



10 NIGHT HORSE AND HIPPO SAFARI

RIDING, CANOEING, WALKING 7 NIGHTS HWANGE NATIONAL PARK & 3 NIGHTS MANA POOLS

There is a saying in Africa - that Africa gets into your blood once you have been on safari.

Well, it's worse than that when you go on a horse safari; **you are hooked for life**. You most certainly will never look at game drives again with the same excitement - longing for the peace, quiet and natural way of being on a horse around wildlife. Now add into that mix; canoeing and walking safari in one of the wildest places on earth, Mana Pools National Park, you have the penultimate adventure safari for riders.

Experience has taught us that riders like to be active and do adventurous stuff – the Horse and Hippo safari is for you.



- 1st night – Iganyana Wild Camp
- 2nd night – Iganyana Wild Camp
- 3rd night – semi-mobile bush camp
- 4th night – semi-mobile bush camp
- 5th night – semi-mobile bush camp
- 6th night – semi-mobile bush camp
- 7th night – Iganyana Wild Camp
- 8th night – Camp Zambezi
- 9th night – Camp Zambezi
- 10th night – Camp Zambez

Level of riding ability:

- Strong intermediate to advanced riding skill required.
- Being a confident rider with being riding fit is a big advantage.

Activities are going to be:

- Horse riding
- Bush walks
- Safari driving

Services are going to include, but not be confined to:

- Very good level of comfort with both the permanent and mobile tented accommodations.
- Fully catered with a reasonable supply of cold drinks and alcoholic beverages
- Strong French Press coffee is available. Staff and groom supported camps and horse services.
- Small groups up to 8 guests only. Horses in excellent safari condition for bush riding
- Professionally guided by qualified guides carrying first aid kit and certified firearms.

**DAY ONE:**

Arrival at Victoria Falls Airport, meet and greet by a road transfer company, followed by a two-to-three-hour drive to Iganyana Wild.

Afternoon tea, briefing, indemnity signing, intro to the horses, and then onto the horses for a short ride. This ride is very important to match you to the correct horse.

Back to fabulous tree camp Iganyana Wild camp, sundowners, hot showers, dinner, and peaceful sleep in the spacious ensuite tents.

DAY THREE:

Guests' early morning wake up, tea and coffee around the campfire, pack, breakfast and game drive to Main Camp in Hwange National Park.

This is only a short drive of half an hour to perhaps an hour depending on sightings of wildlife. Check-in and payments at the Tourism office, then mount up and ride into the park, or game drive deeper into the park, meet the horses and ride to the campsite.

Overnight with sundowners, hot showers, and dining under the stars.

DAY TWO:

Rise and shine with early morning Tea and coffee and a light breakfast. Today we will explore the Dete Vlei and surrounds on Horseback. More time to adapt to our riding style in the bush, the tack and horses. Any changes required will be done on this day.

We may ride for the whole day or we may ride in the morning for 3 to 4 hours and again in the afternoon for a shorter ride.

This evening we return to Iganyana Wild for our second night.

**DAY FOUR:**

Another early morning start – of which time does vary according to the seasons, mid-year being very cold first thing in the morning and thus starts being a bit later around 07h00; October, November, and December being very hot days and therefore wake up calls at 05h00 sometimes being required.

Onto the horses and out to explore the area again. There are no set routes and the ride is conducted according to what sounds were heard during the night, animal tracks, weather conditions, and many other factors.

The day may be a half-day or a full day out with a picnic lunch near a waterhole for wildlife viewing.

If lunch is at camp, then it is also an opportunity in the afternoon to do a safari walk or drive.

There are a few other waterholes that are worth visiting if guests have good cameras and lenses or are interested in birding.

Also, the guide may decide that an early morning walk or drive is going to be better and may then switch the order of the day to a non-riding activity in the morning and a ride in the afternoon.

This also depends on the need for horses to rest before a long day tomorrow.

Whatever happens, there will be cold drinks around the campfire and a hearty dinner in camp.

DAY FIVE:

Today we ride from Camp Baikiaea for a full day out to Kennedy Camp. This is a ride of approximately 30 to 40 kms. It will be through the Zambezi teak and acacia woodlands, passing waterholes which may or may not have water in, with a picnic lunch on route.

Arrive late afternoon to Kennedy Camp, settle in with sundowners, and welcome hot showers followed by yet again a delicious dinner, very comfortable beds with hot water bottles for winter!

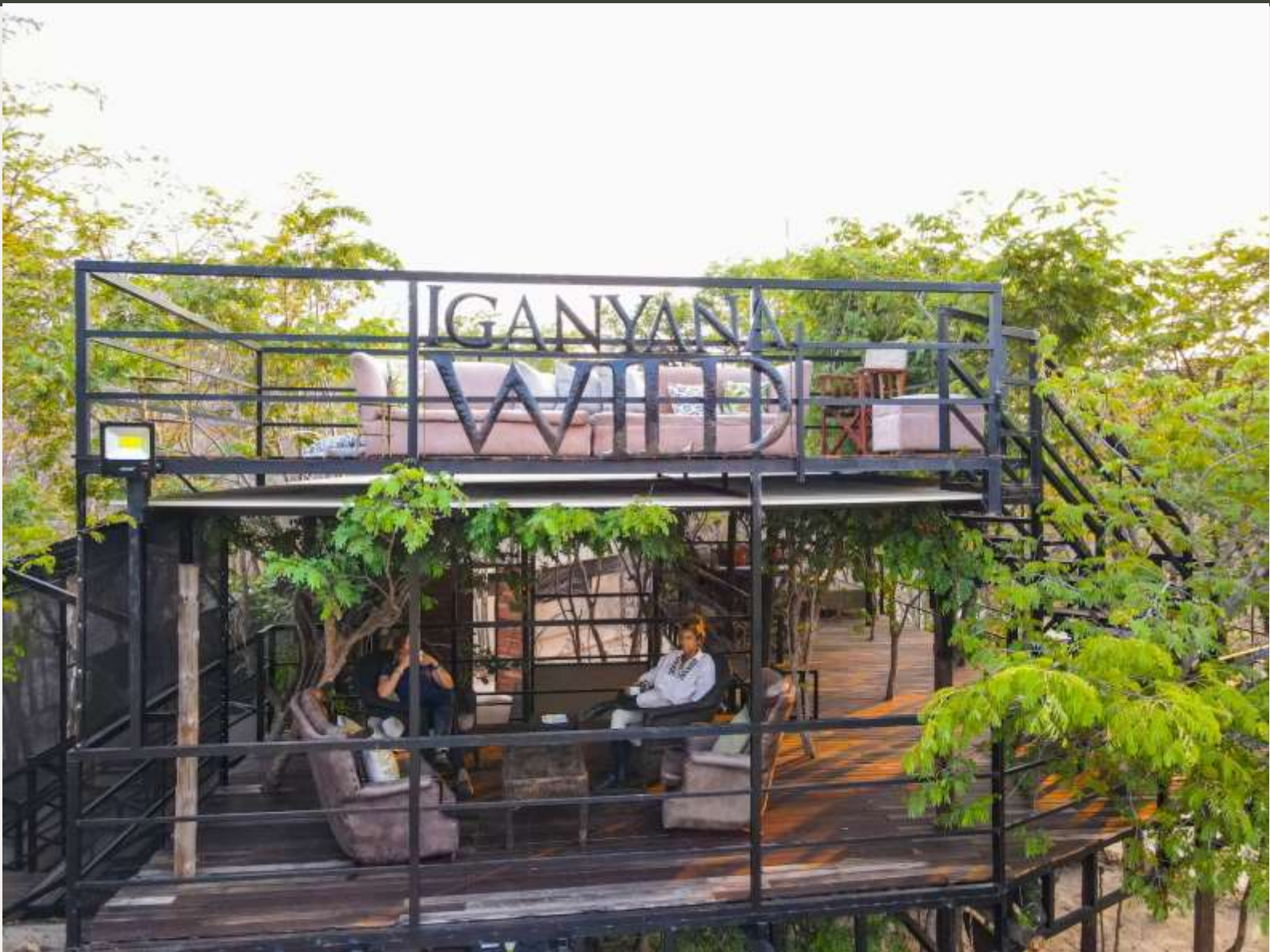
DAY SIX:

This day will be spent in the Kennedy 2 area of the Park in some very beautiful Acacia groves. The camp is set along the Kennedy Vlei which is a renowned area for wildlife viewing.

Options here are riding, walking, or a safari drive in the morning. Much will again be dependent on possible wildlife sightings and activity and time of year as to what riding we will do.

A good option is to take a drive to the Ngweshla area not far from camp as it is generally a very productive wildlife area where often a resident pride of lions takes charge.



**DAY SEVEN:**

Final early morning wake up to enjoy the dawn in the African bush around the fire.

Light breakfast and onto the horses for a 14km or up to 25km ride (dependent on the time of year and early morning wildlife activity) to a point where the horse truck will meet us.

There we will end the ride, load the horses, and have a safari drive out of the Park back to Iganyana Wild for the night.

Sundowners will be a special affair reminiscing upon the past few days of being in the real African bush on fine steeds enjoying the wildlife and big spaces.

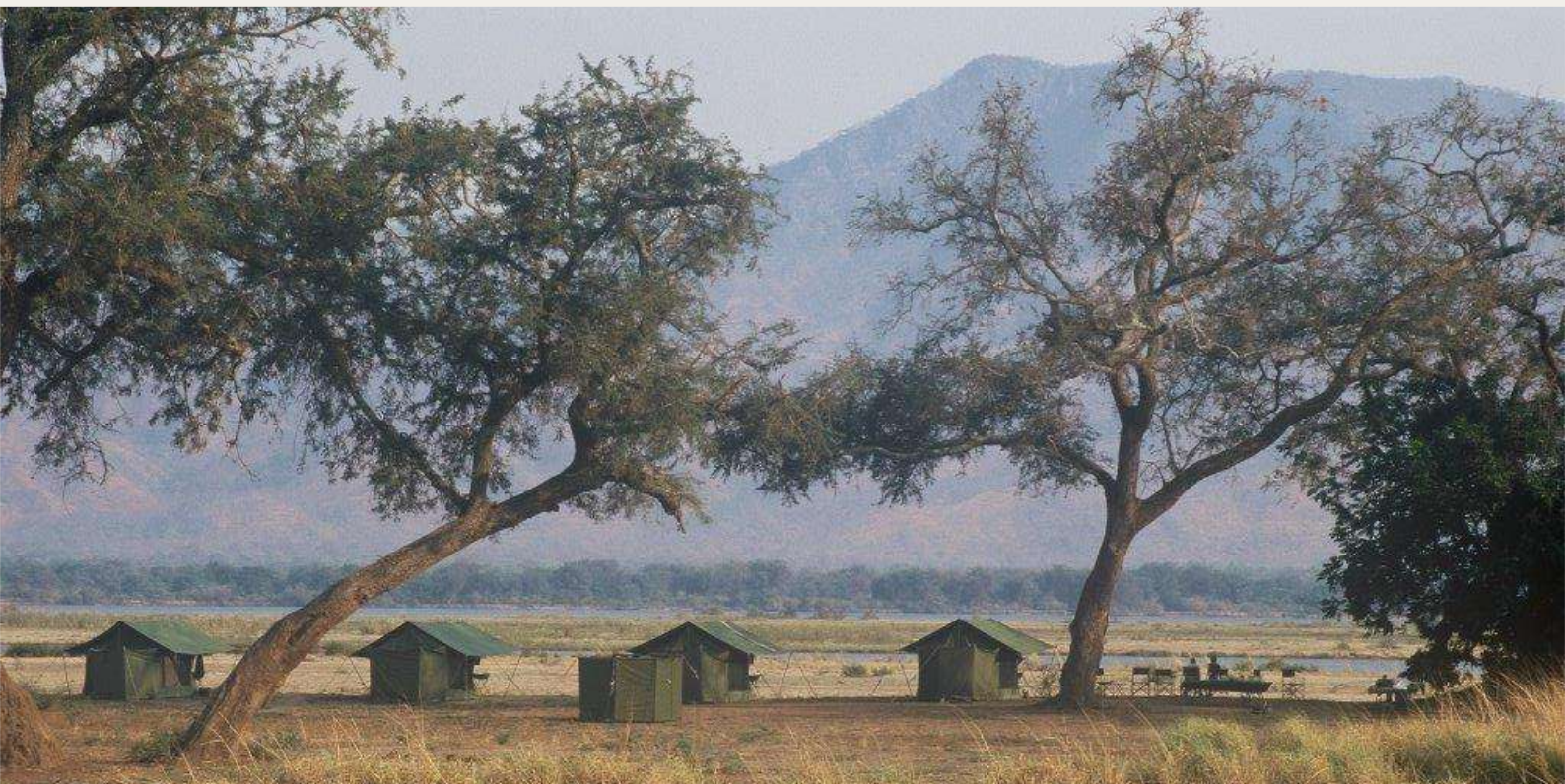
DAY EIGHT:

All good things must come to an end they say, and today is your final day in Hwange. After a leisurely breakfast, sad and often teary goodbyes are said to new-found friends and of course the fantastic horses. Fly by air-charter into Mana Pools National Park where you will be met by your guide with ice cold drinks. You will then embark on a half hour drive through Jesse bush and Mopane Woodlands to first sign in at the Nyamepi office of the National Park. Then back onto the safari vehicle and drive through the incredible woodlands of Mana Pools to Camp Zambezi arriving in time for lunch.



You may, by then, already have met a few of your new neighbours - elephant, kudu, zebra, impala and many birds! A mobile tented camp will have been set up by the camp staff - walk-in mosquito-proofed tents with en-suite chemical toilet, external long-drop toilets, hot showers and a dining area next to the fire where iced drinks and sumptuous bush-prepared meals will be served. Our chef will have prepared a delicious lunch to give you strength for the first afternoon's walk - a familiarisation walk to see the lay of the land and to learn the rules of walking in big game territory. Then back to camp for sundowners, a hot (or cold if you prefer) shower, and a fine dinner. Although tempting to stay awake to listen to the neighbours going about their nightly activities, but the beds are very comfortable and warm so it may be difficult to stay awake!

OVERNIGHT CAMP ZAMBEZI



DAY NINE:

To make the most of your day we suggest an early morning wake up, the hand basins outside each tent are filled with hot water before first light to allow you to shave or freshen up. Enjoy a beautiful sunrise before a light breakfast will be served with tea and freshly brewed coffee.



After breakfast, set off on your morning's activity, you may take to the river for the day (or morning), go by vehicle or on foot to explore the National Park. Whether you opt for land or water activities, half or full day, you can be assured of incredible experiences. The guide will carry a weapon, a first aid kit, a packed lunch and extra water. Clients may carry extra personal water and personal items for the day. Finally, back to camp for the night where a wonderful meal, hot shower, and cold drinks await you.

OVERNIGHT CAMP ZAMBEZI

DAY TEN:

Another day along the lines of the previous day - the choices are yours to make the most of this amazing spot. This third night will again be spent at Camp Zambezi - with all the trimmings.

OVERNIGHT CAMP ZAMBEZI**DAY ELEVEN:**

Depending upon the guests' time of departure, they may either take another early walk before breakfast or have a bit of a sleep in! After that, there will be a short game drive to the airstrip where we bid you farewell before your charter flight to Victoria Falls!

INCLUDED IN PRICE:

- All accommodations - mobile tented camp in Hwange National Park, Iganyana Wild, Camp Zambezi in Mana Pools
- Safari activities riding – walking – game driving – canoeing
- Road transfer from Victoria Falls Airport to Hwange, Iganyana Wild on arrival,
- Air charter from Hwange to Mana Pools and from Mana Pools to Victoria Falls Airport
- Fabulous safari meals and ice-cold soft drinks and water. Alcoholic beverages including Beers, South African Wine, Whiskey, Gin and tonics, Vodka and a variety of sodas.
- Services of professional guide for the duration

NOT INCLUDED IN PRICE:

- Parks fees, camping fees, conservation fees
- Gratuities to staff
- Items of a personal nature

- As these are remote locations with no access to shops, please ensure you bring everything you need particularly medications.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

- Maximum 8 guests, minimum 2 (or pay for 2) Single supplement will apply if not willing to share.
- Minimum age 14. Please inquire for family/younger rider options.
- Each riding safari is led by Professional Guide James Varden and supported by a Learner Guide/Back up Rider/guide. In Mana there will also be a professional guide. First Aid Kit and Satellite Phone carried at all times.
- As we are riding in a big game area, we only accept experienced riders that are comfortable at all paces and also riding fit.
- Please see the booking form conditions for more information.
- Accommodation on this safari includes 4 nights "in the Hwange bush" at semi-mobile camps, 3 nights at the permanent Iganyana Wild or Iganyana Wild, 3 nights at bush camp Camp Zambezi in Mana Pools
- Hwange and Mana Pools are protected National Park areas and therefore the bush camps where we stay here have no electricity, no plumbing, and no permanent structures.
- Hwange National Park is also home to a healthy lion population. Security is provided by a working electric fence surrounding the encampment at night.
- Our experienced bush savvy well cared for and loved safari horses make the perfect companions for your Zimbabwean Adventure. Ranging in height from 15hh-16.1hh comprising of Boerpedes, Shire X, Friesian X and Thoroughbreds, we have the perfect steed for your dream safari.
- Tack is of an excellent quality to ensure our clients utmost comfort and include Leon Liversage Trail Master Saddles handmade in South Africa, Australian Stock Saddles, Wintec English Saddles and most horses are ridden in a Snaffle bit.
- Water bottle pouches and built in saddle bags on our numnahs provide ample space to carry day kit.
- Average riding time per day is 6 hours.
- Weight limit is 90kgs. Please ask about other options for heavier but experienced riders.
- While we have a small collection of half chaps and hard helmets, it is preferable that you please bring your own well-fitting hard hat and riding gear.
- All guests will be required to sign the indemnity form and must have travel insurance.
- Please bring sufficient batteries and mobile charging equipment for your cameras for the 5-day mobile component as there will be no access to mains electricity during this time
- Please note we have no control over National Parks fees, camping fees and transfers and as such rates for parks fees, camping fees, air charters and transfers are subject to change

TO NOTE ABOUT THE RIDE ITINERARY AND LOGISTICS:

This is representative of what the itinerary will be like. Many factors will influence the day-to-day order of these rides. Weather conditions – cold, heat, rain, cloud, etc.; – wildlife activity and movements; rider abilities and interests; climatic conditions i.e. good wet season or very dry conditions; logistics, and many other factors will determine how the riding and other activities will be conducted. The guide will always ensure to maximise the wildlife experience.

There is 220V AC electricity provided by solar and generator at Iganyana but not on the mobile section. Charging of gadgets and cameras will be through a 12V DC vehicle inverter or accessory plug. Guests need to confirm with us about what charging plugs they need to bring. Iganyana has both 16Amp round pin South African plug sockets, and multi-socket adaptors for UK, European and USA plugs. There are also standard USB ports in the main living area of Iganyana.

There will be a small swimming pool for those lovely hot summer mid-days

There are no fences or barriers at any of the camps as these are wildlife zones so any wildlife can be moving through. A safety briefing will be done by the Professional Guide at the camps.

Water is borehole water that is filtered and very clean and safe to drink.

There is limited WiFi at Iganyana and none at all in the National Park, nor any mobile-phone service in the Park.

It is very wise to bring a couple of good interesting paper novels to read or a Kindle for those moments of peace and quiet time or if there is rain or one just wants to take some time out in the camp.

A small torch such as a Petzel/LedLenser style head torch is an absolute must for the bush camping and indeed any accommodation in Zimbabwe. Electricity is not a given!

Dietary requirements – VERY important for Ride Zimbabwe to be notified very well in advance i.e. at least a couple of months - about any dietary requirements of food allergies.

Vegetarians, vegans, gluten/lactose intolerant, celiac disease, etc. can be catered for *IF all information about the diets and needs are received in time.*

Please note that not all highly specific foods for these very specific diets are available in Zimbabwe.

It is easy to prepare meals without certain foods i.e. red meat, chicken, tomatoes, onions, peanuts, shellfish, etc., but not always easy to supplement with highly specific items found in many specialist food stores in Developed countries.

Also, note that the safaris are done in remote bush locations and access to health and medical facilities can be some hours away. All medicines required by guests MUST be brought that will cover the entire stay.

This is also why health insurance and emergency medical evacuation insurance cover is a pre-travel requirement. Being bush camps it is likely to encounter animals such as elephants, buffalo, lion, hyena, baboon, snakes, spiders, scorpions, mosquitoes, flies, and many other types of insects in these natural bush locations. No guest should be surprised that these creatures exist as part of the daily experience of being in the Zimbabwean wilds.

Notes on the flights

Flight departure times will be confirmed a day before the flight.

Luggage Restrictions: maximum weight: 20kgs (total including hand luggage; Size Restrictions: 25cm (10 inches) wide by 30cm (12 inches) high and 62cm (24 inches) long. Strictly soft sided bags only, no wheels or frames. For additional camera equipment or overweight luggage, additional seats can be bought prior to departure. This “additional” seat allows an extra 80Kgs of luggage. If passengers arrive with incorrect luggage, they will be offered a soft bag (provided at cost) and their “other” suitcase may be left behind or transported to the end location at a cost to passenger.

Passenger weight: All passengers’ weights are required prior to travel. Passengers that do not give their weights prior to travel may be refused boarding for safety reasons. Weight restrictions are based on individual passengers and cannot be compensated with fellow travelling passengers. Passengers weighing more than 115 kg (253 lbs) may be required to book an additional seat.

We accept no responsibility for any delays caused by unforeseen circumstances, mechanical breakdowns, diversions due to weather or any other cause. However, we will endeavour to rectify the situation to the best of our ability. We reserve the right to sub-charter a third-party aircraft should we not be able to provide our own aircraft. The flight is strictly subject to runway conditions and serviceability. If the destination airport/airstrip is unsuitable for our aircraft for any reason, we will divert to the nearest alternative airport/airstrip. The quotation is subject to availability at the time of confirmation. **Prices are based on current fuel pricing in Zimbabwe. An escalation in fuel will influence the price and we have the right to adjust it without prior notification.**

We accept no responsibility for any delays caused by unforeseen circumstances such as mechanical breakdowns, diversions due to weather or any other cause. For this reason, we recommend that all passengers overnight in Victoria Falls or Harare prior to and after their safaris in Zimbabwe. Adequate Travel Insurance is essential as we are not responsible for missed onward connections or having to overnight passengers due to unforeseen circumstances. Where possible, we will offer alternative means of transport if weather or mechanical breakdown prevents the plane from taking off. We operate daily, with a minimum 2 passengers. The schedule is subject to change, depending on confirmed seats per route, weather, airstrip conditions and mechanical issues beyond our control. Any guest arriving less than 30 minutes before the stipulated departure time may have their seat cancelled to avoid knock-on effects with the schedule for the remainder of the day. All flights operate during daylight hours as many of the airstrips are unlit.

During Zimbabwe’s rainy season (typically November to April) certain airstrips may be out of service. In these cases, the closest alternative airstrip will be used. It is imperative that passengers have adequate Travel Insurance to cover cancelled flights, costs of alternative accommodations/ arrangements and possible missed onward connections.

We ask guests to please adhere with local Covid protocols as required.

