Ultimate Kafue

Being an area roughly the size of Wales, the variety of landscapes, animal and bird life of the Kafue National Park are unmatched.

The Ultimate Kafue safari allows you to visit the park in depth, travelling from the northern Busanga Plains, to southern Nanzhila Plains and all the wilderness in between. You will experience real remoteness, breath-taking river landscapes and encounter wildlife undisturbed.

This 15 day / 14 night safari accommodates you in five selected safari camps and includes a ‘five nights for four’ stay at KaingU with a selection of special activities, an optional island sleepout or just time to relax.

Travel Dates: 01st July to 31st October 2019
Ultimate Kafue

Brief Safari Overview:

Start your ultimate visit to the Kafue National Park from Lusaka or Livingstone. A charter flight connects from/to Lusaka and the transfer to/from Livingstone is done by road. (Private charter flights to/from Livingstone are available too, please enquire.)

This ultimate trip through the Kafue National Park will take you to the famous Busanga Plains in the north, through Miombo woodlands and dambos, following the varied Kafue river system to Lake Itezhi Tezhi and to the Nanzhila Plains in the south. As the crow flies, you will travel a distance of over 240km from north to south in one park.

As the land varies, so do its inhabitants. You will encounter large herds of lechwe, wildebeest, roan and numerous sightings of the rare wattled cranes in the Busanga Plains. The Miombo woodlands and dambos provide home to a greater variety of mammal and bird species. Sable, reedbuck and black chequed lovebirds are a speciality around Nanzhila. Large herds of buffalo and elephant are home to the Kafue National Park and predators found include lion, leopard, cheetah, serval, caracal, African wild cat, hyena and African wild dog.

You will enjoy the friendly and welcoming people of Zambia. You will experience the cultures of 7 different tribes, at five well selected camps, run in an eco-friendly and socially sustainable manner. The Ultimate Kafue Package takes you two nights each to Mukambi Busanga Plains Camp, Konkamoya and Nanzhila Plains Camp as well as three nights to Musekese Camp and five nights to KaingU Safari Lodge.

This package is put together enable you to experience the diversity of wildlife and activities in the Kafue National Park. Gamedrives are the most successful way to encounter wildlife in the open grass plains of Busanga and Nanzhila. At Musekese boating and excellent walking safaris can be added to your activities around dambo “Eden”.

Five nights at KaingU allow you to extend your game & safari experience. Explore the myriads of channels and islands of the Kafue River in this area by canoe, rubber dinghy or boat. Spend photographic quality time at a bird hide; enjoy the 360° view over nothing but nature from the top of Mpamba rock; sleepout in a Tonga-tree-basket on an island; visit a real rural African hamlet; have time to relax at the little rapids or your deck overlooking the river.
Itinerary

Day 1:  
Starting from Lusaka:  
Depart before noon with a scheduled flight to the Busanga Plains airstrip in the northern part of the Kafue National Park (flight time ± 1 ¼ hours). You will be awaited by your transfer guide and arrive at Mukambi Busanga Plains Camp for lunch. Enjoy your first game drive that afternoon.

Starting from Livingstone:  
Depart Livingstone with an arranged road transfer to the Dundumwezi park entrance gate (± 3 hour drive) where you will be met by the Nanzhila Plains safari team. Enjoy a game drive into camp and settle in. Meals & activities will be offered according to your arrival time.

Note: Following itinerary is when arriving from Lusaka; in reverse for arriving from Livingstone.

Day 2:  
In Busanga Plains the focus will be on game drives. Early morning safaris and excursions in the afternoon with the subsequent night drives to explore the open vastness. Here lion and cheetah prey on the great diversity of antelope species. Lechwe and puku graze on the central swamps while the shy sitatunga hides in the papyrus reeds. Wildebeest, roan and sable visit the natural water pools in the plains and to see a large herd of elephant crossing the wide open grassland at sunset is truly magical. Crowned and wattled cranes, secretary birds and ground hornbills stalk the grasslands and ancient fig trees (the famous One Fig) and palms draw their nutrients from giant termite hills.

1-2nd night: MUKAMBI BUSANGA PLAINS CAMP, Busanga plains Kafue NP  
morning/afternoon/night game drives, walking safaris

3-5th night: MUSEKESE CAMP, northern sector Kafue NP  
walking safaris, boating safaris, morning/afternoon and all day game drives, birding walks, photographic hides

6-10th night: KAINGU SAFARI LODGE, central sector Kafue NP  
river cruises, canoeing, nature & rock walks, morning/afternoon and all day game drives, birding, photographic hides, island breakfasts, - sleep outs and rapids dinners

11-12th night: KONKAMOYA, mid southern Kafue NP  
morning/afternoon and night game drives, walking safaris, birding, aardvark expeditions

13-14th night: NANZHILA PLAINS CAMP, southern Kafue NP  
morning/afternoon and night game drives, walking safaris, birding
Itinerary continued

Day 3: Enjoy breakfast while watching lechwe antelopes grazing in front of the deck. The transfer to Musekese Camp is an interesting drive of about 3 hours along the Lufupa river. At its confluence with the Kafue river you will be picked up by boat and comfortably cruise & drive to camp (30min.).

Arrive in Musekese with the option of an afternoon activity that could be a game drive or a boatcruise and enjoy the view from the large deck over dambo “Eden”, from herds of elephant frolicking to the hundreds of puku, keeping an eye out for one of the resident lion prides in the area.

Day 4-5: The next few days are spent exploring the riverine woodlands and dambos of the Musekese area, where walking safaris and boat trips are the main methods of game viewing, while classic game drives are also an option.

Daily activities for your stay at Musekese will be scheduled to suit your needs and tasty food will compliment your customized itinerary at Musekese.

Day 6: Already time to head to your next destination: KaingU Safari Lodge (∆4 hour drive, plus 10min boat). Arrive at the lodge in time for lunch by the river’s edge. You will have time for a siesta and discuss with your guide your choice of activity for the afternoon.

Day 7-10: With the assistance of your highly qualified guide, daily activities for your stay at KaingU will be scheduled to suit your needs.

The Lodge is located on a stunningly beautiful part of the Kafue River, with a myriad of channels, rapids and islands lending itself to a range of exciting river based activities which include boat cruises, birding, canoeing and river trails. Morning and afternoon game drives allow you to explore a larger area and encounter wildlife up close. Seasonal highlights are also the Beeeater- and Parrot-hides which offer you great photographic opportunities.

From the top of one of the large granite boulders in the Namwala GMA you will get a 360° view over nothing but nature! A visit to the KaingU Trust School or local village can be organised. Interested in an island sleep out? Just enquire with your booking.
Itinerary continued

Day 11: Depart after breakfast to Itezhi Tezhi lake and Konkamoya lodge (3 hour drive). You will arrive at Konkamoya in time for lunch, followed by siesta and an afternoon activity. After drinks watching the sunset, the exploration continues with a spot light in search of the many nocturnal animals on offer such as Genets, Mongoose, Serval and Lion.

Day 12: In the morning, immediately after sun rise, and in the evening, a couple of hours before sunset, you can explore the area on foot or on one of the camp’s Land Rovers on trips of three to four hours long, in search of antelopes, elephants, the 1000 strong buffalo herds and of course their predators. The Itezhi Tezhi lake draws much wildlife to its shore and hippos can be watched resting on the banks and islands during the day. Heading further inland the landscape varies from the famous teak forest to sweeping open vistas and rolling hills. Delicious Italian influenced meals will accompany your marvellous safari experience at Konkamoya.

Day 13-14: Breakfast is served in time for your departure to Nanzhila Plains Camp (2 ½ hour drive). Nanzhila is the only lodge in the Southern Kafue, meaning you have nearly 3000km² of pure wilderness to yourself. After you have settled into the beautiful rooms with views over the dambo and enjoyed lunch, you will head out on an afternoon & night game drive. Diverse wildlife encounters on game drives and walks around Nanzhila are bound to reveal a wide variety of wildlife and bird species including 4 out of the Big 5!

Day 15: Breakfast is served early, before your departure to Livingstone (gamedrive to Dumdumwezi Gate about 3 hours plus road transfer to Livingstone ±3 hours).
The Mukambi Busanga Plains Camp is a seasonal luxury bush camp, located in the middle of the famous Busanga Plains, accessible for only four months of the year, when the floodplain dries after the rainy season, leaving a vast grassland full of wildlife and birds.

The camp consists of four luxury safari tents with en-suite open-air bathrooms. Power is limited but solar lights and paraffin lamps are provided in tents.

There is a main dining area on a raised wooden deck with an expansive thatch roof, plunge pool and a viewing platform in a large fig tree looking out to the East, allowing for beautiful sun rises to be seen in the morning.

A small fireplace on the end of the wooden deck is where the nights are spent warming up and telling stories under the milky way.

The camp overlooks the plains where openness is only interrupted by tree studded islands and lion and cheetah prey on large herds of lechwe, puku and buffalo.

Game drives depart daily, one at sunrise and the afternoon drive (partly a night drive) leaves at approximately 2 hours before sunset, both in the perfect light of the golden hours.

The Busanga Plains area is perfectly situated to see large numbers of less common animals such as red lechwe, Lichtenstein’s hartebeest, oribi and cervals. But it is also well known for the big lions, buffalo, elephant and wildebeest. Cheetah and wild dog are also regular sightings, while a special treat is the ‘resident’ herd of rare roan antelope.

Walks take place around the plains surrounding the camp, and give you the chance to encounter the animals at close range.
Musekese Camp

Musekese Camp is located in one of the most remote and wildest parts of the Kafue National Park, in an area chosen specifically for the positive impact it would have on conservation as well as to give you the best possible wildlife encounters. It is nestled in a large stand of massive riverine trees overlooking an immense dambo, where you can sit and watch the diverse and large congregations of wildlife, from the comfort of your chalet or whilst having a drink on the deck.

The Musekese camp itself comprises four well appointed, traditionally thatched chalets, all complete with comfortable beds, soft linens and locally sourced furnishings. Open air en-suite bathrooms come with traditional wood warmed bucket showers and flushing toilets, combining style with practicality for a comfortable stay.

The main lounge area is under a cool, grass thatch roof, providing shade in the heat of the day where you can relax with a book or an ice cold drink. Alternatively, the large deck, which extends into the dambo, provides unparalleled game viewing and bird-watching opportunities. It is also a truly breathtaking site for dinner under the stars.

Good cuisine at J&M Safaris is of utmost importance to us and we have been fortunate to have Michelin-star trained chef Jamie Sparks create a bespoke menu and train our loyal and willing local kitchen staff.

A typical day at the Musekese site can include any of a number of exciting activities all dedicated to getting the most out of your time; from boat cruises along the unhurried Kafue river and its tributaries searching for elusive and rare birds such as the Pel’s Fishing Owl and African Finfoot, to walking safaris where the smells, textures and undulations of the ‘real’ Africa are experienced in a more immersive manner.

Open game drive vehicles allow you to get up close and personal with the larger animals of the Kafue. And one must not forget the viewing hides and blinds, strategically hidden away, where you can relax and wait for the wildlife and birds to come to you - a fantastic and unique way to enjoy the bush.
KaingU Safari Lodge

Set in an area of pristine wilderness, KaingU Safari Lodge offers a magnificent safari experience in the heart of the African bush. KaingU provides a unique stay for travellers wishing to get closer to the unspoilt wilderness of the 'real' Africa, experience the warm and welcoming people of Zambia and enjoy wildlife and scenery undisturbed.

Our experienced guiding team and large range of guided activities enable you to have a tailored safari experience. Enjoy viewing wild animals, birds, river and landscape on driving and walking safaris, on river cruises or while canoeing. Seasonal parrot- and bee-eater hides, island breakfasts, sleep outs and rapids dinners complement your stay. Our unique section of the Kafue River and Park provide the perfect backdrop for this diverse range of activities, unmatched in the Kafue.

Set on raised individual private wooden decks, each overlooking their own piece of the Kafue River, KaingU Safari Lodge comprises six boutique tents with en-suite bathrooms, indoor showers and an open-air shower or bath. The tent's additional thatched roof provides extra shade. Our Finfoot family house consists of two bedrooms (one queen, one twin), two en-suite bathrooms plus outside showers and a central lounge opening onto a private deck overlooking the river. It’s a perfect spot for a couple with children, or a small group of friends. Our Tonga-treebasket provides a unique sleep out on an island.

The lodge is built with minimal impact to the environment, run in an eco and socially sustainable manner. A great asset to the area be it providing training and employment to the communities around the national park, providing additional income by purchasing as many goods locally as possible, supporting the local community school and contributing to the protection of wildlife in the area.

Personal attention to each and every guest makes you feel at home instantly. It is a place to unwind, indulge in fresh cuisine prepared by our local chefs and be spoilt with an abundance of activities or, if you prefer, just relax and feel the heartbeat of Africa.

The friendly staff like to share their culture, stories, traditional knowledge and craftsmanship with you.
Konkamoya

Deep in the heart of peaceful Zambia, Konkamoya Lodge is the spot to discover the mid Southern Kafue, a wild and still undiscovered region of the vast Kafue National Park. Konkamoya in the Nyanja language means “Follow the wind”. And from the wind scoured bush and Andrea’s passion, in 2010, the lake side lodge was born on the banks of the Itezhi Tezhi lake, in the heart of Zambia.

The Lodge has four luxurious safari tents and is able to accommodate up to 8 guests only, this purposely small number of guests ensures an intimate safari experience.

Each safari tent is set on elevated wooden platforms to provide a marvellous view as well as sunrise and sunset over the lake, is shaded by a thatched roof and disguised by mahogany, ebony and sansevieria cilindrica bushes. You will find a sitting area with tea station, comfortable bed and a spacious bathroom with hot and cold running water; electricity is guaranteed by a solar system.

The Lodge has two Lapas, traditional meeting places of a Zambian village, which welcome guests for breakfast, lunch and long communal dinners as well as relaxing on the comfortable cane furniture or long chats under the starlit sky in front of a wood fire. The second Lapa with bar and lounge is set on a termite hill and provides a broad view over the lake.

The lodge’s Landrovers are comfortably equipped for safaris, following the tracks of the wild animals present in the park and, Andrea, the owner, loves to share his passion for wildlife and the area with you.

Who follows the Konkamoya wind knows that they may find a sensation behind every small bush, as well as finding a lake that promises new horizons for bird watching aficionados.
Nanzhila Plains

The Nanzhila Plains are seasonally flooded grasslands with scattered tree-islands in the southern part of the Kafue National Park. The area is best known for its lush woodlands of Miombo, Zambezi Teak and Mopane, the beautiful plains and the Nanzhila stream that runs through it. Nanzhila Plains is a must for those intrepid travellers wishing to experience life off the beaten track.

The spacious main lodge is a raised, grass-thatched structure (called an insaka) with a beautiful teak deck. Elevated above the Nangandwe pool, it comprises a lounge and dining area, bar and verandah. An adjoining communal open-air fireplace is a great gathering place in the evening, where stories are exchanged under the stars.

The three Nanzhila spacious chalets and three safari tents, all well-furnished and en-suite, have beautiful views over the dambo and the gauze windows allow all the wonderful sounds of the African night to reach you clearly!

Game drives and safari walks around Nanzhila are bound to reveal a wide variety of wildlife and bird species including 4 out of the Big 5!
You have an excellent chance of sighting at least 10 different antelope species within the area including sable, roan, defassa waterbuck, lichtenstein's hartebeest, kudu, eland, wildebeest, common reedbuck, oribi and duiker, to name a few.
In addition to offering near-guaranteed sightings of the Black-cheeked love bird, Nanzhila Plains is home to world class birding with a bird list of over 500 species strong.
The Kafue National Park

Covering an area of 22,500 km², Kafue National Park is the 2nd largest in Africa and comprises many diverse habitats: it is traversed by the Kafue, Lufupa, Lunga and Luansanza Rivers. The adjoining peaceful stretches of riverine vegetation, dambos and wetlands, extensive miombo woodland with seasonal floodplains and swampland in the very north and south.

Owing to this varied habitat, Kafue is blessed with one of the highest diversities of mammals of all national parks in the world (158 species). Wildebeest, puku, red lechwe, Defassa waterbuck, reedbuck to name a few, and roan, sable or oribi sightings are not uncommon either. There is a high density of lion, while leopard are common in the central parts; species like cheetah and wild dog are seen too. The birdlife is also spectacular. Over 515 species of birds inhabit the park and surrounding areas - from wattled and crowned crane, saddle billed stork, ground hornbill, Ross's turaco, African finfoot and Pel's fishing owl.

Only after some time here in the Kafue will you realize what is missing – other game drive vehicles, people and boats. It truly is one of the last wilderness areas of Africa. The Kafue National Park offers with game drives, excellent walking safaris, canoe trails, boat cruises and wonderful relaxation an unforgettable safari experience.

Busanga Plains

The Busanga Plains are arguably the most known area in the Kafue National Park. Having said this, it is also very remote and only accessible for three to four months a year, when the water levels finally drop after the rainy season. The Busanga Swamps is a papyrus-covered wetland that gives way to the vast floodplain of the Busanga Plains, seasonally-inundated grassland dotted with tree-islands hosting wonderful specimens of sycamore fig. At the beginning of the season the plains are crowded with bird-life and sightings of lions, often crossing the water channels, are not rare. Large herds of red lechwe and puku are a common sight, together with oribi and resident roan while zebra, wildebeest and sable use the fringes of the plains.
Ultimate Kafue

15 DAYS 14 NIGHTS SAFARI from $8,912

INCLUDING TRANSFERS*

Availability & Cost: 01st July to 31st August 2019: from $8,912 per person
01st September to 31st October 2019: from $8,995 per person

Duration: 14 Nights Kafue NP: 1st-2nd night: MUKAMBI BUSANGA PLAINS CAMP, Busanga Plains
3rd-5th night: MUSEKESE CAMP, dambo ‘Eden’
6th-10th night: KAINGU SAFARI LODGE, Kafue islands & rocks
11th-12th night: KONKAMOYA, Itezhi Tezhi Lake
13th-14th night: NANZILLA PLAINS CAMP, Nanzhila Plains

Includes: Accommodation, transfers*, meals & snacks, local drinks, laundry service,
activities, 10% service charge, Kafue community and conservation bed night levy,
Kafue National Park entry fees

Brief notes: • Rates are in USD per person, sharing. Enquire for Single supplement details.
• *Arrival & Departure option included in above rate:
one way air transfer to or from Lusaka/Busanga and road transfer from or to
Livingstone/Nanzhila, as well as all road transfers between camps.
• Other Fly In or Self Drive options available. Enquire for rates and itinerary.
• Rate inclusions: as listed above.
• Rate exclusions: premium drinks, international airfares, travel insurance, entry visas,

For reservation & booking contact Lynda: reservations@kaingu-lodge.com
Notes, Terms & Conditions

- Child policy: children under 16 years: 50% off if sharing with 2 adults; regrettably no children under 12 years allowed.
- A comprehensive medical and travel insurance including medical evacuation before arrival is recommended.
- Reasonable physical condition is recommended for the canoeing and walking safaris.
- Bookings made on provisional basis must be confirmed within 60 days with 30% deposit. All lodges included in this package reserve the right to cancel any booking that is not confirmed within this period.
- Full payment is due 6 weeks prior to arrival.
  Cancellation fees apply:
  01-30 days prior to arrival: 100% of due payment
  30-60 days prior to arrival: 50% of due payment
  60+ days prior to arrival: 30% of due payment
- Meet and Greet Service at Lusaka Airport is available (extra cost).

For reservation & booking contact Lynda: reservations@kaingu-lodge.com
Walk to Mpamba Rock at KaingU Safari Lodge

Add On: Livingstone – Victoria Falls

Add On: South Luangwa National Park

Add On: Chobe National Park (Northern Botswana)