

How to Get There

Makuti lies 296 km north of Harare on the main highway to Zambia and is the last petrol station before entering Mana Pools National Park. Petrol and oil are not available within the Park and an adequate supply must be carried by all visitors. Marongora is 16 km beyond Makuti and all visitors to the Zambezi Valley and Mana Pools must stop and obtain an entry permit before proceeding. Persons travelling to Mana Pools must leave Marongora no later than 3:30 p.m. Six km beyond Marongora, at the foot of the Zambezi Escarpment, turn right on a gravel road. Follow this road for 30 km to Nyakasikana Gate. From this point it is an additional 42 km to the main office at Nyamepi Camp. Visitors are advised to drive with caution as the road is rough.



For Reservations
or Further Information contact:

Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority Central Reservations Office

P. O. Box CY 140, Causeway Harare, Zimbabwe
Tel: +263-4-706077/8, 707624/9, 792786/9
Fax: +263-4-726089 or 724914
Email: natparks@africaonline.co.zw
Cnr. Borrowdale Rd. & Sandringham Dr.
Office Hours: Monday to Friday 08:00 - 16:00

Bulawayo Office

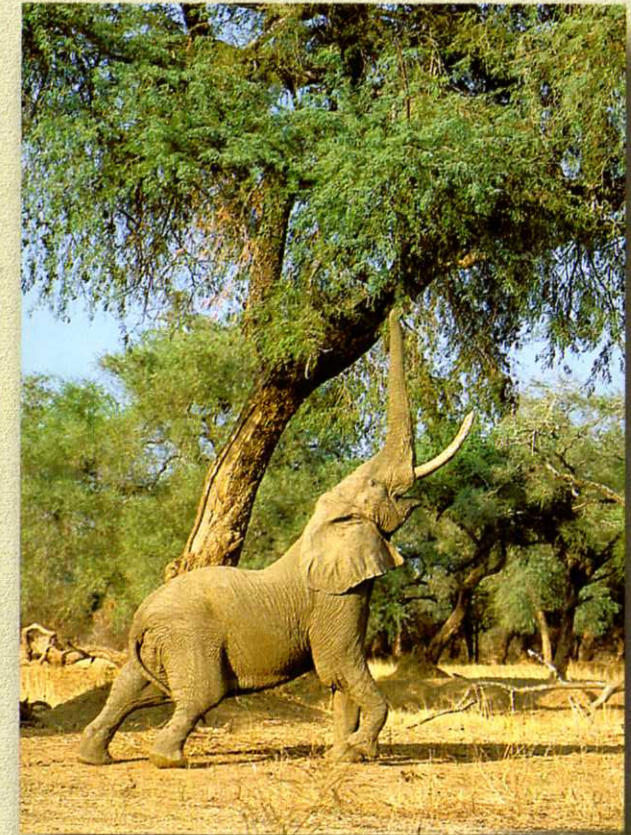
P.O. Box 2283, Bulawayo Zimbabwe
Tel: +263-9-63646
Tel/Fax: +263-9-65592
Cnr. Herbert Chitepo St. & 10th Ave.
Office Hours: Monday to Friday 08:00 - 16:00

Mana Pools National Park

The Warden
P. Bag 2061, Karoi Zimbabwe
Tel: +263-63-533 1538
Office Hours: Daily 6:00 - 18:00



Mana Pools National Park



Zimbabwe
Parks and Wildlife
Management Authority



Mana Pools National Park

Mana Pools is an unique wildlife paradise, being the only national park in Zimbabwe with larger species such as elephant, lion and buffalo, in which you may walk unaccompanied. This beautiful remote and rugged area is home to over 350 species of birds and most of the region's larger species of mammals including the Big Five.

The Zambezi Valley is a western extension of the Rift Valley, the huge geological fault that extends down the continent of Africa. The southern edge is formed by the Zimbabwean

escarpment and the northern edge by the *Zambian escarpment*, with the mighty Zambezi River cutting a course through the middle. The Mana Pools (which means four pools) are small lakes, remnants of the courses of the Zambezi from ages past. They are refilled by the swollen river during the rains and have become the homes for large numbers of crocodile and hippopotamus as well as a vast and diverse population of birds. They also serve as an attractive drinking spot for numerous herds of game.

Wildlife viewing at Mana Pools is seasonal. During the rains most large mammals such as elephant, buffalo, zebra and eland leave the river area to seek grazing and browsing closer to the escarpment. As the year progresses, shortages

of food and water inland force them back towards the Zambezi, where the river terraces, with their extensive grasslands and nutritious acacia pods, support the animals during the dry season. Each of the acacias (*Acacia albida*) bears several hundred pounds of seed pods every year. The pods are particular favourites of the elephant and they are often seen shaking the trees to make the pods drop. The pods also provide a substantial part of the diet of buffalo and several other animal species in the park. As soon as the first rains fall, the animals disperse from the river and head back toward the escarpment.

Due to the remote nature of Mana Pools National Park, advance booking is essential for all overnight facilities.

Facilities

There are two large lodges which can accommodate up to eight guests and two small lodges accommodating up to four guests which are situated a short distance upstream from Nyamepi Camp. All lodges are self-contained and fully equipped with furniture, bedding, towels, cooking utensils, cutlery and crockery. Mosquito nets are provided and the windows are gauzed. There is no electricity, however, each lodge is equipped with a gas stove and freezer. The lodges are serviced daily. Please note that there are no shops, restaurant or garage services within the park and visitors must bring all necessary provisions. Firewood may be purchased at the office for a small fee.

The main Nyamepi Campground has thirty sites and is equipped with several ablution blocks



Nyamepi camping site.



Mutsangu Lodge.

with toilet and hot shower facilities. There are several smaller sites along the river including: Mucheni, Chessa, Nkupe, Ndungu and Gwaya Camps. Please make sure that the campsite is kept clean, secure all belongings and do not leave food or scraps out at any time. Baboons and monkeys can be a problem during the day, and hyaena and honey badgers visit the camps at night. Remember that all types of fresh fruit are prohibited at Mana Pools. Elephant and buffalo often visit the campsite area. If this happens, do not create a disturbance or try to scare them off. Stay quietly at your campsite and wait for them to pass, or if necessary, retreat calmly to a safe distance, avoiding sudden movement.

CHITAKE SPRING

There are two completely wild camping sites located in the southern sector of the Park - close to Chitake Spring, near the foothills of the Zambezi Escarpment. The check-in point for

camp is at Nyakasikana Gate. Chitake Camp 1 (Nzou) is located 150 metres downstream from the Chitake River crossing under a large Natal Mahogany near the river. Chitake Camp 2 (Shumba) is situated on top of a small hill near a number of baobab trees and has a magnificent view south to the escarpment, north to the far off Zambezi, east to Mangangai and west to the Ruckomechi River. The camp is about 1 km from the spring. Both campsites are without any facilities and accessible only with four-wheel drive vehicles.



African Buffalo.

Activities

Canoeing on the Zambezi is a favorite activity in Mana Pools and affords an unparalleled opportunity to experience the river. All canoeists are advised that the Zambezi current can be strong, especially in the wider channels. Remember that the Zambian border runs down the centre of the main channel and you may not cross into Zambian waters. Stay well clear of hippo and crocodile and observe the rules. Motor boats are not permitted on the river within the National Park.

Fishing on the Zambezi River is another popular sport, and here you will find tiger fish, cream, chessa, nkupe, vundu and several other local species. The tiger fish is without a doubt, one of the finest fighting fish in Africa. Tiger fish on the lower Zambezi tend to be lean and



Canoeing on the lower Zambezi.



An Eland near a characteristic termite mound.

give particularly good sport - especially on light tackle. A National Parks permit is required for all fishing in the Zambezi and a bag limit for fish is in force. Anglers should familiarise themselves with the current limit.

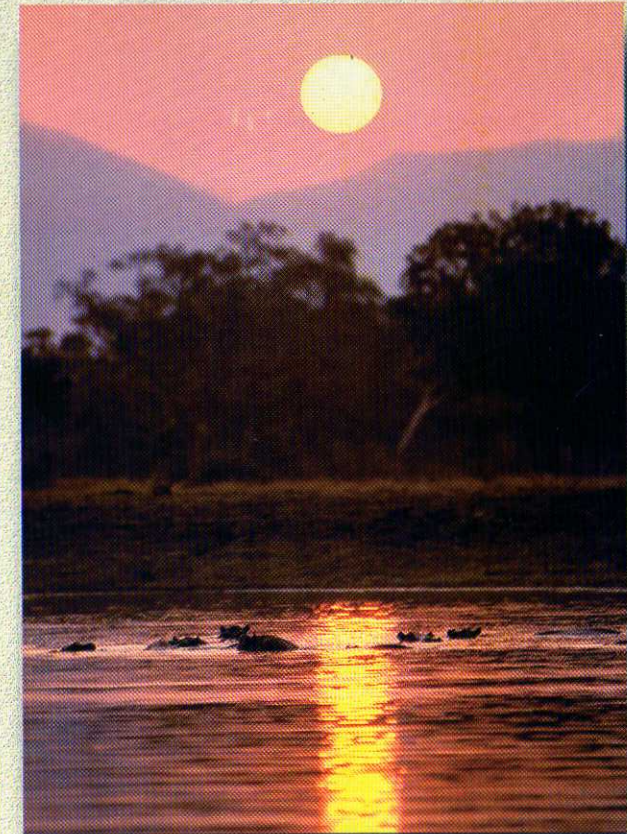
Mana is wild and so are the animals. It is safe, however, to walk in the park as long as you use your common sense and familiarise yourself with the regulations. Enjoy the animals for what



Guided walking safari.

they are and for the pleasure of watching their natural behaviour. Never try to "make them do something". Always remember that wild animals can be dangerous – treat them with respect.

Game drives are usually the most productive in the early morning and late afternoon. Long Pool is often worth visiting soon after sunrise. Visitors are encouraged to select a good location and patiently observe the happenings of nature as they unfold.



Sunset over Long Pool.

