



# Mana Pools



2024

Photo Safari

# Letter From the Team

At Tusk Photo, we pride ourselves on providing exceptional safari experiences, where every detail is carefully curated to ensure your journey is nothing short of extraordinary. Our team of expert guides, who possess an intimate knowledge of the local wildlife and ecosystems, will be by your side, ready to share their insights and help you capture unbelievable photos.

Imagine exploring the vast savannahs, witnessing the majestic herds of elephants in Amboseli, or immersing yourself in the remarkable biodiversity of the Serengeti. Picture yourself standing in awe as you witness the raw power of lions on the hunt, or capturing the elegance of a leopard as it prowls through the golden grasslands. With Tusk Photo, these extraordinary moments will become a reality.



We understand that photography is more than just a hobby for you; it's a way to express your creativity and preserve memories that will last a lifetime. That's why we go the extra mile to ensure that you have the best opportunities to capture those unique shots. From providing expert guidance on camera settings and composition to positioning our vehicles strategically for the perfect angle, we are dedicated to helping you achieve your photography goals.

But a Tusk Safari is not just about wildlife and photography; it's about creating cherished memories and forging lifelong connections. Our team is committed to providing you with personalized attention, exceptional service, and a warm and welcoming atmosphere throughout your journey. We want you to feel like part of our Tusk family, sharing laughter, stories, and the sheer joy of exploring the best that nature has to offer.

Allow us to take you on a journey of discovery, where you will witness nature's wonders, capture breathtaking photographs, and create memories that will stay with you forever.

Please feel free to reach out to our friendly team for any further information or to discuss your specific requirements. We are here to assist you every step of the way. We can't wait to welcome you to the Tusk Photo family and share this incredible experience with you.

The Tusk Team



# Overview

Mana Pools National Park is a captivating and picturesque destination for nature enthusiasts and photographers alike. Located in northern Zimbabwe, along the southern banks of the mighty Zambezi River, this UNESCO World Heritage Site offers a unique and diverse ecosystem that is a paradise for wildlife and landscape photography.

The park's landscape is diverse and ever-changing, providing a plethora of breathtaking scenes to photograph. The Zambezi River with its meandering channels, lush floodplains, and groves of acacia and mahogany trees make for striking compositions. The play of light during sunrise and sunset adds a magical touch to the scenery, creating stunning silhouettes and reflections on the water.

Venture into the breathtaking wilderness of Mana Pools National Park. Immerse yourself in the untouched beauty of this amazing park. Capture the awe-inspiring moments of Mana Pools with your camera, from the vibrant hues of sunrise and sunset to the rich diversity of flora and fauna.

Prepare to be enchanted by the unparalleled beauty and untamed spirit of this extraordinary safari experience.



# What You Can Expect

Immerse yourself in nature and capture world-class images of wild and free-roaming animals. Mana Pools offers an unrivalled opportunity for adventurous wildlife and landscape photographers to capture stunning shots in a pristine and unspoiled environment. With the freedom to photograph animals and landscapes from vehicles, on foot, and even from the river, this safari sets itself apart from other major national parks in Africa.

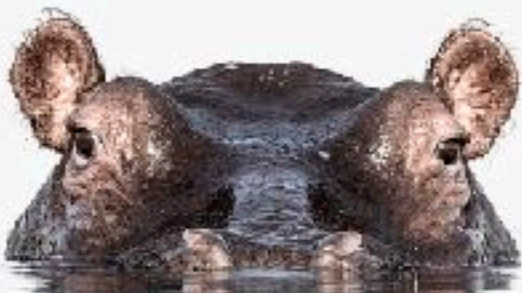
Nestled along the banks of the Zambezi River, our camp in Mana Pools provides a prime location to maximize your photographic opportunities. With a carefully crafted daily itinerary that allows for flexibility and personalized experiences, you can tailor your safari to suit your preferences. Whether you're a seasoned photographer or simply seeking a relaxing getaway, our camp's accommodation and facilities cater to your needs, ensuring a comfortable and enjoyable stay.

Mana Pools National Park is a hidden gem, encompassing 2,196 square kilometres of rugged and breathtaking landscapes. As part of a larger wildlife conservation area spanning 10,500 square kilometres, Mana Pools provides a vast and free-roaming habitat for a diverse range of wildlife. From large concentrations of buffalo and elephant to majestic predators like lions, wild dogs, and leopards, the park is teeming with incredible opportunities to capture iconic scenes. As you explore the open floodplains, walk through Albida forests, and witness elephants reaching for the treetops, you'll be awestruck by the raw beauty of Africa's wildlife.

In addition to the larger herbivores, Mana Pools is a bird lover's paradise, with over 400 bird species to discover and photograph. The park's unique blend of grassy floodplains, woodlands, and riverine forests provides a diverse range of habitats, attracting a multitude of avian species.

During your stay, you'll have the chance to join game drives in open 4x4 vehicles, venture out on foot to track wildlife along the shorelines, and even try your hand at fishing for the iconic tiger fish. With small group sizes limited to just 4 guests, you'll enjoy an intimate and personalized safari experience. This is a true private wilderness adventure that will leave you with unforgettable memories and extraordinary images.

Don't miss the opportunity to explore Mana Pools National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site renowned for its pristine wilderness and unique photography experiences. Join us on this exclusive photo safari and let the untouched beauty of Africa ignite your creativity and passion for wildlife photography.



# Where You Will Stay

Nyamatusi Camp, located in the magnificent Mana Pools National Park, offers an array of outstanding facilities that complement its breathtaking natural surroundings. Designed to provide a luxurious and immersive safari experience, Nyamatusi Camp seamlessly blends comfort, convenience, and a deep connection with nature.

Accommodations at Nyamatusi Camp are nothing short of extraordinary. The camp features spacious and elegantly appointed tented suites, carefully positioned to offer privacy and stunning views of the Zambezi River. Each suite boasts a private plunge pool, allowing guests to relax and refresh while enjoying the sights and sounds of the surrounding wilderness.

The main area of Nyamatusi Camp is a harmonious blend of contemporary design and natural elements. Here, guests can gather and unwind in the stylish lounge or dine under the starlit sky in the open-air dining area. The camp's attentive staff ensures that every meal is a culinary delight, incorporating fresh, locally sourced ingredients to create exquisite dishes that satisfy even the most discerning palate.

Nyamatusi Camp provides an exceptional blend of luxurious facilities and unforgettable wildlife experiences. From the elegant tented suites with private plunge pools to the exquisite dining experiences and thrilling game drives, every aspect of your stay at Nyamatusi Camp is crafted to ensure a truly memorable safari adventure in the captivating wilderness of Mana Pools.



# Dates | Costs | Prices

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Spaces</u>	<u>Nights</u>
13 – 19 September 2024	US\$ 11990	8	6

## Cost:

Our safari experience is priced at US\$ 11990 per person sharing. US\$ 2000 Single Supplement. Please note that any bank charges incurred during the payment process are not covered by Tusk Photo. We kindly request the full amount indicated on the invoice, including any fees imposed by Paypal if you choose to use this payment method.

## Deposit:

To secure your reservation, a 50% deposit of the full price is required within 14 days of making your booking. Once we receive your deposit, your booking will be confirmed. Please make sure to complete this step within the given timeframe to secure your spot.

## Balance:

The remaining balance is due at least 9 weeks prior to the safari. If you are making a booking within 9 weeks of the safari, the full price will be payable at the time of booking.

## Cancellation Policy:

We understand that plans can change, and in the event of a cancellation, the following fees will apply unless Tusk Photo is able to fill your safari space:

- Cancellation more than 120 days prior to departure: 10% of the full price
- Cancellation 90 - 119 days prior to departure: 40% of the full price
- Cancellation 60 - 89 days prior to departure: 70% of the full price
- Cancellation less than 60 days prior to departure: 100% of the full price

Please note: Your travel plans are made entirely at your own risk, and Tusk Photo cannot be held responsible for any flight cancellations, disruptions, or delays that may occur. We recommend considering travel insurance to protect your investment and provide peace of mind.

# Itinerary

## DAY 1

- Meet at Harare International Airport.
- Take a flight to Mana Pools.
- Arrive in time for an afternoon activity.

## DAY 2 - 6

- Early wake-up with coffee, tea, and rusks.
- Depart for a sunrise game drive, spending the majority of the morning exploring.
- Return to camp around 10am - 11am for brunch.
- Midday break.
- Set out on an afternoon game drive
- Return to camp just after sunset.
- Delight in dinner and relaxed time around the campfire.

## DAY 7

- Start the day with an early morning game drive.
- Return to camp for a quick meal.
- Transfer to the Mana Airstrip.
- Fly back to Harare in time for international flights back home.



# What You Get

## **INCLUDED:**

- Services of Tusk Photo host
- Accommodation
- All Meals
- Flight from Harare to Mana Pools and back again.
- Drinks (Local Beers, Wines and Soft Drinks)
- Park Fees
- Open private photographic vehicle
- All game drive and walking activities

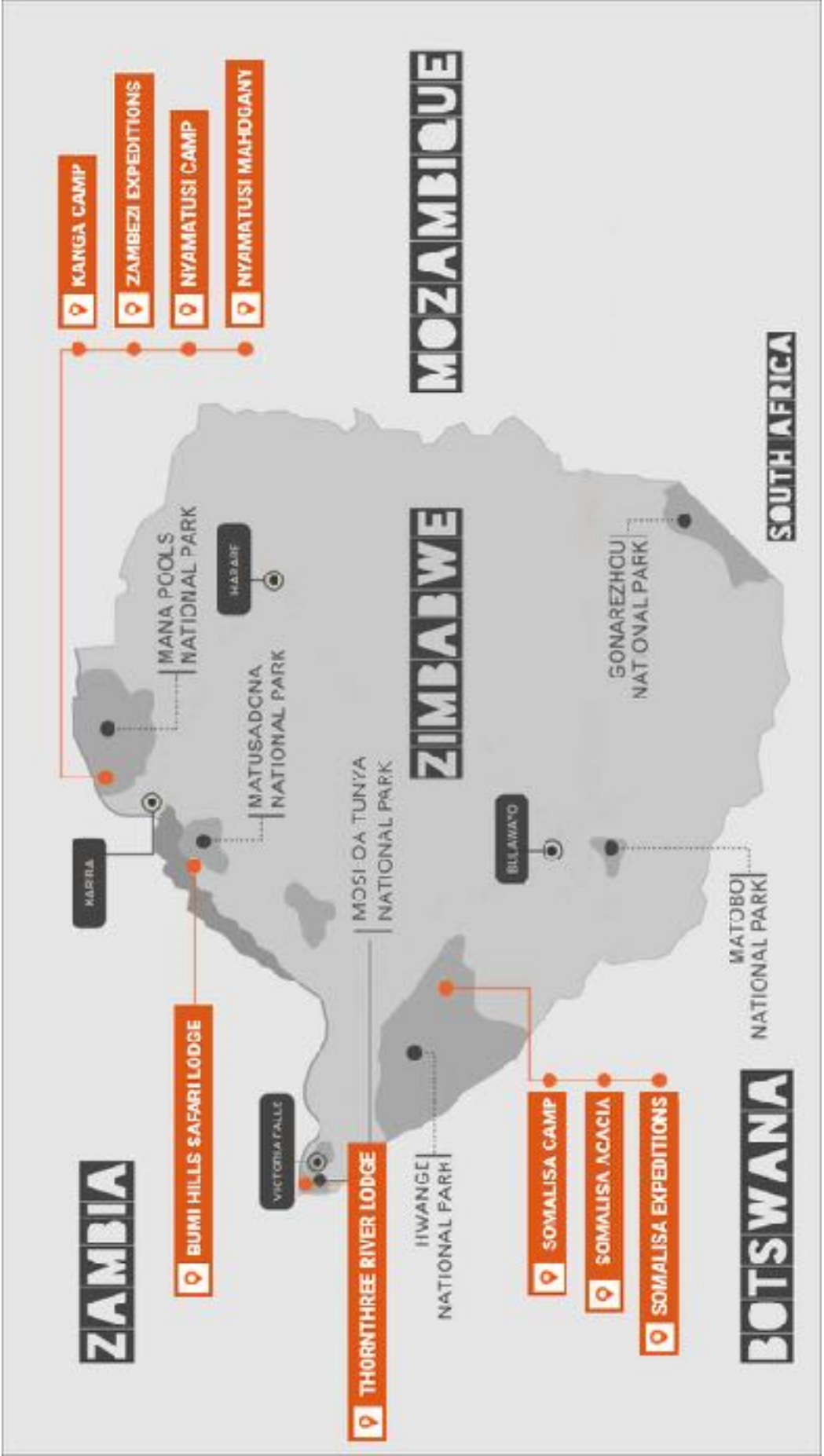
## **EXCLUDED:**

- Visas fees (if applicable)
- Telephone calls
- Gratuities and expenses of a personal nature
- Taxis, transfers & accommodation for the preceding night(s) before the tour starts
- International flights to and from Maun Airport from your international destination

# Flights and Transport

- Check-in is one hour prior for domestic departures and two hours prior for international departures.
- Many scheduled regional flights may involve multiple stops before reaching final destination.





**ZAMBIA**

**MOZAMBIQUE**

**SOUTH AFRICA**

**BUMI HILLS SAFARI LODGE**

**THORNTHREER RIVER LODGE**

**SOMALISA CAMP**

**SOMALISA ACACIA**

**SOMALISA EXPEDITIONS**

**KANGA CAMP**

**ZAMBEZI EXPEDITIONS**

**NYAMATUSI CAMP**

**NYAMATUSI MAHOOGANY**

**ZIMBABWE**

**BOTSWANA**

MANA POOLS  
NATIONAL PARK

MATSIWEN  
NATIONAL PARK

MOSI-OA-TUNYA  
NATIONAL PARK

IIWANGE  
NATIONAL PARK

BELAWAYO

GONAREZHU  
NAT. ONVAL PARK

MATOBO  
NATIONAL PARK

VICTORIA FALLS

HARBRA

# Photography and Gear

It is not advisable to take photographs of border posts or military/ police posts. Doing so can lead to an unpleasant situation and even arrest. Always ask permission before taking a photograph of any local African residents; it is a sign of respect. In most cases a small payment is expected. However some cultures believe that the camera steals their soul and we request that you respect and understand their beliefs.

It is advisable to bring the following camera equipment:

- 2x Camera bodies (a backup will mean peace of mind)
- Spare memory cards and batteries
- Long telephoto lens 400/500/600 with tele-converters if needed.
- Medium telephoto lens 70-200 or equivalent
- Wide angle lens(es) for landscapes and Animals in environment.
- Monopod, lightweight ball head or similar, remote trigger (for low angle polecam work - optional)
- Flash (Although optional it is recommended)
- Notebook or additional storage devices

Please remember that it is very likely that you could possibly photograph thousands of images over the 7 day period. We therefore strongly advise you to have sufficient storage and battery arrangements in place. If you are unsure of anything please contact us for more details



# Tour Info

## INSURANCE

- **Travel Insurance:**

While it is highly unlikely, there is a possibility of scheduled flights in and out of your destination being delayed due to unforeseen circumstances. To provide peace of mind and cover any potential flight disruptions or missed connections, we strongly recommend purchasing additional travel insurance.

- **Medical Insurance:**

For your safety and well-being, we highly recommend having medical insurance that covers unforeseen medical emergencies and evacuation. Please let us know in your booking form whether you have taken out any medical insurance for this safari.

Travellers 83 years and older will need to arrange their own comprehensive travel insurance.

## PASSPORTS AND CUSTOMS

- Passports are required by all foreign visitors and must be valid for 6 months after the intended length of stay. Please ensure that there are two blank pages per country to be visited.
- It is imperative to check visa requirements with the Zimbabwe embassies/consulates as it may vary according to your nationality.
- Visas obtained at port of entry are payable in USD cash only and we recommend small denominations of dollars as officials are not in the position to give change.
- Remember to bring the originals and leave a photocopy of your passport, air tickets, vaccination certificate (if applicable) and travel insurance with someone at home.
- You should be aware that most visas are only valid for a limited period of time from the date of issue. If you are applying for your visa a long way in advance of your planned entry into the country, make sure that the visa will still be valid on the date of your arrival and for the duration of your visit.

## MONEY AND CURRENCY

- Banks and foreign exchange bureaux are available at all international airports and in all main towns.
- Most hotels and lodges accept Visa and MasterCard. In addition to credit cards, travellers should bring US dollars cash. Small denominations are recommended.
- US dollars are widely accepted; however, notes dated before 2003 are no longer accepted. Also, high denomination notes may not be accepted.
- Travellers cheques are not accepted as a method of payment in Zimbabwe.

## HEALTH

Centres for Disease Control and Prevention has the following recommendations for Zimbabwe:

- Hepatitis A - CDC recommends this vaccine because you can get hepatitis A through contaminated food or water in Zimbabwe, regardless of where you are eating or staying.

- Malaria - You will need to take prescription medicine before, during, and after your trip to prevent malaria. Your doctor can help you decide which medicine is right for you, and also talk to you about other steps you can take to prevent malaria.
- Typhoid - CDC recommends this vaccine for most travelers, especially if you are staying with friends or relatives, visiting smaller cities or rural areas, or if you are an adventurous eater.
- Should you require additional advice, we suggest you contact your local travel clinic in consultations regarding Malaria and the Immunizations required for travel to Zimbabwe.

## LANGUAGES

The national languages in Zimbabwe are English, Shona and Ndebele. English is widely spoken

## DIETARY REQUIREMENTS

We understand the importance of accommodating diverse dietary needs, and our team is dedicated to ensuring that we can cater to most dietary requirements. Please provide us with any specific dietary needs in your booking form.

## POWER AND ELECTRICITY

220/240 volts AC, 50Hz. Plugs are UK-type round 2-pin or flat 3-pin. Major hotels and some game lodges will supply adaptors on request, however we do suggest that you bring your own.



## CLIMATE

The climate of Mana Pools is characterized by warm and hot temperatures. The warmest period of the year spans from September to March, whereas the coldest time period falls between May and August.

The dry season, which occurs from April to October, brings about delightful weather and clear skies. During the wet season, which takes place from November to March, it is common to experience heavy rainfalls followed by sunny intervals. Occasionally, there may be light showers persisting for several days.



## CLOTHING AND WHAT TO PACK

For a memorable safari experience, we suggest opting for comfortable, casual wash-and-wear attire. To enhance your game-viewing experience, it is advisable to choose muted colors. Keep in mind that game-drives are typically conducted during the early morning and late afternoon, which can be quite cold, particularly in winter.

To ensure you are well-prepared, we recommend packing the following practical items for your safari:

- Comfortable, casual wash-and-wear clothes in muted colors.
- Long-sleeved shirts for sun and mosquito protection.
- T-shirts for layering.
- Shorts or light skirt for warmer days.
- Jeans or safari trousers for cooler evenings.
- Bring a jacket and sweater for chilly morning and evening game drives.
- Pack a lightweight, waterproof jacket for potential afternoon showers.
- Wear comfortable walking shoes.
- Essential items: sunblock, sunglasses, hat, insect repellent, moisturizer, lip balm.
- binoculars and camera equipment.
- Good quality safari clothing (we opt for Craghoppers Nosilife)

### **GRATUITIES**

It is customary to tip 10% of the bill at all restaurants and 10% of the fare to taxi drivers. It is also the custom to tip local guides and drivers.

Please note that the following gratuity amounts are provided as a minimum guideline, and you are welcome to increase them if you wish:

- Ranger / Guide USD 15 per person per day
- Camp staff USD 10 per person per day

### **CONNECTIVITY & EMERGENCY CONTACT DETAILS**

There is very limited cellular and data coverage throughout the most of Mana Pools and lower Zambezi region. Please insure that you have international roaming enabled should you wish to use your cellphone while on safari. Please take careful note of Cellular rates as this can be quite costly.

Tusk Photo Safaris PTA Office  
Tel: +27 12 761 3737 (Office Hours)



# Indemnity

Tusk Photo and its staff prioritize your safety and wellbeing during your safari; however, please be aware that we cannot accept liability for any incidents, including but not limited to accidents, loss, or property damage. By completing the Safari Booking form, you acknowledge the inherent risks associated with travel and agree to indemnify Tusk Photo against any claims or liabilities that may arise.

While this document provides comprehensive information, it is not exhaustive. If you have any additional questions or concerns, please feel free to contact our office. Please note that the information contained herein is correct at the time of compilation to the best of our knowledge.



**We Are Excited To Host You on Your  
Dream Photographic Safari!**

