

## Hippo Route

### Harare-Mana Pools-Kariba-Mavuradonha-Harare

<i>Datum Date</i>	<i>Destination/Aktivität Destination/Activity</i>	<i>Art der Unterkunft Type of Accommodation</i>
Day 1	Flug Frankfurt-Johannesburg Flight Frankfurt-Johannesburg	Im Flugzeug In flight
Day 2	Ankunft in Johannesburg, Weiterflug nach Harare, Straßentransfer zur Unterkunft Arrival in Johannesburg, fly on to Harare, road transfer to accommodation	Hotel oder Gästehaus in Harare Hotel or B&B guest house Harare
Day 3	Flugtransfer zum Mana Pools Nationalpark, Safari Aktivitäten Air transfer to Mana Pools National Park, safari activities	Safarizelt safari tent
Day 4	Mana Pools Nationalpark, Safariaktivitäten zu Fuß oder mit Geländewagen Mana Pools National Park, safari activities on foot or in 4x4 vehicle	Safarizelt safari tent
Day 5	Mana Pools Nationalpark, Safariaktivitäten zu Fuß oder mit Geländewagen Mana Pools National Park, safari activities on foot or in 4x4 vehicle	Safarizelt safari tent
Day 6	Mana Pools Nationalpark, Safariaktivitäten zu Fuß oder mit Geländewagen Mana Pools National Park, safari activities on foot or in 4x4 vehicle	Safarizelt safari tent
Day 7	Flugtransfer zum Karibasee, Safariaktivitäten Air transfer to Lake Kariba, safari activities	Lodge Lodge
Day 8	Karibasee, Safariaktivitäten Lake Kariba, safari activities	Lodge Lodge
Day 9	Karibasee, Safariaktivitäten Lake Kariba, safari activities	Lodge Lodge
Day 10	Karibasee, Safariaktivitäten Lake Kariba, safari activities	Lodge Lodge
Day 11	Flug- und Straßentransfer nach Mavuradonha Wilderness, Safariaktivitäten Air and road transfer to Mavuradonha Wilderness, safari activities	Lodge / Wildnis-Bushcamp Lodge /wilderness bushcamp
Day 12	Mavuradonha Wilderness, Safariaktivitäten Mavuradonha Wilderness, safari activities	Lodge / Wildnis-Bushcamp Lodge /wilderness bushcamp
Day 13	Mavuradonha Wilderness, Safariaktivitäten Mavuradonha Wilderness, safari activities	Lodge / Wildnis-Bushcamp Lodge /wilderness bushcamp
Day 14	Straßentransfer zum Flughafen Harare, Flug nach Johannesburg und weiter nach Frankfurt Road transfer to Harare airport, flight to Johannesburg and connect to Frankfurt	Im Flugzeug In Flight
Day 15	Ankunft in Frankfurt/Arrival in Frankfurt	

## **The Hippo Route**

In the course of this tour we will be spending a lot of time on the banks of the Zambezi River. Both in Mana Pools and where the River has been dammed to form Lake Kariba, you will see many hippopotami, which is where the name of this route originates.



### **Harare**

You will spend your first night on the “Hippo Route” in the capital city. This is a time to relax and recover from the long flight. Very soon, you will be deep in the bush!

We offer you a choice of accommodation in either a private guest house or an excellent city hotel.

- The private guest house offers two comfortable and beautifully decorated guest rooms, both with en suite shower and WC. One room has a double bed, the other twin beds. Your hosts are warm hearted and very obliging, the food is delicious.
- The hotel is in the centre of the city, offers beautifully furnished rooms with all modern conveniences. Several restaurants both on and off the premises offer a wide range of choices for your meals.

#### *Our service includes:*

- ✓ Accommodation in a private guest house or a hotel, dinner, bed and breakfast or bed and breakfast as required.
- ✓ Pre-Booked activities as required
- ✓ Air transfer to Mana Pools National Park

## Mana Pools National Park

The Zambezi River is Zimbabwe's northern boundary with Zambia. Mana Pools National Park covers an area of about 2500 square kilometres, most of this is within the extensive Zambezi Valley. Close to the riverbank large numbers of mahogany trees and acacias provide shade and nourishment. They all look as if their lower branches have been trimmed at the same height, low for the mahoganies and high for the acacias. This is because the elephants love the acacia leaves and fruit and they browse them as far up as they can reach. But they don't touch the mahoganies and thus these are browsed by the bushbuck and kudu. Further away from the river, there are huge swathes of almost impenetrable thicket known as "jesse" and beyond that the many kilometres of mopane woodlands reaching to the edges of the valley. In all these areas the huge baobabs are prominent. In the dry season, the animals depend on the water of the Zambezi, then huge herds of buffalo kick up clouds of billowing dust on their way to drink, large numbers of antelope nibble on the remaining grass and the first fresh leaves. Elephants occasionally stroll across the camping sites and carnivores are often seen following their prey. Mana Pools National Park is a UNESCO World Heritage site.



There are a couple of options for your safaris in Mana Pools:

- You can drift downstream on the Zambezi's current in a canoe and watch the many different species of birds and animals from the river. An experienced guide will lead the way, show you how to handle the canoe and explain the flora and fauna that you see along the way. It is certainly a very different perspective. You can feel the power of the current, hear the splash and purl of the water and let the mighty river carry you along its course.
- Alternatively, you can go on safari on foot, explore the banks of the river and the inland forests. Some distances may also be covered in a 4x4 vehicle for a change. Here, too, an experienced guide will accompany you. There is much to see, e.g. in the mornings when the air is still, it is time to read the tracks of the night gone by in the sandy soil. Who visited the camp while we all slept? While walking or driving, everything is of interest and we can take the time to savour it all at leisure, trees, insects, birds, animals and spoor.

For a safari in Mana Pools, accommodation in tents is a "must". Especially towards the end of the dry season, in September and October, it can be very hot in the Zambezi Valley. Then it is very pleasant when a fresh breeze from the river wafts through the mosquito netting of the tent. But we have experienced the tents at the height of winter, too, in July, and even then it does not get too cold for comfort.

Another bonus is that, in a tent, you can listen to the symphony of the African night without hindrance: owls hoot, hippos bellow, lions roar and jackals howl. Shortly before sunrise it is the ground hornbill's turn to call and the birds begin to sing.



The special construction of these tents allows you to open huge windows in the roof that give you an unobstructed view of the stars and the moon. You can stand comfortably in the tents and they offer plenty of room for the stretchers, a nightstand and your baggage. At the rear of the tent there is a canvas blind with a chemical WC for use at night. The shower is under

the open sky, hot or cold as you wish, also enclosed in a canvas blind.

*Our service includes:*

- ✓ Accommodation in a mobile or stationary tented camp, 3 meals a day, tea and coffee, some local beverages (no spirits)
- ✓ Safari activities as per your choice
- ✓ Air transfer to Lake Kariba
- Please note that the park entry fees are not included and payable on arrival.



## Lake Kariba

In 1958 the huge wall was completed, that dams the water of the Zambezi River over a length of about 220 km and a breadth of up to 40 km. The lake was built as a reservoir and a hydro-electric project that supplies both Zimbabwe and Zambia with water and power. Also, a small species of fish named Kapenta was introduced from Lake Tanganyika that supplies a livelihood



for many fishermen on both sides of the border. A large part of the southern lakeshore is a nature reserve, as are some of the islands, hence many species of birds and animals occur here. Crocodiles hunt and fish in the waters of the lake, hippos graze on the shore in the cover of the night, elephants splash in the water and wallow in the mud, fish eagles circle over the lake and their wild, exuberant cries can be heard over long distances.

Once again there are different options to savour your safari to lake Kariba, depending on how large your group is.

- Staying in a lodge on an island provides you with the best of both worlds: there are opportunities for game drives into Matusadona National Park, as well as guided bush walks. Boat rides along the banks allow for a different perspective of what you have already explored by vehicle and on foot. Also, the often spectacular Kariba sunsets are usually best watched from a boat. The lodge that we recommend offers either stone houses with thatched roofs or large safari tents also placed under thatch for shade. All have en suite bathrooms and offer all modern comforts. A swimming pool provides the guests with a chance to cool off during the hot Kariba afternoons.



- Houseboats offer the opportunity to spend a maximum amount of time on the lake. During the daytime your boat roams the surface of the lake giving you a platform from which to watch birds, animals and the constantly changing

scenery of the lake shore. At night you anchor and enjoy the fresh breeze that wafts over the water. Houseboats are available in many different variations and with differing levels of comfort and luxury. However, we recommend house boats only from groups of about 6 guests upwards because they are not cost effective for very small groups.

*Our service includes:*

- ✓ Accommodation in a lodge, house boats offered for groups from 6 guests upwards. 3 meals a day, tea and coffee, some local beverages (no spirits)
- ✓ Safari activities
- ✓ Air and road transfer to Mavuradonha
- Please note that the park entry fees are not included and payable on arrival.



## Mavuradonha Wilderness

The first thing a visitor new to this area notices, is that some of the hills look almost bare, only grass and sparse scrubby-looking bushes grow on them, while others right beside them are covered in thick vegetation, trees and granite boulders. This is

because the properties of the soil and geology differ drastically from one hill to the next.

Mavuradonha is situated at the northern end of the Great Dyke, a 500 km long fault line where,

very simply put, unimaginably hot magma rose up through the earth's crust and formed hills that were of completely different chemical composition than their neighbours.

This has led to a large part of the country's

prosperity as many highly valuable minerals and metals are to be found in this rock, among others platinum, gold and silver. This area has been allowed to remain in its pristine state because it is a conservation area with the same protection status as a national park. For this reason, you will find a fascinating array of plants and trees here that are completely different from anything that you have seen in the rest of the country. Even trees that should be familiar look different here. But then again, many of the animals you can see here will be familiar. Elephants, buffalo, zebra, sable, kudu



and impala roam the hills and valleys, leopards are frequently heard at night. Over 300 species of birds occur here. As in the Matobo Hills, many of the hollows and overhangs under granite boulders protect ancient rock paintings that draw you under their spell if you take the time to look and savour. Clear streams and rivers tumble down the hillsides in cascades and waterfalls, before forming pools that are very enjoyable to swim in.



Again, you have a couple of different and exciting options for your safaris, each with competent and highly experienced guides to accompany you.

- You can discover the area on horseback at different levels of expertise. Even inexperienced or very “rusty” riders can enjoy and savour this way of exploring the wilderness from another new perspective. For the competent riders there is a wealth of opportunities, including going on a trail that takes you deep into the wilderness and where you camp out under the stars.
- For those who prefer to rely on their own two legs, this area can also be discovered and very much enjoyed on foot.

There are two options for accommodation here, that make for an excellent combination.

- A lodge with individual huts that are placed in the bush around the main building, offering a maximum of privacy. The rooms are simple, with comfortable beds, en suite shower and WC and a hammock outside, for a siesta in the fresh air. There is no electricity, candles and petroleum lamps illuminate the camp at night. The main building is situated



- right at the top of a granite hill and allows your gaze to roam over the scenery in all directions. This is where we gather in the evenings to discuss the events and sightings of the day, this is where the excellent meals are served. If you wish, you can climb another flight of stairs and savour an uninterrupted view of the landscape from the roof.
- Approximately a day’s ride away from the lodge is a small, very simple bush camp. It is hidden deep in the forest, a craggy granite hill towers over the area. The rooms consist of a thatched roof and walls of hessian that provide a blind on three sides. The fourth side, towards the river, is open. Thus you can lie in bed and admire the scenery of the forest through your mosquito netting. A few metres away from the bedroom, each hut has its own WC and shower. The charm of this little camp is in its simplicity and its remoteness. Here, you really only hear the sounds of nature, the rushing of the river, the song of the birds ... And of course the “Good morning” greeting of the camp attendant who brings your tea. Here the stories of the day are swapped beside a flickering campfire under the stars, with a mug of hot tea or a cool beer in your hand.

*Our service includes:*

- ✓ Accommodation as you wish, in lodge and/or bush camp, 3 meals a day, tea and coffee, some local beverages (no spirits)
- ✓ Safari activities as per your choice
- ✓ Road transfer to Harare Airport

**End of the “Hippo Route”**

