

Sample Fly & drive Mana Pools itinerary

Fly in to Harare International airport on Friday evening.

Be met at the airport and transferred directly to the comfortable [Sunbird Guest House](#), Harare (#3 in Harare on Tripadvisor).

NIGHT 1 – Sunbird Guest House Harare

DAY 2 – Drive to Mana Pools National Park in rented 4x4 pre-loaded with tents, food, permits and all requisites.

Wake up, eat a hearty breakfast and then receive the keys to a rented 4x4 preloaded with all the required camping equipment, food and drinks. Your Zimparks permits, directions and itinerary are waiting for you on the dashboard along with a pack lunch and off you go on the 6-7 hour journey to the beautiful Mana Pools National Park. Check in at Marongora and Zimparks Mana Pools reception and set up camp in the shade of ancient albida trees on the banks of the magnificent Zambezi River. Spend the evening drinking in the scenery and acclimatizing to living in unfenced nature as the sun sets over distant Zambian mountains.

NIGHT 2 – Nyamepi Campsite, Mana Pools – camping in the wild

Fall asleep to the sounds of lions roaring, hyenas laughing and a hippopotamus chorus, you have arrived in paradise.

DAY 3 – Mana Pools National Park (game drives, hidden spots, must do's)

Wake up to a cacophony of birdsong and animal life. Brew a cup of coffee on the campfire, and eat breakfast surrounded by nature. Take a game drive down the river road to get to know this paradise, see herds of magnificent elephant, buffalo, eland, kudu, nyala, zebra and impala, perhaps you will locate one of the resident wild-dog packs or large lion prides. If you are lucky, perhaps you will spot leopard or cheetah. Return home for an afternoon sleep in the shade and see more wildlife in the camp than you did on your drive, appreciate the irony....! (Remember to stop in at reception to book a Zimparks guide for an early morning walk tomorrow)

NIGHT 3 – Nyamepi Campsite, Mana Pools

After dinner round the campfire, retire early exhausted from another day in paradise.

DAY 4 – Mana Pools, National Park (-canoeing, fishing, guided walk).

Wake up early and hire an armed Zimparks guide for a guided walk on foot in the bush. Walk in nature and appreciate the profusion of different species. All types of birds, colourful parrots, lovebirds, hornbills, appreciate the stately beauty of ancient albida and fig trees and walk inside hollow baobab trees. In the afternoon, rent Zimparks canoes and a guide to take you fishing on the river. Don't forget to book at reception for free entry permit into Nyamatusi wilderness area tomorrow on your return.

NIGHT 4 – Nyamepi Campsite, Mana Pools

The usual evening in paradise... feels like a routine now.

DAY 5 – Mana Pools, National Park (-trip into Nyamatusi wilderness area).

Wake up early (you're used to it now and can't sleep with all those animal noises anyway!). Drive into the Nyamatusi Wilderness area (entry limited by permit to 4 cars per day). This is a huge piece of wilderness with very limited human access where the wildlife is left alone almost free of human interaction. The fishing is great in this area. Have lunch in the Mopani woodlands and return back in the afternoon via the roadside waterholes.

NIGHT 5 – Nyamepi Campsite, Mana Pools

DAY 6 - Drive back to Harare

Breakfast, then break camp for the 6 hour trip back to Harare. Carry-out all your litter in accordance with Zimparks policies in the black bags provided. Drive straight to Harare International airport and hand over the vehicle, kit & trash, then fly home to share your photos and start planning your next Mana trip!