

# Blue Odyssey



## Blue Odyssey - Vic Falls and Hwange Safari

Join Perry and Butch on an authentic exploration into the wilds of Zimbabwe during the lush green season where we have Hwange Park practically all to ourselves and the rich cycle of life blossoms before our eyes. We will travel in the heart of calving season witnessing the timeless birthing spectacle - imagine baby impalas, newly born zebra, and young wildebeest frolicking about and learning to walk. This is also a time when predatory cats like cheetah, lion, and leopard are on the hunt. Unlike the traditional safari months of June to August the foliage will be resplendently green with flowering trees and plants. On some days there will likely be some magnificent afternoon thunderstorms booming across the landscape so we will time our game drives and walks accordingly.

### Trip Info & Pricing

March 13-20, 2026

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Trip will be led by Blue Odyssey owner, Perry Robertson. Contact: +1 415-272-0942 or [www.blueodyssey.com](http://www.blueodyssey.com)

#### Land Cost:

\$5495 per person - maximum 10 guests

#### Included:

Group airport transfers, hotels and lodging as noted, all meals and drinks as noted, sundowner welcome at Lookout Tower, all park fees, rhino and community conservation fees, round trip flights from Victoria Falls to Hwange, Soar & Roar Elephant

Express rail car transfer, professional guiding, driver and vehicles, activities as noted.

Not Included:

- \* Private airport transfers for early arrival
- \* Extra night lodging pre or post trip
- \* Tipping and items of a personal nature
- \* Travel Insurance and
- \* International flights

Important notes:

- \* No charge for forced singles. Limited single accommodation available upon request at extra charge - please inquire for details.
- \* Soar & Roar requires 8 full revenue guests. If less than 8 we will substitute an Elephant Express sundowner ride from Camelthorn Lodge (subject to availability).
- \* Mark Butcher will guide on last night at Camelthorn and all 3 nights at Tum Tum lodge. We will have senior professional guides at each camp as well.

# Quick Summary

Day	Description	Accommodation
Day 1 (Fri Mar 13, 2026)	Arrival in Victoria Falls & transfer to your hotel	Shongwe Oasis
Day 2 (Sat Mar 14, 2026)	Soar and Roar - Victoria Falls to Hwange	Camelthorn Lodge
Day 3 (Sun Mar 15, 2026)	Game drives, bush walk and the "Look-up" blind	Camelthorn Lodge
Day 4 (Mon Mar 16, 2026)	School and Community Experience and meet our rhinos	Camelthorn Lodge
Day 5 (Tue Mar 17, 2026)	Camelthorn to Tum Tum	Tum Tum Treehouse Lodge
Days 6 - 7 (Wed Mar 18, 2026-Thu Mar 19, 2026)	Exploring south-eastern Hwange from Tum Tum	Tum Tum Treehouse Lodge
Day 8 (Fri Mar 20, 2026)	Farewell to Hwange and return to Victoria Falls	

# Itinerary Detail

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## Day 1: Arrival in Victoria Falls & transfer to your hotel

Friday Mar 13, 2026

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### DAILY SUMMARY

- Transfer/Activity: Arrival and transfer to Shongwe Oasis
- Accommodation: Shongwe Oasis
- Meals: D

### Arrival and transfer to Shongwe Oasis

Arrive at Zimbabwe's Victoria Falls Airport, clear customs, and collect your luggage after which you'll be met for your transfer to Shongwe Oasis about 20 minutes from the airport.

### The Victoria Falls or Mosi-oa-Tunya

Zimbabwe's foremost attraction – the Victoria Falls, also known as Mosi-oa-Tunya or “the smoke that thunders,” is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and at 360ft (108m) high and 5,306ft (1708m) wide, remains one of the most spectacular natural wonders in the world. While not the widest or highest waterfall, Victoria Falls is considered to be the largest curtain of falling water in the world thanks to its incredible volume of water.

## Day 2: Soar and Roar - Victoria Falls to Hwange

Saturday Mar 14, 2026

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### DAILY SUMMARY

- Transfer/Activity: Flight to Hwange National and connect to the Elephant Express rail car to Camelthorn Lodge
- Accommodation: Camelthorn Lodge
- Meals: B, L, D

## Flight to Hwange National and connect to the Elephant Express rail car to Camelthorn Lodge

This morning, at a time to be advised locally, you'll be transferred to Victoria Falls Airport to connect with your light aircraft flight to Hwange National. Upon arrival, you'll be transferred to Dete Railway Station on the edge of Hwange National Park where around 13:30, you'll board Imvelo's one-of-a-kind game viewing railcar, the Elephant Express. Drinks and a tasty light lunch will be served on the Elephant Express before departing Dete, for the 3hr trip down the eastern border of Hwange National Park to Camelthorn Lodge. This historic railway line demarcates the border of the park so there will be plenty of game viewing along the way!

After arriving at Ngamo in the late afternoon, disembark the Elephant Express and board 4 x 4 game drive vehicles for the short safari drive to camp. Thereafter, you'll be escorted to your room where you can settle in, unpack and freshen up before returning to the main lodge for a pre-dinner cocktail or cool drink at the bar or around the campfire. A delectable 3-course dinner will be served under the Milky Way and the Southern Cross followed by coffee or a nightcap around the campfire.

## Hwange National Park

Hwange National Park at 5,600 square miles (14,651 sq km) is the largest National Park in Zimbabwe and one of Africa's great parks. Hwange has always been renowned for its incredible diversity of wildlife, and to this day it boasts more varieties of mammal and bird species than any other Zimbabwean National Park. There are over 100 species of mammals, including 19 large herbivores such as buffalo, eland, sable and wildebeest, and over 400 bird species. Predators are also abundant including lion, cheetah, jackal and leopard. Hwange is also one of the last strongholds of painted dog (wild dog) in Zimbabwe. However, the park is particularly famous for its population of elephant, some 45,000+ strong - based on the latest aerial survey - and combined with the elephants of northern Botswana this is the world's largest contiguous elephant population.

As one would imagine in a park the size of the State of Connecticut or Northern Ireland, there is great diversity of landscapes and ecosystems, the northern and southern parts of the park are distinctly different. The north features hills, granite kopjes and mopane woodlands versus the Kalahari sandveld and plains of the south and west.



## Day 3: Game drives, bush walk and the "Look-up" blind

Sunday Mar 15, 2026



### DAILY SUMMARY

- Activity: Game drives and bush walk
- Activity: Imvelo's "Look-up blind" at Stoffie's Pan
- Accommodation: Camelthorn Lodge
- Meals: B, L, D

### Game drives and bush walk

Today you have the opportunity to explore and discover the Bomani Concession and south-east Hwange National Park. After an early wake-up call, join your guide at dawn for a cup of coffee and a light breakfast before heading out to explore and interpret what happened in the wilderness last night. We head

out early because that is when the big cats are still active - we make no promises, but we can ensure a fascinating time will be spent with your guide. Walks will be conducted by an experienced professional guide, looking at tracks and signs, or perhaps approaching an animal on foot to snatch a memorable photograph. At Imvelo, we keep our game viewing flexible, to take advantage of happenings on the ground, such as a lion kill last night - your guide will tell you the options and give suggestions.

Wildlife in the area at this time of year could include impala, wildebeest, zebra, sable antelope, giraffe, buffalo and elephant. With all this prey on the plains it in turn attracts predators, so we'll be on the lookout for lion, cheetah, and African wild dogs.

### Imvelo's "Look-up blind" at Stoffie's Pan

This afternoon, head back into Hwange in search of game before making a stop for a bush lunch next to our specially built underground game-viewing blind at Stoffie's Pan aka the "Look-up" blind, named such because its located at the water level so you'll be looking up at the elephants! After lunch, we'll enjoy some time in the blind with snout-level viewing of thirsty elephants just feet away! The blind is furnished with comfortable seating and has running water for flush loos and hand basins.

NOTE: during the green season months (November through April), sightings from the look-up blind are less frequent with low numbers of wildlife.

## Day 4: School and Community Experience and meet our rhinos

Monday Mar 16, 2026



village life in rural Matabeleland.

### DAILY SUMMARY

- Activity: Village and school visit
- Activity: Visit the Imvelo Ngamo Wildlife Sanctuary and meet our rhino!
- Accommodation: Camelthorn Lodge
- Meals: B, L, D

### Village and school visit

Imvelo Safari Lodges is deeply committed to bringing together local rural communities and our safari guests, for their mutual benefit. Twenty minutes' drive from the lodge our guests have the opportunity to enjoy an actual and un-orchestrated look at

This morning sees an early start with breakfast in the dining room before heading to nearby Ngunyana Village where guests can join the children on their morning walk to school or join the younger kids for a ride in our safari vehicles! Once at the school, guests meet the Headmaster and are welcomed with traditional songs sung by the students, followed by a short classroom interaction. This activity gives the school children a wonderful opportunity to meet and interact with people from all over the world who have come to see the wildlife amongst which they live.

After the school visit, head to a nearby village for an un-choreographed visit of a local homestead, including a meeting with the headman of the village. Guests will be able to see some of Imvelo's community initiatives firsthand and gain insight into the day to day life of a rural Zimbabwean including learning about thatching roofs, tilling fields, milling maize and weaving baskets.

### Visit the Imvelo Ngamo Wildlife Sanctuary and meet our rhino!

This afternoon, you head to the Imvelo Ngamo Rhino Sanctuary where you'll meet our first two resident white rhino, Thuza and Kusasa, as well as the Cobra Rangers guarding them 24/7. Start with a behind-the-scenes look at the Cobras basecamp, where you'll learn more about their work along with Imvelo's many other community and conservation programs.

Thereafter, head off on foot or by vehicle with the Cobras to meet Thuza and Kusasa! There will be lots of photo opportunities and quality time to watch and enjoy our rhinos in their natural environment on the Ngamo plains; how close you will be able to get to the rhino will be subject to conditions on the ground.

Each guest at Bomani and Camelthorn lodges pays a rhino conservation and community levy; these funds all go into the rhino sanctuary along with community projects in the nearby villages.

In the late afternoon, we'll continue to explore the Ngamo plains on foot and by vehicle. After sundowners, we'll night drive back to camp, looking for nocturnal species that prowl the plains after twilight.

## Day 5: Camelthorn to Tum Tum

Tuesday Mar 17, 2026

### Camelthorn to Tum Tum

This morning you will do a game drive through the national park to Tum Tum Treehouse Lodge located near Mandiseka pan in the south-east. The drive takes you through teak woodlands, dense stands of mopane trees, and Camelthorn woodland and will take approximately 1½ hours but that will depend upon sightings along the way. Lookout for wildlife including elephant, giraffe, buffalo, sable antelope, common duiker and a variety of bird species such as ostrich, brown snake eagle, lilac-breasted roller and swallow-tailed bee-eater.

#### DAILY SUMMARY

- Transfer/Activity: Camelthorn to Tum Tum
- Accommodation: Tum Tum Treehouse Lodge
- Meals: B, L, D

## Days 6 - 7: Exploring south-eastern Hwange from Tum Tum

Wednesday Mar 18, 2026-Thursday Mar 19, 2026



#### DAILY SUMMARY

- Game Drive: Exploring Tum Tum and surrounds
- Activity: Mlevu Rhino Sanctuary
- Activity: Mandiseka Look-up Blind
- Accommodation: Tum Tum Treehouse Lodge
- Meals: B, L, D

### Exploring Tum Tum and surrounds

Elephants dominate – and impact – this environment while other species include the grazers – buffalo, zebra, wildebeest, sable; and the browsers – giraffe, kudu, eland, etc...regularly seen predators include lion, cheetah, African wild dog, and

spotted hyena.

### Mlevu Rhino Sanctuary

Mlevu Rhino Sanctuary bordering the park is an hour's drive from Tum Tum Treehouse Lodge. An exciting new development is that the Sanctuary is being extended with the inclusion of Mlevu Sanctuary 2A which will increase the roughly 1,000 hectare sized sanctuary by another 1,650 hectares approx. (2,450 acres and 4,000 acres respectively). The larger area provides a lot more space for the rhino, Asenze and Mlevu, to roam. The combination of Tum Tum and Mlevu Sanctuary is 'breaking new ground' in more ways than just the work underway on site – for the first time this part of Tsholotsho district will start to see the benefits of tourism, which we hope will replicate the success of Camelthorn in Ngamo further east. Guests from Tum Tum will visit Mtshwayeli School and maybe even give some of the kids a ride to school – a memorable experience.

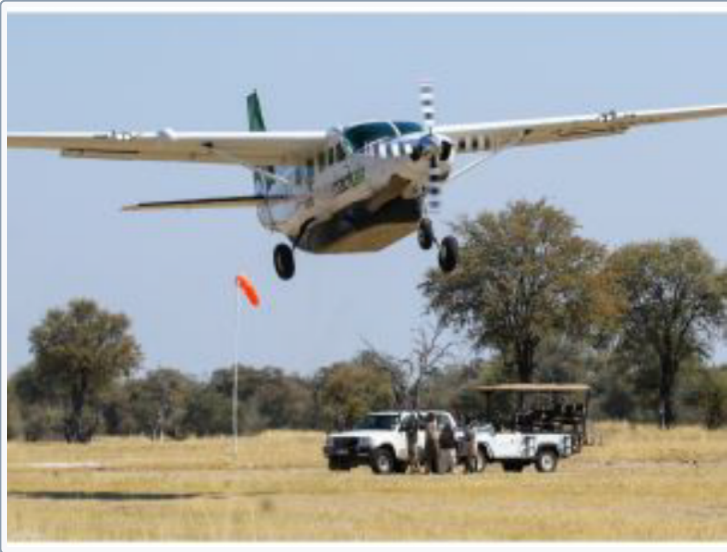
## Mandiseka Look-up Blind

A short distance from the lodge is our new Look-up hide at Mandiseka pan. This hide has raised the bar from our other look-ups, being perfectly aligned with sunset behind and golden hour light in front; the photography and up-close experiences with elephants and other wildlife are very exciting.

NOTE: during the green season months (November through April), sightings from the look-up blind are less frequent and low numbers of wildlife.

## Day 8: Farewell to Hwange and return to Victoria Falls

Friday Mar 20, 2026



### DAILY SUMMARY

- Domestic Flight: Flight to Victoria Falls and departure
- Meals: B

### Flight to Victoria Falls and departure

After a final breakfast and morning game drive (time permitting) at Tum Tum, you will be transferred to Linkwasha airstrip to connect with your flight to Victoria Falls Airport and your onward journey.



# Accommodation

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## Shongwe Oasis

Dates: Mar 13, 2026

Situated only 2 kilometres from the majestic Victoria Falls, Shongwe Oasis is exactly what the name suggests; a haven of relaxation in the heart of our beautiful town. Victoria Falls' first adults-only lodge offers 19 luxuriously furnished rooms set amongst stunning tropical gardens. Head to our spa for a couple's massage, bathing therapy, or on-site beauty care, sit back and sip your favorite cocktail in our infinity pool, or just enjoy a quiet moment in our jacuzzi before you head to dinner at our open-air restaurant.



# Camelthorn Lodge

Dates: Mar 14, 2026 - Mar 16, 2026

Named for the ancient camelthorn tree it features, this lodge nestles in pristine woodland bordering Hwange National Park. Both Camelthorn Lodge and the new Imvelo Ngamo Rhino Sanctuary surrounding it occupy communal land and the local people are our partners in both developments. Eight secluded forest villas are well-appointed with sliding glass doors, fireplaces for the cooler winter months, and downstairs verandas. An upstairs balcony accessed by an outside spiral staircase can be used as a romantic sleep-out, and 4 of the rooms feature an upstairs splash pool annex. The main lodge has expansive dining, bar and lounge areas with al fresco dining options under the camelthorn tree. Activities include game drives and walks led by passionate and knowledgeable guides, watching wildlife from our sunken hide, meeting the people of Ngamo village, and tracking our first two reintroduced white rhinos, with the dedicated Cobras scouts who protect them.



# Tum Tum Treehouse Lodge

Dates: Mar 17, 2026 - Mar 19, 2026

Located within a remote and exclusive concession in Hwange National Park, Tum Tum Treehouse Lodge will be opening late in 2025 and we are currently booking 2026. The six room, 12 bed lodge is situated in attractive teak and camelthorn woodland overlooking a series of waterholes along an inter-dune trough.

Four upstairs treehouses will feature en-suite bathrooms including showers, well-appointed on beautiful wooden decks with insulated canvas walls, sliding glass doors and windows, showcasing the ancient camelthorns in which they are perched. Guests will be able to watch wildlife wandering below them from the comfort of their treehouse bedroom or from the deck outside. For the less mobile, at ground level a luxury tent similar to the Family Suite at Bomani will have two bedrooms, each ensuite, providing flexible accommodation options for families as well as couples and honeymooners. We see Tum Tum as a lodge where our guests can slow down, relax and enjoy the wildlife parade below and in front.

The wildlife-based activities at Tum Tum will provide guests with opportunities to take game drives, bush walks, as well as visiting the rhino and Cobra Rangers in nearby Mlevu Sanctuary. Our village communities around Mtshwayeli are already excited to welcome visitors from around the world and Tum Tum's guests will be able to enjoy Imvelo's immersive community visits and activities acknowledged for their respectful authenticity.

