

G A M E P L A N A F R I C A  
*Journeys of a Lifetime*



**MANA CANOE TRAIL**  
*A Trails Exploration*

**3 nights/4 days**

## Mana Canoe Trail

### *A Trails Exploration*

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Canoeing safari complemented by fully serviced dome tent Adventurer camping along the fertile floodplains of the Zambezi River, Mana Pools National Park.

One of the most exciting ways to experience Africa, this safari is perfect for adventurous travelers, allowing guests the closest possible encounters with wildlife on one of the greatest rivers in Africa. This thrilling experience traverses the Mana Pools National Park, through the heart of Mana Pools and along the Zambezi's shoreline, canoeing past more than a thousand hippo on the way! Each night is spent camping on the banks of the Zambezi River, finishing 65km downstream and many adventures away from the start. Encounters with animals, whether on canoe or on foot, are up close and awe-inspiring. The Trail is for reasonably fit guests and is led by an experienced guide. Support vehicles and staff assist guests and set up camp each day prior to arrival.



This camping safari offers a unique adventure for the traveller seeking an iconic African safari and an opportunity to enjoy one of the wildest stretches of the lower Zambezi River and the game that depends on its life giving waters and ensures a back to nature experience.

Explorations remote campsites on this itinerary provide 3 x 3m dome tents, designed for comfort in remote wilderness areas. Cotton linen and bedrolls (with duvets) with a lantern complement the atmosphere in this pristine and wild area. Separate short-drop toilet and shower 'bathrooms' with old-style bucket showers create simple serviced comfort.

By means of lively campfires, hurricane lanterns and a warm atmosphere permeating the camp (and its simplicity), Adventurer camping brings the guest closer to nature. Such camps are specifically outfitted to create that sense of wilderness with a clear emphasis on essential camp comforts and maximum wilderness experience.

The entire safari is guided and hosted by a professional and passionate river guide, who shares in-depth knowledge of the lower Zambezi ecosystem with the guests, to present a seamless, well-rounded experience.

Each campsite within the Mana Pools National Park is reserved for the exclusive use of our guests and while on the river or on foot on its banks we enjoy the wild expanse mostly to ourselves. An Over-night at Ruckomechi camp either before or after the three night canoe trail we will most likely meet other independent travellers.

## ITINERARY

### Day 1: Start of the Trail, close to Ruckomechi, Zambezi River

Guests are transferred to Ruckomechi by air from Victoria Falls or Harare, or road/boat transfer from Lusaka (at an additional cost), arriving at around midday. At approximately 2 pm, after meeting the guide and going through a thorough safety briefing, canoeists start paddling downstream in sturdy Canadian canoes to our mobile camp in the Mana Pools National Park. The camp will have already been set up in advance and the first afternoon of paddling covers about 6.2 to 6.8 miles. This is a relatively easy distance to cover in the time available (partly because we always paddle downstream) and gives canoeists a chance to familiarize themselves with the canoes and the various paddle strokes required.



### Days 2 & 3: Zambezi River wild camping

Typically, canoeists are awakened before dawn with tea/coffee and biscuits and you try to get onto the water just before sunrise. This is a magical time on the river as the water is usually calm and the peace and tranquility is amazing. After paddling for usually about 2 hours, you beach the canoes on the bank of the Zambezi River and set out for a game walk. The guide chooses a suitable area, based on his knowledge of the area and game movements and you take a few hours to explore on foot, and unravel some of the intricacies of the bush.

After returning to the canoes, and a light snack, we continue canoeing to a suitable lunch spot, arriving around mid-day. Lunch is carried in the canoes and is usually consists of a salad, bread and cold meats. You normally rest up in the shade for a while or take another short walk before moving on arriving at the next camp at dusk.

The camp, and all guest luggage, will have been moved by the camp staff and all that is required to be done by participants is to enjoy a hot shower under the stars, and a cold drink, followed by dinner. The daily distances covered from one camp to the next are around 12 to 16 miles and the daily routine will vary according to wildlife movement.



### Day 4: Transfer to Chikwenya Airstrip

After breakfast by the river, you will either be transferred by Land Rover or a walk to the nearby Chikwenya airstrip for the flight out (the flight is at an additional cost) We highly recommend that you drive back Ruckomechi Camp for an additional few nights stay where you can enjoy the wonderful Zambezi Valley by extensive game drive, adding significantly to the overall experience.

## 2011 Costs

### Land Cost

May 2 - June 14, 2011	US\$1,316.00 per person sharing US\$ 290.00 single supplement
June 15 - November 17, 2011	US\$1,477.00 per person sharing US\$ 289.00 single supplement

Note: Safari departs every Monday and Thursday.

### SAFARI INCLUDES:

- All accommodation as specified
- All meals from lunch on day 1
- A reasonable amount of soft drinks, beer, fruit juice, mineral water and house wine on camping days (excluding premium brands)
- Activities as specified
- All excursions/tours and transfers by vehicle as shown
- Services of the lodge guides and staff
- Park fees

### SAFARI EXCLUDES:

- All items of a personal nature
- Cancellation, baggage, emergency evacuation or medical insurance
- Gratuities to staff
- Laundry
- Any meals, drinks activities, excursions, entrance fees, portorage, tours & transfers which are not specified
- Visa fees
- Airport departure taxes
- Any new Government taxes