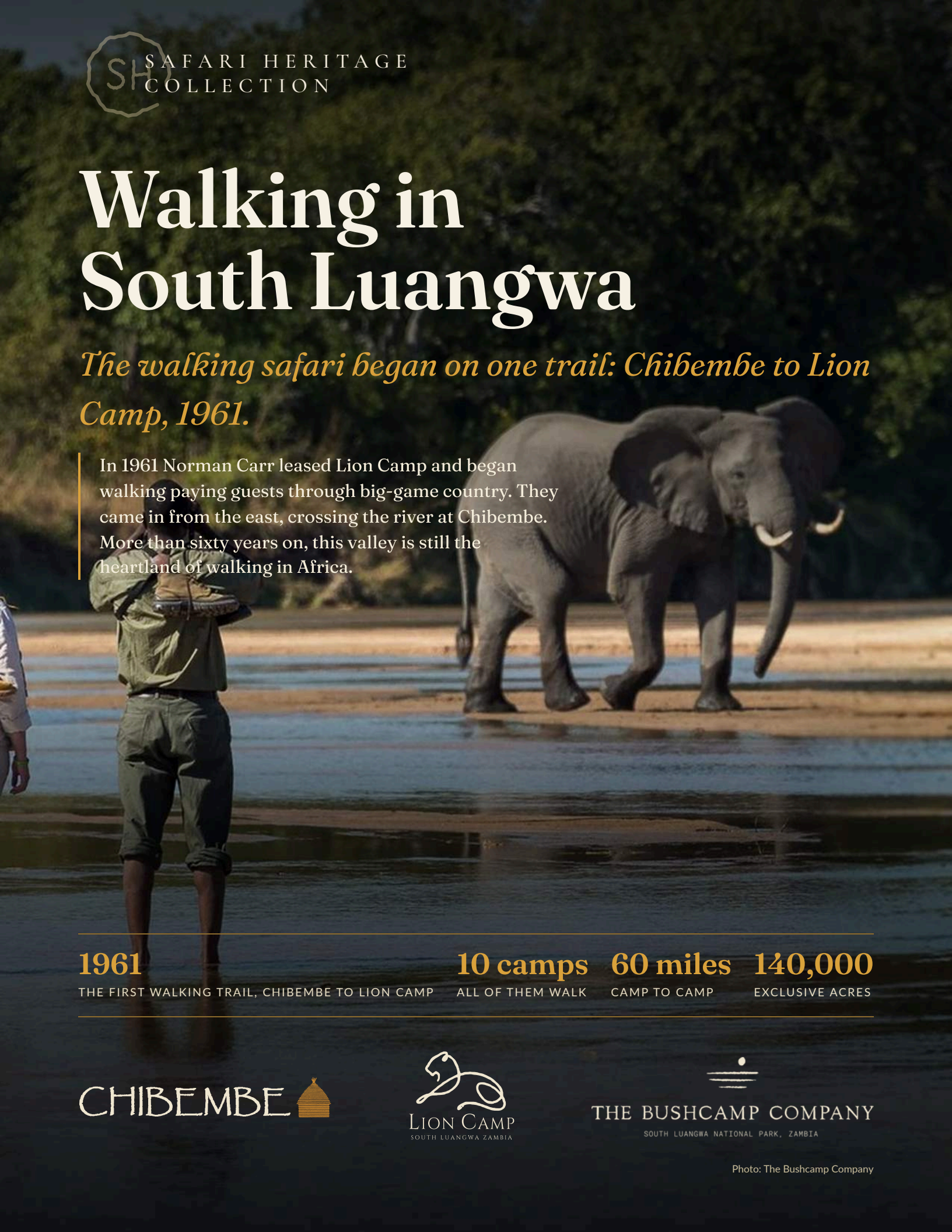
SAFARI HERITAGE COLLECTION

Walking in South Luangwa

The walking safari began on one trail: Chibembe to Lion Camp, 1961.

In 1961 Norman Carr leased Lion Camp and began walking paying guests through big-game country. They came in from the east, crossing the river at Chibembe. More than sixty years on, this valley is still the heartland of walking in Africa.



1961
THE FIRST WALKING TRAIL, CHIBEMBE TO LION CAMP

10 camps
ALL OF THEM WALK

60 miles
CAMP TO CAMP

140,000
EXCLUSIVE ACRES

CHIBEMBE

LION CAMP
SOUTH LUANGWA ZAMBIA

THE BUSHCAMP COMPANY
SOUTH LUANGWA NATIONAL PARK, ZAMBIA

Photo: The Bushcamp Company

WELCOME

One valley, ten camps, every one of them on foot

In 1961 Norman Carr leased Lion Camp and began walking paying guests through big-game country, on a circuit reached across the river at Chibembe. The valley's official history calls it a new type of tourism, and the valley has walked ever since.

The Safari Heritage Collection brings together the places where that story began and the camps that carry it forward today. Chibembe Wildlife Reserve and Lion Camp mark the two ends of Carr's original circuit. The Bushcamp Company, the largest operator in South Luangwa, runs the iconic Mfuwe Lodge, The Villas at KuKaya and six small seasonal bushcamps in an exclusive 140,000-acre area in the south of the park.

Together they form a continuous safari circuit through the heart of South Luangwa: sixty miles, camp to camp. All ten camps offer walking safaris, and eight of them are walking camps, where a walk is offered every day as an equal to the game drive.

THE COLLECTION AT A GLANCE

- **Chibembe Wildlife Reserve:** historic private reserve on the east bank, booked by one party at a time
- **Lion Camp:** on the Lion Plain in the remote north of the park
- **Mfuwe Lodge** and **The Villas at KuKaya:** the gateway, inside the park
- **Six bushcamps:** Kapamba, Chamilandu, Chindeni, Bilimungwe, Zungulila and Kuyenda



Walkers, guide and scout after crossing the Luangwa from Chibembe.

HERITAGE

Where it all began



A scout leads walkers across the floodplain at Chibembe.

The walking safari began on one trail, between a river crossing and a camp on the west bank.

1955 A government record notes a seasonal pontoon crossing built across the Luangwa at Chibembe, giving access from the east to Lion Camp and the viewing tracks on the west bank.

1961 Lion Camp, which began as a camp for game scouts on anti-poaching patrol and was the first camp built west of the Luangwa, is leased for Norman Carr's walking safari circuit. Guests cross at Chibembe and walk his Wilderness Trails to Lion Camp.

1968 Carr builds a new camp in the area long known as Chibembe and names it for the place: Chibembe Safari Camp, the hub of his walking circuit and the place where a generation of Luangwa guides learned their craft.

1992 Former chief ranger and giraffe expert Phil Berry founds Kuyenda in the south of the park. *Kuyenda* means "to walk" in Nyanja.

Today Chibembe Wildlife Reserve, about 3,500 unfenced acres, reopened in June 2026 with walking once again at its heart. Lion Camp still sits on the Lion Plain, and The Bushcamp Company's bushcamps carry the tradition through the south of the park.

> *Walking in South Luangwa means following a tradition more than sixty years old, in the same valley.*

WHY SOUTH LUANGWA

The best all-round place to walk

South Luangwa has more walking-led camps than any other park in Africa, and walks there are offered every day as an equal to the game drive.

Some of Africa's most experienced walking guides

Many of Zambia's finest walking guides learned their craft in the valley where walking began. On every walk inside the national park, your licensed guide is joined by an armed scout from the Department of National Parks and Wildlife.

Many habitats in a single morning

Floodplains, oxbow lagoons, riverine forest, mopane woodland and open grassland, all within an unfenced river valley of about 9,050 square kilometers (some 2.2 million acres).

A wide assortment of wildlife

Elephant, buffalo, hippo and Thornicroft's giraffe, which live only in the Luangwa Valley, along with puku, zebra and the birds of the lagoons. The park is known for leopard, usually seen on night drives.

The best of both

Walk in the cool of the morning, then drive in the afternoon and into the night with a spotlight. You get the depth of walking without giving up the reach of a vehicle.



A scout, guide and walker scan a herd of giraffe near Chibembe.

WALKING IN THE COLLECTION

- A licensed guide and an armed DNPW scout on every walk in the park
- No more than eight walkers, usually fewer
- Typical walks of 2–3 miles (3–5 km) over three to four hours
- Walking is always optional: choose a walk or a drive
- Walks end well before dark

A DAY ON FOOT

A day in a bushcamp

The rhythm of a bushcamp day has hardly changed since Carr's time.

Dawn. Coffee by the fire as the light comes up, then a short briefing from your guide.

The walk. You set out in single file behind your guide and scout. The pace is slow. Much of the morning goes into learning: reading tracks in the sand, understanding the habitat, getting to know the trees and bushes, and watching wildlife big and small. It is as much an education as a search for the next sighting.

Tea in the bush. Mid-morning, a tea porter sets out tea and coffee in the shade of a tree or on a riverbank.

Brunch and the heat of the day. Back in camp by late morning for brunch, then a rest on the deck, often with elephants or hippo in view.

Afternoon and night. An afternoon drive, a sundowner as the sun goes down over the river, and a night drive home with a spotlight, looking for leopard, genet and civet.

WALKING BETWEEN CAMPS

Most guests move between the bushcamps by vehicle, on a game-drive transfer. For keen walkers, a fully walked circuit between the southern bushcamps runs on request, with legs of about 3–5 km that end at the next camp instead of a waiting vehicle.



Tea stop under a tree on a Bushcamp Company walk.

THE SAFARI HERITAGE COLLECTION

The Heritage Circuit

Sixty miles, camp to camp, through the heart of South Luangwa

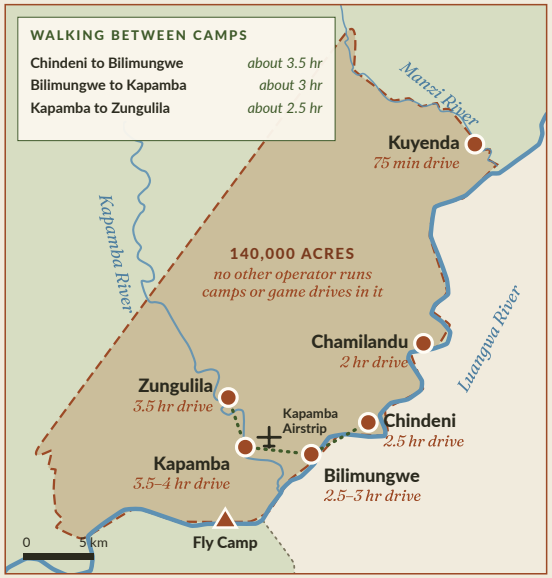
1 · AFRICA



2 · ZAMBIA



3 · THE BUSHCAMP COMPANY EXCLUSIVE AREA



Drive times are from Mfuwe Lodge, as slow game drives through the park.
Walking times are approximate, on foot with a guide and scout, and run on request.



THE CAMPS

The north and the gateway



Photo: Chibembe Wildlife Reserve

WALKING CAMP

Chibembe Wildlife Reserve

Setting: east bank of the Luangwa **Guests:** up to 8, one party at a time

Season: June–October **Minimum stay:** five nights **Rate:** on request

Ground zero of the walking safari: about 3,500 unfenced acres at the crossing where Carr's first walking guests set off on foot to Lion Camp in 1961; from 1968 it was the hub of his walking circuit. Rebuilt and reopened in June 2026, it hosts no more than six private parties a year. Walking is the heart of a stay, with drives and night drives as well.



Photo: Lion Camp

WALKING CAMP

Lion Camp

Setting: Lion Plain, remote northern sector **Season:** late May–October

Walkers: 16 and older

Where Carr's first walks were based in 1961, the camp the government record names, and the first camp built west of the Luangwa. Today it is about 1.5 hours by road from Mfuwe Lodge, and 35 minutes plus a river crossing from Chibembe. Guests choose a walk or a drive for each of the day's two activities, always with a guide and an armed DNPW scout.



Photo: The Bushcamp Company

GATEWAY LODGE

Mfuwe Lodge

Setting: inside the park, near Mfuwe **Season:** year-round

The iconic gateway to South Luangwa. From late October to mid-December, elephant families walk through the open reception to feed on wild mangoes in the courtyard. Walks can be arranged with a private guide.



Photo: The Bushcamp Company

GATEWAY PRIVATE VILLAS

The Villas at KuKaya

Setting: Mfuwe **Season:** year-round

Six private villas, each with its own guide and vehicle and a plunge pool. The most private way to begin or end a trip. Walks are arranged on request with your private guide.

THE CAMPS

The southern bushcamps

THE BUSHCAMP COMPANY
SOUTH LUANGWA NATIONAL PARK, ZAMBIA

Six small, seasonal bushcamps run by The Bushcamp Company in an exclusive 140,000-acre area in the south of the park. Each is a Walking Camp, with a morning walk most days and drives in the afternoon and evening. Openings vary; all six close around November 1.


Photo: The Bushcamp Company

Kapamba

4 chalets · up to 8 guests

Mid-April–November 1

On the banks of the Kapamba River, with a morning walk and an afternoon drive into the night. Plunge pool on the main deck.


Photo: The Bushcamp Company

Chamilandu

3 chalets · up to 6 guests

June 7–November 1

The smallest bushcamp: treehouse-style chalets above the Luangwa, with a morning walk and an evening drive.


Photo: The Bushcamp Company

Chindeni

4 tented chalets · up to 8 guests

May–November 1

Tented chalets on a lagoon, one a two-bedroom family suite. A morning walk, then an afternoon drive into the night.


Photo: The Bushcamp Company

Bilimungwe

4 chalets · up to 8 guests

May–November 1

A camp where walking is the traditional main activity, with elephants often at the waterhole in front.


Photo: The Bushcamp Company

Zungulila

4 tents · up to 8 guests

Mid-April–November 1

Few neighbors and big open country. Walks with an armed DNPW scout alongside day and night drives.


Photo: The Bushcamp Company

Kuyenda

5 rondavels · up to 10 guests

June 1–November 1

Founded by Phil Berry in 1992, in what he considered some of the finest walking country in the park.

Combine two or three. Most guests spend three nights at each of two or three bushcamps. Each has its own character and its own stretch of river, lagoon or plain, and the transfers between them are game drives.

PLANNING

Suggested journeys

Four ways to put the camps together. Each can be lengthened, shortened or reversed.

Build your own circuit
Combine any of our camps, in any order, for as many nights as you like.

Walking is always optional
Walk every morning, drive instead, or mix the two. Just let your guides know what you would like to do.

A first walking safari 8 NIGHTS

Mfuwe Lodge · 1 → Chindeni · 3 → Bilimungwe · 3 → Mfuwe Lodge · 1

The easiest introduction: two bushcamps with a walk every morning, and a night at the gateway at each end. The move from Chindeni to Bilimungwe can be made on foot, a 3.5-hour walk.

The Complete Luangwa 8 NIGHTS

The Villas at KuKaya · 2 → Kuyenda · 3 → Lion Camp · 3

The best of the central and northern valley: private villas at the gateway, Phil Berry's classic bushcamp in the south, then a game drive north to Lion Camp on the Lion Plain.

The bushcamp walking circuit 11 NIGHTS

Mfuwe Lodge · 1 → Zungulila · 2 → Kapamba · 2 → Bilimungwe · 3 → Chindeni · 2 → Mfuwe Lodge · 1

For keen walkers: four bushcamps in the exclusive southern area, every move on foot on request: about 2.5 hours from Zungulila to Kapamba, 3 hours to Bilimungwe, 3.5 hours on to Chindeni.

The heritage journey 16 NIGHTS

Mfuwe Lodge or KuKaya · 1 → Zungulila · 2 → Bilimungwe · 3 → Kuyenda · 2 → Lion Camp · 3 → Chibembe · 5

The full circuit, sixty miles camp to camp: south into the exclusive bushcamp area, north to Lion Camp, where Carr's first walks were based, and across the river to Chibembe, where they began in 1961.

FOR TRAVEL ADVISORS

Peak-season 2027 rates, per person per night sharing, start from US$835 at Mfuwe Lodge, US$935 per adult at KuKaya (two-bedroom villa for four), US$1,050 at Kuyenda, Kapamba and Zungulila and US$1,165 at Chindeni, Chamilandu and Bilimungwe (June 15 – October 14), and US$1,287 at Lion Camp (August–September); Chibembe is priced on request. Park fees and government and conservation levies add about US$95 to US$120 per person per night. Either reservations team can confirm availability; build a journey at safariheritagecollection.com/planner.

GOOD TO KNOW

Practical information

Getting there

Proflight flies twice daily from Lusaka to Mfuwe Airport, and charters can land near Kapamba or at the Mwanya airstrip, 30 minutes from Chibembe. Mfuwe Lodge and The Villas at KuKaya are 40 minutes from the airport. From Mfuwe Lodge, the southern bushcamps are reached by a slow game drive of 75 minutes (Kuyenda) to about four hours (Kapamba), and Lion Camp is about 1.5 hours away. Chibembe is about 2 hours by road from Mfuwe Airport.

When to walk

Walking runs through the dry season, roughly June to October, when the grass dies back and game gathers near the river and lagoons. Early season is cooler and green; late season is hotter, with the best game viewing. Mfuwe Lodge and The Villas at KuKaya are open all year.

Who can walk

- The minimum walking age in Zambia's national parks is 12. Some camps set a higher limit; at Lion Camp it is 16.
- No more than eight walkers on a walk, usually fewer.
- Walks are slow and suit most reasonably active adults.

What to bring

- [ ] Clothing in khaki, olive and light brown
- [ ] Broken-in walking shoes or light boots
- [ ] A warm layer for cold early mornings
- [ ] A wide-brimmed hat, sunglasses and sunscreen
- [ ] Binoculars, ideally one pair each

Community and conservation

Every stay supports the people and wildlife of the valley, through community and conservation work that includes The Bushcamp Company's Charity Begins at Home program and the Zambia Wildlife & Community Foundation.



Photo: The Bushcamp Company

IN PICTURES

The bushcamps

THE BUSHCAMP COMPANY
SOUTH LUANGWA NATIONAL PARK, ZAMBIA



Photo: The Bushcamp Company

Zungulila
Our deepest camp, beside a natural spring above the Kapamba River

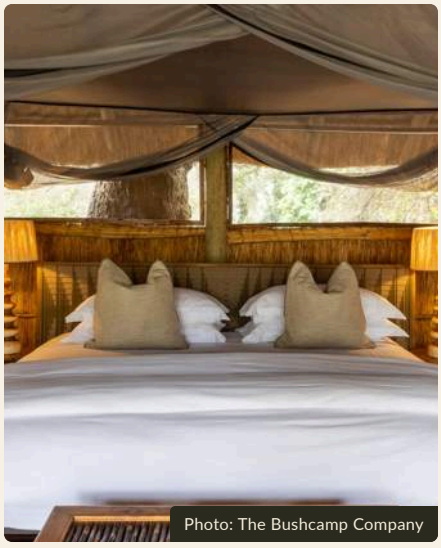


Photo: The Bushcamp Company

Bilimungwe
A chalet over the permanent waterhole



Photo: The Bushcamp Company

Chindeni
An outdoor bathtub under the trees



Photo: The Bushcamp Company

Chamilandu
A treehouse chalet on stilts

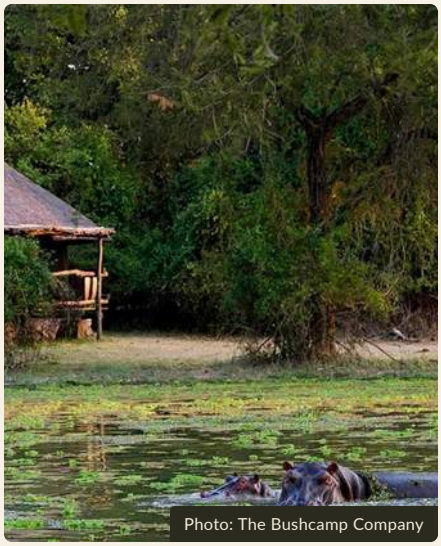
IN PICTURES

Life in camp

THE BUSHCAMP COMPANY
SOUTH LUANGWA NATIONAL PARK, ZAMBIA



Chamilandu
The open lounge above the Luangwa at sunset



Mfuwe Lodge
Hippos in the lagoon below a chalet



Chindeni
An elevated tent under ancient ebony trees



Zungulila
A copper bath on the deck at dusk

IN PICTURES

Evenings around the fire

THE BUSHCAMP COMPANY
SOUTH LUANGWA NATIONAL PARK, ZAMBIA



Bilimungwe
Lanterns and the fire on the riverbank at dusk, with the escarpment beyond



Chindeni
The fire deck above the lagoon



Zungulila
Dinner and the fire on the deck at dusk



Kuyenda
From the lounge out to the evening fire

IN PICTURES

Chibembe Wildlife Reserve



Chibembe
The thatched main lodge and fire pit, rebuilt and reopened in 2026



Chibembe
One of four tents, booked by one party at a time



Chibembe
Looking out over the Luangwa from a tent



Chibembe
An elephant passing through the reserve

IN PICTURES

Lion Camp



Lion Camp
Lions take down a buffalo on the Lion Plain, in view of camp



Lion Camp
A suite looking out over the Lion Plain



Lion Camp
The main lodge and evening fire



Cookson's wildebeest
Found only in the Luangwa Valley

Moments you never forget

On foot, every sighting is closer, quieter and more personal. These are a few moments from the valley.



Close enough to hear the yawn



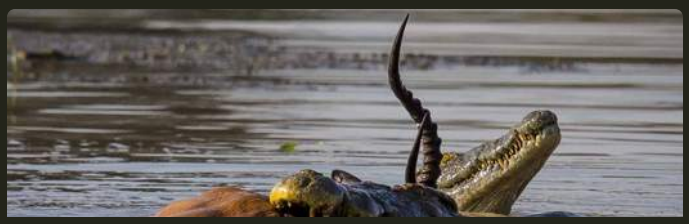
A pride comes down to drink



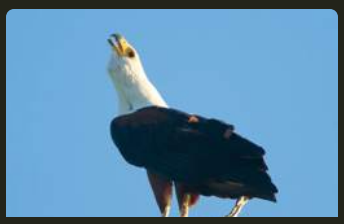
A lion track beside a hand



Painted dog, fresh from the hunt



Crocodiles in the river at last light



The call of the fish eagle



Walking past a herd of buffalo



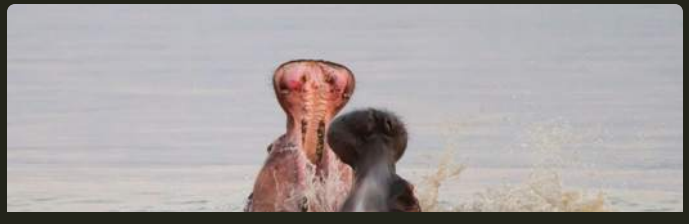
A hyena steals a leopard's kill



A family crossing the Luangwa



Lioness and buffalo, face to face



Two bull hippos settle a dispute



Zebra in the last golden light

Photos: The Bushcamp Company and Lion Camp

RECOGNITION

Award-winning, camp by camp

#1
Safari Lodge in Africa
Mfuwe Lodge · Travel + Leisure 2023

#3
Hotel in the World
Mfuwe Lodge · Travel + Leisure 2025

World Legacy
Award, Engaging Communities
The Bushcamp Company · National Geographic 2016

Lion Camp

Five international awards in two years

Best Luxury Safari Lodge, Global Winner
World Luxury Hotel Awards 2025

Best Safari Lodge, Zambia
LUXlife Travel & Tourism Awards 2026

Best Safari Lodge, Zambia
LUXlife Travel & Tourism Awards 2025

Luxury Intimate Safari Lodge, Eastern Zambia
Diamond Distinction Award 2026

Travellers' Choice
Tripadvisor 2025

The Bushcamp Company

2025 **Travel + Leisure World's Best Awards**
Mfuwe Lodge, #3 of the Top 100 Hotels in the World and #2 of the Top 10 Safari Lodges in Africa

2023 **Travel + Leisure World's Best Awards**
Mfuwe Lodge, #1 of the Top 10 Safari Lodges in Africa and #2 of the Top 100 Hotels in the World

2022 **Condé Nast Traveler Readers' Choice Awards**
The Bushcamp Company, #8 of the best resorts in Africa

2021 **Condé Nast Traveler Readers' Choice Awards**
The Bushcamp Company, #10 of the best resorts in Africa

2020 **Condé Nast Traveler Readers' Choice Awards**
Chamilandu, #2 in Africa and #9 in the world; Bilimungwe, #10 in Africa

2018 **Condé Nast Traveler Readers' Choice Awards**
Chindeni, #5 in Africa and the Middle East and #11 worldwide

2017 **Tripadvisor Hall of Fame**
Mfuwe Lodge, five years of excellence

2016 **National Geographic World Legacy Awards**
Winner, Engaging Communities

2015 **National Geographic Unique Lodges of the World**
Seven Bushcamp Company properties selected

Readers' choice awards are voted by travelers, which is why they mean the most to us. Rankings are as published by each organization in the year shown.



Mfuwe Lodge, twice ranked among Africa's top safari lodges by Travel + Leisure readers.

WHO WE ARE

A family's commitment to the Luangwa





Corby and Brooke Robertson in South Luangwa: at sunset on the river, on a morning walk, and with an elephant passing camp.

The Safari Heritage Collection is Houston family owned, led by Corby and Brooke Robertson with a team of some 350 people across the valley. Corby's ties to the Luangwa Valley go back to 1984: more than forty years of returning to the same river, the same plains and the same people.

Why these camps

Chibembe and Lion Camp mark the two ends of Norman Carr's first walking circuit, and The Bushcamp Company's camps carry that tradition through the south of the park. We think of ourselves as custodians: our job is to keep the places where the walking safari began, and the wild country around them, in good hands for the next generation.

Camps as a conservation presence

Across sixty miles of the valley, our guides walk and drive the same ground every day alongside armed DNPW scouts. Every stay pays park and concession fees that fund the national park, creates jobs for people from neighboring communities, and supports community and conservation work, including The Bushcamp Company's Charity Begins at Home program.

ZAMBIA WILDLIFE & COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Stronger communities, more wildlife

Corby and Brooke co-founded ZWCF to add to the work of the camps, not to replace it. The foundation protects Zambia's wildlife heritage by investing in the communities who live alongside it, including here in the Luangwa Valley.

- Wildlife scouts and anti-poaching
- Clean water
- Schools and education
- Roads and infrastructure
- Food, clothing and healthcare
- Natural resource management

For more information, visit:

zwcf.org
bushcampcompany.com/pages/impact

SAFARI HERITAGE COLLECTION

safariheritagecollection.com

Come and walk where it all began.

CHIBEMBE

chibembewildlifereserve.com

LION CAMP
SOUTH LUANGWA ZAMBIA

lioncamp.com

THE BUSHCAMP COMPANY
SOUTH LUANGWA NATIONAL PARK, ZAMBIA

bushcampcompany.com

HOW TO BOOK

The Bushcamp Company

info@bushcampcompany.com

Nicky Whittenmore, Head of Reservations. Mfuwe Lodge, The Villas at KuKaya and the six bushcamps. Chibembe inquiries: nicky@bushcampcompany.com. Either team can book the whole circuit.

Lion Camp

info@lioncamp.com

Dottie, Reservations, Lion Camp. Lion Camp on the Lion Plain.



Photo: The Bushcamp Company

There is nothing like this collection in Africa.

The Safari Heritage Collection also publishes WalkingSafaris.com, a guide to walking safaris across Africa. Seasons, ages and details are correct to the best of our knowledge as of November 2026 and may change; please confirm when booking.

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