

Tour Report

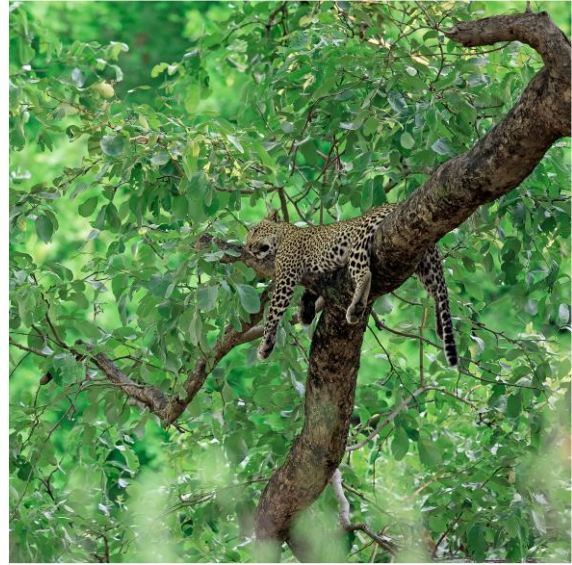
Zambia – South Luangwa Photo Safari

4 – 13 November 2023

Southern carmine bee-eater



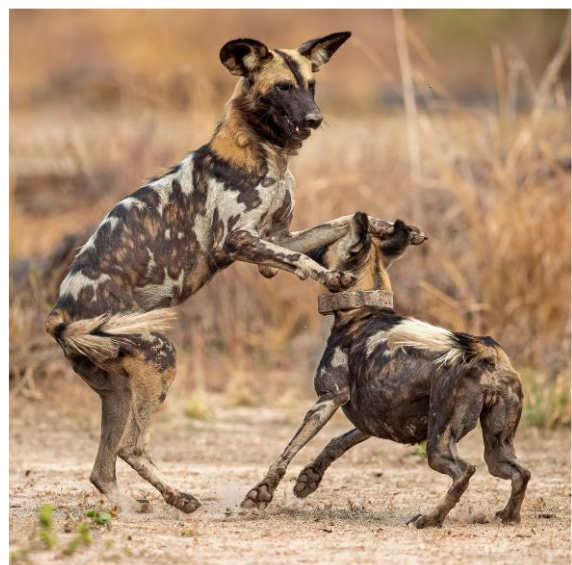
Leopard



Lion



African wild dog



Compiled by Bret Charman
Images by Bret Charman & Ben Sutcliffe

Day 1: London Heathrow to Dubai**Saturday 4 November 2023**

With most of the group flying out with Ben and myself on the Emirates flight via Dubai, we met people at the gate before boarding. We enjoyed a smooth flight and had plenty of space to stretch out as there were lots of empty seats.

Day 2: Dubai to Lusak; on to Mfuwe**Sunday 5 November 2023**

Upon arrival in Dubai we had a few hours in transit before our onward flight to Lusaka. We stayed together and spent some time getting to know one another before boarding. The flight was a little delayed, but we were soon on our way. Arriving at Lusaka a little later than planned, we were met on disembarking by a member of ground staff who escorted us through immigration, helped us retrieve our bags, then whisked us across to the domestic terminal (only a short walk away).

It wasn't long before we were all checked in for our domestic flight to Mfuwe. We proceeded through security and headed straight to the plane. As we boarded we met the final members of the group. It was another smooth flight, this time only 45 minutes, before we landed at charming Mfuwe Airport. There we were met by our guides for the week ahead – Bwalya and Jonathan – and on collecting our luggage we made our way to Flatdogs Camp. The journey took around 45 minutes and we were greeted by the smiling faces of the Flatdogs team. There was a chance to freshen up before dinner and we reconvened for the first of many excellent meals.

At dinner we were given a full briefing regarding safety in and around the camp, as well as an introduction to the schedule for the week ahead and the staff who would be there to help throughout. After a long day of travel, it was time to retire for a well-deserved rest.

Day 3: South Luangwa National Park**Monday 6 November 2023**

This morning was to be our first safari in the national park, so we met for a light breakfast at 05:30 before heading to our vehicle. We checked in at the park entrance and proceeded across the bridge, making our way to an area called Mbangula, where a very famous leopard lives. Lucy is, without a doubt, a star in South Luangwa National Park. She's a mature leopard who is incredibly relaxed around safari vehicles, which means you can be treated to exceptional views as she goes about her business. With that in mind, we made our way slowly off the main road, exploring one of the many smaller tracks that criss-cross the area. Hoping to hear any alarm calls, or possibly even spot Lucy, we paused with the engine off. It wasn't long before we came across our first male waterbuck of the trip.

Within only a few minutes of entering the park, we got news that Lucy had been sighted just behind us, so we headed straight to the spot. There she was, lying on the floor, watching the world go by, so we positioned our vehicles to try and capture the most striking portraits. We had limited angles to work with, but did our best to ensure that everybody got an angle that provided them with a clear view to photograph this most magical of predators.

After 10 minutes or so, with the light getting brighter as the sun climbed higher, she started to call her cub. Unfortunately, he didn't show himself and she decided to move on. We did our best to get ahead of her a couple of times and position the vehicles so we could get her walking directly toward us. However, as is often the way with wildlife, she didn't entirely cooperate. Nevertheless we were blessed with some wonderful photography before other vehicles started to turn up. So as not to disturb Lucy, we decided to move on and see what else we could find. What a start!

Find out more about our [South Luangwa Photo Safari trip](#) or [contact us](#)

01962 302086 sales@wildlifeworldwide.com www.wildlifeworldwide.com



We made our way past the small lagoon outside Mfuwe Lodge, to see what might show itself as we drove slowly along the tracks. There was a herd of endemic Thornicroft's giraffe opposite Mfuwe Lodge. As we continued onwards the sun was already starting to get quite hot. Except for a few impala here and there it was relatively quiet for mammals, while the birds we saw included crowned hornbill, long-tailed starling,

**Find out more about our [South Luangwa Photo Safari](#) trip or [contact us](#)
01962 302086 sales@wildlifeworldwide.com www.wildlifeworldwide.com**

white-browed sparrow weaver and many other common species. As we turned back along the river, we saw a group of yellow-billed storks and African spoonbills feeding. We moved a little further along and stopped for tea. What a spot! We were right beside a breeding colony of southern carmine bee-eaters and everyone enjoyed trying their hand at photographing these beautiful birds as they wheeled above the waters of the Luangwa River.



Suitably refreshed, we decided it was probably best to head back to camp and enjoy brunch, some shade and some cold drinks. It wasn't long before we were back in the comfort of Flatdogs and prepping for our afternoon game drive.

In the afternoon we headed into the park early, hoping to find something before anyone else did. After crossing the bridge, we turned right and drove through the stunning habitat between Mfuwe Lodge and Wafwa Lagoon. As we drove through the woodland a Verraux's (giant) eagle owl took flight before disappearing into the canopy. We continued towards the elephant crossing point, where we came across our first buffalo of the trip, a group of bachelors who were a little flighty. That was soon followed by our first elephants, including a group feeding on fallen wild mangoes under a giant old tree.

While we sat watching the elephants, Bwalya and I heard the alarm calls of yellow baboons just a couple of hundred yards away. We suggested to the group that it might be worth having a look as the alarm calls were incredibly intense – indicating that there might be a leopard about. Everyone agreed we should take a closer look. We arrived in the clearing where the baboons were all looking the same way and the alarm calls were fiercer than ever, however, we were unable to spot whatever they had seen. Suddenly a leopard appeared, walking away from a shallow pool where it had been quenching its thirst. It moved to the edge of the thick woodland and sat there, seemingly disgruntled by its noisy neighbours. It was too far away to photograph, so the group enjoyed photographing the baboons instead. The other vehicle turned up just as the leopard slinked off, so we went in search of other delights.

We started to head south as we had heard there were lions near the Twin Baobabs. On the way a couple of great white pelicans landed high in the trees, which proved to be quite comical and rather an unusual sight.

Find out more about our [South Luangwa Photo Safari trip](#) or [contact us](#)

01962 302086 sales@wildlifeworldwide.com www.wildlifeworldwide.com

However, with ground to cover we got underway once more and arrived just as the sun was setting, creating a warm glow over the lions as they fed on a waterbuck carcass.

After enjoying our first sundowners on the banks of the Luangwa River, we set off for our night drive back to camp. We enjoyed views of elephant shrew, genet, the same lions we had watched briefly before sunset, spotted hyena, scrub hare, hippos and an enormous crocodile.

Day 4: South Luangwa National Park

Tuesday 7 November 2023

With plans in place to head into the park early, we met for an earlier breakfast at 05:00. Just before 05:30, when everyone was ready, we climbed aboard the vehicles and headed off to the entrance. Sure enough, we were allowed in early.

As we crossed the bridge over the Luangwa, we were treated to a beautiful morning. A lone hippo was on the far bank, trying to find its way back to the water. As we drove slowly along the main track, a brown-hooded kingfisher posed nicely on a branch, while a lilac-breasted roller sat high in the tree above. On approaching the drying pool beside Mfuwe Lodge, we came across a bachelor group of buffalo, who were just leaving the water's edge. A little further along a large group of baboons were playing and searching for food. There was a mother with a white baby, most likely leucistic, which we took great delight in watching as it tried to climb some scrubby bushes just off the track. Continuing away from the river, we made our way towards the boreholes. Here, we found our first grey-crowned cranes of the trip and enjoyed some excellent views as a small herd of elephants came to the water to quench their thirst. There were no predators on show this morning, and despite running into a research vehicle who told us there were some African wild dogs nearby, we were unable to find them. Except for watching another herd of elephants underneath a wild mango tree, we spent much of the morning enjoying the abundant birdlife. New species for today included yellow-billed kite, white-browed coucal and African marsh harrier.

With the day starting to heat up, we retreated to Flatdogs for a delicious brunch and an opportunity to rest in the comfort of our rooms.

We reconvened for an early tea, at 15:00 before heading into the park as soon as everyone was ready. Knowing where the researchers had sighted the dogs this morning by the, we decided to see if we could find them. Driving through the thick scrub to our planned search area, we came across a family of banded mongooses and some beautiful elephants, which crossed the road right in front of us. We saw Crawshay's zebra, a monitor lizard and a large hippo wallowing in the muddy waters of a shallow pool, all before we made our way to where we hoped we might find the wild dogs. We found the tracks of the research vehicles and proceeded to search for our target. We eventually found their tracks - several different dogs had obviously been here, but they had headed ever deeper into the scrub. We realised that we wouldn't be able to follow them, so we carried on towards Puku Plains.

On the riverbank we came across our first lion pride of the safari. A lioness was sat atop the bank, while the rest of the pride were drinking down below. Then two buffalo turned up, intent on drinking at the same spot as the lions. We moved our vehicles back to allow them space, but the buffalo were seemingly aware of the danger and beat a hasty retreat. With light levels dropping, it was time for sundowners. We drove the short distance to the other end of Puku Plain to quench our own thirst.

Find out more about our [South Luangwa Photo Safari trip](#) or [contact us](#)

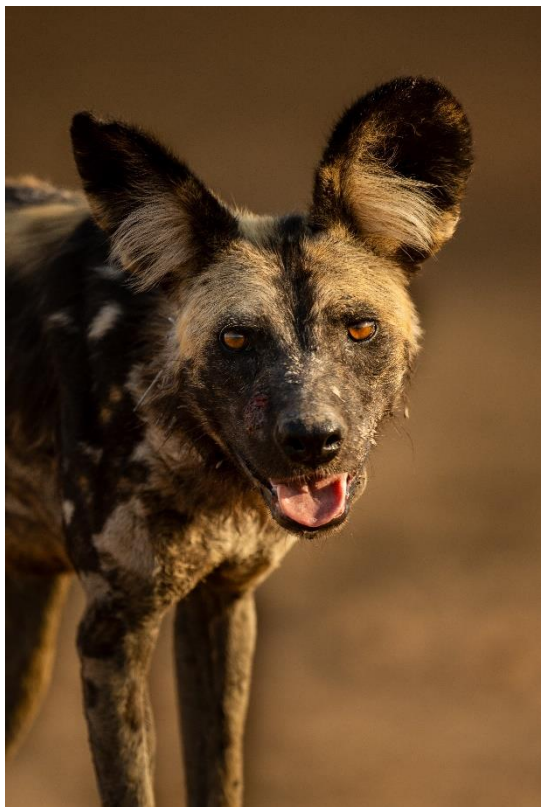
01962 302086 sales@wildlifeworldwide.com www.wildlifeworldwide.com



The lions were only half a mile away, and it made sense to check on them before starting to make our way back towards camp. As we arrived we could see that the buffalo were walking across the open ground, towards the water. They were not alone. The lions were stalking them. We could just about make out the shape of lionesses and the cubs as they closed in behind the buffalo. Suddenly, there was pandemonium. It seemed as if a cub had initiated the hunt - probably far too early! - and the buffalo came charging across the open area, hoping to find refuge in the scrub. Before we knew it, one lioness was on the back of a buffalo. The other lions quickly reinforced the brave individual and together they succeeded in separating it from the other bovines. They seemingly had the kill, with the buffalo desperately trying to stay on its feet as the lions piled in. Suddenly, another buffalo appeared, charging in with its boss lowered, causing some lions to leap out of the way. The rescuer ploughed head-first into a dead tree as it tried to gore one of the lions, making an almighty noise, before the two buffalo made their escape together. Somehow, after a fierce battle, the lions were left empty-handed and the buffalo was left with some painful wounds on its muzzle and rump.

We decided to leave the chaotic scene as the lions appeared to try and regroup, and headed back towards Flatdogs Camp. On the way we saw a couple of very young lion cubs, which were trying to make their way back to mum. We also saw several genets and a lone hyena working its way across an open plain. One of the vehicles also enjoyed views of an elephant shrew by the roadside.

Back at camp we were treated to yet another delicious meal and it wasn't long before we were retreating to our rooms for a deserved sleep after an action-packed evening.



Another early start for us today as we tried to get into the park to make the most of the morning light. After crossing the bridge, we turned off and almost immediately came across a pair of ground hornbills. They can be a really challenging species to photograph and today was no different. Ground hornbills are quite shy and rarely walk towards you, even if you position the vehicle well ahead of them.

And so we continued to see what else we could find in this magical wilderness. We found a hippo eating the weed of a sediment-filled pool outside Mfuwe Lodge, completely surrounded by African jacanas. The birds were obviously feeding on insects and other creatures disturbed by the hippo's feeding efforts. Then there was the local group of yellow baboons, a black-shouldered kite, buffalo weavers and many of the common bird species seen in the park. We continued to the north, hoping we might bump into the African wild dogs or perhaps the lions from last night. One vehicle, with Ben, did indeed find the dogs (and hyenas) as they appeared out of the thick scrub. They were treated to some wonderful photographic opportunities as the pack of dogs came straight towards them. The other vehicle had just missed them and was already a fair distance away heading up

past Chikunto Lodge. However we worked out where the dogs might rest up for the day and found them as we headed back south. Despite only having a fleeting view, it was great to see our first African wild dogs of the trip.

Other highlights included a big old male giraffe, huge hippo pods and a wonderful family of elephants as they drank and crossed the Luangwa River in a flurry of excitement.



It had been particularly hot over the past couple of days and it was inevitable that clouds would start to build and eventually unleash some rain. As we headed south, driving outside the park boundary, the cloud cover started to build. We drove through the mopane forest to the pontoon crossing near Kafunta River Lodge. This unique experience was great fun, and a wonderful way to cross the river and enter a quieter part of the park.



Almost immediately after clearing the soft sand of the large beach, we found a large, rather war-torn male lion. We hoped he would stir from his slumber and put on a show for us. We were not disappointed as he decided to get up and head towards the river.



Find out more about our [South Luangwa Photo Safari](#) trip or [contact us](#)
01962 302086 sales@wildlifeworldwide.com www.wildlifeworldwide.com

We were able to get down onto the beach and position ourselves in the perfect spot to capture some stunning imagery. With the male drinking right in front of us, we were delighted when the rest of the pride decided to make an appearance.

Most of the adults, including a very handsome male, sat at the top of the bank, while the cubs headed down onto the beach. They had something in their mouths, which we realised was a piece of plastic, which they continued to play with throughout our time with them. What an incredible start to the afternoon!



Find out more about our [South Luangwa Photo Safari](#) trip or [contact us](#)
01962 302086 sales@wildlifeworldwide.com www.wildlifeworldwide.com

As other vehicles turned up, we decided to call it a day and leave the pride in peace. One vehicle spotted more lions as it moved away, while the other came across a herd of elephants playing in the river with a youngster particularly enjoying itself. The elephants then climbed up the steep bank and one of the adults had to give the baby a little push up. We found a beautiful spot for our sundowners and watched as a fire burned on the Chindeni Hills in the distance.

After sundowners we headed back to camp enjoying a night drive. Almost immediately one vehicle saw a spotted eagle owl, while other highlights included genet, spotted hyena, bushy-tailed mongoose, a charming and cooperative civet, while the other vehicle saw a distant leopard. We had been lucky enough to enjoy another remarkable day in the varied habitats of South Luangwa National Park.

Day 6: South Luangwa National Park

Thursday 9 November 2023

As we were waking, while it was still dark, a thunderstorm blew into the valley and unleashed rain. The heat and humidity had been building, so it was unsurprising that we would have a little rain during our stay. However, at this time of year we would normally expect a rainstorm to last a couple of hours at the most. On this occasion though, despite the early start, we were left waiting until 09:30 before we were finally able to head into the park.

As we drove along the main road, we encountered a large male elephant having a sleep to one side, almost completely motionless. There was also a big male kudu, but - as is often the way with these large antelopes - it quickly disappeared into the thorny scrub. In the area around Mfuwe Lodge we enjoyed watching some of the region's stunning birds, including hamerkop, white-fronted bee-eater, ground hornbills roosting in a tree, blue waxbills, grey-headed sparrow and green-winged pytilia.

For the most part it was a relatively quiet morning. After the rain, you can sometimes get lucky as wildlife comes out to dry, but other than a number of herbivores such as waterbuck, impala, puku, zebra and buffalo, we saw little. This short, late drive meant that we returned to camp in time to enjoy a delicious lunch.

It was still a little overcast when we met for afternoon tea, but brightening up all the while. By the time we entered the park, the sun was shining down upon us. We heard from a guide that a leopard had been seen high in a tree at the far end of Wafwa Lagoon. Our plan immediately went on hold and we started to make our way to the spot. We arrived to find a beautiful female leopard sitting high in a tamarind tree. She was relatively relaxed when we pulled up, resting on her high vantage point. However, when another couple of vehicles turned up, she made a quick exit. She ran down the tree right in front of us and walked off through the scrub into the trees behind. Bwalya then saw her climb another tree and we moved to try and get a better view.

Bwalya and Jonathan did a fabulous job, getting both vehicles into the perfect position to enjoy unrivalled views of the leopard as she slept on a high branch. She perched up there surrounded by lush foliage – it really was the most wonderful scene and the perfect environmental shot.

We didn't want to disturb the leopard, particularly after she had already decided to move, and so we left her in peace. We continued towards the river, and as we sat in the open area at the end of the lagoon, a herd of elephants appeared from the woodland and crossed right in front of us. As they continued on their journey, so did we. As the sun was setting, we pulled up on the riverbank for sundowners and marvelled at the stunning view. This is what makes South Luangwa National Park so special: the river is the beating heart of everything here, and all wildlife is constantly drawn to this life-giving source of water. Our night drive was very productive with chameleon, white-tailed mongoose, square-tailed nightjar, genet, bushy-tailed mongoose and even a Pel's fishing owl.

Find out more about our [South Luangwa Photo Safari trip](#) or [contact us](#)

01962 302086 sales@wildlifeworldwide.com www.wildlifeworldwide.com



Day 7: South Luangwa National Park

Friday 10 November 2023

It was overcast once again this morning as we entered the park. Our drive started off relatively quietly, with a group of kudus as the highlight, only moments after we crossed the bridge. Other sightings included banded mongooses, a large male warthog which was particularly relaxed, and a ground hornbill. As we worked our way around an area known for its leopards, we came across a nesting hole of green wood hoopoes, while a pair of woodland kingfishers called and displayed overhead.

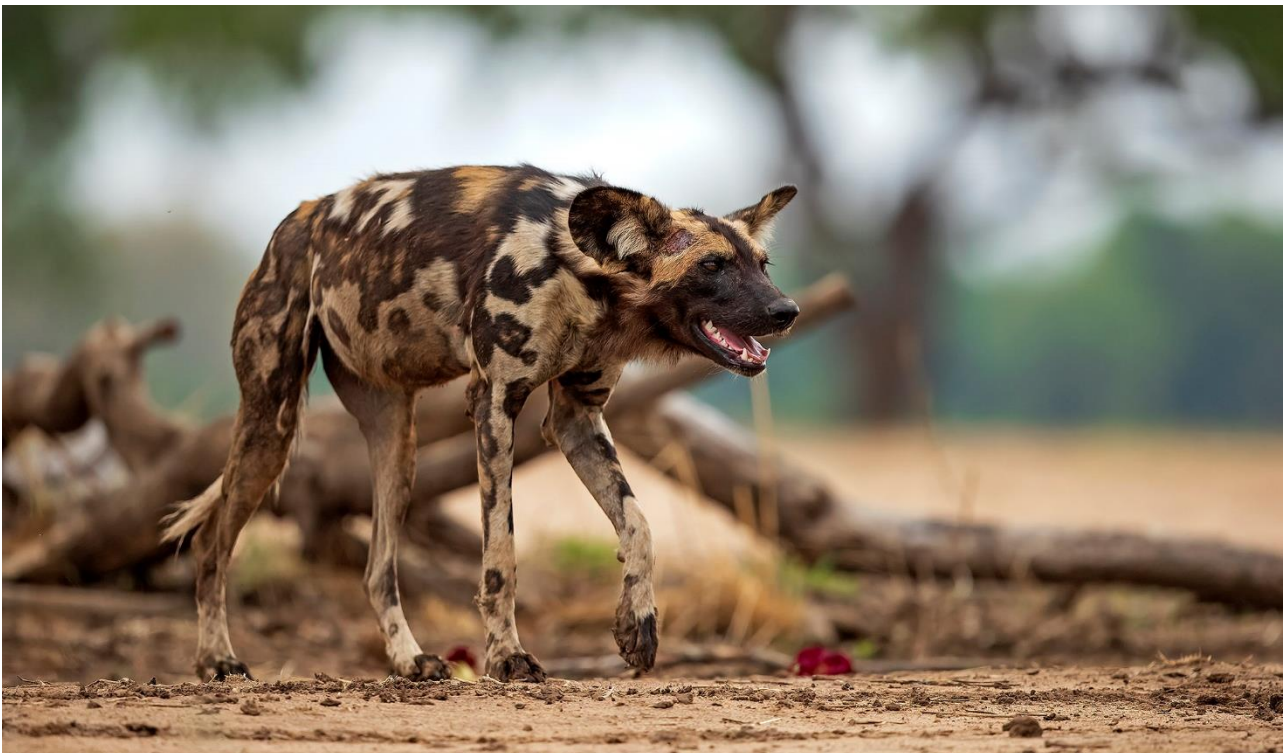
We thought that maybe this morning we might draw a blank on any of the iconic predators that call the park home. It was then that Jonathan found the African wild dogs on a tree-scattered plain called Wombilombe,

**Find out more about our [South Luangwa Photo Safari](#) trip or [contact us](#)
01962 302086 sales@wildlifeworldwide.com www.wildlifeworldwide.com**

and the second vehicle headed over to enjoy the sighting. Both vehicles were treated to some exceptional views as the pack went about their business, playing and bonding.



There was also a spotted hyena and her cub nearby, and just as Bwalya and I moved our vehicle to have a quick look at her, the dogs decided to move off again. We were able to move ahead of the dogs and position ourselves in a dip. By getting the vehicle lower, it allowed everyone to get much better angles for photographing the dogs as they approached.



With the dogs moving in a determined manner, we decided to call time. We had already been lucky enough to capture some stunning imagery and didn't want to disturb them. We moved to the river to find a spot for tea, and bumped into the pack once again as they chased an impala at speed. They were seemingly

**Find out more about our [South Luangwa Photo Safari trip](#) or [contact us](#)
01962 302086 sales@wildlifeworldwide.com www.wildlifeworldwide.com**

unsuccessful and we carried on our way. We stopped for tea at another carmine bee-eater colony and enjoyed the aerobatics and noisy calls. A pair of African skimmers were feeding on the wing while we enjoyed our refreshments. Every day is different along the Luangwa River, and with another fantastic morning behind us, we made our way back to camp. One notable highlight on the way was a goliath heron amongst the Nile cabbage of a drying lagoon.

Gambling that everyone would head out in search of the wild dogs again this afternoon, we decided to head south to the pontoon once more and spend the evening photographing hippos and bee-eaters. After a bit of a delay at the pontoon (due to the fact that a number of vehicles from Kafunta River Lodge arrived at the same time). Once we had crossed, we made our way slowly south along the river, trying to see if anything might show itself. With no predators presenting themselves, we focussed our efforts on the hippos and the carmines before enjoying another wonderful sundowner.

It was a relatively quiet night drive on our way back to camp, but after the rain there was a lot of insect life around the spotlights. We were soon back in camp enjoying a delicious dinner before retiring .

Day 8: South Luangwa National Park

Saturday 11 November 2023



With another day ahead of us enjoying the wildlife and landscapes of South Luangwa National Park, we crossed the bridge and soon came across a handsome male elephant. We slowly worked our way around the area between Mfuwe and Mushroom Lagoons. We enjoyed views of zebra and a lovely herd of giraffe, before arriving at Mushroom Lagoon where there were plenty of hippos, crocodiles, and a yellow-billed stork looking for food. However, it was the herd of elephants underneath the giant wild mango tree at the end of the lagoon that captured our hearts. It wasn't the easiest photography, but it was just the most magical thing to watch. With a couple of youngsters playing and just displaying the general joy of youth, we lapped up their antics and interaction with each other and the other elephants. A couple of large males also appeared, but the atmosphere was very relaxed with each elephant focussed on the mangoes being dropped by the baboons.

Bwalya and Jonathan made a plan to head inland once again, away from the river, to the boreholes. We were hoping to find the large pride of lions that had so far eluded us. We didn't find any lion, but instead came across a rather scarred and battered old male giraffe, a real character, plus a whole host of birds including a couple of new species: Wahlberg's eagle and jacobin cuckoo. This was the first drive on which we saw a relatively common species, the African hoopoe. Down by the river we came across a lovely group of baboons feeding on the ground, and a couple of youngsters which posed perfectly in a tree right beside our vehicle.

Find out more about our [South Luangwa Photo Safari trip](#) or [contact us](#)

01962 302086 sales@wildlifeworldwide.com www.wildlifeworldwide.com

It's wonderful being able to spend a prolonged period of time with individual animals or groups it's one of the main benefits of a photographic safari. We spend time with our subjects to see what happens and try our best to capture intimate portraits and remarkable behaviour.

After this great photography session, it was time to head back to camp for brunch and a chance to relax or maybe enjoy a siesta. On the way we saw a small flock of grey hornbills as they flew from tree to tree in front of us, but then it was quiet until we were out of the park and enjoying cold drinks and a hearty meal.

In the afternoon we decided to focus our efforts on finding the leopard opposite Flatdogs. We saw Lucy on our first morning, but ever since she had managed to evade us, so we were keen to try our luck again. We had just driven across the bridge and were driving along the road into the park proper when one of the group spotted something below us, at the foot of a steep embankment. He asked what it was and to our amazement

there was Lucy walking straight up toward us. Unbelievable!



She crossed the road right in front of us and proceeded to walk along the roadside as she went about her business. We drove further on to get ahead of her and were blessed with some absolutely fantastic photography. You really can't ask for more, particularly when you are the only ones to enjoy the sighting of such a majestic animal.

She disappeared down the steep bank on one side of the road and there we lost her. We moved round to see if we could spot her in the thick vegetation, but she had completely disappeared. Some guineafowl were giving alarm calls, which meant it was likely that she had gone to ground until the light levels dropped.

So we continued and came across a couple of male kudu, although the photographic opportunities with these beautiful antelopes were limited. At Mfuwe Lodge pool we had a very brief view of black crane, a small and elusive wading bird. We were moving towards an area where the wild dogs had been spotted earlier in

the day, and as we drove slowly around we noticed the dogs in front of us, resting in the shade of a thicket beside a couple of shallow, muddy pools.

The nine dogs were another part of the large pack that used to dominate this area, but subsequently split into three smaller groups. We were treated to a prolonged and very close encounter. With the soft evening light we were able to capture a wealth of images. Several dogs were particularly curious about our presence

Find out more about our [South Luangwa Photo Safari trip](#) or [contact us](#)

01962 302086 sales@wildlifeworldwide.com www.wildlifeworldwide.com

and both vehicles enjoyed excellent views. A lone hyena walked past, just keeping an eye on the dogs, while hooded vultures flew down to see if there might be an easy meal for them. They have a particularly odd habit of eating the faeces of African wild dogs.



Bwalya and Jonathan had heard of lions further south and we thought we could try and complete the predator set for the drive. We struck gold when we found the lion cubs resting in a dry riverbed. We knew the lionesses must be nearby, but we could only see the youngsters.



As other vehicles turned up, the lionesses made an appearance and my vehicle decided to leave as the cubs and lionesses bonded. This is what Zambia's South Luangwa National Park is all about and what an incredible final evening we were privileged to enjoy! With a fabulous afternoon behind us, and the sun setting over the Luangwa River, we went for special sundowners with sparkling wine and delicious snacks. We couldn't thank the Flatdogs team and our guides Bwalya and Jonathan enough for such an incredible time.

Day 9: South Luangwa National Park; Mfuwe to Dubai (via Lusaka)

Sunday 12 November 2023

We had one final drive in the park this morning - one last hoorah perhaps. We soon found a group of buffalo drinking at Mfuwe Lodge's waterhole and a giant kingfisher swooped down to catch a huge fish. It flew high into the trees before having its prized catch stolen by an African fish eagle. As the buffalo moved on a group of Crawshay's zebra came into view by the roadside. We moved further down the road to where we had found the African wild dogs the night before. There was no sign of them, but we did get a brief glimpse of an elephant shrew out in the open – a very unusual sighting in daylight.

Find out more about our [South Luangwa Photo Safari](#) trip or [contact us](#)

01962 302086 sales@wildlifeworldwide.com www.wildlifeworldwide.com

Driving Slowly through the scrubby habitat, we made our way towards the waterholes. Here we found a group of elephants spraying themselves and enjoying a mud bath. With the hot sun beating down , it was little wonder they were looking for some respite.

Weaving our way back towards Wafwa Lagoon, we stumbled upon the pack of wild dogs we had seen the day before. They were, sitting in the shade of a tree doing their best to keep cool. We had a wonderful time just watching them as they slept and enjoyed each other's company. In fact, a couple of the dogs scratched and rolled around in some leaf litter.

With the sun really starting to heat up, we decided to leave the dogs for the final time and head to the river for our last morning tea. We went back to the carmine bee-eater colony that we had visited on the first morning. Some of the group tried to hone their skills photographing the birds in flight, while others concentrated on portraits.



No matter how many times you see these beautiful birds, you can't help but be wowed by their incredible plumage and aerobatic prowess. With time running away from us, we made our way back to camp for the final time.

On arrival we freshened up and packed our things before checking out at midday. We had a few hours to enjoy the camp's facilities before leaving after afternoon tea. We stopped by the local craft shops on our way to Mfuwe airport. Upon our arrival there, we gathered everyone's luggage together and got everyone through security and checked in. Our flight to Lusaka left on time and we walked over to the international terminal where we were soon checked-in for our flight home via Dubai. Soon on our way to Dubai, we settled into our seats for the journey ahead.

Day 10: Dubai to London

Monday 13 November 2023

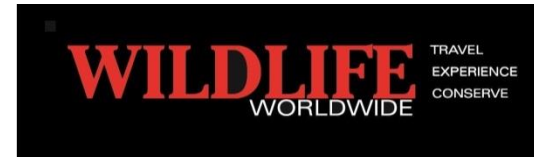
**Find out more about our [South Luangwa Photo Safari](#) trip or [contact us](#)
01962 302086 sales@wildlifeworldwide.com www.wildlifeworldwide.com**

Upon our arrival in Dubai, we transferred between terminals and readied ourselves for our final flight home. The flight was relatively empty and there were plenty of free seats. We landed safely at Heathrow, were soon through passport control, and the wait for luggage was relatively quick. Everyone said their goodbyes and we parted ways, looking forward to meeting again on a future Wildlife Worldwide adventure.

Sign up to our e-news

Sign up to our e-news to find out more about our tours, events, late availability, offers and tour reports at <https://www.wildlifeworldwide.com/subscribe>

Checklist for South Luangwa Photo Safari



	Common Name	Scientific Name	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7	Day 8	Day 9
	BIRDS								
1	African spoonbill	Platalea alba	✓						
2	African sacred ibis	Threskiornis aethiopicus	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓
3	Hadedda ibis	Bostrychia hagedash	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
4	Goliath heron	Ardea goliath					✓		
5	Grey heron	Ardea cinerea					✓		
6	Black-headed heron	Ardea melanocephala	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
7	Yellow-billed stork	Mycteria ibis	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
8	Saddle-billed stork	Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis		✓		✓		✓	✓
9	African openbill	Anastomus lamelligerus	✓			✓			
10	Hammerkop	Scopus umbretta	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
11	Spur-winged goose	Plectropterus gambensis		✓	✓			✓	✓
12	Knob-billed duck	Sarkidiornis melanotos			✓				

13	Egyptian goose	Alopochen aegyptiacus	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
14	White-backed vulture	Gyps coprotheres						✓	
15	Hooded vulture	Necrosyrtes monachus						✓	✓
16	African fish eagle	Haliaeetus vocifer	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
17	Bateleur eagle	Terathopius eadatus			✓		✓	✓	
18	Wahlberg's eagle	Aquila wahlbergi						✓	
19	Brown snake eagle	Circaetus cinereus					✓		
20	Western banded snake eagle	Circaetus cinerascens		✓		✓			
21	Black kite	Milvus migrans							
22	Yellow-billed kite	Milvus aegyptius		✓	✓		✓		
23	African marsh harrier	Circus ranivorus		✓					
24	Black-shouldered kite	Elanus caeruleus			✓				
25	Little sparrowhawk	Accipiter minullus				✓			
26	African harrier hawk	Polyboroides typus			✓				
27	Helmeted guineafowl	Numida meleagris	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
28	Red-necked spurfowl	Pternistes afer	✓			✓			
29	Swainson's spurfowl	Pternistes swainsonii	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
30	Black crane	Amurornis flaviostris						✓	

31	Grey-crowned crane	Balearica regulorum		✓	✓			✓	
32	Black-winged stilt	Himantopus himantopus	✓						
33	African jacana	Actophilornis africanus	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
34	Water thick-knee	Burhinus vermiculatus					✓	✓	
35	Blacksmith lapwing	Vanellus armatus		✓			✓		
36	White-crowned lapwing	Vanellus albiceps	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
37	Common greenshank	Tringa nebularia	✓						
38	Wood sandpiper	Tringa erythropus	✓		✓				
39	Common sandpiper	Actitis hypoleucos	✓	✓		✓			
40	African skimmer	Rhynchops flavirostris				✓	✓	✓	
41	African mourning dove	Streptopelia decipiens		✓		✓			✓
42	Red-eyed dove	Streptopelia semitorquata							✓
43	Cape turtle dove	Streptopelia capicola	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
44	Emerald-spotted wood dove	Turtur chalcospilos	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
45	Namaqua dove	Oena capensis							✓
46	Lilian's lovebird	Agapornis lilianae	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
47	Meyer's parrot	Poicephalus meyeri						✓	
48	Purple-crested turaco	Musophaga porphyreolopha							✓

49	Jacobin cuckoo	Oxylophus jacobinus						✓	
50	White-browed coucal	Centropus superciliosus	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
51	African wood owl	Strix woodfordii		H			H	H	
52	Verraux's (giant) eagle owl	Bubo lacteus	✓						
53	Pel's fishing owl	Scotopelia peli				✓			
54	Spotted eagle owl	Bubo africanus			✓				
55	Square-tailed nightjar	Caprimulgus fossii				✓			
56	African black swift	Apus barbatus		✓			✓		
57	Common swift	Apus apus	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
58	Pallid swift	Apus pallidus	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
59	African palm swift	Cypsiurus parvus					✓		
60	Speckled mousebird	Colius striatus						✓	
61	Giant kingfisher	Megaceryle maxima				✓			✓
62	Pied kingfisher	Ceryle rudis	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
63	Woodland kingfisher	Halcyon senegalensis	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
64	Brown-hooded kingfisher	Halcyon albiventris		✓	✓		✓	✓	
65	White-fronted bee-eater	Merops bullockoides	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
66	Southern carmine bee-eater	Merops nubicoides	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

67	Little bee-eater	Merops pusillus	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
68	Lilac-breasted roller	Coracias caudata	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
69	Broad-billed roller	Eurystomus glaucurus					✓		
70	Southern ground hornbill	Bucorvus leadbeateri			✓	✓	✓		
71	African grey hornbill	Tockus nasutus						✓	
72	Crowned hornbill	Tockus alboterminatus	✓		✓		✓	✓	
73	Southern red-billed hornbill	Tockus erythrorhynchus	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
74	Green wood-hoopoe	Phoeniculus purpureus		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
75	African hoopoe	Upupa africana					✓	✓	
76	Bennett's woodpecker	Camptera bennetii			✓			✓	
77	Barn swallow	Hirundo rustica	✓			✓			
78	Wire-tailed swallow	Hirundo smithii	✓				✓		
79	Banded martin	Riparia cincta	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
80	Fork-tailed drongo	Dicrurus adsimilis	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
81	White-browed robin-chat	Cossypha heuglini						✓	
82	African pied wagtail	Motacilla aguimp		✓	✓			✓	✓
83	Tropical boubou	Laniarius aethiopicus	H		H	✓	H		H
84	Black-crowned tchagra	Tchagra senegala				✓			

85	Meve's (long-tailed) starling	Lamprotornis mevesii	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
86	Yellow-billed oxpecker	Buphagus africanus	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
87	Red-billed oxpecker	Buphagus erythrorhynchus			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
88	Grey-headed sparrow	Passer griseus				✓			
89	White-browed sparrow weaver	Plocepasser mahali	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
90	Red-billed buffalo weaver	Bubalornis niger	✓		✓	✓		✓	
91	Village weaver	Ploceus cucullatus				✓		✓	
92	Red-billed quelea	Quelea quelea	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
93	Blue waxbill	Uraeginthus angolensis	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
94	Green-winged pytilia	Pytilia melba				✓			
95	Red-billed firefinch	Lagnosticta senegala	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
96	Yellow-fronted canary	Serinus mozambicus				✓		✓	
	MAMMALS								
1	Four-toed elephant shrew	<i>Petrodromus tetradactylus</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
2	Bush elephant	<i>Loxodonta africana</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
3	Scrub hare	<i>Lepus victoriae</i>	✓			✓	✓	✓	
4	Vervet monkey	<i>Chlorocebus pygerythrus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
5	Yellow baboon	<i>Papio cynocephalus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

6	Greater bushbaby	<i>Otolemur crassicaudatus</i>	✓		✓				
7	Smith's tree squirrel	<i>Paraxerus cepapi</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
8	Thornicroft's giraffe	<i>Giraffa camelopardalis thornicrofti</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
9	Bushbuck	<i>Tragelaphus scriptus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
10	Greater kudu	<i>Tragelaphus strepsiceros</i>				✓		✓	
11	Impala	<i>Aepyceros melampus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
12	Puku	<i>Kobus vardonii</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
13	Waterbuck	<i>Kobus ellipsiprymnus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
14	African buffalo	<i>Syncerus caffer</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
15	Warthog	<i>Phacochoerus africanus</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
16	Hippopotamus	<i>Hippopotamus amphibius</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
17	Common genet	<i>Genetta genetta</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
18	African civet	<i>Civettictis civetta</i>			✓				
19	Spotted hyena	<i>Crocuta crocuta</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
20	Slender mongoose	<i>Herpestes sanguineus</i>		✓	✓			✓	
21	Bushy-tailed mongoose	<i>Bdeogale crassicauda</i>			✓	✓		✓	
22	White-tailed mongoose	<i>Ichneumia albicauda</i>				✓			
23	Banded mongoose	<i>Mungos mungo</i>		✓			✓		

24	Leopard	<i>Panthera pardus</i>	✓		✓	✓		✓	
25	Lion	<i>Panthera leo</i>	✓	✓	✓			✓	
26	African wild dog	<i>Lycaon pictus</i>			✓		✓	✓	✓
26	Crawshay's zebra	<i>Equus quagga crawshayi</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓