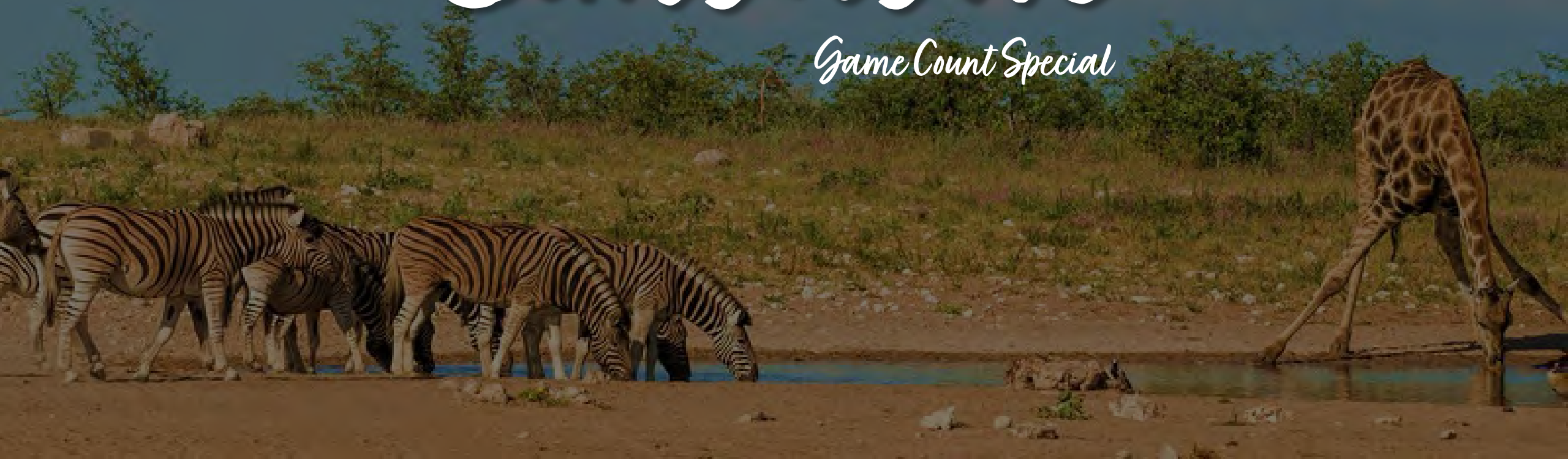




# Zimbabwe

*Game Count Special*



### ARE YOU PREPARED TO PARTICIPATE IN OUR GAME-COUNT SPECIAL IN ZIMBABWE?

Are you ready to embrace your adventurous spirit? Pack your belongings and embark on the most exhilarating journey of your lifetime at Hwange National Park in Zimbabwe! Our Game-Count Special, an exclusive annual event, will transport you into a captivating realm reminiscent of a captivating National Geographic episode.

### WHAT'S THE DEAL?

The Game-Count Special we offer is designed to challenge the brave! In addition to our Globe Aware group, there will be 300 Zimbabweans volunteers participating in the game count. All volunteers will be divided into teams of 2-6 individuals. Your task will be to observe and document the presence of various majestic creatures, including lions, elephants, leopards, white rhinos, giraffes, cape buffaloes, sable, greater kudu, wild dogs, cheetahs, and more. Rest assured, you don't need to possess extensive knowledge of wildlife to join in on this exciting experience - all you need is a passion for adventure and a desire to expand your understanding!

### WHAT IS INCLUDED?

The game fees, vehicle fees, fuel, accompanying coordinator, conservation fees, accommodations fee, Land Rover use fee, meals (basic), bottled water, instruction/orientation, celebratory braai. Medical insurance, few meals will be taken at the VERY simple game lodge, but others will be picnic style when in the field. It's a great time to bring some of your favorite snacks as there are only very simple offerings. You will be paying a fee to the wildlife management direct upon arrival, separate from the game and vehicle fees we pay on your behalf. [Click here to pay.](#)

### THE PERKS

Not only will you witness some of Africa's most iconic species up close and personal, but you'll also be contributing to valuable research that helps protect and conserve these animals.



# CHECKLIST FOR YOUR GUIDANCE

- **GAME COUNT:** When you check in you will be issued with a folder and therein recording sheets, map, etc. A reminder here to pack Binoculars, Calculators, Pens/Pencils/Rubber/Spare paper, Reference books (Mammals and Birds), a Torch, and a Camera. A thermometer is a must (for recording temperature during the count period) Suitable bush-color clothing, Insect repellent (both spray and something like Peaceful Sleep), Sun block cream, Sunglasses, Tracksuit / Warm clothing (for the count), Blanket /Pillow, Hat, and Personal medicines.
- **MEMBERSHIP FEE:** The wildlife membership fee must be paid in cash upon arrival, and US dollars are accepted. (\$60 per family, kids are considered anyone under 18) or \$30 per single adult. (\$60 per family, kids are considered anyone under 18) or \$30 per single adult.
- **ARRIVAL/DEPARTURE:** Arrive in Victoria Falls no later than Oct 4th, no later than 1 pm. We should spend at least one night before the program start date as we leave at day break on October 5th. We place 3-5 people per large vehicle. If you choose for us to arrive early, we can help you make arrangements and help with activities. October 9th Departure day, we recommend you do not arrange flights home prior to noon on October 9th so that you have time to enjoy the surrounding sites (at the very least, the bucket list magnificent Victoria Falls should be visited!) We can help you arrange mid-range accommodations at \$150 per day if you would like our help.
- **ANTI-MALARIA PRECAUTION:** Your medical professional is likely to recommend you to take an anti-malaria drug - your doctor or chemist will best advise you in this regard.
- **MONEY:** Bring small notes USD – (as most everyone will claim not to have change)
- **CATERING FOR THE COUNT ITSELF:** We will be providing easy-to-serve meals e.g. prepared/pre-cooked meals are recommended: and plenty of water to drink.
- **FIRES ARE NOT PERMITTED** in the Park, but you may heat water/food on a small gas stove whilst out in the park.
- **ELECTRICITY AND WATER OUTAGES:** The area does experience electricity and water outages from time to time, but having said do their utmost to have these restored timeously.
- **VEHICLE:** Please ensure that your vehicle is in good condition and that you are carrying adequate spares. Due to the condition of the roads, punctures can be expected, so be well prepared.
- **African Game Sheets:** Please print and bring these with you, download them [here](#).





# SCHEDULE

*Please note sun goes down at 6:15 PM daily*

## Day 01

- Arrive in Victoria Falls no later than Oct 4th, no later than 1 pm. We should spend at least one night before the program start date as we leave at day break on October 5th. We place 3-5 people per large vehicle for transfer to the game park. If you choose, we can arrange your extra nights (before or after) at \$150 per day at mid-range accommodation, We can help you make arrangements for activities.

## Day 02

- October 6th, each small grouping of 3 to 5 will go in 4 x 4 by caravan to the park. It can take 3 to 6 hours to get to the park due to the condition of the roads. We will eat one meal along the way and dinner at the main camp, where we will have our last orientation training meeting. This is a great time to visit with many other Zimbabwe volunteers. They will be so spread out over the park the next day that you are unlikely to see anyone





# SCHEDULE

## Day 03

- October 7th Breakfast at the main camp. Our teams set out by caravan to the designated watering holes for the official 24-hour count that starts at noon (remaining luggage will stay in your room until you return the next day), where you will spend 24 hours engaging in the count. Your Land Rover (or equivalent) is your place to rest. Everyone at that watering hole will take turns being on watch. There are primitive bathroom facilities with a few watering holes, but others have only the bush. Be prepared that this is NOT a luxury environment. For these 24 hours, you will use your Land Rover as the place where you take turns napping, eating, etc. You are welcome to bring camp chairs, binoculars, etc. The game here is very passive and laid-back.

## Day 04

- On October 8th, at Noon, your 24-hour game count finishes, and you drive back to the game lodge to rest, bathe, and relax, before heading back to Victoria Falls. Given extra time, we can visit some of our regular Zimbabwe program sites and schools, where we have engaged in many projects and brought many donations.

## Day 05

- October 9th Departure day, we recommend you do not arrange flights home prior to noon on October 9th so that you have time to enjoy the surrounding sites (at the very least, the bucket list magnificent Victoria Falls should be visited!) We can help you arrange mid-range accommodations at \$150 per day if you would like our help.



# Leisure Activities

If you decide to add extra days, we can take you to see the baobab trees, local markets, daily options to choose from such as armed Ranger's lead Game Drives and Game Walks in the National Park. Explore the awe-inspiring Victoria Falls, the world's largest waterfall, and engage in thrilling activities such as water rafting on the Zambezi River, Devils Pool, bungee jumping, and a Sunset Cruise on the Zambezi. Experience the breathtaking views with helicopter rides, microlight flights, and speedboat trips beneath the falls and from the railway bridge. For the daring, indulge in extreme activities like bungee jumping and zip-lining across the gorges, as well as white-water rafting. Alternatively, opt for more leisurely pursuits such as sunset cruises and luxury historic train dining. Moreover, the nearby Zambezi National Park is a haven for wildlife, hosting the BIG 5 and a variety of other mammals. Game Drives and Game Walks in the National Park available daily with armed Rangers, visit magnificent Victoria Falls [LEARN MORE](#) – world's largest waterfall, Water Rafting on River Zambezi, Bungee Jump, Sunset Cruise on River Zambezi.

# Packing List

It has been suggested to have: a small camping folding chair or stool, camping led lamp, and knife (must be in checked bags). There are excellent hardware stores in Victoria Falls if you are there early and want to secure these items on arrival. They are not required. Please note that the packing list is meant as a guide. Pack what you think you will need to be comfortable, but do not get preoccupied about items you didn't bring or weren't on the list. Everyone has different opinions about what is an essential item!

- Insect repellant, 20 percent DEET
- Sunscreen
- Sun hat
- Toilet paper and tissues (provided, but bring your own if you prefer a particular quality)
- Wet wipes
- Flashlight (with red light)
- Toothbrush and toothpaste
- Soap/Shampoo
- Medication (prescription and nonprescription)
- Pants for working, sightseeing, and relaxing
- Comfortable walking shoes
- T-shirts/Long-sleeved shirts
- Jacket
- Comfortable hiking boots
- Blanket
- Binoculars
- Umbrella, rain poncho, or raincoat (may not be necessary; check the forecast before you go)
- Small backpack
- Secure document holder such as a money belt
- Portable charger
- Adapter/converter (Type G plug)
- Plastic zip lock bag to protect your phone from water and dust
- Refillable water bottle
- Pad of paper for notes
- Pens





# Health

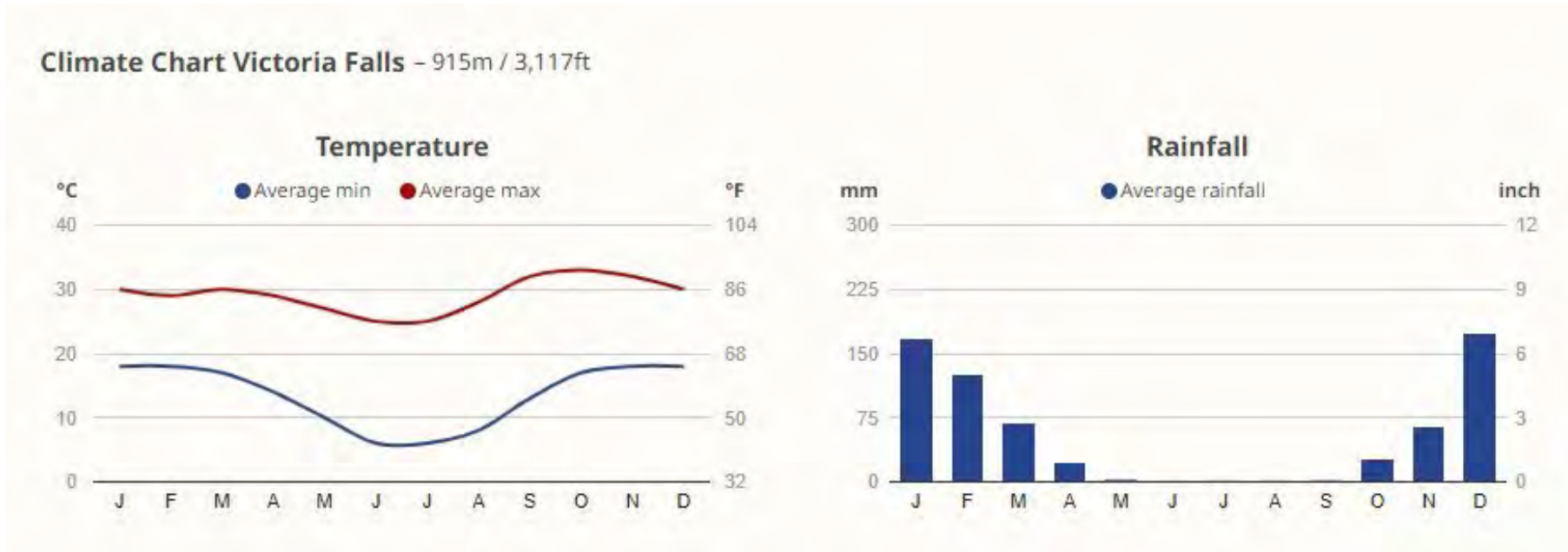
## CDC instead recommends:

Atovaquone/Malarone -proguanil, doxycycline, mefloquine, or tafenoquine

1. Factors that affect local malaria transmission patterns can change rapidly and from year to year, such as local weather conditions, mosquito vector density, and prevalence of infection. Information in these tables is updated regularly.
2. Refers to *P. falciparum* malaria unless otherwise noted.
3. Estimates of malaria species are based on best available data from multiple sources. Where proportions are not available, the primary species and less common species are identified.
4. [Several medications are available for chemoprophylaxis](#). When deciding which drug to use, consider the specific itinerary, length of trip, cost of drug, previous adverse reactions to antimalarials, drug allergies, and current medical history. All travelers should seek medical attention in the event of fever during or after return from travel to areas with malaria.
5. Primaquine and tafenoquine can cause hemolytic anemia in persons with glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase (G6PD) deficiency. Before prescribing primaquine or tafenoquine, patients must be screened for G6PD deficiency using a quantitative test.
6. Mosquito avoidance includes applying topical mosquito repellent, sleeping under an insecticide-treated bed net, and wearing protective clothing (e.g., long pants and socks, long sleeve shirt). For additional details on mosquito avoidance, see: <https://www.cdc.gov/malaria/travelers/index.html>
7. *P. knowlesi* is a malaria species with a simian host (macaque). Human cases have been reported in most countries in Southeast Asia and are associated with activities in forest or forest-fringe areas. This species of malaria has no known resistance to antimalarials.

Drug	Reasons that might make you consider using this drug	Reasons that might make you avoid using this drug
<p>Atovaquone/Proguanil (Malarone)</p> <p>Adults: 1 adult tablet daily.</p> <p>Children: 5-8 kg: ½ pediatric tablet daily. 8-10 kg: ¾ pediatric tablet daily. 10-20 kg: 1 pediatric tablet daily. 20-30 kg: 2 pediatric tablets daily. 30-40 kg 3 pediatric tablets daily. 40 kg and over: 1 adult tablet daily. Begin 1-2 days before travel, daily during travel, and for 7 days after leaving.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Good for last-minute travelers because the drug is started 1-2 days before traveling to an area where malaria transmission occurs</li><li>• Some people prefer to take a daily medicine</li><li>• Good choice for shorter trips because you only have to take the medicine for 7 days after traveling rather than 4 weeks</li><li>• Very well tolerated medicine – side effects uncommon</li><li>• Pediatric tablets are available and may be more convenient</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cannot be used by women who are pregnant or breastfeeding a child less than 5 kg</li><li>• Cannot be taken by people with severe renal impairment</li><li>• Tends to be more expensive than some of the other options (especially for trips of long duration)</li><li>• Some people (including children) would rather not take a medicine every day</li></ul>

# Weather



## Dry Season–April to October – Winter

During the Dry season, there is virtually no rainfall, and humidity is low. Wildlife will concentrate around waterholes and rivers when other water sources dry up.

**April & May** – This is the end of summer. Temperatures are relatively cool, typically around 10°C/50°F in the morning and 28°C/82°F in the afternoon. The nighttime temperatures start to drop. By May, the rain is almost gone.

**June, July & August** – Be sure to pack warm winter clothes because morning game drives in open vehicles will be cold. The average morning temperature is 6°C/43°F. Afternoons will be more pleasant with temperatures around 25°C/77°F. Parks at lower altitude will be warmer.

**September & October** – The heat gradually builds and peaks in October. The first rains can fall by late October, bringing relief from very dry conditions. The lower lying areas get very hot with temperatures of 32°C/90°F and well above.

## Wet Season–November to March – Summer

**November** – This month is unpredictable, and it might start raining some afternoons. Temperatures are between 18°C/64°F in the morning and 32°C/90°F in the afternoon. Parks in the central highveld plateau will be colder, and parks at lower altitude will be considerably warmer.

**December, January, February & March** – These are the wettest months, characterized by torrential downpours in the afternoon. Nights and mornings are warm at around 18°C/64°F. Afternoon temperatures are around 30°C/86°F and the humidity is high, making it feel hotter.



# ZAMBIA OR ZIMBABWE?





# ZAMBIA OR ZIMBABWE



If you decide to add extra days, we can take you to see the baobab trees, local markets, daily options to choose from such as armed Ranger's lead Game Drives and Game Walks in the National Park. Explore the awe-inspiring Victoria Falls, the world's largest waterfall, and engage in thrilling activities such as water rafting on the Zambezi River, Devils Pool, bungee jumping, and a Sunset Cruise on the Zambezi. Experience the breathtaking views with helicopter rides, microlight flights, and speedboat trips beneath the falls and from the railway bridge. For the daring, indulge in extreme activities like bungee jumping and zip-lining across the gorges, as well as white-water rafting. Alternatively, opt for more leisurely pursuits such as sunset cruises and luxury historic train dining. Moreover, the nearby Zambezi National Park is a haven for wildlife, hosting the BIG 5 and a variety of other mammals.

Game Drives and Game Walks in the National Park available daily with armed Rangers, visit magnificent Victoria Falls [LEARN MORE](#) – world's largest waterfall, Water Rafting on River Zambezi, Bungee Jump, Sunset Cruise on River Zambezi

## ARRIVAL AND MEET - UP

Arrive in Victoria Falls no later than Oct 14th, no later than 1 pm. We will spend one night here before the program starts. We place 3-5 people per large vehicle. If you choose, we can arrange your extra nights before and after) at \$150 per day at a mid-range accommodation. to arrive early. We can help also help with activities.

## PASSPORT AND VISA

A valid passport is required to enter and depart Zimbabwe. Be sure your passport is valid for at least six months beyond your stay and has a couple of blank pages remaining. For visa application forms or more information, visit [www.evisa.gov.zw/home](http://www.evisa.gov.zw/home) or contact your nearest Zimbabwe Embassy or mission. Be sure to provide a scan of your passport photo, which we attach to our application letter and communications with Zimbabwe Immigration. Pay for the visa in cash – USD.

## ZAMBIA OR ZIMBABWE

When planning a visit to Victoria Falls, one of the primary concerns for many individuals is deciding between Zambia and Zimbabwe. They often ask themselves, "Which country should I choose?" If you're looking for helpful information, [click here](#) to assist you in making this decision, or don't hesitate to reach out to us for guidance.

## What is a KAZA UniVisa?

It is a special visa that allows entry into Zimbabwe and Zambia as frequently as you like (for 30 days). If your nationality requires you to have a visa for both countries, it is cheaper than buying a separate visa for both countries. It also allows you to enter Botswana for a day trip and return to Zambia or Zimbabwe. Please also read the SIDE NOTE at the bottom of this page for more details: [UniVisa Zimbabwe Zambia](#)





# Hwange National Park



Hwange National Park, established in 1929, is a vast protected area covering over 14,000 square kilometers in Zimbabwe. The park's water sources are primarily dependent on rivers and natural groundwater seeps, as well as artificial pumping from underground boreholes. The northern and northwestern parts of the park are drained by the Deka and Lukosi rivers, along with their tributaries. In the far southern region, the Gwabadzabuya River, a tributary of the Nata River, serves as a drainage channel. These rivers play a crucial role in providing water to the respective areas they pass through.



You will be assigned to a particular watering spot called Nehimba Seeps, which stands out as one of the few places in the vast Hwange National Park where surface water naturally exists throughout the year. This seepage is an ancient water source that was previously utilized by the San Bushmen and continues to serve as a crucial provider of water and minerals for elephants, particularly during drought periods. Given that 2015 is already anticipated to be a significantly arid year, elephants occupy the seeps from mid-afternoon until late at night, leaving other animals with the necessity to visit the watering holes prior to dawn and during the morning.



Funding for maintaining and developing water sources in Hwange National Park is raised annually, and the administration of these funds is overseen by Wildlife Environment Zimbabwe. Strict checks are in place to ensure the appropriate use of funds, and the procurement of fuel and spare parts is supervised by Gary Cantle, who assists the National Parks authorities. By managing and maintaining these water sources, both natural and artificial, the park aims to support the diverse wildlife population and provide sustainable habitats for a wide range of species within Hwange National Park.



Please access the park map by clicking on the provided [link](#).



Here is a [checklist](#) of some of the flora and fauna on location.



All participants are required to view all four segments of the orientation provided. The training sessions have been included as podcasts accessible through the links below, available on popular podcast platforms such as Spotify, Apple Podcasts, Pocket Casts, and more.

- [Part 1 Podcast](#)
- [Part 2 Podcast](#)
- [Part 3 Podcast](#)

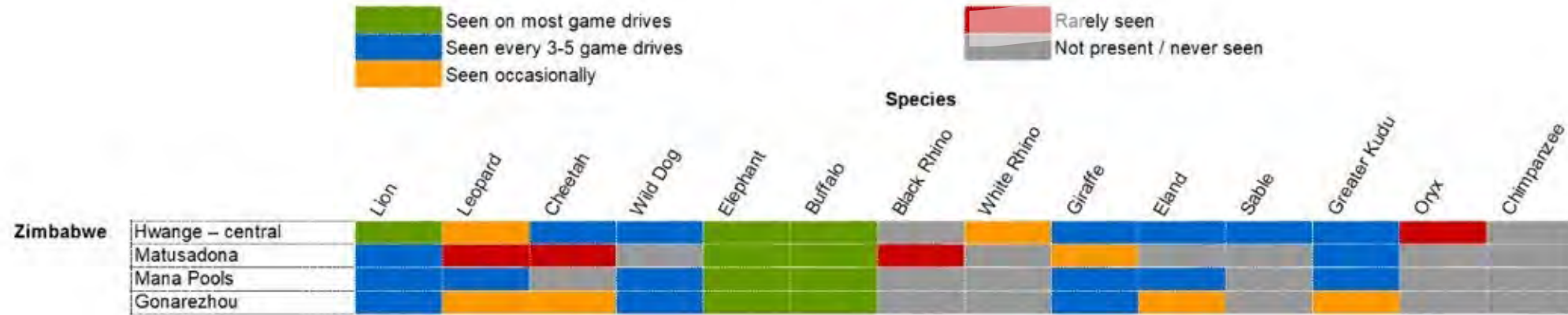


To access the visual component of the presentation, please refer to the provided links below.

- [Part 1 Visual](#)
- [Part 2 Visual](#)
- [Part 3 Visual](#)



## The best places to see particular species



Hwange National Park occupies a prominent position in Zimbabwe as the largest game reserve. Situated in the western part of the country, it lies between Bulawayo and Victoria Falls. Renowned as one of Africa's finest wildlife sanctuaries, Hwange National Park boasts an impressive array of over 100 mammal species and 400 bird species. It serves as a haven for various animals, particularly large herds of elephants, buffaloes, zebras, and a significant population of giraffes.

Hwange National Park safeguards all of Zimbabwe's specially protected animals, making it the exclusive habitat where one can find a substantial number of gemsboks and brown hyenas. Notably, the park is home to one of the largest surviving groups of African wild dogs in Africa today, comparable to those found in Kruger National Park and Selous Game Reserve. Additionally, prominent predators like lions, leopards, spotted hyenas, and cheetahs inhabit the area.

An interesting characteristic of Hwange National Park is the absence of a natural, year-round water source. Consequently, the park and its wildlife heavily rely on an intricate system of pumps and pans to obtain water during the dry season. These pans, acting as focal points, attract large gatherings of animals, creating exceptional opportunities for photography.

The following books are also recommended for those looking to educate themselves on the animals you will be seeing:

- [SASOL Birds of Southern Africa](#)
- [Wild mammals: A field guide and introduction to the mammals of Rhodesia](#)
- [Pocket Guide to Mammals of Southern Africa](#)



## LIONS

Around 500 lions, possibly reaching up to 700, inhabit the Hwange ecosystem. These lions are distinct among the cat family as they are the sole social members. To express greetings, they engage in facial and neck rubbing to share a common pride scent. They also engage in allogrooming, which involves cleaning each other as a means of strengthening bonds or seeking favor from the dominant male. The pride members are so interconnected that they even care for and nurse each other's offspring. However, this generalization is not always accurate, as males can actually be highly efficient hunters. Nonetheless, their large manes often hinder their ability to conceal themselves during a stalk. On the other hand, female African lions are swifter in sprints, while the larger and heavier males are typically required to bring down larger and stronger prey.

[Watch](#) the African wildlife lions gathering at a waterhole in Hwange National Park.



## ELEPHANT

Hwange National Park in Zimbabwe boasts one of Africa's largest elephant populations, with an estimated 44,000 of these majestic creatures inhabiting the park's expansive 14,651 km<sup>2</sup> area. This remarkable figure accounts for nearly half of Zimbabwe's entire elephant population, making Hwange a vital sanctuary for these magnificent animals. The park is renowned for its remarkable "Super herds," consisting of up to 350 elephants, a phenomenon unique to the Hwange region. These elephants hold immense significance, constituting a staggering 90% of the park's total biomass. Witnessing a Super herd gathering at the watering hole in Hwange is an awe-inspiring experience, where one can observe hundreds of elephants splashing, spouting, and skillfully using their versatile trunks to drink from the watering holes. One particularly delightful aspect is observing the younger elephants. The playful and curious nature of the calves is a joy to behold as they frolic, explore, and happily roll around in the mud.

To access valuable videos showcasing the wildlife of elephants in Hwange National Park, please [click here](#).



## BUFFALO

The African or Cape buffalo, distinct from the domestic water buffalo, is the sole wild cattle species found in Africa. It is important to note that the subspecies found in southern and eastern Africa (S.c. caffer) are larger, while the smaller reddish forest buffalo of west and central Africa (S.c. nanus) represent the other subspecies. The males of this species are truly impressive creatures, surpassing the females in size. They possess curved horns that meet at the base, forming a bony shield known as a boss. Buffalos are categorized as bulk grazers and have a daily requirement for water.

[Watch](#) Cape Buffalo drinking water hole in Hwange National Park.





## CHEETAH

In the entire country of Zimbabwe, the number of cheetahs is believed to be fewer than 150, and Hwange National Park proudly serves as the home for around 40 of these remarkable animals. The cheetah possesses a distinctive hunting strategy among Africa's large carnivores, relying on its incredible speed. With its long legs and deep chest, it is often referred to as the greyhound of the cat world, capable of reaching speeds exceeding 100 kilometers per hour in short bursts. Typically, cheetahs target small to medium-sized antelopes such as impala, springbok, and gazelles. While the cheetah shares a similar size to that of a leopard, it displays a slimmer build, a smaller head, and rounded, solid spots. Another notable feature is the presence of a unique black "tear" line beneath each eye. However, the cheetah's specialization comes with a downside—reduced resilience. This predator tends to relinquish its prey quickly, allowing other predators to scavenge. Furthermore, its silver-maned cubs are born in the open, leaving them vulnerable to attacks from hyenas and lions.

[Watch](#) the cheetah engaging in hunting activities within Hwange National Park.



## WILD DOG

Hwange National Park in Zimbabwe serves as a habitat for one of the most elusive predators on the African continent—the endangered African wild dog. Approximately 160 wild dogs, also referred to as "painted dogs" due to their colorful and patchy coats, reside in Hwange and the surrounding areas. Unfortunately, as more people settle near Hwange, the African wild dog population faces mounting challenges such as habitat fragmentation and conflicts between humans and wildlife. The African wild dog, often mistaken for a hyena, possesses distinct differences in both appearance and lifestyle. Its unique coat, which displays individual patterns, has earned it the nickname "painted wolf." Notable features include a white-tipped tail and large ears resembling those of Mickey Mouse. These wild dogs are specifically adapted for endurance, employing cooperative hunting strategies in packs to exhaust their prey and swiftly consume it. They typically target medium-sized antelopes like Impala. Packs consist of 2 to 27 members and revolve around a dominant breeding pair. These pairs often raise their offspring in abandoned aardvark burrows. When not in their den, the packs are constantly on the move, covering vast territories while attempting to avoid confrontations with their fierce competitors: lions and spotted hyenas.

[Watch](#) Wild Dogs on the move.



## GIRAFFE

The giraffes' unique markings serve as effective camouflage, allowing them to browse at heights beyond the reach of other herbivores. Their extraordinary anatomy necessitates remarkable adaptations, such as possessing the largest heart among land mammals, required to pump blood to their distant extremities. Giraffes typically move in loosely organized, single-sex herds, which may form larger groups during the dry season. Spotting giraffes in reserves where they inhabit is highly probable, as their towering silhouettes on the horizon or their pale ears contrasting against the distant greenery are often noticeable. These vigilant yet curious animals usually tolerate human presence, to a certain extent, even allowing close proximity on foot. During the dry season, larger gatherings of giraffes occur, especially at waterholes, where you can observe their cautious behavior before drinking. Fascinating displays of dominance occur during "necking" bouts, as males engage in ritualized head swings to establish hierarchy.

[Watch](#) Giraffes drinking in Hwange National Park – Zimbabwe.





## ELAND

The common eland, a massive tan-colored antelope, shares a genetic connection with kudus and other antelope species characterized by spiral horns. Both male and female elands exhibit a distinct square-shaped profile, although the bull's appearance is further enhanced by a prominent dewlap. The female elands possess longer and narrower straight horns compared to the males. In terms of size, the male elands, resembling oxen, are approximately twice as heavy as the females and can even reach the size of a buffalo. Eland herds, which can sometimes consist of several hundred individuals, roam extensively in search of food. They inhabit various open habitats, ranging from arid bush to grassy highlands. During the rainy season, elands primarily graze, but they may switch to browsing as the drier winter months set in. Although they are relatively slow-moving animals, elands are capable of leaping impressive heights when necessary. Female elands give birth to a single calf after a gestation period of nine months. In some regions, elands are currently being farmed for their meat and milk, indicating human interest in their resources.

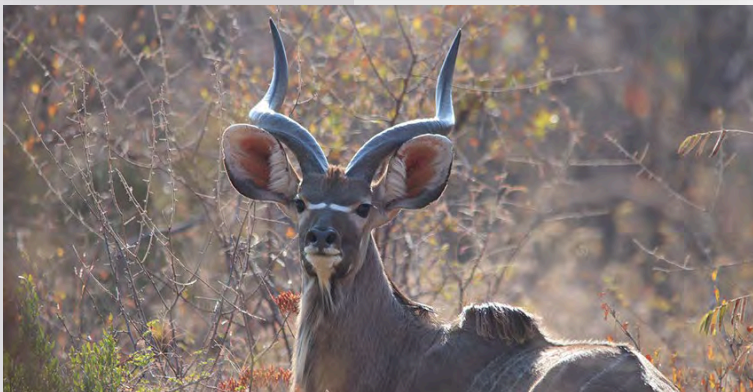
[Watch](#) Eland drinking in Hwange National Park – Zimbabwe.



## SABLE

The sable antelope, belonging to the Hippotraginae tribe known for its horse-like antelopes, shares its classification with oryx and the slightly larger roan antelope. Within the sable antelope species, scientists have identified four subspecies, with the giant sable of Angola being classified as Critically Endangered. Adult male sables exhibit a remarkable appearance, featuring a glossy black coat, a white belly, and distinct white facial stripes resembling those of a badger. Their majestic stature is further highlighted by a robust neck and long, backward-arching horns. In contrast, females and young sables are slimmer in shape, displaying a chestnut-brown coloration and shorter horns. Small herds consisting of females and young sables, accompanied by a single male bull, commonly inhabit moist savanna woodlands. In this habitat, they engage in both browsing and grazing for their sustenance. The male sable antelope assumes the role of protecting the herd against predators, employing its horns to deliver powerful sweeping blows. These antelopes are known to have successfully fought and killed lions in defense of their group.

[Watch](#) Young sable having a dual in Hwange National Park, Zimbabwe.



## GREATER KUDU

The two species of kudus, the Greater and Lesser Kudu, bear a resemblance to each other, although Greater Kudus are larger in size compared to their lesser counterparts. Adult male Greater Kudus can stand over 5 feet tall, while male Lesser Kudus reach about 4 feet in height. Greater Kudu bulls also outweigh Lesser Kudus by several hundred pounds. Both species possess long horns that curve upward and slightly backward in a corkscrew shape. Their coats exhibit a reddish-brown coloration, adorned with slender white stripes along their flanks, although the number of stripes can vary depending on the species. Male Greater Kudus are significantly larger than females and are more vocal, producing various sounds such as low grunts, clucks, humming, and gasping. In the wild, Greater Kudus have a lifespan of 7 to 8 years, but they can live up to 23 years in captivity. They are active throughout the day and night. As herbivores, their diet primarily consists of plants. They are grazers, consuming a variety of leaves, stems, buds, flowers, fruits, and other plant parts. Although trees make up a significant portion of their diet, they also feed on shrubs and small bushes. Despite their wide distribution, they are thinly scattered in most regions due to factors such as habitat decline, deforestation, and poaching.

[Watch](#) Greater Kudu drink water.





## LEOPARD

The leopard is a highly adaptable and formidable predator known for its wide range in size and habitat. It relies on its strength, stealth, and camouflage to launch surprise attacks on prey at close range. While its primary targets are typically small to medium-sized antelopes, leopards have been known to prey on a diverse range of animals, including birds and even young giraffes. They are predominantly active during the night, showcasing exceptional agility as climbers. Unlike other big cats, leopards have a unique behavior of using trees as storage sites for their prey, known as "larders." Distinctive features for identifying leopards include their long tails, often curled with a white tip, and their striking rosette patterns, which differ from the solid spots seen on cheetahs. Male leopards are approximately one-third larger than females, possessing a larger head and a more pronounced throat. Adult leopards are primarily solitary, although cubs may remain with their mothers for up to 18 months. Leopards have a widespread distribution, inhabiting diverse environments ranging from mountains to rainforests. However, they are particularly well-suited to savannah and woodland habitats, where they are most commonly observed. As highly territorial animals, leopards exhibit a tendency to repeatedly appear in the same area, marking and defending their territories against intruders. This behavior increases the chances of spotting leopards in specific locations where they establish their presence consistently.

[Watch](#) the amazing Leopards roam in Hwange National Park.



## WHITE RHINO

The white rhino, following elephants, holds the distinction of being the second-largest land animal in the world, with an average weight nearly double that of the black rhino. Contrary to its name, the term "white" refers not to its color but possibly originates from the Dutch word "wijd," which means "wide," describing its broad mouth adapted for grazing. Several distinguishing features set the white rhino apart from the black rhino. It possesses a massive head that is typically held low, a humped shoulder, and a distinctive ridge resembling a fin along its spine. White rhinos gather in small groups consisting of females and young individuals, often grazing on designated areas known as "lawns." Adult male white rhinos are solitary and mark their territories using prominent dung piles. Females give birth to a single calf approximately every three years, with the newborn lacking a horn. The modern-day population of white rhinos can be traced back to the KwaZulu-Natal region of South Africa, which served as their last refuge by the year 1900. Although most of the existing population still thrives in reserves in South Africa, including the Kruger National Park, efforts have been made to reintroduce the species to selected reserves in countries such as Botswana, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Eswatini, and Kenya. Due to the ongoing threat of poaching, strict security measures are enforced wherever white rhinos are found to ensure their conservation. Excellent opportunities for observing these animals often arise around waterholes, where they regularly drink, or at mud wallows, where they seek relief from the midday heat.

[Watch](#) this amazing crash of White Rhinos.







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