



SANCTUARY
RETREATS

ZAMBIA • Sanctuary Zebra Plains, Walking Safari Camp

LUXURY, NATURALLY

Imagine standing in the giant footsteps of an elephant or touching the bark of a tree where only minutes earlier a leopard had scratched it. Imagine watching the grass spring back seconds after a puku antelope bent it in passing or spotting the tracks of a lion in the sand as it stalks its prey. Imagine cocktails and canapés as the sun sets over the Luangwa River, hundreds of snorting hippos providing the background music before sitting down to a three course candlelit dinner served under the stars, with white linen, the finest silverware and the surrounding area filled with lanterns. Imagine experiencing all of this before returning to your luxury tent for a night under canvas.

With the launch of Sanctuary Zebra Plains, all of this becomes reality.







Sanctuary Zebra Plains offers the ultimate bush adventure by foot, without forsaking personalised service or comfort. We have chosen the perfect location for our first luxury walking safari camp in an untouched area of the South Luangwa. Sanctuary Zebra Plains is perched on a sand bank at the confluence of the Luangwa and Chibembe Rivers, overlooking a pod of hippos. It was in this park that “walking safaris” first made their debut and it is undoubtedly one of the most exciting ways to experience the incredible sights, sounds and smell of the bush.

In order to fully explore the South Luangwa, guests will spend three nights at Sanctuary Zebra Plains with set departures on Monday or Thursday. We suggest combining a walking safari with a stay at Sanctuary Puku Ridge Camp or Sanctuary Chichele Presidential Lodge, also in the park. These permanent properties offer morning and evening game drives, the perfect complement to Sanctuary Zebra Plains.

This is a seasonal camp operating from June to October each year. Sanctuary Zebra Plains has been designed to leave the lowest possible carbon footprint and is packed up completely each year with no trace that it was ever there between seasons. The camp will open to guests for the first time on June 1, 2011.

ACCOMMODATION

Sanctuary Zebra Plains has four traditional tents – two doubles and two twins – accommodating a maximum of six guests to allow for an intimate exploration of the South Luangwa. All tents have real beds, campaign furniture, mosquito nets, en suite facilities and flush toilets. Water for al fresco showers is mixed to your preferred temperature by a tent attendant. The main mess tent has a dining area although most of the gourmet meals will be served in the open in carefully selected vantage points. There is also a small library and bar area.



YOUR SAFARI EXPERIENCE

The diversity of habitats surrounding the camp provide for some of the most spectacular walking in Africa over terrain that is ideal for exploring with plenty of shade and long sweeping views. What sets the area apart is quite simply the concentration of wildlife, much of which you are able to get very close to on foot.



On the floodplains zebra, antelope, buffalo and puku congregate in vast numbers alongside unique endemic species such as the Thornicroft's giraffe, Crawshay's zebra and Cookson's wildebeest. Predators such as lion, leopard and the elusive wild dog are often seen tracking their quarry and the rivers and tributaries are teeming with hippo, elephant and crocodile. A safari by foot also ensures that one can see many of the 400 species of birds found in the area as well as the fascinating "Little Five" (rhino beetle, buffalo weaver, elephant shrew, leopard tortoise and the ant lion).



Garth Hovell, a highly respected safari guide with almost twenty years of experience, will lead two walking safari activities each day. One morning after an early breakfast you might wander along a river bank, observing elephants before canoeing across to a large island across from camp to get up close to plains game. Later that day after a delicious lunch served on a river bank you may choose to explore nearby Zebra Plains where buffalo, zebra and eland gather in large herds on the open savannah, a rarity in the wooded terrain of the South Luangwa.









YOUR SAFARI EXPERIENCE

Another day your destination might be the Changwa Channel, featured in David Attenborough's "Life" series and home to one of the largest hippo populations on earth.

All walking safaris will be also be accompanied by an armed ZAWA scout as well as a Sanctuary tea bearer who will make fresh cups of tea or coffee in the middle of the bush using a stainless steel kettle and traditional fire making skills.



After your afternoon walk, return to camp for a well-deserved sundowner as the sun sets over the South Luangwa. There's time for a relaxing shower before sitting down for a three course dinner, served in a different specially chosen setting in and around the camp each evening.

Guests will also experience different styles of food each night, including Barbeque one evening and Potjie another. Potjie is a traditional Southern African style of cooking where cast iron pots are placed on the fire and delicious slow cooked 'pot roasts' are produced. On the last night, a candlelit dinner will be served under the stars on the dry river bed to the right of the mess area. The area will be filled with lanterns providing an idyllic setting, the white linen and finest silverware the finishing touches. Since all meals will be prepared in a unique 'bush kitchen', guests will be encouraged to visit the kitchen to see how food is prepared in such a remote location.









SANCTUARY ZEBRA PLAINS GUIDE— GARTH HOVELL

Garth Hovell will lead all walking safaris at Sanctuary Zebra Plains. He is widely regarded as one of Zambia’s most highly respected safari guides with twenty years of experience. Garth’s wealth of knowledge and true sense of adventure will ensure every guest has the holiday of a lifetime.



Even after twelve years of leading walking safaris, this pure form of bush exploration continues to provide his adrenaline rush. For Garth there is simply no match for the thrill of a walking safari: **“On foot your senses are heightened by all that surrounds you to give you the ultimate safari high.”**

Born in Zimbabwe, Garth also grew up in Botswana and South Africa. Garth’s guiding career began at an early age when he completed his Zimbabwean Pro Guides License at 22 and became Head Ranger shortly after that. Since then Garth has become fully qualified to guide in the South Luangwa and the Lower Zambezi Valley in Zambia by boat, canoe, vehicle and on foot. He has also managed safari lodges across Southern Africa, worked as a safety kayaker for white-water rafting below the Victoria Falls and even a jump master for the Bunji Crew.



Throughout the year Garth carries out comprehensive training programs for the Sanctuary Retreats’ guides in Zambia, ensuring our guides are second to none. As a member of the Lower Zambezi Examining Committee, Garth remains committed to the future of guiding standards and his pursuit of creating a National Zambian Guides Licence reaffirms this.





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