

Natureways

S A F A R I S

Experience the real flow of Africa



Modus Operandi



Huge storm! Luckily we got camp set up before it broke... We saw a huge herd of eles early this morning - couple of calves too. Managed to get a bit of fishing in at lunch time - bream for dinner...

Odyssey Safaris

BACKED UP SAFARIS

GENERAL INFORMATION

- Odyssey Safaris are fully backed-up safaris - meaning clients can sit back and relax while everything is taken care of.
- We take a minimum of 2 and a maximum of 8 people (special arrangements can be made for larger groups upon request).
- Our minimum age limit is 14 years - there is no maximum age limit but common sense should be used.
- No previous canoeing experience is necessary but guests should be reasonably fit and healthy.
- There is no maximum luggage weight, as luggage will be transferred by vehicle from camp to camp.

Animals seen on the trip usually include elephant, buffalo, impala, waterbuck, hippo, crocodile and plentiful birdlife. Lion, leopard, painted hunting dog etc. are more rarely seen but are certainly in the area. We cannot guarantee plenty of game while on safari, particularly during the green (rainy) season.

As Odyssey Safaris are fully backed-up they are more luxurious than our Explorer (semi-participatory) Safaris. Guests enjoy the services of a fully qualified professional guide who as well as guiding clients on the Zambezi River, can take clients for guided walks or game drives through National Parks.

Odyssey Safaris do NOT include transfers. Clients are able to charter return flights to Mana Pools National Park to maximise time spent on safari. Commercial flights can be arranged to and from Harare, Kariba, Victoria Falls, Hwange, Lusaka or Livingstone. Please contact us for assistance booking charter flights or transfers. Alternatively guests may make their own way to Mana Pools by driving. For all canoe safaris, please arrive by 11:30am at the latest to be able to fit an afternoon of canoeing.

Additional nights can be added to any safari - for example, start a safari with a Camp Zambezi so you are well rested, before starting a 3 day Mana Shoreline Canoe Safari, or alternatively end a canoe safari with a Camp Zambezi so that you have an extra day to relax on the shores of the Zambezi. Please contact us with any special requests so that Natureways is able to tailor a safari to your needs.



DAILY ROUTINE

Generally the Odyssey routine is similar to that of an Explorer Canoe Safari, however, with a few deserved luxuries. You will be awakened early, warm water will be placed in a basin outside your tent, while freshly brewed coffee awaits you on the campfire. All will have the opportunity to have something to eat before setting out on safari. There is the option of going for an early morning walk or game drive before breakfast or, for the avid fisherman, there is time to pull out a rod. Odyssey Safaris are tailored to suite the individual. Camp is set up and taken down by our staff to ensure that guests spend as much time as possible doing safari activities or simply enjoying their surroundings.

ABLUTIONS

Natureways Odyssey Safari Camps have no permanent ablution facilities, however camps are served by the luxury of long drop toilets and, for night-use, all tents have en-suite chemical toilets. Guest can also revel in a luxurious hot shower underneath the star-studded expanse of the African sky.

BACK UP STATUS

All Odyssey Safaris are fully backed up with a Natureways team and 4x4 vehicle. The team will take care of all our guests' needs and camp chores. During our mobile safaris the camp will be taken down and all equipment and guest luggage will be transferred to the next campsite by vehicle after guests have left for their day's activity be it canoeing or walking.

EQUIPMENT SUPPLIED

All camping equipment is supplied.

Our Odyssey Safaris are true bush camps, but offering a little rustic luxury – there is no electricity or plumbing and there are no permanent structures. It is a taste of the way a safari used to be - a truly authentic, African bush experience. Camps are eco-friendly, designed to be erected and dismantled within hours, leaving no trace on the environment.

Natureways has custom-built tents to guarantee guest comfort: they are spacious walk-in style tents supplied with en-suite toilet facilities for night-use and comfortable beds with fresh linen. Stationary camp tents are mosquito-proof with mosquito-gauzed rooves so guests can lie in bed and enjoy the night sky. (All our tents have fly sheets to ensure no one gets wet if it does rain! They also provide shade should one want an afternoon sleep).

Odyssey camps are fully equipped with a mobile kitchen run by an experienced bush cook, bar facilities and a dining area with full waiter service.



*Got really close to a huge ele!
Saw painted dogs and lots of
different birds. Had a fabulous
lunch in the river on a sandbank...
this is the life.*



FOOD

All produce is brought in fresh and meals are prepared in camp by one of our famed bush cooks. All breads and pastries are freshly baked on the open campfire. Vegetarian or other dietary preferences can be catered to providing Natureways is advised 14 days prior to the safari.

Breakfast may consist of cereals, yoghurt, muffins, biscuits, pancakes, toast and jams. On the last day of safari, a full English breakfast will be laid on for clients to enjoy.

Lunch is usually fresh quiche, lasagne or similar with a varied selection freshly baked bread, salads and cheeses.

Dinners are full 3-course meals with various starters, delicious main courses and sumptuous deserts all eaten by candlelight under the stars, accompanied by an imported bottle of wine.

DRINKS

All Odyssey Safaris include a supply of local beers, spirits, imported wines, minerals, cordials, mineral water, tea and coffee. Drinks are served by our friendly camp staff whilst guests relax. We recommend you contact Natureways with any drink preferences i.e. if a particular brand of local beer is preferred. Clients are also free to bring their own beverages, cooler boxes can be set aside for this purpose. There is no limit to the amount of beverages you may bring.





WHAT TO BRING

We recommend you pack the following for your Safari:

- Swimming/bathing costume
- Shorts and T-shirts
- Personal Toiletries
- Canvas shoes or rafting sandals, a comfortable pair of hiking shoes for those on a walking safari
- Hat with a wide brim
- Jacket or sweater for the evenings
- Shirts (including a long sleeved one for sun protection)
- A kikoi (or sarong) to cover your legs to protect them from the sun
- Torch or flashlight and extra batteries
- Film and spare camera batteries
- Binoculars
- Sunscreen
- Insect repellent
- Socks for winter nights
- Warm clothes to sleep in on winter nights
- Waterproof bags for personal items
- Money for National Parks Fees as well as identification documents where relevant

Natureways Safaris recommends clients take a course anti malaria medication before travelling to Africa, please consult with your doctor or GP.

Please ensure that you advise Natureways Safaris or your travel agent of any medical or dietary requirements at least 14 days before your trip departs.

COSTS INCLUDE

- All transfers from Main Camp - Nyamepi or airstrips are in open 4x4 vehicles, please be advised that roads can be dusty and bumpy.
- All meals - We do cater for dietary preferences, such as vegetarian or diabetic however we require advance warning - at least 14 days
- Drinks - Including local beers, spirits, imported wines, minerals, cordials, mineral water, tea and coffee. Guests are free to bring their own drinks.
- All canoeing equipment - Canoes are two-man, Canadian-style canoes, and the paddles are American Carlisle paddles.
- All camping equipment.
- Professional guide.

**PLEASE NOTE THAT COSTS DO NOT INCLUDE NATIONAL PARKS FEES WHICH ARE PAYABLE DIRECTLY TO PARKS EN-ROUTE.
PLEASE ASK YOUR AGENT OR CONTACT US FOR THE FEE BEFORE TRAVEL.**



CAMP CHITAKE SAFARI

CHITAKE SPRING IN MANA POOLS (4 Days / 3 Nights)

ODYSSEY SAFARI

ABOUT CHITAKE SPRING

The Chitake Spring is an area of crucial importance to the great variety of wildlife occurring in this southern part of Mana Pools National Park. Water gushes up out of the ground and flows for up to a kilometre along the otherwise dry riverbed of the Chitake River. The Chitake River rises in the Zambezi Escarpment on the very southern boundary of the Park and connects with the Ruckomechi River, which in turn snakes across the valley floor to the mighty Zambezi, 70kms away. Once the rains have begun properly, there is a torrent of water flowing in these systems but it generally dries up by April. As more of the surrounding waterholes dry out, the spring becomes essential to the survival of hundreds of creatures.

The high and rugged escarpment is only 8km away but game has to come down from the hills for water. The mixed mopane, combretum and acacia woodlands of the vast valley floor are home to many thirsty animals. As the dry season progresses the concentrations of wildlife increase, accompanied by huge flocks of doves, starlings, lovebirds, sparrows, finches, hornbills and sand grouse.

With such a diverse array of wildlife on the menu, this is the ideal spot for predators - lion, leopard, hyena, painted hunting dog, mongoose, snakes and a plethora of birds of prey enjoy the fine dining. Vultures are often seen in large numbers waiting for their next meal. Of course, the greatest shows are put on by the grey herds of thirsty elephant and black masses of buffalo. Experience the excitement of Chitake by camping right on the edge of the river, exploring its mini sandstone gorge and its wild woodlands. Long walks are taken from the spring area up into the different habitats of the hills or, when it is very dry, a hide can be made in bushes near the water - to blend into the environment and let everything come to you.

Chitake can be an extremely intense experience for the true naturalist and someone enjoys the challenge of nature. Walking, you have to concentrate particularly carefully on your surroundings, often remaining silent for hours to let the game close in. For the avid birder there is no disappointment as, with the combination of dry and wet - woodland and open scrub, mountain and plain, there are well over 300 possible bird species to be seen.



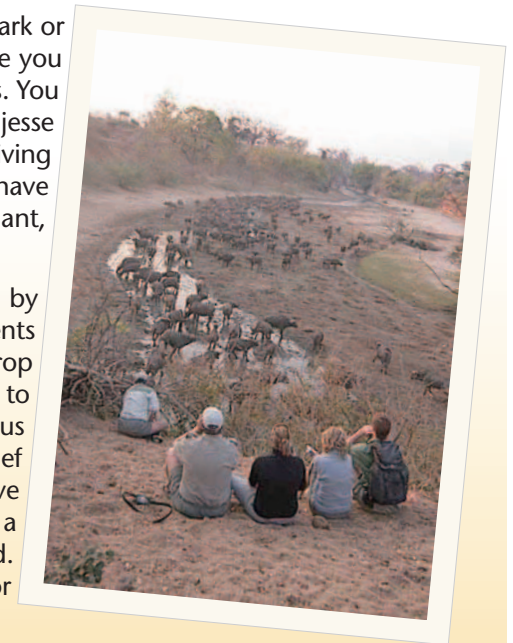
A naturalist will discover a plethora of things - bats, rodents, porcupine, honey badgers, bugs, beetles, butterflies, moths, hissing ants, spiders, scorpions, beautiful plants, giant baobabs, tracks and spoor.

This is not a "lodge". This is not a game drive. Chitake is for people who understand the Africa apart from the one found in a standard travel brochure. It is for the "Africophile" who likes their wildlife wild!

DAY ONE

Fly by air-charter into Mana Pools National Park or drive into Nyamepi, Mana Main Camp where you will be met by your guide with ice cold drinks. You will then embark on a 1.5 hour drive through jesse bush and mopane scrub to Camp Chitake arriving in time for lunch. You may, by then, already have met a few of your new neighbours - elephant, kudu, zebra, impala and many birds!

A mobile tented camp will have been set up by the camp staff - walk-in mosquito-proofed tents with en-suite chemical toilet, external long-drop toilets, hot showers and a dining area next to the fire where iced drinks and sumptuous bush-prepared meals will be served. Our chef will have prepared a delicious lunch to give you strength for the first afternoon's walk - a familiarisation walk to see the lay of the land. Then back to camp for sundowners, a hot (or cold if you prefer) shower, and a fine dinner.



DAY TWO

An early wake up, just as dawn breaks. Hot water for freshening up will be placed in raised basins outside each tent, while tea, freshly brewed coffee and muffins or home-made biscuits are already waiting by the campfire. The day's itinerary depends on what guests have agreed to with the guide - perhaps an early morning walk to watch the sunrise. These walks are customised to each group with regards to preferences, fitness level and interests. Walking options may include exploring the course of the Chitake River as it flows to the Ruckomechi river, hiking upstream towards the escarpment or visiting other waterholes in the woodlands. Alternatively, you may visit the dinosaur fossils or discover the inside of a hollow baobab that is the old lair of a leopard (and still has bones inside it).

Guests will return to camp for lunch and may set off on another walk afterwards or simply sit back and enjoy the African bush. Then back to camp for the night where, once again, a great meal, hot shower, cold drinks and friendly staff are awaiting.

DAY THREE

After early rising, there is the option of heading out immediately or of having breakfast before setting out on a whole day of hiking. Alternatively, stay near the spring to sit and watch for game.

In the cooler parts of the year - May to end August - we suggest doing longer walks from camp. As it gets drier and hotter - September to November - it is preferable to stay near the spring area through the heat of the day. Early and late walks are then more advisable.

Long viewing "sits" can be extremely rewarding as one gets to observe wildlife behaviours not possible when walking. Witnessing the natural daily cycle of activity gives one a greater understanding and appreciation of nature. Some of the mammals you may possibly encounter are impala, baboon, vervet monkey, kudu, Sharp's grysbok, elephant, buffalo, zebra and waterbuck. This third night will again be spent at the Chitake campsite - with all the trimmings.

DAY FOUR

Depending on guests' departure time, or if guests are moving on to a canoe trail or an alternative camp, they may either take another early walk before breakfast

or have a lie in! After that, there will be a game drive to the airstrip or back to Nyamepi, Mana Main Camp, where we bid you farewell!

As you depart with your memories, we know that this experience will have enriched your life and touched your soul!

SAFARI TIPS:

- Please note that Natureways also offer Mana Shoreline Walking and Canoeing Safaris.
- As an alternative, for group bookings, Natureways offers both Mana Shoreline Canoeing and Mana Shoreline Walking running simultaneously i.e. with up to 6 people on a Canoeing Safari and 6 people on a Walking Safari with everyone meeting up at sunset for drinks, dinner and over-nighting in the same sites and then after breakfast recommencing their separate safaris.
- Walks are dependant on animal and weather conditions at the time and there will be a back-up vehicle available if required or if clients do not want to walk the entire distance between camps.

PLEASE NOTE THAT COSTS DO NOT INCLUDE NATIONAL PARKS FEES WHICH ARE PAYABLE DIRECTLY TO PARKS EN-ROUTE.

PLEASE ASK YOUR AGENT OR CONTACT US FOR THE FEE BEFORE TRAVEL.

THIS ITINERARY IS GUIDELINE AND MAY CHANGE DUE TO UNFORESEEN CIRCUMSTANCES i.e. WEATHER CONDITIONS.



Notes





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