

# MADE IN AFRICA

MONTHLY TRAVEL MAGAZINE

## Zimbabwe

Return of the King

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# Off-the-beaten track Africa



Image: Wilderness Safaris

Many years ago Zimbabwe set the benchmark for authentic African safaris, but with years of political instability, the tourism industry in this beautiful country pretty much came to a standstill.

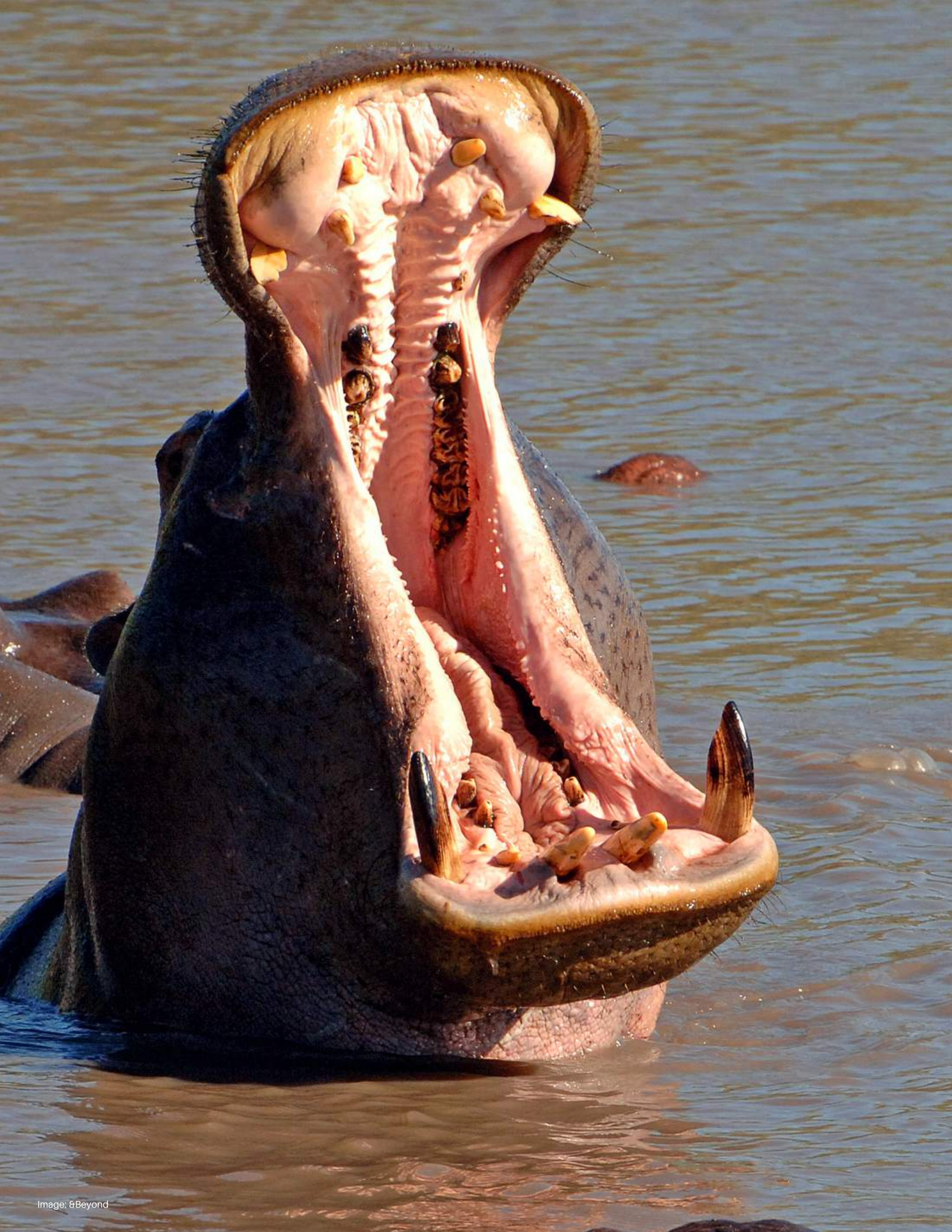
In recent years Zim has once again established itself as the safari destination of choice for those in the know. Travellers seeking an off-the-beaten track African safari experience, as well as seasoned safari goers, are choosing Zim's national parks for the ultimate safari experience.

From the towering boulders of the Matobos National Park, to Zimbabwe's flagship game reserve Hwange National Park, and the rugged and beautiful Mana Pools, Zimbabwe offers the Big Five, huge elephant herds and lion prides, an enormous variety of bird and mammal life, and the largest concentration of leopard in Africa.

Add to that the aquatic life of Lake Kariba, the majestic Victoria Falls, stunning lodges, well maintained parks, and some of the best guides in the business, and you have an African safari that hits all our requirements for 'bucket list'.

Zim also has a 'wildness' that's hard to find in the more frequented parks of East Africa for instance. In Zimbabwe's national parks you won't be competing for space at a lion sighting, and more often than not, you'll have elephant strolling through your camp and more close encounters with an enormous variety of wildlife than you can count. It's one of the few countries left in Africa that offers a true 'Out of Africa' safari experience.







# Hwange National Park

*At 15 000 km<sup>2</sup> (5 792 m<sup>2</sup>) Hwange is Zimbabwe's largest national park. Hwange boasts a tremendous variety of wildlife, with over 100 species of mammals and nearly 400 bird species recorded.*

It's the Park's elephants though that make Hwange world famous, with their numbers rivalling that of Botswana's Chobe. There's also plenty of other big game action here, with huge herds of buffalo and the rest of the sought-after Big Five.

Hwange is regarded by many seasoned safari travellers as a 'true African safari experience', and you'll find some of the best safari guides in Africa in this stunning national park.

Visit Hwange between May and August for the most comfortable weather and plenty of wildlife action.

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**Explore Hwange and the other highlights of Zimbabwe for 10 days >>**

**Or take some time out on a luxury yoga safari in Zimbabwe's flagship reserve >>**

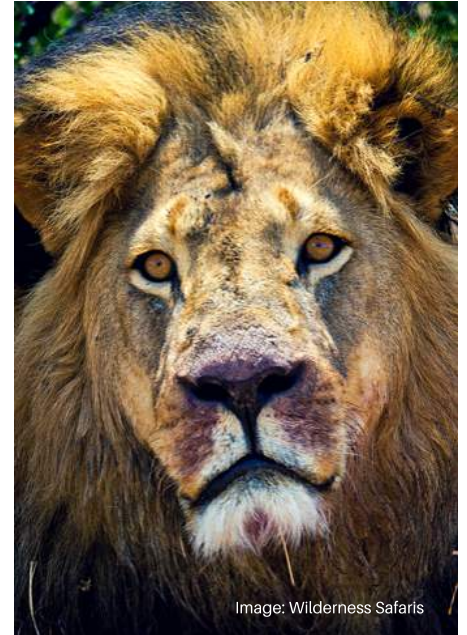


Image: Wilderness Safaris

Hwange predator.



Image: African Bush Camps







# Matobos National Park

*A sacred space to the Ndebele and a World Heritage Site, Matobos is famous for its rugged granite outcrops and Khoi-San rock art that dates back to the Stone Age.*

Huge piles of red granite boulders litter the landscape, with wooded valleys and vegetation in between. Smooth enormous whalebacks rise up from the plains, and rocks and boulders balance at surprising angles, making the Park a photographer's dream.

Plentiful game is found throughout the Matobos Hills, including white rhino, leopard and Africa's largest concentration Verreaux's eagles. No lion and elephant in the area means you can explore in foot.

Adjoining the main national park is a smaller, intensively protected game park, containing Zimbabwe's highest concentrations of rhino (black and white), and an excellent place to track these endangered giants on foot.

We recommend visiting between May and August for mild, sunny days and cool nights.

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**Visit Matobos National Park  
on our 11 day Best of  
Zimbabwe safari >>**

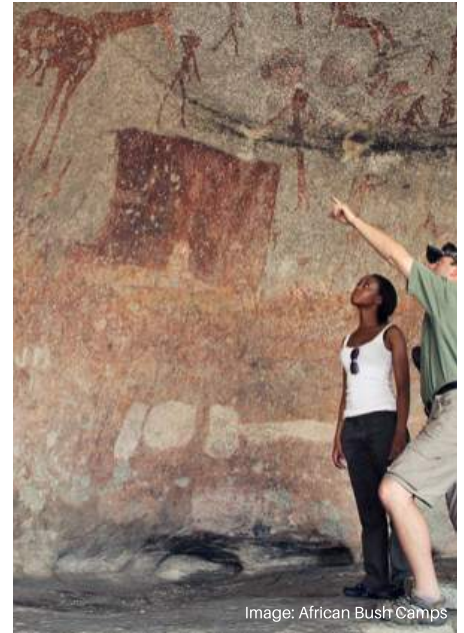


Image: African Bush Camps

Ancient rock art.

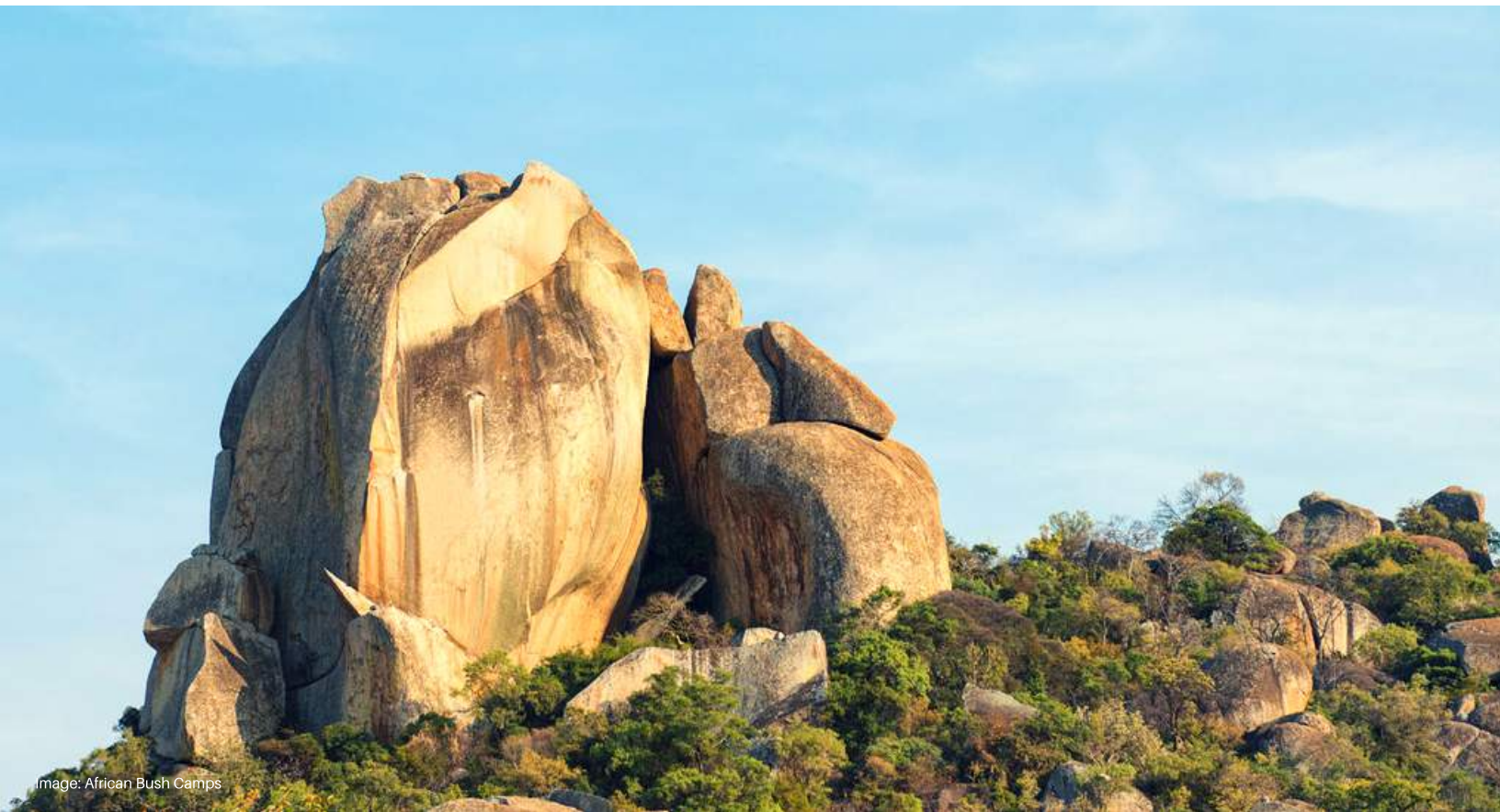


Image: African Bush Camps



# Mana Pools National Park

*A UNESCO Natural World Heritage Site, Mana Pools is rugged and beautiful with a wonderful blend of grassy plains, woodlands and riverine scrubland.*

The Park is synonymous with remote, untouched wilderness, the Zambezi River, elephants, lions, over 350 bird species, and aquatic wildlife. With its abundance of water and plenty of grazing, Mana Pools is home to a plethora of game.

Mana Pools is one of Zimbabwe's most popular parks, and it's easy to see why. With its wide range of habitats and ecosystems, the Park is home to a huge array of wildlife, and offers spectacular scenery and up-close encounters with the Big Five.

The area is famous for walking safaris (with Zimbabwe's famous excellent guides), as well as canoe safaris, an exciting game viewing experience!

Game viewing is best from May to October when temperatures are cooler, and malaria risk is at its lowest.

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**Explore the best wilderness areas in Zimbabwe and Botswana on a once in a lifetime safari accompanied by acclaimed guide Nic Polenakis >>**



Image: Wilderness Safaris

A southern carmine bee-eater.



Image: Wilderness Safaris







# Victoria Falls

*Mosi-oa-Tunya, or “the smoke that thunders”, the magnificent Victoria Falls lies in northern Zimbabwe.*

These awesome falls are one of the seven natural wonders of the world, and for good reason. The falls are immense, the towering column of mist is unique and the whole area is scenically beautiful.

Plus the town of Victoria Falls is known as Africa's Adventure Capital thanks to the wide range of activities on offer. The Victoria Falls Bridge spans the impressive gorge and the famous adrenaline pumping Victoria Falls bungi jump is done from this bridge, with a terrifying drop of 360ft (111m).

You can also go white river rafting, game viewing, hop on a Zambezi River cruise, or take a scenic flight (the “flight of angels”) over the area.

The Falls is at its most magnificent at the end of rainy season (April and May). If you are after the adrenalin caused from white water rafting down the Zambezi, the best time to visit is between August and December when the rapids are more exposed.

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**Take your family to Africa on our 12 day lodge safari, which takes you to the highlights of both Botswana and Zimbabwe, ending at the mighty Vic Falls >>**



Image: Wilderness Safaris

Zambezi River cruise.



Image: Wilderness Safaris





# MADE IN AFRICA

## Tours & Safaris

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