The rest of the day is yours to relax before your safaris starts proper the next day.



Sunbird guesthouse - Harare

Day Two 15th October 2022

Your safari begins proper as we rise early for a hearty breakfast before catching our internal flight north to Chitake Springs, Mana Pools NP where we meet our local guide and tracker team.

Once given an orientation and settled into camp, as the day begins to cool, we'll head out on our first exploration of the marvellous Chitake Springs.

Dinner, as with all evenings will be in our comfortable safari camp under the ocean of stars, by candle and lamp light with a fire crackling warmly close by as you dine to the brilliant menu that the incredibly skilled bush chefs have prepared.

Days Three to Five - 16 to 18th October 2022

We set our own safari activity schedule but usually every morning whilst on safari, we'll rise before dawn with hot coffee and rusks to sustain us as we head out to further explore the surrounding bushveld by open 4x4 vehicle and by foot. Tracking wildlife by vehicle and by foot or waiting by the springs themselves for the cornucopia of wildlife which comes to drink from one of the only reliable water sources for miles around, making it an absolute magnet for both predators and prey alike, with frequent visits by large herds of buffalo, antelope, prides of lions and packs of African wild dogs... continued next page...



Chitake Campsite - Mana Pools NP



Walking safari buffalo encounter - Chitake



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Days Three to Five - 16th to 18th October 2022 (Continued)

... After morning safari activities, we'll return to camp for breakfast, review images, talk through settings, ideas and informal editing sessions all in aid of helping you capture a diverse portfolio of images.

If conditions allow, we'll have the opportunity to set up a hide/blind screen at the edge of the springs which could present us with magnificent photography possibilities as the myriad of species come down drink.

Usually as the heat of the day begins to subside, this is when we'll head out again either by vehicle or by foot further exploring the surrounding areas and its resident wildlife.

Then as the sun begins to set, we'll find somewhere with a commanding view and partake in the brilliant safari traditional sundowners. Watching a glorious sunset, with a cold drink in hand and talking with good friends.

Once the sun has set, we'll return to camp to refresh and enjoy dinner under the stars. After which depending on the moon cycle it could be a great opportunity to try your hand at starscape and Timelapse photography. With zero light pollution, this has potential for some stunning images!

Day Six - 19th October 2022

On the morning of day six, we'll have time to head out for a safari activity as our camp is dismantled and we move to the infamous flood plains and river bank of the mighty Zambezi river - our camp will be set up close to the river itself which brings a refreshing breeze through camp.

The area is very different to the arid conditions of Chitake. Towering mahogany and fig trees dwarf elephants and acacia thickets provide the perfect environment for denning African wild dogs. Again, we have the freedom of setting our own safari activity agenda - exploring by open 4x4 vehicle and by foot.



Mobile safari camp - Mana Pools NP



Walking safari elephant encounter - Mana Pools Floodplains



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Days Seven to Ten - 20th to 23rd October 2022

During these days, we set our own schedule, exploring as much of the area as possible, optimising our time in the bush and making sure we are in the right place as the sun begins to set to witness the remarkable light conditions for which Mana Pools has become synonymous. Soft blues melt in to golden oranges with the dust kicked up by the wildlife capable of creating some simply stunning and unique photography.

It's around the flood plains and forests that we'll focus on finding and photographing elephants, especially those that have developed a trait of balancing on their hind legs to reach the leaves and fruit of the trees which tower above them. Wild dogs historically den during this time with the next generation of pups starting to venture under the guardianship of their pack... but of course, this is the wild and it certainly doesn't follow a set script. If we encounter something special or the group would like to focus on other species we have the time to do so at our leisure.

And of course don't forget the brilliant birdlife. The banks of the Zambezi are famed for colonies of brightly coloured carmine bee-eaters making their nests in the hollows of the river bank!

Day Eleven - 24th October 2022

The last day of our safari and depending on the departure of our charter flight to Harare, we may have time squeeze in one final game drive or bush walk.

Once in Harare we'll be met and assisted getting to the correct area for your departure home with a longing to return to Africa and experience her magnificence again!

Should Covid testing still be required before departing Zimbabwe, this will be carried out in Harare upon our arrival with test results returning within a couple of hours. We will have access to a comfortable lounge during this time.



African wild dogs - Mana Pools NP



Elephant reaching for food - Mana Pools NP



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INCLUSIONS

- 1x night bed and breakfast accommodation - Sunbird guesthouse.
- 9x nights Safari Camp accommodation - Mana Pools National Park.
- Exclusive 4x4 safari vehicle and road transport in Zimbabwe for duration of the safari.
- Internal return flights - Harare to Mana Pools NP.
- Full-board. All meals and local house drinks whilst on safari.
- All park and conservation fees for Mana Pools NP.
- Photography mentorship, tuition and editing sessions with your host, Alex
- Pre-departure from Zimbabwe Covid testing (if still appropriate)

Booking your place

This couldn't be easier. Click the button below or send Alex an email - alex@alexroldan.co.uk or call +44 (0) 7837924 267 and begin your journey to experience remarkable wildlife

Book your safari

EXCLUSIONS

- International flights and appropriate visas.
- Items of a personal nature.
- Photography equipment.
- Appropriate medical, travel and other insurances.
- Tips and gratuities.
- Inbound Covid testing from your country of departure/origin.

