



mana

S A N D S

Z A M B E Z I R I V E R

P R E - D E P A R T U R E

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Welcome to Mana Sands!

At sunrise, the Zambezi River shimmers like liquid gold along the banks of Mana Pools, one of Africa's last truly wild places. Here, beneath towering mahoganies and albida trees, Mana Sands was created for those who seek a deeper connection with nature – where the thrill of walking safaris, the quiet of the river and the wisdom of Zimbabwe's legendary guides come together in an experience unlike any other.

Our camp is secluded, intimate and immersed in the wilderness, offering a safari that is raw, authentic and deeply personal. This is not about luxury for luxury's sake; it's about feeling the pulse of the wild – whether tracking lions on foot, drifting past elephants on the Zambezi, or gathering under the stars to share stories by the fire.

We can't wait to welcome you to Mana Sands, where every sunrise brings a new adventure and every sunset leaves a lasting memory.

See you soon in the wild,

The Mana Sands Team

TRAVEL & ARRIVAL INFORMATION

We're thrilled that your journey to Mana Sands is underway!

Below is everything you need to know about getting here and settling in.

GETTING TO MANA SANDS

Most guests arrive via light aircraft into Mana Pools Airstrip, followed by a scenic transfer to camp. Your travel arrangements should already be in place through your agent, but if you need any assistance or last-minute changes, we're happy to help – just let us know.

ARRIVAL & CHECK-IN

Arrival Time: Upon landing at Mana West Airstrip, a Mana Sands guide will meet you for a short game drive transfer to camp (approx. 10 minutes).

Check-In: We'll greet you with a cool drink and a short orientation before you settle into your tent.

DEPARTURE & CHECK-OUT

Check-Out Time: Guests typically depart after breakfast, with transfers arranged to align with your scheduled flights.

Mana Pools Airstrip Transfers: We'll ensure you arrive at the airstrip in time for your departure.

VISA & ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Most visitors to Zimbabwe require a visa, which can often be obtained on arrival or in advance online via the eVisa system.

Ensure your passport is valid for at least six months beyond your travel dates, with at least two blank pages for stamps.

Check with your agent or local embassy for the latest entry requirements.

BAGGAGE ALLOWANCES & PACKING TIPS

If you're traveling by light aircraft, baggage is strictly limited including hand luggage.

Please try to make sure you travel with soft bags only (no hard-shell suitcases) to ensure they fit in the light aircraft's cargo hold.

We provide laundry service, so you can pack light.

A SEAMLESS START TO YOUR SAFARI

From the moment you arrive, we want you to feel at ease. **If you have any questions before your journey, please don't hesitate to reach out – we're happy to help.**



PACKING LIST & DRESS CODE

Mana Sands offers a truly immersive safari experience, so packing wisely will help you stay comfortable and fully enjoy every moment in the bush.

WEATHER & TEMPERATURES:

Daytime: Expect warm to hot temperatures, often exceeding 35°C (95°F) in October. Lightweight, breathable clothing is essential.

Evenings & Early Mornings: Winter months (May–July) can be cooler in the evenings, so a warm layer is recommended.

WHAT TO PACK:

Clothing: Neutral-coloured, lightweight safari clothing, preferably nothing in white or black, especially for those wishing to take part in the guided walks. Also avoid dark blue, as it can attract tsetse flies

- A light jacket or fleece for cooler mornings and evenings.
- A wide-brimmed hat, sunglasses and sunscreen for sun protection.

Footwear: Comfortable walking shoes or hiking boots for bush walks.

- Open sandals or breathable shoes for relaxing in camp.

Essential Gear: Binoculars & camera (you won't want to miss the wildlife and stunning landscapes!).

Please note that the use of drones without a National Parks filming license is strictly prohibited within the Mana Pools National Park borders and is strictly enforced by Parks Rangers as well as our own professional guides.

- Personal medications (including any prescription medication).
- Due to the remoteness of our location we strongly suggest you bring an extra pair of glasses, contact lenses and lens solution if applicable.
- Insect repellent for protection against mosquitoes.
- Rehydration sachets or electrolytes (especially useful in the hotter months).

IN-ROOM AMENITIES:

We provide eco-friendly amenities in camp including body wash, shampoo, conditioner, and lotion—so there's no need to pack these unless you have a specific preference.

Basic insect repellent and in-room mosquito spray are also available, though guests are encouraged to bring their preferred personal repellent for outdoor use.

LUGGAGE RESTRICTIONS:

Remember if traveling by light aircraft, baggage is restricted and should be carried in soft-sided bags only.

Laundry service is available, so packing light is encouraged.

For any last-minute questions about what to bring, feel free to reach out – we're happy to help!



LODGE EXPERIENCE & ACTIVITIES

YOUR SAFARI EXPERIENCE AT MANA SANDS

A day at **Mana Sands** unfolds in rhythm with the wilderness, offering a perfect balance of adventure, relaxation and immersive wildlife encounters. From the golden light of dawn to the glow of the campfire under a star-studded sky, **each moment is designed to bring you closer to nature.**



A TYPICAL DAY ON SAFARI

Pre-Dawn Wake-Up & Light Breakfast

Your day begins with a gentle wake-up call just before sunrise, followed by freshly brewed coffee, tea, fruit, porridge and light nibbles to fuel your morning adventure.

Morning Safari Adventures (Departing just before or after sunrise)

- **Game Drive** – Explore the floodplains, tracking wildlife in the cool morning air.
- **Walking Safari** – Experience the bush on foot, following the trails of elephants and predators.
- **Game Drive with Short Walk** – The best of both worlds, combining driving with on-foot exploration.
- **Fishing on the Zambezi** – Try your luck at catching the legendary tigerfish.

Mid-morning, your guide will pause for a scenic coffee break in the bush, before you return to camp at your own pace. For those who wish, full-day safaris can be arranged in advance.

Lunch & Siesta

After a leisurely brunch or lunch, spend the hottest part of the day relaxing in camp, enjoying a siesta in your tent, reading on your deck, or simply watching the activities of the floodplain unfolding around you.

Afternoon Tea & Safari (3:30–4:00 PM)

Re-energize with iced coffee, tea and light homemade treats, then set off for your afternoon adventure:

- **Game Drive** – Explore new wildlife sightings as the animals become active again.
- **Fishing on the Zambezi** – Enjoy the quiet thrill of casting a line in golden light.
- **Canoeing on the Zambezi** – Drift past hippos and crocodiles for a truly unique water safari.

Sundowners & Nocturnal Wildlife

As the sun dips, your guide will take you to a scenic spot for sundowners – a cherished safari tradition where you can sip a drink and watch the sky transform. For those who wish, an extended evening game drive offers a glimpse into the nocturnal world, where stealthy predators and nocturnal birds come to life.

Dinner Under the Stars & Fireside Reflections

Back at camp, a three-course dinner is served under the night sky, with special evenings dedicated to a traditional braai cooked over an open fire. After dinner, linger by the campfire to share stories, stargaze, or simply soak in the magic of the African night.

Your Safari, Your Pace

There is no rigid schedule at Mana Sands – your safari experience is flexible and designed around your interests. Whether you prefer the thrill of tracking big game on foot, a relaxed afternoon by the river, or full-day expeditions, we tailor each experience to suit your rhythm.

LODGE FACILITIES & SERVICES

At Mana Sands, we've designed our camp to **offer comfort without compromising the wilderness experience**. Here's what you need to know about your stay:

ACCOMMODATION

Your tented suite is designed to blend seamlessly with nature, offering comfortable beds, ensuite bathrooms and breathtaking views of the Zambezi floodplain.

The open design allows you to feel fully immersed in the sights and sounds of the bush, while still enjoying the privacy and comfort of a luxury safari.

WI-FI

We understand that in today's world, staying connected can be important – even in the heart of the wilderness. **While Mana Sands encourages a digital detox, we also recognise the need to check in with loved ones or handle urgent matters.** Guests who wish to stay connected can request WiFi in their tent. We encourage you to take this time to disconnect, recharge and immerse yourself in one of Africa's last true wildernesses – while still having the option to reconnect when needed.

POWER & CHARGING

Mana Sands is solar-powered. Charging points are available in your tent for small electronics like cameras, phones and laptops, but please refrain from bringing high-power devices (hairdryers etc.) due to our solar system's limitations.

LAUNDRY SERVICE

A complimentary laundry service is available during your stay, subject to weather conditions and water availability. Dry cleaning is not available.

TIPPING AT MANA SANDS

While tipping is not expected, it is always appreciated as a thoughtful gesture of thanks. Many of our guests choose to leave gratuities for those who helped make their stay memorable, and we are sincerely grateful for that kindness.

We recognise that tipping customs vary widely across cultures, and we encourage guests to tip in a way that feels appropriate and comfortable to them. Whether you choose to leave a monetary tip or simply offer a warm thank-you, your appreciation means the world to our team.

GENERAL TIPPING CONSIDERATIONS

Tipping amounts are entirely up to you and can be influenced by personal budget, service experience, and individual preference. As a general guideline, \$5 to \$25 per guest, per day is a commonly observed range—but any amount is welcome, and a sincere thank-you is always valued.

Camp Staff Tips

Mana Sands follows a communal tipping policy for service staff. All tips are pooled and distributed equally among the broader team, ensuring that everyone who contributed to your experience—be it the chefs, housekeepers, or support crew—is acknowledged.

Envelopes are provided in your room folder, and tips for the general camp staff can be handed to the camp manager or head waiter at the end of your stay.

Guide & Camp Management Tips

Unlike camp staff, guides and camp management do not participate in the communal tipping system. If you wish to leave a tip for your professional guide or camp manager, separate envelopes are available for this purpose. These can be handed directly to the individual or passed discreetly to the camp manager.



CONSERVATION & RESPONSIBLE TOURISM

At Mana Sands, we are privileged to operate in a UNESCO World Heritage Site and with that privilege comes a deep responsibility to protect the delicate balance of this wilderness. Our approach to safari is rooted in respect for the environment and the wildlife that calls Mana Pools home.



OUR COMMITMENT TO CONSERVATION

Low-Impact Operations – Our camp is designed to blend into the landscape, using eco friendly materials and construction methods and harnessing solar power to minimize our footprint.

Eco-Friendly Practices – We follow strict waste management protocols, reduced plastic use and operate with an ethos of leaving no trace.

Ethical Wildlife Viewing – Our guides adhere to ethical safari practices, ensuring that wildlife interactions are respectful and non-intrusive.

RESPONSIBLE SAFARI ETIQUETTE

To help preserve this pristine environment, we encourage guests to:

- **Follow your guide's instructions** when viewing wildlife to ensure safety and minimize disturbance.
- **Keep noise levels low** on game drives and walks to maintain a natural experience.
- **Refrain from feeding or approaching wildlife**, as this disrupts their natural behavior.
- **Dispose of waste responsibly** – our team will assist with eco-friendly disposal methods.

Your presence here directly contributes to the ongoing preservation of Mana Pools and by traveling responsibly, you help protect one of Africa's last truly wild places for future generations.



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SANDS

ZAMBEZI RIVER

WE LOOK FORWARD
TO WELCOMING YOU.

CONTACT US: manasands.com | info@manasands.com

