

Into the Valley: a Zambian adventure

13-21 September 2020

Location: South Luangwa, Zambia

Group size 6; Cost GBP 6,495



AN 8 NIGHT, 9 DAY PHOTOGRAPHIC AND WILDLIFE VIEWING ADVENTURE TO ONE OF THE MOST EXCITING WILDLIFE AREAS OF SOUTHERN AFRICA, **THE LUANGWA VALLEY IN ZAMBIA**. THIS TRIP IS **ESCORTED THROUGHOUT** BY ANDY SKILLEN, AND IS GEARED TO GIVE YOU **A SUPERIOR PHOTOGRAPHIC EXPERIENCE IN UNCROWDED SHOOTING** CONDITIONS AT WHAT IS THE **IDEAL TIME** TO BE IN THE REGION TO SEEK OUT THE **FULL RANGE OF WILDLIFE** – AVIAN AND TERRESTRIAL – THAT THE LUANGWA VALLEY HAS TO OFFER.

WITH A **MAXIMUM GROUP SIZE OF JUST 6**, YOU ARE **GUARANTEED PLENTY OF TUITION TIME, AND ALSO PLENTY OF ROOM IN WHICH TO WORK**. THIS TRIP IS TIMED TO MAXIMISE YOUR POSSIBILITIES OF VIEWING AFRICA'S PREDATORS, AND WE HAVE AN EXCELLENT RECORD OF LOCATING SEVERAL LION PRIDES AND NUMEROUS LEOPARDS ON EVERY VISIT. BY HAVING SOLE USE OF THE CHAMILANDU BUSHCAMP FOR FIVE NIGHTS, WE CAN ALSO HAVE **MOST SIGHTINGS** IN THAT PART OF THE PARK **TO OURSELVES** – IMPOSSIBLE ELSEWHERE AND ARE GRANTED MORE FREEDOM IN TERMS OF ROAMING TO SEEK PHOTO ENCOUNTERS.

SOME PHOTO SAFARIS WILL TRY AND TAKE YOU IN OCTOBER...BUT ANDY HAS PHOTOGRAPHED THE VALLEY FOR MORE THAN 15 YEARS, AND KNOWS THAT MONTH IS SIMPLY TOO HOT, RESTRICTING YOUR SHOOTING DAY HOURS AS A RESULT. IT IS FOR A REASON, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT THE LODGES CONSIDER OCTOBER A "SHOULDER" SEASON, AND LOWER THEIR RATES ACCORDINGLY!

INSTEAD, WE GO AT THE PEAK TIME FOR PHOTOGRAPHY, AND PUT YOU IN THE BEST PLACE POSSIBLE...SIMPLE REALLY!

TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

- **EXCLUSIVE GROUP SIZE OF JUST 6 GUESTS**
- **SPECIFICALLY TIMED TO COINCIDE WITH THE BEST VIEWING WEEKS IN THE VALLEY**
- **3 NIGHTS IN THE FANTASTIC MFUWE LODGE**
- **5 NIGHTS IN OUR EXCLUSIVE, SOLE-USE BUSH CAMP ON THE BANK OF THE LUANGWA RIVER; NO OTHER GUESTS!**
- **CANOPY-FREE, PRIVATE VEHICLE THROUGHOUT WITH CAMERA SUPPORTS**
- **ON-FOOT AND IN VEHICLE PHOTOGRAPHY OPPORTUNITIES** DEPENDING ON SITUATION
- **PRIVATE USE OF THE GROUND LEVEL HIDE AT CHAMILANDU DURING THE MIDDLE OF EACH DAY**
- **ESCORTED THROUGHOUT BY ANDY SKILLEN**
- **AS MUCH, OR AS LITTLE, PHOTOGRAPHIC TUITION AS NEEDED!**

COSTS AND LOGISTICS

- **Group size:** 6 guests only
- **Cost:** **GBP 6,495** per person, based on twin-share accommodation
- **Start point:** Lusaka Airport, Zambia
- **End point:** Lusaka Airport, Zambia

Note: You will be met at Lusaka International and escorted through the immigration and baggage area to meet up with Andy “land-side”. Your flight to Mfuwe is included in the price, and departs late afternoon. If arriving early in the day (via Nairobi perhaps) or the day before (via Addis Ababa), then we can also arrange at no charge for you to visit one of the charitable projects we support – the elephant orphanage on the outskirts of Lusaka.

WHAT'S INCLUDED...

- Airport meet and greet in Lusaka
- Internal flight from Lusaka to Mfuwe
- 3 nights accommodation at Mfuwe Lodge (all meals included)
- All game viewing and guided activities in our own private vehicle
- Transfer to the remote Chamilandu bushcamp through South Luangwa National Park
- 5 nights accommodation at Chamilandu (all meals and drinks included except premium)
- All taxes, park entry, conservation and community fees
- Laundry at Mfuwe Lodge and at Chamilandu
- Transfer back to Mfuwe airport at the end of the trip
- English-speaking guides throughout
- Full photographic assistance and tuition for the trip



WHAT'S NOT...

- Visa fees if applicable (please check if your country requires a visa to enter Zambia)
- International flights to Lusaka, Zambia (we can advise on which flight to book)
- Gratuities
- Items of a personal nature
- Alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks at Mfuwe Lodge
- Bottled wines at Chamilandu

YOUR ITINERARY....

Days 1-3: Arrive Lusaka, fly to Mfuwe and transfer to Mfuwe Lodge (3 nights)

Zambia, or Zambiaahhhhhhh..... as I have always referred to it, is arguably my favourite destination across all of Southern Africa. The people, the landscapes, the emptiness and remoteness of so much of the country make for a fantastic experience in their own right, and when you add in the teeming wildlife then you have one of the continent's leading safari destinations. And yet, Zambia remains a country that does not feature heavily on the standard itineraries offered by so many companies. For me, the wildlife viewing and photography in this beautiful place have always exceeded my requirements, and I have spent many happy years photographing in this incredible country.

On your first day we will meet you at Lusaka airport, and transfer you to our short internal flight (all included) to Mfuwe, the gateway to the valley. From here it is a short 45 minute drive to the lodge, enabling us to arrive just before sundown and get out on a short night drive to blow away the cobwebs and get a feel for the immediate environment

The next two full days will be spent with early starts and late finishes (but don't worry, there's some time in the middle of the day to catch up on sleep, editing and discuss ideas and issues!), crammed with photo opportunities. Andy only works with the best guides in the region: he knows them, and they know him, and as such you are assured at all times that the best chances are put in front of you to capture some memorable imagery. Of course, Andy is there continually to assist and advise both technically, and also in terms of context and the type of image you can get from a scene.

Days 4-8: Chamilandu bush camp (5 nights)

After some outstanding viewing in the central area of the park, we transfer south to our remote bush camp in an area where our is the only vehicle you are likely to only see all day! The drive through the park takes a few hours, and on arrival we settle in, and head out for our first afternoon drive. Andy always chooses Chamilandu as it has an excellent ground-level hide on site, is well placed for lion prides, leopard activity and – in many years – wild dog. There are also defined crossing points for elephants just a short drive from the camp, and to the north, all visible from the camp itself, are other points used by giraffe. We have a huge number of options here, including full day drives to the far south, or even far north, of the park.

The bush camp is situated in the remote southern section of the park, far away from other lodges, and will give you a complete immersion into the ways and pace of the African bush. If you have never stayed in a remote bush camp, then you are in for a very special treat indeed. From here, we will conduct game viewing by vehicle during the day and night, and also on foot (daylight only obviously!) if the mood takes us, or the situation demands it. This is where Zambia really comes into its own; there is nothing more exciting than photographing and watching wildlife whilst sharing the same piece of soil as them. Of course, we will always be accompanied by an experienced armed guide who will be imparting their incredible knowledge and

tracking skills to the group, getting us into some exciting encounters...and always ensuring we're kept safe! To feel Africa beneath your feet connects it directly to your soul (no pun intended!), and for many, a stay at one of these remote bush camps can be a life-changing experience. Andy will ensure every day presents you as many different situations to test and extend your photographic abilities as nature will allow, as well as ensuring you are soaking up the remoteness of this very special place. Having the entire bush camp for our exclusive use is of course a huge benefit also...with no other guests to spoil the party! Only travelling with us can ensure you of this experience.

This is the Africa you've dreamed of, and a far cry from the over-worked, over-run destinations that other parts of the continent will offer. I will also be on hand throughout the trip to make sure you get as much, or as little, guidance as you need with the camera, and to help ensure you capture some very special memories.

Day 9: leave Chamilandu, transfer to Mfuwe and back to Lusaka

Of course, all good things come to an end, but even though this is our last day, we ensure we get a full morning's activities in, so there's still plenty of time to get those last images and use up that remaining space on those memory cards! Returning to our bush camp for brunch, we will then bid our farewells and make our way through the park, stopping off for afternoon tea at Mfuwe Lodge on the way, before reaching the airport in time for the flight back to Lusaka. A great, unhurried end to your trip. The flight to Lusaka does arrive in time for connections via Dubai and Nairobi, but not Johannesburg, should you wish to leave Zambia that night. Otherwise, we can advise on a hotel to stay in Lusaka before you travel on the next day.



WHAT DO I DO NEXT?

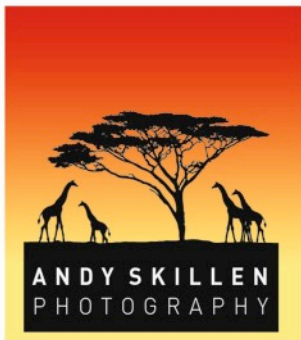
To reserve your space on this very special adventure, either:

- a. send an email to Andy@faunavista.com or Carrie@faunavista.com to register your interest and receive a booking form
- b. download the generic booking form using the link on the page from where you obtained your itinerary, fill it out, and send it to either email address as above.



Charity...a permanent winner

Andy's photography is all about giving something back; back to a world that has given him such a wealth of memorable experiences and opportunities. As a result, a proportion of all the profits we make from every perspective of Andy's work is donated to some of the world's leading wildlife charities. These include the David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation (DSWF), Animals Asia and the Bushlife Foundation – for which Andy and Carrie are the UK ambassadors. Your holiday is not just therefore an adventure for yourself, your friends and your family, but a true contributor to the frontline of wildlife conservation.



CHANGING THE IMAGE OF WILDLIFE TRAVEL...

