



LUSAKA

Local flights to and from Zambia's primary tourist destinations are scheduled so efficiently around international arrival and departures that visitors can often bypass Lusaka, or at most, have to stay one night pre- and post-safari. There are enjoyable ways to spend a few days in Lusaka. We suggest the following highlights from which guests can choose for customized tours.

CULTURE

SOWETO MARKET

There is little that you cannot find in the city centre's Soweto market, Zambia's largest. Although today's "Soweto market" — also called the New City market — is a more regulated and sanitized version (all vendors are housed in an immense concrete building) of the "old market" (an open-air sprawl of makeshift stalls), Soweto remains crowded, chaotic, hot, and noisy, an experience best suited for the African market aficionado. It's advisable to take along a guide. Please ask first before taking photos.

BURMA ROAD MARKET

Far less overwhelming than Soweto is Lusaka's once weekly farmer's market held every Tuesday on Burma Road. This is primarily the place for Lusaka residents to buy vastly superior quality greens. But some surprises can be found here too. A friend has life-sized wooden cheetahs on her terrace which she found at this market.

KABWATA CULTURAL VILLAGE

Also located on Burma Road, Kabwata is where Zambia's wood carvers and other artists showcase their crafts. Under colonial rule, Burma Road was a Zambian township of which Zambia's first president, Kenneth Kaunda, was a resident. The Zambian government designated the Kabwata site both as a national monument (it's meant to maintain the feel of the old township) and where local artisans could promote their skills. Kabwata is open daily from 8:00 – 18:00.

CHILENJE HOUSE 394

Located off Burma Road, this is one of three small houses in a family compound from where Dr. Kenneth Kaunda, first president of Zambia, directed the independence struggle. Designated as a national monument, the house contains some of the Kaunda family's original furnishings. There is an on-site caretaker who can arrange entry. Entrance fee for Zambian national monuments is \$15 USD per person for an international visitor.

VISUAL ARTS

NAMWANDWE ART & SCULPTURE GALLERY

This is the impressive, private art collection of Zambian businessman Mr. John Kapotwe which is now the largest permanent collection of contemporary Zambian art of its kind. Located on Leopard's Hill Road, Namwandwe is open Monday through Saturday, 9:00 – 16:00.

QUENTIN ALLEN'S STUDIO

Quentin is a well-known artist of Zambian landscapes, especially of waterfalls, and good friend to many of us in Lusaka. He has explored and co-written three books on Zambia's waterfalls. He is an impressive source of knowledge on Zambia, having hiked a great deal of it, sketching and painting. Quentin welcomes visitors to his small studio off Mukuyu Road, if arranged in advance.

ZAMBIAN FASHION

KAMANGA WEAR

Chitenge, traditional Zambian fabric, is reserved for the house or for special occasions by the urban Zambian woman. Its popularity and daily use has suffered over the years with the influx of used western clothing to Africa. Designers/Directors Donna M'Shanga, Christina Syfunko, and Fay Sowden of Kamanga Wear aim to give traditional cloth a new lease on life by incorporating it with western designs. The results are current, comfortable, fun, and while undeniably afro-centric, they have a broad appeal. Kamanga also offers some children's and men's clothing. Their Kabulonga showroom is open Monday through Friday 09:00 – 18:00; Saturdays 11:00hrs – 17:00hrs; closed on Sundays.

SHOPPING

THE DESIGN HOUSE, SUGARBUSH FARM

This is a popular destination for Lusaka residents to browse the bespoke leather bags and accessories of the wittily named Jackal and Hide brand of Gillie Lightfoot, who first brought the beautiful hand painted products of Tribal Textiles to the international market beginning in 1990 in the Luangwa Valley. The Design House also showcases the home décor products of Gillie's talented team of Zambian artisans. It is open daily. Sugarbush Café is located on the premises too, especially popular on weekends for brunch when reservations are recommended. Located on Leopard's Hill Road, café hours are Tuesday to Saturday 0800 – 1700; Sunday 0830 – 1600; closed on Mondays.

NZITO

Known to Lusaka residents for its tailor-made, high quality, hard wood furniture, doors, windows and flooring, the Nzito Showroom is also worth a visit for its one-of-a-kind Zambian crafts which fit into a suitcase: salad bowls and servers; candle holders; cheese and bread boards; baskets; place mats and napkins; soaps and jewellery. Located in the Leopard's Hill Business Park, on Leopard's Hill Road, hours are Monday through Friday 08:00 – 17:00; Saturday 08:00 – 16:00; closed on Sundays. Pop over to the Zambian Coffee Shop, recently opened in the same business park, the coffee shop which sells craft beers!

CRAFT MARKET, ARCADES SHOPPING MALL

Every Sunday, the parking lot of the Arcades shopping centre is taken over with arts and crafts sellers. It's another good place to find suitcase-sized souvenirs. However, expansion of the mall began in 2017 which encroaches upon the parking lot so the fate of this Lusaka institution is uncertain.

DUTCH REFORMED CHURCH BAZAAR

Another Lusaka institution, the Dutch Reformed Church market on Kabulonga Road is held the last Saturday of every month. Everything is found here, paintings, furniture, trinkets, fabrics, plants and home cooking. Look out for The Mocha Puddle's delicious gluten-free baked goods. There is a small entrance fee at the market's main gate.

NATURE

FOREST RESERVE

Located off State Lodge Road, and of paramount importance to Lusaka's water supply, this miombo woodland protects indigenous plants and trees. Local artist Quentin Allen (See Visual Arts, above) knows this reserve better than most and is available to guide walkers in the reserve, if arranged in advance. It is also possible to arrange mountain biking in the reserve.

MONKEY POOLS, MUKA MUNYA

On a hot afternoon, consider a picnic and a swim in the limestone-filtered clear waters of the Monkey Pools on the Muka Munya River. Located on private land, off Leopard's Hill Road, there isn't a prettier spot to relax in all of Lusaka. It is thought that these may be the same Muka Munya pools mentioned in Victorian era explorer David Livingstone's journals. The entry fee of \$12 USD (100 ZMW) per person includes use of the monkey pools; a barbecue/picnic area; the club house lounge; and squash and tennis courts. There is a large swimming pool, but the natural pools themselves are so much better. The Monkey Pools are open daily. The club house is open for drinks Wednesday through Saturday 11:00 – 18:00.

LUSAKA NATIONAL PARK

Zambia's newest national park, opened in 2015, is located only 15 kms from the city centre. There is a good picnic area for day-trippers. This tiny park is re-stocked with many antelope species and giraffe, but it's biggest draw is its two White rhinoceros. Dehorned for protection and guarded 24 hours daily, the rhino roam during the day with their guards, but are fed in their cages. This is your best opportunity to see rhino in Zambia even though it is under contrived conditions. Located off Chifwema Road, the park is open daily 6:00 – 18:00; entry fee is 30 ZMW/15 ZMW per child.

LILAYI LODGE

Lilayi is located a 30-minute drive south of Lusaka on a 650 hectare, private game ranch, stocked with giraffe, zebra, and antelope species. Activities for both overnight guests and day-trippers include game drives; guided bush walks; horse riding; local village tours; use of the swimming pool; and visits to the Elephant Orphanage, a Game Rangers International project with support from the David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation. Currently, three orphaned calves are under care and can be viewed from a raised platform during their feeding hours, 11:30 – 13:00. Elephant viewing is \$10 USD per person. An exclusive behind the scenes tour of the elephant nursery can be arranged for a minimum of 4 people for \$100 USD. Game drives and guided bush walks leave hourly for both overnight guests and day visitors and cost \$25 USD per person. A one hour horse-back safari costs \$80 USD per person. Lilayi's restaurant is a popular destination, especially on weekends when reservations are advisable. Expect to pay \$30/\$40 USD (K380) per person for lunch excluding drinks.

CHAMINUKA LODGE

The thirty-room luxury Chaminuka Lodge is located on a 10,000-acre game ranch a convenient distance from Lusaka's airport. It offers morning, afternoon and evening game drives to view the ranch's many species of antelope, zebra, giraffe, lion and cheetah, and elephant. (The big cats are caged.) Other activities are bush walks; boating and fishing; and tours of the extensive African art, sculpture and artefact collection of Chaminuka's founder Mr. Andrew Sardanis. With the exception of the "cheetah experience", which is an additional cost of \$25 USD, all of the lodge facilities (swimming pool, tennis courts, table tennis); game activities; and buffet lunch are included in the day-tripper price of \$58 USD per person.

KAFUE NATIONAL PARK

Lilayi and Chaminuka Lodges and game ranches are good substitutes for those pressed for time, but they cannot compete with a visit to a real national park. Four hours' drive west of Lusaka is Kafue

National Park, too far and rushed as a day destination, but it is do-able in a two-day road trip. With an 8:00 am departure on Day 01, Kafue is reached in time for lunch and for the afternoon game drive or boat safari. On Day 02, there is time for the morning game activity followed by lunch before it's necessary to return to Lusaka. The caveat is that Lusaka's afternoon/early evening rush hour traffic is unavoidable on the return. Lodges and camps best situated for this quick overnight trip to Kafue are Mayukuyuku Bush Camp, Mukambi Safari Lodge and Ila Safari Lodge.

LOWER ZAMBEZI NATIONAL PARK

While Trip Advisor notes Lower Zambezi National Park as Lusaka's #two attraction, this beautiful park along the Zambezi River is a 40-minute flight (excluding travel time to the airport) or three/ four-hour drive from the capital. Like Kafue National Park, this destination really requires at least one overnight. We suggest you fly in and out and stay at the friendly Royal Zambezi Lodge.

DINING

ROAN AND SABLE

The Roan and Sable, under the skilled management of owners Andrew and Colleen, brought international standards to the Lusaka restaurant scene in 2016. It's an ideal stop for a cappuccino, a glass of wine, or a grilled steak or salmon. Best of all is its location, on Chila Road, Kabulonga, away from any shopping mall, and its open-terrace design. The Roan and Sable is available for private functions.

Hours:

>> **Monday/Tuesday:** 0630 – 1600

>> **Wednesday/Thursday:** 0630 – 21:00

>> **Friday:** 0630 – 22:00

>> **Saturday:** 0800 – 22:00

>> **Sunday:** 0800 – 1600

LATITUDE 15 HOTEL

The interior design of Lusaka's only boutique hotel reflects the same creative touch of Gillie Lightfoot of The Design House/Sugarbush Farm fame. (See Shopping, above.) The Latitude is the trendy place to eat, drink, sleep, as well as to work in Lusaka, with the opening in 2017 of shared space with "hot" work stations and private meeting rooms. "The Other Side" private club on the premises offers its members all of the hotel's services: dining, bar, pool, gym, spa, shared and private work spaces, and special events. The Latitude has a sister hotel in Lilongwe, Malawi, and has plans to expand to other African cities. It's located on Leopard's Lane, Kabulonga.

COSTS

>> Contact us for current pricing.

Leslie Nevison is the director of Lusaka-based MTT Zambia Ltd, which arranges private safaris in Zambia and ten other African countries. She encourages her guests to spend at least one full day in Lusaka on their way to Zambia's national parks.

