

ZIMBABWE

# THE WILD ZAMBEZI & VICTORIA FALLS

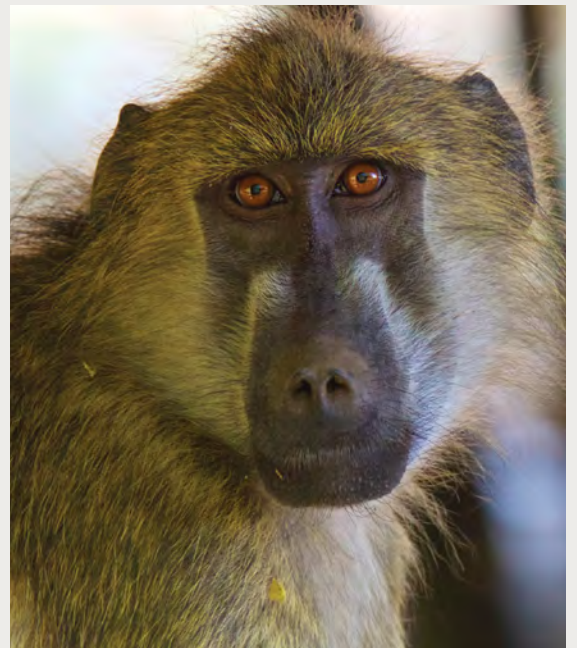
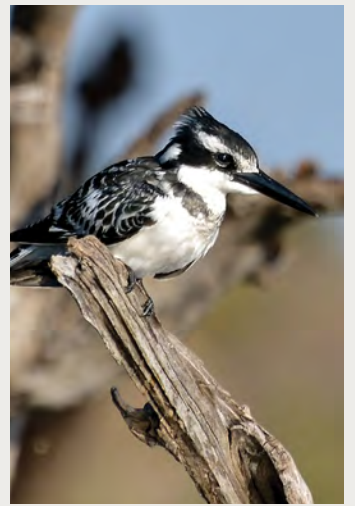
SEPTEMBER 4 – 13, 2022



*If it is wildlife you seek, look no further than this adventure to Zimbabwe. We have a terrific AWF team on the ground, led by Country Director Olivia Mufute. Join this specially curated safari and experience an anti-poaching unit in action; track rhinos in a conservancy supported by AWF; and visit Lupani, an AWF Classroom Africa school. You will spend two full days in Savé Valley Conservancy, a vast private reserve home to one of Africa's largest populations of black and white rhinos, as well as searching for hippos and crocodiles during a Zambezi River cruise. You will experience three diverse and wild destinations on this safari; Savé Valley, one of Africa's largest private reserves, the wildlife-rich flood plains of the Zambezi River, and the mighty Victoria Falls.*

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# THE WILD ZAMBEZI & VICTORIA FALLS

## DATES

September 4 – 13, 2022

## GROUP SIZE

Between 6 and 10

## PRICE

AWF exclusive price:

\$15,899/ £11,445 per person sharing



*If it's wildlife you seek, look no further than this adventure to Zimbabwe with AWF. Experience an anti-poaching unit in action; track rhinos in populations supported by AWF; and visit Lupani, an AWF Classroom Africa school. Travel by scenic bush flights into three diverse and wild destinations: Savé Valley, one of Africa's largest private reserves; the wildlife-rich flood plains of the Zambezi River; and the mighty Victoria Falls. Enjoy lantern-lit bush dinners, exclusive game drives and night drives, and track wildlife on foot with expert trackers and a professional Zimbabwean guide. Take an exciting cruise on pontoon boats to get up close to elephants, buffalos, and hippos. Stay in a luxurious safari lodge on the banks of the Zambezi River, with spectacular views of the Rift Valley escarpment.*

DAY 1

### ARRIVE IN HARARE, ZIMBABWE

Arrive in Harare and transfer to the Amanzi Lodge, which is surrounded by lovely gardens. Meet your AWF safari leader and fellow travelers for a briefing about your exciting journey ahead.

DAYS 2-4

### SAVÉ VALLEY CONSERVANCY

After breakfast, depart on a charter flight to the Savé Valley Conservancy. Located in Zimbabwe's southeastern lowveld, the conservancy comprises 750,000 acres of diverse wildlife habitat. Home to elephants, lions, leopards, buffalos, and rhinos, Savé Valley also boasts one of Africa's largest populations of black and white rhinos, along with a healthy population of rare wild dogs. Here, critically endangered species are carefully monitored and protected. Learn about AWF's work with the Savé Valley Rhino Conservancy and the anti-poaching measures in place here. On the banks of the seasonal Msaisi River, our tented camp's location puts us in the heart of the action. The intimate Sango Tented Camp is augmented with classic Meru mobile tents, to accommodate our group size. **Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner**

DAYS 5-7

### MANA POOLS

Board a flight back to Harare and connect to Mana Pools, Zimbabwe's legendary park on the Zambezi River. Designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site, it is known for its natural beauty and as a premier game-viewing area. Over the next three days, explore the area's diverse flora and fauna on guided walks, game drives, and river cruises. Learn about AWF's anti-poaching efforts here and the work to protect the park's incredible biodiversity. Ruckomechi Camp is situated in a large private concession and looks out across the Zambezi River banks to the Rift Valley escarpment on the Zambian side. **Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner**

DAYS 8-9

### VICTORIA FALLS

A charter flight takes you to Victoria Falls to explore Zimbabwe's Victoria Falls National Park before crossing Cecil Rhodes' famous bridge over the Zambezi River and moving on to the Royal Livingstone Hotel. Later, enjoy a Zambezi River safari on the African Queen, ending your day with an incredible African sunset. The next morning, visit Lupani Primary School, rebuilt as an initiative of AWF's Classroom Africa program, and enjoy an afternoon of tracking rhinos that were reintroduced into Mosi-oa-Tunya National Park, as part of another AWF project. **Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner**

DAY 10

### LIVINGSTONE, ZAMBIA/DEPART

Transfer to the airport in Livingstone, Zambia for your independent homeward flight, savoring your memories and knowledge of new friendships born of shared adventures! **Meals included: breakfast**





**AWF LARGE LANDSCAPE:**

# Mid-Zambezi

**BY CARTER SMITH, AWF SAFARI PROGRAM MANAGER**

An area of remarkable beauty and conservation value, the mid-Zambezi landscape is home to a unique array of wildlife, including elephants, buffalos, lions, cheetahs, wild dogs, and more than 450 resident and migratory bird species. It includes Mana Pools National Park — a UNESCO World Heritage Site known for its sizable hippo and Nile crocodile populations. And it protects more than 50 kilometers of one of Africa’s great rivers, the Zambezi.

“The Mid-Zambezi landscape offers a tremendous opportunity to secure a future for key wildlife populations and their habitats while benefiting communities,” says AWF’s Zimbabwe Country Director Olivia Mufute.

“But it is at risk.”

Where the landscape once harbored more than 30,000 elephants, today there are 19,000 or even fewer. Poaching is a leading threat, as are retaliatory killings of elephants and other wildlife that raid essential crops and compete with struggling communities for land and water. Meanwhile, smugglers use the river to move illegal wildlife products such as ivory across borders.

AWF has worked in Zimbabwe intermittently since the 1990s, with a focus in later years on combating an increase in organized poaching. Today,

our work aligns to a multi-faceted, landscape-scale strategy for the mid-Zambezi, with several ambitious goals:

- Ecosystem integrity, with viable populations of AWF’s focal and other species
- Cross-border collaboration (Zambia and Zimbabwe) in service of conservation objectives
- Progress toward a vibrant wildlife economy, including but not limited to thriving eco-tourism enterprises
- Improved community access to natural resources
- Support for community livelihood projects

With the support of several funders, we work on both sides of the river, partnering with Conservation Lower Zambezi on the Zambia side and communities and governments on the Zimbabwe side, where the land is under protected status. As in all AWF landscapes, our interventions are shaped by the challenges at hand and by our long experience in African wildlife conservation.



© AWF (top), © Billy Dodson (center), © YPO Family Adventure 2016 (bottom)



# Meet Your Guides



## *Craig Sholley*

AWF's Senior Vice-President Craig R. Sholley's experience with wildlife and conservation began in 1973 as a Peace Corps volunteer in Zaire. As an L.S.B. Leakey grant researcher in the late 1970s, Craig studied mountain gorillas with Dian Fossey and, in 1987, became director of Rwanda's Mountain Gorilla Project, of which African Wildlife Foundation was a sponsor. Craig has acted as Scientific Advisor for the award-winning IMAX film, *Mountain Gorilla*, with National Geographic. He surveyed the conservation status of mountain gorillas in the aftermath of Rwanda's civil war. Craig's direct involvement with AWF began as a Senior Associate and member of AWF's Board of Trustees. He became a full-time employee of AWF in 2001.



## *Carter Smith*

AWF's Safari Program Manager, Carter Smith, moved to Kenya in 1994 to pursue her dream of a life of wildlife conservation in Africa, and she never looked back. She spent her early years in the bush rehabilitating birds of prey while completing her graduate degree in Ecology on the Martial Eagle. She later joined Sir Iain Douglas-Hamilton at Save the Elephants, while also becoming one of the first female licensed safari guides with the Kenya Safari Guide Association. In 2005, she founded her own safari venture and spent the next 15 years leading private safaris in East Africa. Carter joined AWF in 2019 to lead the Safari Program and looks forward to every trip when she can take guests on the adventure of a lifetime. Carter is also the author of the children's book *African Tea*.

*\*Note: While Craig and Carter are scheduled to lead this trip, AWF is equipped with a range of highly dedicated staff members that may lead your trip. A second leader will accompany Craig and Carter if trip attendance permits.*

*To learn more or to reserve your spot, contact:*

**CARTER SMITH**

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