

The Magic of Mana

Trip dates: 6-15 September 2024

Location: Mana Pools, Zimbabwe

Group size: 4; Cost GBP 8,995 per person

ANDY SKILLEN
PHOTOGRAPHY



A **9 NIGHT, 10 DAY** PHOTOGRAPHIC AND WILDLIFE VIEWING ADVENTURE TO ONE OF THE MOST EXCITING WILDLIFE AREAS OF SOUTHERN AFRICA. THIS TRIP IS **ESCORTED THROUGHOUT BY ANDY SKILLEN**, AND IS GEARED TO GIVE YOU A SUPERIOR PHOTOGRAPHIC EXPERIENCE IN UNCROWDED SHOOTING CONDITIONS.

WITH A **GROUP SIZE OF JUST 4**, 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 MOST ELUSIVE PREDATORS – WILD DOGS – AS THEY TRANSITION FROM THE DENNING PHASE TO HUNTING ON THE FLOODPLAIN. BY WORKING WITH THE RESEARCH TEAMS IN THE REGION, **WE INCREASE OUR CHANCES OF SPECTACULAR ENCOUNTERS**. WE WILL ALSO SEEK OUT THE PARK'S OTHER ICONIC WILDLIFE, INCLUDING – BUT NOT JUST! - ITS PROLIFIC LION POPULATION AND **"STANDING" ELEPHANTS**, AS WELL AS AN ENDLESS LIST OF OTHER POSSIBILITIES TO EXPAND THAT PHOTOGRAPHIC PORTFOLIO.

THE MAGIC OF MANA IS A PHOTOGRAPHIC SPELL THAT ONCE CAST, IS NEVER FORGOTTEN!

TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

- EXCLUSIVE GROUP SIZE OF JUST 4 GUESTS
- 3 NIGHTS IN A REMOTE TENTED CAMP DEEP IN THE HEART OF THE NATIONAL PARK AT CHITAKE SPRINGS
- 6 NIGHTS IN OUR EXCLUSIVE TENTED CAMP ON THE BANKS OF THE ZAMBEZI RIVER; NO OTHER GUESTS!
- OPTIONS FOR AN AFTERNOON CANOE TRIP FOR WATER-LEVEL SHOTS OF HIPPOS, ELEPHANTS, CROCODILES AND OTHER WILDLIFE
- ON-FOOT PHOTOGRAPHY OPPORTUNITIES OF ELEPHANTS, WILD DOGS, LIONS AND MORE AS WELL AS FROM OUR PRIVATE-USE VEHICLE
- WORKING WITH THE TEAM THAT TRACKS AND CATALOGUES WILD DOG MOVEMENT IN THE VALLEY
- ESCORTED THROUGHOUT BY ANDY SKILLEN
- AS MUCH, OR AS LITTLE, PHOTOGRAPHIC TUITION AS NEEDED!

COSTS AND LOGISTICS

- Group size: 4 guests only
- **GBP 8,995** per person, based on twin-share accommodation
- Start point: Harare International airport
- End point: Harare International airport

Note: The price quoted includes a return bush-flight from Harare International, directly into Mana Pools (and of course, back again at the end of the trip!). If you wish to travel via Victoria Falls, then this is also possible to arrange, but the bush flight is slightly more expensive. Let us know if you'd prefer that route, and we'll advise of the additional charge. To access either Victoria Falls or Harare, the most common route is via Johannesburg, from where there are a couple of flights each day to either location.

WHAT'S INCLUDED...

- 3 nights accommodation at Chitake Springs bush camp
- 6 nights accommodation and exclusive use of Little Vundu tented camp
- All meals and drinks throughout
- Private vehicle throughout the trip
- All guiding fees, both for vehicle viewing and tracking on foot
- Meet & Greet at Harare International Airport
- Bush flight transfers to/from Harare

WHAT'S NOT...

- International and/or any domestic flight to/from the itinerary start/end points
- Items of a personal nature
- Visa fees as appropriate (if required, you pay these in cash on arrival at immigration)
- Departure tax for bush flights from either Harare or Vic Falls (US\$15, payable in cash)
- Gratuities

YOUR ITINERARY

Days 1-3: Arrive in Mana Pools, Chitake Springs (3 nights)

You will be met from your inbound flight and transferred to the domestic "bush flight" base at Harare. Here your pilot will escort you to the aircraft, load up and fly you the 70-90 minutes to Mana Pools. This is a spectacular start – flying over the Kariba Dam and down the Zambezi valley on the way, with Zambia on one side, and Zimbabwe on the other. On arrival, Andy will meet you at the airstrip along with your guide, and we will transfer to our temporary, private tented camp at Chitake Springs for our first overnight stay. The journey will provide our first photo opportunities of course as we head inland towards the camp, and what is a very remote part of this special National Park. On arrival, we will settle in, head for a short walk to the nearby Springs, and start exercising those shutter fingers! The next two full days will be spent in the Chitake Springs area, and we will do game drives and walks around the hills and floodplains that ultimately lead to the river, around our camp. This will be your first chance to get practicing with "on foot" photography in the park, and experimenting with angles and composition. The afternoons will be spent concentrating on the Springs themselves, which as the only source of perpetual water in the area at this time of year, prove a major draw for all the wildlife, both carnivore and herbivore. This is a fantastic, hidden part of Africa. With just FOUR people in the group, you will be assured of plenty of tuition time, and masses of space in which to work.

Days 4-9: Transfer to our tented camp by the Zambezi (6 nights)

Waking early to catch any local activity before heading off, today we will load up and wend our way towards the mighty Zambezi river, and our exclusive use tented camp right on the banks of the river...with no other guests. From this very special, unfenced base – through which it is not unusual to share with elephants during the day – we will explore the woodlands, floodplains, pools and drainages which make up the mosaic of Mana. It is in this period that we will be focusing even more on predators, particularly African wild dog and lion, as well as some of the most iconic bull elephants in southern Africa. In fact, sometimes we might get so close to the subjects...on foot...that we would almost be able to touch them. Under the guidance of our personal, armed guide – and I work with some of the best in the entire country – we may be able to have some truly adrenaline-pumping experiences, pushing your photography to an entirely new level. We will also provide the opportunity for a canoe trip one afternoon (wind permitting!), giving you the chance to be up close and personal to elephants, hippos and crocodiles and give you the chance for some great wide angle shooting from an entirely different perspective. Nights will bring us clear skies – most of the time! – and depending on the the moon phase, we will grab the chance for some astrophotography.

Day 10: One last safari...and onward!

Sadly, all good things must come to an end. However, although this is our last day, we will do our best to find some opportunities to fill a few more cards before we make our way to the airstrip and your flight out.

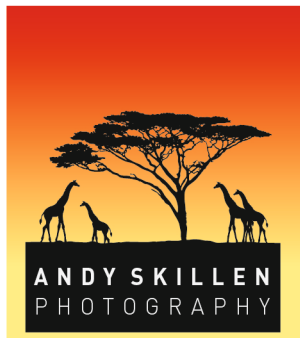
WHAT DO I DO NEXT?

To reserve your space on this very special adventure,

send an email to Andy@faunavista.com to register your interest and receive a booking form.

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...**