

# A Warm Welcome to Mana

Welcome to Mana Pools! Our staff on the ground are dedicated to ensuring that you have a wonderful time visiting our park.

When you arrive, please immediately register at the main office where our staff will sign you in, collect any fees due and answer any questions you may have. We are also able to offer you additional information and services, so please do not hesitate to enquire. These include:

- Firewood
- Walking permits
- WiFi access
- Fishing permits
- Reservation extensions
- Guided walks
- Latest sightings
- Canoe trips

We ask that you familiarise yourself with, and abide by, our Code of Conduct which is there to protect you and our precious environment.

We wish you a memorable and pleasant stay and our senior members of staff are on hand to assist you and deal with any queries you may have.

Thank you for visiting us!



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Area Manager  
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jdube@zimparcs.org.zw



**Patridge Marimbe**  
*Msc Strategic Mgt. CUT BCom Mgt bons NUST.*  
Tourism Manager  
Cell: +263 777 283586 (WhatsApp)  
patridgem@zimparcs.org.zw

## Booking Information

Four ways to make a reservation:

**Website**  
[www.zimparcs.org/send\\_booking\\_request.php](http://www.zimparcs.org/send_booking_request.php)

**Email**  
[bookings@zimparcs.org.zw](mailto:bookings@zimparcs.org.zw)

**Telephone**  
+263 867 7707627  
+263 24 2706077

**WhatsApp**  
+263 776 134164

# Seven Elements of Magic

There are many famous parks across Africa, but those who have visited Mana Pools acknowledge that there is something unique, indeed magical, about this small stretch of land on the southern banks of the Zambezi River.

Yet they often fail to put their finger on exactly what it is. Below are a few things that make Mana Pools such an incredible place to visit. There are many more, and we invite you to explore and discover these and all that Mana Pools has to offer.

**1 The Wilderness**  
Mana Pools is remote and remains one of the few real wildernesses left in the world. The park is a true refuge for wildlife, protected by the mighty Zambezi River and the formidable Zimbabwean escarpment.

**2 The Freedom**  
Mana Pools offers visitors the freedom to explore the park on foot, provided you obtain a permit. It is at your own risk, but walking with lions and elephant gives you hints of what it might have been like in Eden.

**3 The Universe**  
Situated in the heart of central southern Africa, Mana Pools remains far from the pollution of city lights. This allows the visitor to experience the full wonder of the night sky and quietly contemplate their place in the vast universe.

**4 The Pools**  
As surface water dries up inland, Mana's pools remain full of water, and much of the wildlife is forced towards them and the river. They provide a life source for the herbivores and a field day for the predators.

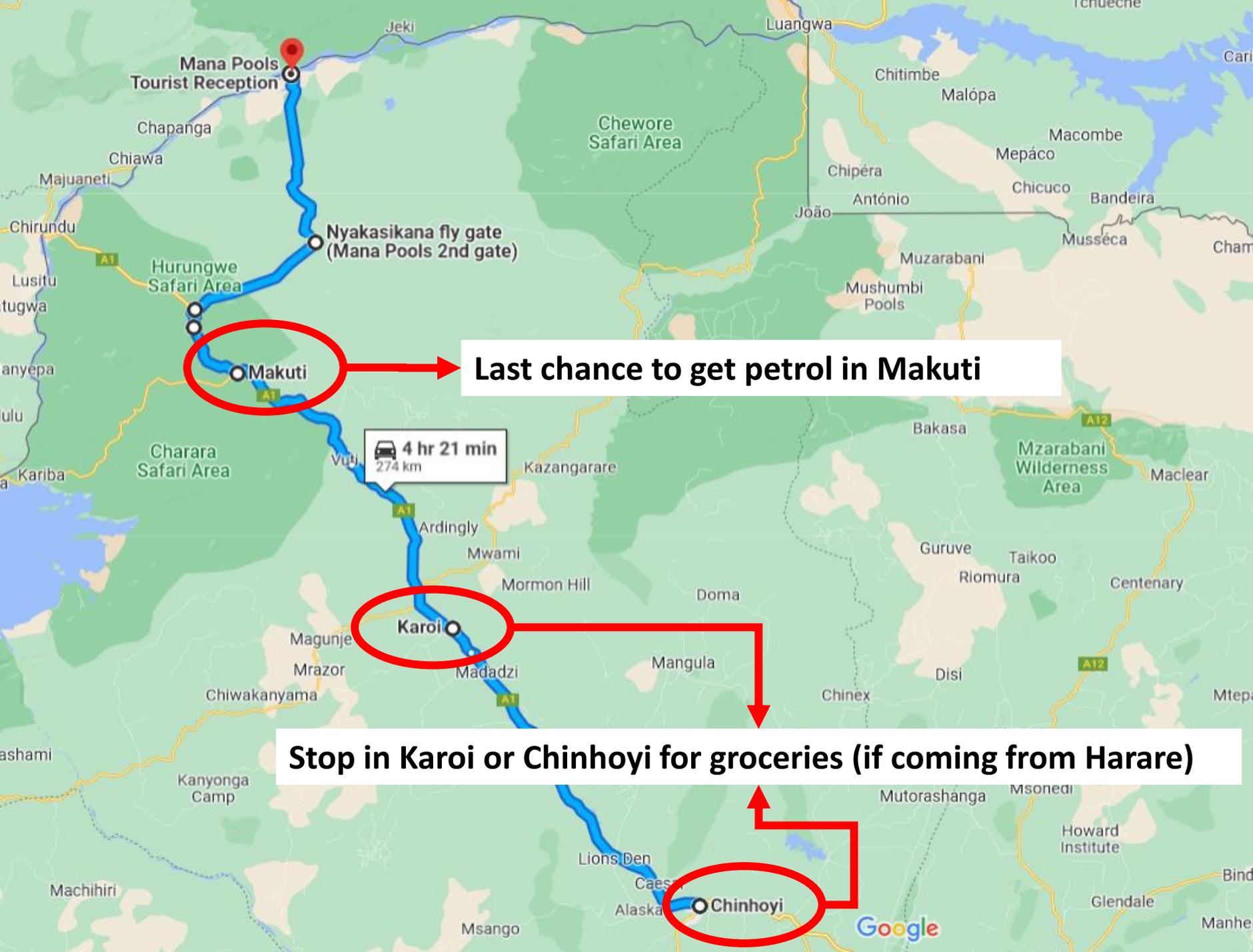
**5 The Beauty**  
For such a small park, Mana Pools offers an incredibly varied landscape, all of which is utterly stunning. Set against the backdrop of the Zambezi River and the Zambian escarpment, you explore wide open plains dotted with palms and baobabs, cathedral mopane forests filtering beautiful blue light and the albedo strewn floodplain that attracts herds of elephant feeding addictively on their pods. The tranquil pools draw an abundance of bird species that fish energetically among the dozing hippo and threatening crocs. And the changing seasons ensure that nothing looks the same from one month to the next.

**6 The Iconic Bulls**  
Mana is known for its amazing bull elephants. By no means Africa's largest, but incredibly gentle and full of character.

**7 The Painted Dogs**  
One of the rarest animals in Africa, Mana Pools is home to several packs of painted dogs. It is not uncommon to see them playing joyfully together on the floodplain and even hunting baboons which is unique to Mana Pools.



 Nyakasanga Pack puppies

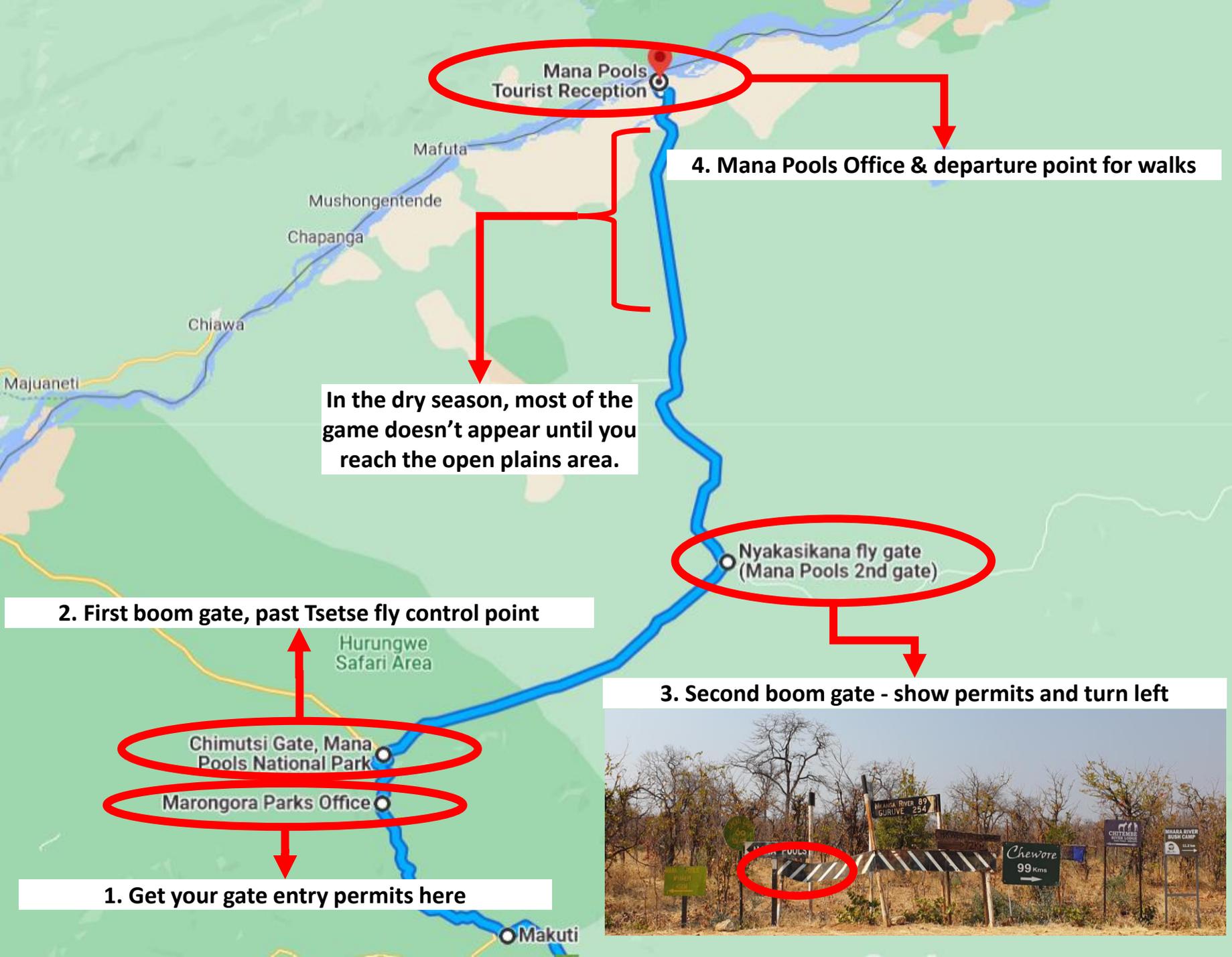


**Last chance to get petrol in Makuti**

**Stop in Karoi or Chinhoyi for groceries (if coming from Harare)**

## THINGS TO NOTE

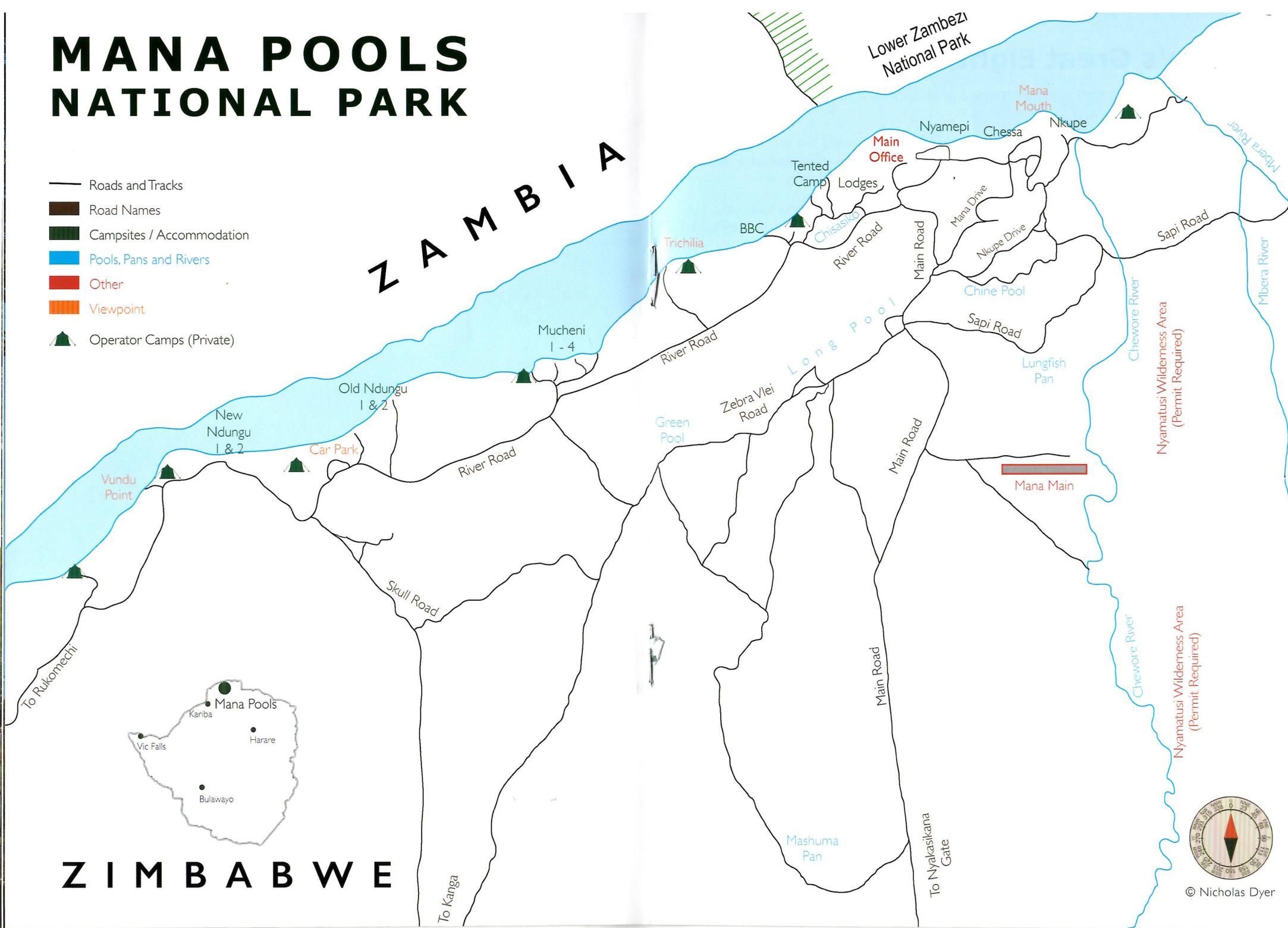
- Download <https://maps.me/> for navigation assistance.
- Approx 45 minutes to drive from 1<sup>st</sup> boom gate to 2<sup>nd</sup> boom gate.
- Approx 2 hours to drive from 2<sup>nd</sup> boom to Office.
- Lots of tsetse flies in parts of the park.
- No fuel in the park at all.
- If you want/need it, bring it – including toilet paper.
- No shops in the park. There is a basic store in the staff village where you *may* be able to get some supplies, but no guarantees.
- Firewood *may* be available to purchase from the office.
- Carry-in, Carry-out policy operates, so bring bin bags.
- Facilities are very basic and you are not guaranteed to get hot water, or even cooking facilities.
- Book walks at the main office and pay at the office after the walk.
- Permits required for the restricted area.



# MANA POOLS NATIONAL PARK

-  Roads and Tracks
-  Road Names
-  Campsites / Accommodation
-  Pools, Pans and Rivers
-  Other
-  Viewpoint
-  Operator Camps (Private)

Z A M B I A



Z I M B A B W E





# WELCOME TO MANA POOLS NATIONAL PARK

IN YOUR INTEREST AND THAT OF WILDLIFE AND OTHER VISITORS PLEASE CONFORM TO THESE RULES

1. PLEASE DRIVE ONLY ON GRADED ROADS. DRIVING OFF ROAD IS XXXXXXXXXX PROHIBITED, ESPECIALLY UP TO LION KILLS.
2. LEAVING YOUR VEHICLE AND WALKING IS PERMITTED SUBJECT TO OBTAINING A WALKING PERMIT.
3. ALL PLANTS, ANIMALS AND SOILS ARE PROTECTED AND CAN NOT BE COLLECTED. THIS INCLUDES FIREWOOD, INSECTS, INCLUDING BUTTERFLIES AND ANIMAL REMAINS.
4. FIRES ARE PERMITTED ONLY ON DESIGNATED BRAAI STANDS.
5. PLEASE REFRAIN FROM LITTERING IN THE NATIONAL PARK.
6. PLEASE AVOID BEHAVIOUR LIKELY TO DISTURB WILDLIFE OR PEOPLE.
7. POWER BOATS MAY NOT BE USED IN THE PARK. CANOES ARE PERMITTED.
8. FEEDING OF ANIMALS IS PROHIBITED.
9. GENERATORS / LIGHTING PLANTS ARE NOT PERMITTED.
10. PLEASE USE YOUR CAMP DURING THE PRESCRIBED HOURS. FROM MAY TO JULY THE HOURS ARE:  
6:00PM TO 6:00AM, AND FROM AUGUST TO OCTOBER 6:30PM TO 6:00AM.

**PEOPLE DISOBEYING PARKS AND WILDLIFE REGULATIONS WILL BE PROSECUTED AND BANNED FROM THE PARK.  
HOWEVER, THESE RULES ARE FOR YOUR BENEFIT AND WE HOPE YOU ENJOY YOUR STAY.**



# MANA POOLS NATIONAL PARK

## VISITORS INFORMATION



**OPENING TIME** 06:00hrs

**CLOSING TIME** 1800 hrs

### ENTRY FEES

#### CONSERVATION FEES - DAY

LOCALS DAY VISIT AD	\$ 8-00 USD	CH\$ 4-00 USD
SADC DAY VISIT AD	\$ 15.00 USD	CH\$ 7.50 USD
INTER DAY VISIT AD	\$ 20.00 USD	CH\$ 10.00 USD

### ENTRY FEES

#### CONSERVATION FEE - OVERNIGHT

LOCALS OVERNIGHT VISIT AD	\$ 8-00 USD	CH \$ 4-00 USD
SADC OVERNIGHT VISIT AD	\$ 15.00 USD	CH \$ 7.50 USD
INTER OVERNIGHT VISIT AD	\$ 20.00 USD	CH \$ 10-00 USD

#### LOCALLY REGISTERED

#### FOREIGN REGISTERED

VEHICLE ENTRY FEES \$

TRAILERS \$

### ACTIVITIES

	LOCAL	INTERNATIONAL	COMMUNITY		LOCAL	REGIONAL	INTERNATIONAL
FISHING / PERSON	\$5.00	\$10.00	—	CANOE HIRING	\$	\$	\$
GUIDED WALKS	\$5.00/P/hr LOCAL	\$10.00/P/hr NON RES		GUIDED CANOEING	\$5.00/P/hr	\$10/P/hr	\$10.00/P/hr
UNGUIDED WALKS	\$10.00/Day	\$15.00/Day			\$	\$	\$
WILDERNES TRAILS	\$25/P/Day (1st three Days)	\$50.00/P/Day (1st three Days)		CHITAKE PICNIC SITE/DAY VISIT:			

- PLEASE REPORT AT THE ENTRANCE GATE BEFORE ENTERING THE PARK WITH YOUR PROOF OF IDENTITY.
- DECLARE ALL FIREARMS TO THE AREA MANAGER.
- FEEDING ANIMALS IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED.
- MAXIMUM SPEED IN THE PARK IS 40KM/HR.



**SUPERETTE & CURIOS**



**ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE  
ENQUIRE AT TOURIST OFFICE**



**MANA POOLS OFFICE:**

**| CENTRAL BOOKINGS 04 706077- 8 | +263783732479**



# Accommodation

Patridge Marimbe  
Tourism Manager

Mana Pools offers a wide range of accommodation facilities designed to match the experience you are looking for, whether it's relishing the wilderness, enjoying exclusivity or savouring the bush in slightly more luxurious surroundings.

As well as our ZimParks' facilities, Mana Pools has a number of private game lodges and safari camps within its boundaries. These are either located in their own concession areas or are temporary tented camps strategically placed within the park. These privately owned lodges offer a fully inclusive safari experience, including luxurious accommodation, morning and evening game drives, guided walks as well as all your meals catered for.

## ZimParks' facilities

### Tented Safari Camps

These are highly comfortable, large safari tents. Each tent contains two beds, with an extra bed available on request. Visitors will enjoy good quality linen and each tent has its own en-suite facilities. Each unit is serviced daily.

Next to each tent is your own well equipped kitchen exclusive to your use. It comes complete with crockery, cutlery and cooking utensils as well as a fridge, four plate stove, hot water and solar lighting. It is also baboon proof!

The tents are uniquely positioned on the shores of the mighty Zambezi River, in an area dominated by the iconic elephant bulls of Mana Pools such as Boswell, Fred Astaire, Grumpy and Spike.

### Lodges

There are five self catering lodges in the park, all located along the Zambezi River a short distance upstream from Nyamepi Camp. There are two eight-bed lodges and three four-bed lodges which are under thatch (extra beds on request). The lodges are solar lit and fully furnished. They have hot and cold water and a fully equipped kitchen with fridge, hotplates, cutlery and cooking utensils.



### Nyamepi Campsite

The Nyamepi Campsite is the Mana Pool's flagship. It is located along the Zambezi River near the Mana Pools National Park reception office. It is popular with groups and families. Visitors need to bring their own camping equipment, bedding, toiletries, cooking implements, etc.

There are ablution blocks nearby with hot and cold running water, flush toilets and laundry basins. Visitors can buy firewood at the reception office, and each campsite has a braai area where one can cook. Nyamepi has 36 sites, each site taking a maximum of six people.

### Exclusive Campsites

There are a number of exclusive campsites situated along the Zambezi River in the park. These camps are for visitors who seek solitude and who want to experience the wilderness and challenges of the bush. Each site has a braai stand and a rudimentary toilet. Water is collected from the river or the reception office. Visitors to these sites need to be fully equipped and self-reliant, and able to handle the remoteness and isolation of these unique camps. The camps are limited to two vehicles and 12 persons. Examples include:

#### Mucheni

Situated eight kilometres west of Nyamepi with four secluded campsites.

#### Ndungu

Situated at the western end of the park with four separate campsites.

#### Gwaya

A short distance upstream from the lodges next to the tented camps. It has one campsite, with a cold water shower, flush toilet, a basin and a braai stand.

### Wild Exclusive Campsites

There are two completely wild camping sites located in the southern sector of the park close to Chitake Springs, near the foothills of the escarpment. The check-in point for these camps is at Nyakasikana Gate. Both campsites are without any facilities and are accessible only with four-wheel drive vehicles. It is for those who want to experience pure wilderness in its raw state.

#### Chitake Camp 1 (Nzou)

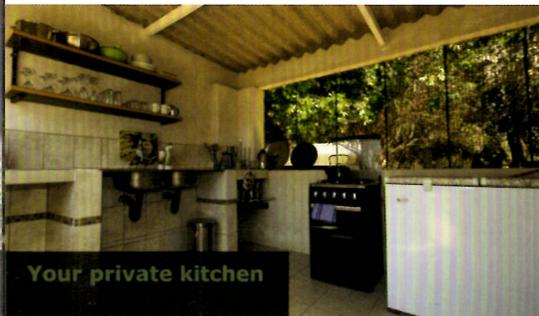
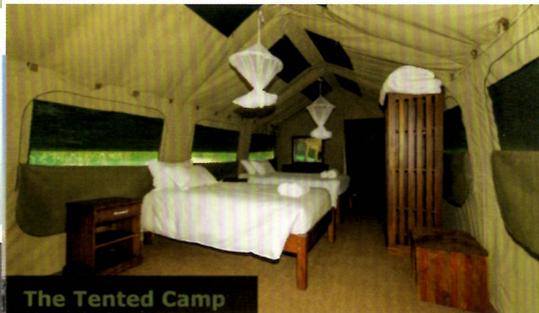
Located 150 metres downstream from the Chitake River crossing, under a large Natal Mahogany tree near the river.

#### Chitake Camp 2 (Shumba)

Situated near a baobab tree with a fabulous view of the spring where much of the wildlife action takes place.

### Picnic Sites

We have a number of picnic sites in the park for use during the day, Chitake picnic point being one of them. Other sites are dotted around the park. These can be booked at the reception.



## 5 Camping Tips

Nicholas Dyer  
PHOTOGRAPHER

During the last six years, I have spent more time camping on the edge of Nyamepi than anywhere else in the world. Although Mana attracts many experienced campers, I often see holidays ruined due to a lack of awareness. Here are five tips to make your stay a little more safe and comfortable.

### **Animal visits**

The campsites in Mana are not fenced meaning that wild animals are free to enter your camp. This they do frequently. Never panic when they approach as they most likely know you are there and have chosen to come into your space. Your most usual visitor is the elephant coming in to feed (on trees, not on you or your food), or to drop down to the river to drink. When you see an animal approaching, remain relaxed and don't make sudden moves. Work out where you can move to in order to put a large object between you and the animal if necessary – such as your car or a tree. Do not try to interact with the animal or chase it away, but enjoy this magical experience. Bull elephants are usually very chilled, but be very wary of cows with young babies. Remember that these are all wild animals and as such are unpredictable and always potentially dangerous.

### **Shady camping**

Putting up your tent under the shade of a leafy tree can be fine in the day, but at night the canopy traps the heat making it very uncomfortable, especially in October and November. Camping under the stars is considerably cooler. A hammock swung between two trees is a blissful way to pass the heat of the day.

### **Night raids**

Put stuff away at night. Hyenas prowl through all the camps after you have gone to bed and you will often see their tracks in your camp in the morning. They are not dangerous but they are kleptomaniacs. They particularly like plastic and will steal cool boxes and tupperware. They also have a deep love of smelly shoes. Put them in your car and not outside your tent.

### **Day raids**

If you leave food out in your camp then expect it to be raided by baboons. It does not matter that you have it in cool boxes or locked fridges, baboons will attack your camp while you are out and cause a lot of damage trying to get at it. Keep food in your vehicle. Do not blame ZimParks' staff if baboons raid your camp for your food. Kick yourself for not being sensible. Another golden rule is never put foodstuff in your tent (including sweets). The baboon will rip your tent apart to get in because of the smell, even if your food is long gone. Keep your car windows shut when not inside. Baboons and monkeys make a real mess! By following these rules, I have never been raided in five years, but have witnessed many camps destroyed. You can ask reception for a member of staff to attend your camp while you are out for a small fee. Never feed the wild animals as this encourages this behaviour and report to ZimParks' staff if you witness others feeding animals.

### **Light pollution**

The bush is a deeply spiritual place far from the pressures of our modern city lives. Some people like to light up their camps as if they are back in their cities. For me, I love to camp with the minimal light, usually just a head torch. My eyes adjust to the ambient light and, around full moon, I rarely turn it on. You also get to appreciate the stars, which are very special in the Zambezi Valley, as well as feeling a greater connection with nature. Try it and you'll love it, but keep a powerful torch on you for when you hear strange noises rustling in the bushes, you never know who's come to visit. But please avoid shining your torch into other people's camps.

## 10 Photography Tips

People often ask me how they can take better wildlife photographs and how do I set up my camera. Being a good wildlife photographer is not just about knowing which settings to apply. Here are a few ideas which I think will make a big difference to your photography and have helped me a lot.

### **Know your camera**

Great wildlife photo opportunities often appear and disappear in an instant. You don't want to be puffing around with settings when they do. Get to know your camera well before going on safari so that it becomes an instinctive part of you.

### **Get out of bed**

Every sunlit day in Mana Pools there are two golden hours – just after dawn and before dusk. The low sun bathes everything in a warm golden glow. As the sun rises the light becomes increasingly harsh and the subject appears flat. The golden light is like a bottle of champagne being tipped away and, if my camera's glass isn't there to capture it, then it depresses me that it's going to waste.

### **Composure**

Compose yourself before you compose your picture. Make sure you are still and stable. Ask the driver to turn off the engine to stop vibrations. Find a support to steady your camera. Breathe and stay calm however exciting the action is in front of you. And never ever take a shot from a moving vehicle.

### **Know your subject**

Understanding the animal is important to wildlife photography as it allows you to anticipate action. Lions can be very boring to photograph, but did you know that they often yawn just before they do something.

### **Look around you**

Don't just see what's happening, but think what might happen next. Is there a fish eagle in a tree preparing to fish? Are ellies on their way down to drink? Feeling a part of the whole scene prepares you for taking the next shot.

### **Move to manual**

Start to stretch yourself by moving away from 'auto-programme' modes. Perhaps start with aperture priority first. Sure, you will make mistakes, but that's how you learn. Just don't make the same ones again and again. To be a good photographer you need to get your camera to do what you want, not what it wants.

### **Rapid fire**

When I used film I was limited to 36 shots on a roll. Now I can shoot over a thousand in one morning. It sounds

extravagant but so what? That's technology and it's free! It is amazing the difference between one frame and the next in a fast moving wildlife action scene.

### **Homework**

If you want to get shots like the professionals, shoot in RAW and not JPEG. RAW images contain so much more information, which gives you a greater latitude to enhance the photographs afterwards in programmes like Lightroom. Some say it's cheating but that's just plain nonsense. All film photographers used to enhance their photographs in the darkroom process and digital photographers now use computers instead. It's an art as old as photography itself and lots of fun too. A word of advice though - apply a light touch. Photographs that are over-processed are obvious and look naff.

### **Patience**

There is nothing I enjoy more than tucking myself under a tree by a pool and waiting for hours on end to see what turns up. Or in some deep cover where I know a leopard walks by at the end of the day. If you are still and patient, animals arrive oblivious to your presence and behave naturally in front of you. However, I would love to find a cure for leg cramps.

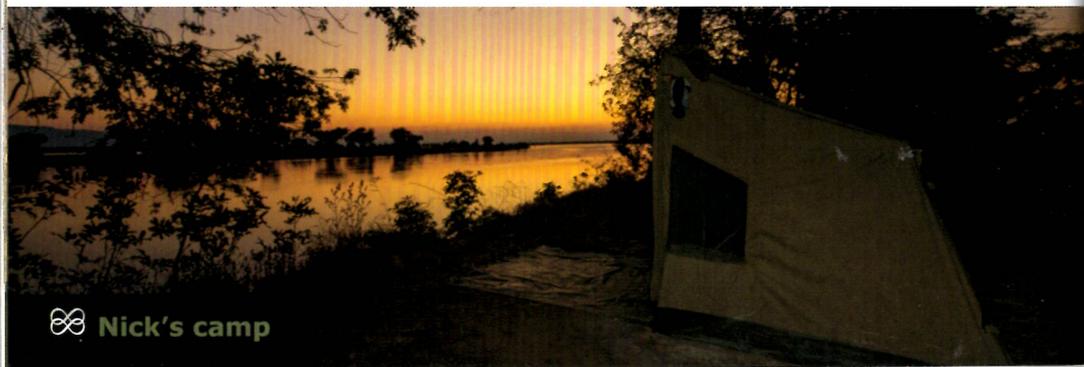
### **Enjoy the moment**

Sometimes the experience is simply too good to take a picture. There are times when I would rather sit back and savour the moment. A picture is great, but it's the memory that prints itself inside of me.

**Nicholas Dyer**

[www.nicholasdyer.com](http://www.nicholasdyer.com)

Nick Dyer is a wildlife photographer, writer and passionate conservationist. For the last six years he has spent over 360 days in Mana Pools, and to him, the park feels like home. Despite coming from Kenya, Mana is his favourite place in Africa. He has a deep love for its painted dogs - most of whom he knows by name.



 Nick's camp

# Respecting our Code of Conduct

Mana Pools National Park is a World Heritage Site; a unique wilderness and one of the most iconic wildlife parks in Africa. It is also an extremely fragile and threatened ecosystem. It is essential that all of us recognise this and do our utmost to protect it.

To facilitate this, the Zimbabwe National Parks and Wildlife Authority (ZimParks), together with The Zambezi Society and stakeholders, have developed a Code of Conduct, which is backed in law by the Parks and Wildlife Act (General Regulations).

All visitors to Mana Pools are expected to adhere to these rules and regulations without exception. They are designed to ensure that all visitors can enjoy a life-enhancing experience, without harming the welfare of the incredible wild animals, birds, fish, forests and bush habitats that make Mana Pools a highly-prized wilderness destination.

## Respecting wildlife and the environment

Mana Pools offers visitors a unique opportunity to interact closely with wild animals. Please respect their space at all times and never interfere with their natural behaviour.

- Never block an animal's path to water or disturb it while drinking.
- Never cut off an animal from its herd, pride or pack.
- Feeding of any animal or bird is strictly prohibited including enticing animals with locally available foods (like pods). It associates humans with food and can lead to animals becoming aggressive, forcing ZimParks to destroy 'problem' animals.
- Never use recorded sounds to attract animals or birds.
- Fishing is only permitted with a licence purchased from reception. Only five fish may be kept per licensed fisherman per day and NO FISH can be removed from the park.
- It is an offence to remove from the park: plants, animals, flowers (dead or alive) soil, rocks and cultural artefacts etc. Zimbabwean law stipulates a prison sentence for removing animal remains.

## Camping

Please be aware that there are no fences around campsites - all camps are in the open and wildlife can wander through. Be mindful at all times and do not let children move about alone.

- Please keep noise to a minimum. No music is allowed to be played through speakers anywhere in the park so as not to disturb other visitors or the wildlife (please use headphones). The use of generators is prohibited.
- Do not enter campsites for which you do not have a booking. Respect other campers' privacy either on foot or in your car.
- It is prohibited to collect firewood from the park. Please purchase firewood from the ZimParks' office only. Please reduce your use of firewood by keeping fires to

a minimum and using gas where possible. It is a limited resource and a haven for wildlife.

- Leave your camp as you would like to find it – litter, ash and toilet paper free. Bury ash and take all rubbish out with you. This is now standard practice, worldwide.
- Do not leave foodstuff around your camp or in your tents as this will attract the destructive attention of baboons, monkeys and hyena.

## Litter and waste

Mana Pools is a pristine wilderness and operates a CARRY IN CARRY OUT policy. This means that you must leave with all your non-biodegradable waste.

- Do not leave any litter in the park, whether in your camp or on the roadside. Bury ash, burn toilet paper and all combustible rubbish except hard plastics.
- CARRY OUT ALL YOUR REMAINING LITTER with you when you leave. You will be required to show your litter at the exit gate and failure to do so will result in a fine.
- Should you need to answer a call of nature in the bush, bury all your waste. Used toilet paper must be safely burnt and buried or taken back to your camp.
- Dispose of your litter in a town outside the park and NOT in roadside or lay-by bins as they are not emptied.

## Driving

Driving is only allowed on designated roads. Driving off-road is strictly prohibited and attracts a large fine and/or the impounding of your vehicle. Use only designated tracks as defined by the map in this document.

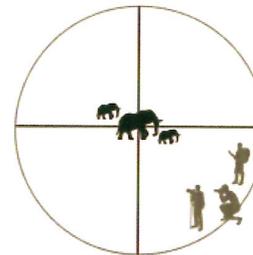
- DO NOT FOLLOW other people's off-road tracks – you are not entitled to break the law as they have. Do not rely on Tracks-4-Africa as some roads on their map are not designated.
- Do not drive in river beds except at designated crossings. If you get stuck in sand please fill in any holes that are made.

- Remain in your camp during prescribed hours as posted at the Park Reception.
- Night driving is strictly prohibited as is the use of spotlights at all times.
- No unregistered communication radios are to be used in the park except in an emergency.
- Keep your speed to below 30kph within the park and be mindful of the dust you are creating which can be unpleasant for campers, game viewers and other vehicles.
- Visitors are prohibited from entering Tour Operator and Exclusive public campsites without a booking (see map).

## Walking

Mana Pools is unique in Africa in that it allows visitors to walk without a guide provided they have received a walking permit in advance. Please note that this is at your own risk and it is recommended that you hire a ZimParks Ranger unless you have considerable experience.

- Never walk more than five metres away from your vehicle unless you have already paid for a walking permit and have signed the necessary indemnity with ZimParks.
- Never tag onto or shadow other guides or walkers without being invited.
- Do not do anything that forces animals to move when they are resting.
- Keep noise to a minimum and be alive to the fact that animals may be uncomfortable with your presence. Do not pursue animals if they are moving away from you.
- Do not approach if other visitors are already at a sighting – be patient. They should leave soon. If they do not, a quiet request for permission to approach is appropriate and good manners.
- Avoid crowding or surrounding animals. All observers should watch from the same viewing quadrant and the person or group that arrives there first determines the position of all others.



## Photography

Mana Pools offers unique experiences and opportunities for photographers of all levels. Please note that all commercial photographers MUST have a valid permit from ZimParks available in Harare.

- The use of drones is prohibited.
- Photographers are required to adhere to all the above demands to respect animals' space.

## Other

- Any commercial safari activities within the park must be conducted by a registered Mana Pools Tour Operator.
- All firearms must be declared on entry to the park and (unless carried by tour operators licensed for this park, or their guides) must be handed in or sealed at the ZimParks' office.

## Help us

It is not ZimParks' desire to apply draconian rules but to create an environment where visitors and wildlife can coexist in harmony without degrading the fragile ecosystem. We therefore encourage all visitors to report any contravention of these regulations in the spirit of co-operation and conservation.

- Report all untidy campsites, preferably with dates, times and pictures.
- Report any vehicle that is seen driving off-road, and please take a time-dated picture as proof.
- If you hear gun shots, please immediately report them and the location to ZimParks.
- Report the location of any dead animals to ZimParks.
- You can report illegal or suspicious activities to registered tour operators who act as intermediaries to ZimParks.

## NOTE:

**Persons found to be contravening any of the above regulations will be liable to a fine of up to \$1,000, the impounding of their vehicle and potential imprisonment. Furthermore, they may be removed from the park and banned from entering Zimbabwe's National Parks in the future.**

***Ignorance of the rules of the park will not be a mitigating factor.***

# Mana's Great Eight

Mana Pools National Park is an ecosystem abundant in African wildlife and is considered one of the world's premier safari destinations.

What perhaps makes this habitat so special is that it is sandwiched between the Zambezi River and the Zimbabwean escarpment which protects the park from many of the ravages of man, that all too often exerts a destructive pressure on the wildlife.

The park is home to all of the big cats, although cheetah are shy and hard to find. There are a healthy number of painted dogs and abundant populations of elephant and other herbivores. You will not struggle to see plenty of impala and baboons, but there are also kudu, eland and, if you are lucky, bushbuck and nyala, even rare sightings of sable.

But what you will not see here are giraffes, wildebeest and rhino. As well as prolific birdlife, the pans and pools contain many pods of hippos. Expect all to harbour crocodile, so please be careful along the water's edge.

Always remember that this is all their environment and we are merely guests in their home. So treat all animals with respect and enjoy the Magic of Mana Pools.



## The Lion

*Panthera leo*

### Where to look

Lions can be found anywhere. They are mainly active during the night, early morning and late afternoons. Expect to find them lying under a tree on hot days. Listen to the predawn lion roars to determine which direction to head on your game drive, but don't dawdle as they are often on the move that time of the morning.

### Quite Interesting

Lions sleep and laze around 20 hours a day which is an uninspiring subject for photographers. However, watching a female hunt is very inspiring although, rather unfairly, the male always ends up eating first.



## The Leopard

*Panthera pardus*

### Where to look

Leopards are not easy to find in Mana but for some reason are more apparent around July - August. There are known leopards around Nyamepi, Trichilia and Mucheni. Look carefully for tracks along the River Road. Don't forget to look up trees as well.

### Quite Interesting

Relative to their weight and size, leopards are the strongest of the big cats. They have been known to pull a full-grown zebra up trees. As solitary animals, they do this to save their prey from packs of scavenging hyenas.

## The Painted Dog

*Lycaon pictus*

### Where to look

The painted dog is difficult to see during the denning season but you can find them hunting around the Ndungus and Zebra Vlei early in the morning. Other times look under trees in the heat of the day or on the move in the early morning or late afternoon.

### Quite Interesting

The painted dog is a deeply social animal. The pack sleeps all day, but upon waking in the late afternoon they perform an enthusiastic greeting ceremony. It is as if they have not seen each other for months and is a true delight to watch.



## The Elephant

*Loxodonta africana*

### Where to look

It is not hard to find elephants anytime of the year, but look out for our iconic bulls, some of them are collared. Boswell (pictured right) and Fred Astaire (front cover) both stand on their hind legs to feed. A bull called Hyrax climbs up trees. There are a number of other collared elephants including Grumpy and Spike (aka Tusker).

### Quite Interesting

The elephant's trunk is an incredibly versatile tool. Not only is it extremely strong but it can perform the most intricate tasks. Some estimate that the average trunk contains up to 150,000 different muscle groups.



## The Buffalo

*Syncerus caffer*

### Where to look

You see buffalo either in herds or small groups of grumpy old males that we call Dagga Boys. Avoid these at all costs as they are very aggressive. Buffalo herds are spectacular at Chitake Springs but you also often see large herds on Skull Road and around the Ndungus.

### Quite Interesting

The word 'dagga' is derived from the Shona word for dirty. This is because they are often covered in mud. They attack without any mock charge and are responsible for the death of more hunters than any other animal. They also have phenomenal memories.



## Mana's Great Eight (continued)



### The Hippopotamus

*Hippopotamus amphibius*

#### Where to look

Hippo are in all the main pools and abundant in the Zambezi River. After the rains, many little waterholes have a resident hippo or two. As they dry up, they are forced to find water and often you will see skirmishes as the unwelcome hippo tries to move into another hippo's home.

#### Quite Interesting

The hippo's closest relative is the whale. They make different sounds above and below water at the same time. Because their ears are closed underwater, they use their jaws to listen. The jawbone connects to the middle ear which picks up underwater vibrations.



### The Crocodile

*Crocodylus niloticus*

#### Where to look

A man was bet a million dollars if he would swim the width of Long Pool. He was excited until he saw the size of the crocs there. Go to Long Pool if you want to see big crocs, but expect to find them even in the smallest pools of water. Despite temperatures reaching 50°C, no one goes swimming in Mana's pools.

#### Quite Interesting

While folklore says that the hippo is responsible for the most human deaths, many are convinced it's the crocodile. In fact it's the only animal to intentionally stalk and hunt humans. Stay at least five metres away from the water's edge.



### The Spotted Hyena

*Crocota crocuta*

#### Where to look

You are most likely to see hyena around your camp when you are having dinner. Please do not feed them as they soon become pests and potentially dangerous to humans when they associate us with food. They then have to be euthanased, so please think about this before sharing your braai.

#### Quite Interesting

Many think the hyena and the painted dog are cousins, but hyenas are more closely related to cats and even bears. Another myth is that they only scavenge for food, but in fact they are one of Africa's most effective hunters.

## The Big Bucks (and friend)



Waterbuck

*Kobus ellipsiprymnu*



Impala

*Aepyceros melampus*



Greater Kudu

*Tragelaphus strepsiceros*



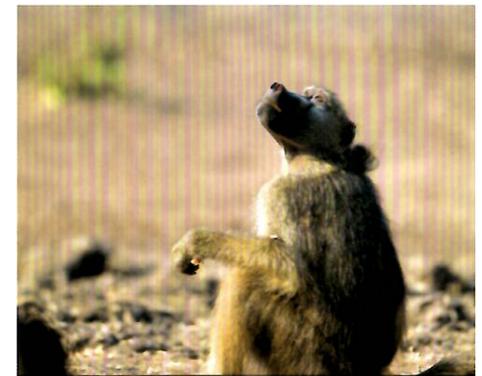
Common Eland

*Taurotragus oryx*



Nyala

*Tragelaphus angasi*



Chacma Baboon

*Papio ursinus*

# Birds of Note



## African Fish Eagle

*Haliaeetus vocifer*

### Where to look

Most of the large pools and pans have a resident fish eagle. In fact you will often find two as they are monogamous and generally mate for life. You will find them perched in the trees around the water and, if you are lucky enough, you might see one swoop down to catch a fish.

### Quite Interesting

The mighty African Fish Eagle is Zimbabwe's national bird. Compared to us humans, its eyes have five times as many light sensitive cells and it can see five basic colours, whereas we can only see three.

## African Skimmer

*Rynchops flavirostris*

### Where to look

Skimmers are migratory birds, generally with us from September until it rains. The best place to see them is fishing on Chisaseku and Long Pool where you can catch them skimming the water's surface. But you have to be up early, as once they have fed, they head off to lie on the Zambezi's sand banks.

### Quite Interesting

The lower mandible is longer than the top one. The bird trails it through the water until it touches a small fish, whereupon it dunks its head and snaps up its prey. You can often see little fish diving out of their way.



## Southern Ground Hornbill

*Bucorvus leadbeateri*

### Where to look

You don't often see these birds flying, unless they are disturbed. You will usually see them hunting along the ground in a group of three or four. One of the most beautiful sounds in Africa is their haunting predawn duet that can be heard three kilometres away.

### Quite Interesting

One of Africa's most endangered birds. Faced with habitat loss, a pair will raise only two chicks every nine years - one of which dies. Thankfully they can live for up to 70 years. In some African cultures they are a harbinger of rain and it's taboo to kill them.



## White-Backed Vulture

*Gyps africanus*

### Where to look

You may see vultures high in the air riding thermals. If they are flying closer to the ground it could indicate that they are near a kill, especially if you can spot some perched in a tree. They will be waiting for the predator to leave the remains. When you see vultures enjoying a feast, it often means the predator has long gone.

### Quite Interesting

Vultures have become threatened with extinction. Poachers actively use poisoned bait to kill vultures. Poachers often do this so that circling vultures don't betray a poached carcass.



## Southern Carmine Bee-Eater

*Merops nubicoides*

### Where to look

The trick is to find a bee-eater colony, which can be hard as they vary from year to year. They come here to breed in September and live mainly in holes on the steep banks of the Zambezi River. But don't despair if you can't find the colony, as they disperse widely and you can often see them on the sides of the road or perched in trees.

### Quite Interesting

This bee-eater does not just eat bees but also locusts, cicadas and most insects that fly. They are attracted to forest fires where they wait for the insects to be flushed out, so that they can catch them on the wing.



## Saddle-Billed Stork

*Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis*

### Where to look

One of the most striking birds in the park. You can find them wading or standing around the smaller pools, often in pairs. They love rummaging through the green covered pans, digging up frogs and fish. Often seen around Lungfish Pool when the smaller pans have dried up.

### Quite Interesting

These are Africa's largest storks and both the male and female are equally colourful. The female has yellow eyes, while the males are darker. These are silent birds as they have no muscles in their voice boxes, but they can rattle their bills to communicate.

