

LEOPARDS OF LUANGWA PHOTO SAFARI, ZAMBIA





We invite you to join us for a photography adventure in Luangwa!

Competing with the Greater Kruger for the highest leopard densities in Africa, South Luangwa National Park stands as a sanctuary for these graceful felines. In contrast to the bustling reserves of Kruger, South Luangwa offers a more exclusive, intimate wildlife experience, with fewer vehicles and less crowded sightings. The lush floodplains, oxbow lakes, and riverine forests lining the Luangwa River provide prime leopard territory, making this one of the top locations in Africa to observe and photograph these elusive predators. During the dry season's peak in September and October, wildlife congregates near the river, offering exceptional opportunities for striking photographs. The dry season also sets the stage for intense predator-prey dynamics. Lions thrive around the shrinking waterholes, weakened buffalo become prime targets, and hippos clash for dominance in the soft, golden light of sunrise and sunset.

HIGHLIGHTS

South Luangwa National Park is one of Africa's most unspoiled and wildlife-rich sanctuaries, renowned for its dramatic landscapes and exceptional predator sightings.

The Luangwa River winds through a mosaic of mopane woodlands, floodplains, and ancient oxbow lagoons, creating a lush, photogenic backdrop teeming with life. This region is especially famous for its high density of leopards, often seen draped in trees or prowling at dusk, making it a dream destination for wildlife photographers. The dry season draws animals to the riverbanks, offering concentrated game viewing and golden light, ideal for capturing intimate wildlife moments.

Beyond its famed leopards, South Luangwa offers a rich diversity of species and a sense of wildness that's increasingly rare. Elephants, giraffes, hippos, and large herds of buffalo roam freely, while lions and African wild dogs add to the predator drama. Birdlife is equally spectacular, with over 400 species including vibrant bee-eaters and majestic fish eagles. The park is also the birthplace of the walking safari, offering a chance to explore the bush on foot with expert guides and track wildlife through scent, sound, and spoor.

With its raw beauty, abundant wildlife, and immersive safari experiences, South Luangwa is a destination that delivers both photographic excellence and deep connection to the African wilderness.



PHOTOGRAPHIC EXPERIENCE

South Luangwa offers photographers a rare blend of intimacy, diversity, and drama. The park's varied terrain (riverine forests, open plains, and oxbow lagoons) creates layered compositions and dynamic lighting throughout the day. Leopard sightings are frequent and often cinematic: a cat descending from a tree in golden light, stalking through dry grass, or pausing at the river's edge.

With private vehicles and expert guidance, photographers can anticipate behavior and position themselves for compelling, story-driven shots. The dry season's clarity and warm tones elevate every frame, from wide-angle landscapes to tight wildlife portraits.

The photographic opportunities extend well beyond big cats. Elephants navigating river crossings, giraffes framed against pastel skies, and hippos sparring in shallow pools offer moments of movement and mood. South Luangwa's birdlife adds bursts of color and flight - perfect for practicing action shots and fine-tuning focus. Under mentorship from a professional photographer, participants refine their visual storytelling, learning to capture not just what they see, but what they feel. It's a journey that deepens both technical skill and creative connection.





YOUR PHOTOGRAPHY GUIDE:

At Penda, we collaborate with only the best professional photographic guides, chosen for their expertise, teaching ability, and commitment to your experience. They prioritise creating exceptional photographic opportunities and adapt their guidance to suit your individual skills and goals, whether you're a beginner or a seasoned photographer.

For full details about the specific guide leading this tour, please visit the [tour page](#) on our website.

ACCOMMODATION, MEALS & FACILITIES

We'll have the pleasure of staying at the eco-friendly Msandile River Lodge. This intimate lodge offers comfortable rooms and excellent service. Located in a prime area for wildlife viewing, the lodge allows for quick access to the park's best photographic locations. After a full day of safari drives, you can unwind and reflect on your experiences, enjoying the peaceful atmosphere of this beautiful location.

The lodge is set on the banks of the Luangwa River, and you might even be able to enjoy some game viewing right from your room, or from the lodge's riverside garden. Apart from the garden, the lodge has a shared lounge, a bar, and a pool. Three gorgeous meals a day will be served, all freshly prepared from local produce.





RECOMMENDED EQUIPMENT

We recommend the following equipment. If you'd like to discuss your specific gear, just reach out, and we'll be happy to advise.

Recommended Camera Gear:

- DSLR or mirrorless camera
- Range of lenses including telephoto for wildlife
- Tripod (useful)
- Sturdy camera bag
- Enough spare batteries and memory cards (you'll be able to charge your batteries at our accommodation)
- Hard drive and a laptop / external drive
- Laptop with editing software

Essential Travel Gear:

- Comfortable clothes (ideally neutral colors)
- Warm layers for cooler nights
- Insect repellent
- Sunscreen & Hat
- Binoculars (optional)
- Power adapters if you need them



HEALTH & FITNESS LEVEL REQUIRED

This safari is designed to be accessible to most travelers with a moderate level of fitness.

Game drives are conducted in comfortable, open safari vehicles, requiring no strenuous activity. However, the itinerary includes optional walking safaris, which involve slow-paced exploration over uneven terrain for up to a few hours.

Participants should be able to manage getting in and out of vehicles, tolerate warm temperatures, and walk short distances on natural ground. No advanced fitness is required, but a general level of mobility and comfort in outdoor conditions will enhance the experience.

DATES & RATES

**FOR UP-TO-DATE
INFORMATION ON
DATES, RATES, AND
AVAILABILITY, PLEASE
VISIT OUR WEBSITE**

This includes:

- Accommodation
- All meals
- Game Drives with expert guides
- Photography guidance
- Internal flights from Lusaka to Mfuwe
- Transfers to and from the airport

This does not include:

- International Flights
- Optional village tours or additional excursions
- Travel Insurance



WHY PENDA

Everything is built around photography.

- Our photography tours are created by photographers, for photographers. Our itineraries are designed around creating the best possible photographic opportunities. We'll make sure to bring you to the right place, at the right moment.
- We're travel experts. We love travel, and have many years of experience in creating and running tours, workshops, volunteer programs, and safaris. We know what makes a great holiday, and will match every person with their perfect experience.
- Our photography tours are led by top photographers. Each photo tour or safari is guided by an experienced professional photographer, who is dedicated to creating the best possible experience for you by taking you to the right spots, and tutoring you at the same time.
- We respect what we photograph. We're committed to exploring and adhering to the most ethical ways of photographing new places.
- When you join one of our photography adventures, we'll plant a tree on your behalf through our partnership with Greenpop - a nonprofit restoring ancient forests and creating green spaces across Sub-Saharan Africa. You'll even receive a certificate with the GPS coordinates of your tree





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