

Travel Itinerary

5 night Lower Zambezi River Safari
AD Active Experiences



At a glance...

- 4 nights The Challenger (Rivergod Adventures Vessel) - Full board basis
- 1 night Masau Fishing Lodge - Full board basis

Day 1: Chirundu - Nyakasanga River

Transfer by road from Lusaka (2hr20) or Kariba (1hr40) to the start of your adventure.

Arrive in Chirundu (or Kariba, depending on water levels) by 10 am in time for your welcome reception where you meet the crew (a guide, chef and deck hand) and start your unique safari adventure. You travel from below the Kariba Dam Gorge, 245 kms downstream to Kanyemba, on the border of Mozambique passing through Mana Pools, Lower Zambezi National Park and Mupata Gorge, which collectively form a World Heritage site.

Each day brings new and exciting sights and sounds. Your floating base, a Rivergod Adventures custom-built aluminum and fiberglass pontoon, is your home for the next few days, the lower level designed for living and eating, the upper deck, for sleeping and game viewing. Mostly drifting, the engine usage is kept to a minimum during the day, to avoid noise disturbance, and at night, the boat moors on the shoreline, allowing soul-deep natural silence and the call of the wild to lull you into dreamland.

Up to 8 people are accommodated in 4 pop up sleeping pods, located on the roof top deck. Cooler at night, and safe from wildlife, the pods are large enough to stand up in, and are equipped with lights, fan, charge points and queen-size beds with memory foam mattresses and crisp linen. Between the two sets of pods, the sun deck is an excellent game viewing spot. Dry compartments are available for safe storage. Carpeted and comfortable, the spacious main deck provides good living areas and, to the back of the main deck is a flush loo and an outdoor shower platform with privacy blinds. Delicious meals are created in the interactive kitchen, by the professional chef. A tender boat is attached to the vessel for game viewing and fishing.

Drift downstream to Nyakasanga River where the boat moors for the first evening. Dinner on the boat, or around a campfire, under the stars.

Overnight aboard The Challenger, Rivergod Adventures Vessel, on a full board basis, including activities.

Day 2: Nyakasanga - Mana Pools

Days are spent fishing and game viewing as the boat drifts towards Mana Pools, an impressive expanse of the river, with secret channels and lovely vistas. The route is through one of the most game-rich environments, the Lower Zambezi National Park and Mana Pools - a landscape with eco-systems dramatically changing to offer a good variety of animal sightings. Plains game, elephant, baboons and even big cats have been seen on the banks, and, lurking beneath the water's surface, hippos and crocs. Using a search light, nocturnal animals may be spotted from the decks. The river is famous for its Tiger Fishing, but anglers can also try for Bream, catfish and a wealth of other species.

Should you see something of interest, further inland, your guide will take you exploring into the bush to track the game on foot, and get an up close encounter.

With zero light pollution, the night skies are truly spectacular. As you gaze out at the universe, the silence of the night, is only broken by the sounds of the wild.

Moor at Mana Pools, where we have dinner on board the boat, or around a camp-fire.

Overnight aboard the Challenger, Rivergod Adventures Vessel, on a full board basis, including activities.

Day 3: Mana Pools - Chikwenya

A guided walk with a professional guide is one of the best ways to learn about the smaller creatures - and Mana Pools is a superb walking location.

Birders can enjoy a wide diversity of species. There are hundreds of migratory birds as well as the permanent species which dwell on the shore. Water birds line the sand banks, others flutter about in riverine vegetation and mopane woodlands and flocks of Carmine Bee-eaters excavate their nest holes in the river banks. Guests are provided with binoculars and a birding book, which, together with professional help from the on-board guide encourages a great love of birding. Rare species include the Angolan Pita, African Spoonbills, Pel's Fishing Owl and Narina Trogon.

This afternoon we arrive at Chikwenya, an 8km long Island rich in fauna and flora, and set off on a walking safari. Perhaps spend some time with the on-board chef, whose lessons and insights into cooking aboard a vessel and in the bush, are incorporated into daily meals. Your fresh "catch of the day" may be used in the meal preparation.

Mooring on the banks of the river at Chikwenya, we enjoy dinner under the stars.

Overnight aboard the Challenger, Rivergod Adventures Vessel, on a full board basis, including activities.

Day 4: Chikwenya Island - Mupata Gorge

Depart Chikwenya Island today, travelling past the breath-taking Acacia forests of the Lower Zambezi National Park.

Today, end the day on top of the Mupata Gorge. It is here the Zimbabwean and Zambian escarpments come close, creating a deep channel with sand dunes, ideal for some late afternoon fishing off the bank. The Challenger's upper deck has a large viewing platform, perfect for soaking up the African rays, whilst watching for the animals which come down to the water to drink. **We moor at Mupata Gorge overnight, and share dinner on-board or around a campfire.**

Overnight aboard the Challenger, Rivergod Adventures Vessel, on a full board basis, including activities.

Day 5: Mupata Gorge - Kanyemba

Today, we drift, fish and game view along the remainder of the Mupata Gorge, arriving by mid-afternoon at Kanyemba where our journey ends.

The last night is spent in the land based Masau Lodge, which accommodates 16 guests in 4 chalets with en-suite bathrooms and 4 luxury walk-in tents. This thatch and stone property offers comfortable, but simple rooms with ¾ beds, flush loos and hot showers. The entertainment area consists of a large bar, dining room and swimming pool. Settle around the fire-pit, spending your final evening appreciating the beauty of the region and reflecting on the journey. **Dinner at the Masau Lodge.**

Overnight aboard the Challenger, Rivergod Adventures Vessel, on a full board basis, including activities.

Day 6: Depart

After breakfast, depart Kanyemba via charter flight from the Chapoto Airstrip, 10 mins from camp.

Inclusions

- 4 nights accommodation Challenger Vessel - sleeping pods
- 1 night accommodation Masau Fishing Lodge
- All meals, drinks & snacks
- Activities & park fees
- Professional guide
- Fishing equipment
- Tender boat: fishing & game viewing

Exclusions

- Gratuities
- Charter flights