

ZAMBIA

Self-Drive Guide: Edition 1



*Includes: Lodge & campsite listings,
Livingstone & Lusaka streetmaps,
Transit & Touring Routes, and
Atlas pages.*

TRACKS  **AFRICA**
Travel Africa Informed

Zambia Self-Drive Guide: Edition 1

Tracks4Africa is proud to announce the first edition of our Zambia Self-drive Guide. This book follows the same recipe as our Botswana and Namibia self-drive guides and you can expect more than 400 pages packed with objective travel information. The guide is designed to provide the self-drive traveller with information on how to prepare for a trip to Zambia, planning routes and destinations and to be used on the road. The guide is enhanced with the use of many detailed maps and includes a complete road atlas of Zambia. Printed in full colour, the guide includes hundreds of photographs which makes it an interesting read for any person dreaming of visiting Zambia.

Our staff has visited all destinations presented in the book and our maps are ground-truthed by countless travellers who have travelled all roads in Zambia. Our presentation of destinations and accommodation is objective, leaving the traveller with facts rather than opinion.

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Key features of our Zambia Self-drive guide

- An introduction to self-drive or overlanding, covering topics such as trip planning, vehicle preparation, navigation, communications, health and more.



While you're sure to spot a big cat or two on your travels in Zambia, you'll get a lot more out of your time here if you look beyond the typical safari experiences. (Photo: Edward Sells www.edwardsellsphotozambia.com)

ZAMBIA HAS TO BE AN OVERLANDER'S DREAM DESTINATION: wild enough to test your mettle, yet developed enough to allow the modern day overlander to make plans with some degree of certainty.

But make no mistake, if you've never been overlanding before, it'd be more sensible to make your off-road debut in one of this country's southerly neighbours. In Zambia the distances between national parks can be great, and there's often very little accommodation en route. What's more, once you're away from urban areas, there's no-one to call if things go wrong, no breakdown services, no local ambulance. You'll have to rely on your own skills, resourcefulness and the kindness of strangers. Fortunately when it comes to the last-mentioned, Zambians are some of the friendliest, most accommodating people you could ever hope to meet.

A landlocked country with an unusual butterfly shape (read more about the Congo Pedicle in this chapter), Zambia is one of the few African countries with a relatively peaceful past, and it remains mostly free of the political instability which dogs many of its neighbours. On the whole, it's a poor country whose fortunes are very closely tied to world copper demand. Not surprisingly, its population is concentrated around the route from Livingstone to Lusaka, and Lusaka to the Copperbelt Mining region.

Geographically, Zambia is located on the continental divide between the Congo river which flows into the Atlantic and the Zambezi which flows into the Indian Ocean. And indeed, rivers are writ large in this country's character. For starters, Zambia is named after the Zambezi river, which forms the southern border with Namibia, Botswana and Zimbabwe. The Luangwa drains the east of the country, flowing down the Luangwa Rift Valley and forming a natural boundary with Mozambique along part of this border.

Thanks to all these rivers, Zambia also boasts numerous waterfalls, the best known of which are the Victoria or Mosi-oa-Tunya ('the smoke that thunders') Falls. The northern parts of the country in particular are home to many more.

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Mumbumba Falls. Zambia is blessed with countless waterfalls, many of which are unknown and off the beaten track. Get local info! (Photo: Johann Groenewald)

And let's not forget that you can also find some substantial bodies of water here, whether natural lakes like Tanganyika, Mweru, Mweru Wantipa, or Kariba - the world's largest man-made lake. Just by way of comparison, Kariba has a surface area more than five times larger than China's Three Gorges Dam!

With its swamps, wetlands and floodplains, some of Zambia's landmass is uninhabitable for mankind on a permanent basis. But, as is often the case, man's loss is nature's gain. Without doubt this country's biggest attractions is its wildlife, national parks and wilderness areas; many of which are located around these features.

You'll also find the world's largest man-made dam, Lake Kariba, straddling the border with Zimbabwe. (Photo: Renzo Blass)



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- Information about Zambia, including sections on road conditions, border posts, currency, health risks, camping etiquette, fuel supply and more.

- Detailed descriptions of the various travel regions in Zambia



Victoria Falls and the Victoria Falls Bridge. The Zambian border post (ZAM/276) is the green-roofed structure next to the road, on the RH side of this image. The Zambezi river marks the border between these two countries. (photo: Hans Dillinger)

The cross-border nature of this region might seem a little out of place given this guide's focus. But in this area, where Zambia and three of its neighbours come together, there's a great deal to do and see. And it's for this reason that this area has become very popular with visitors who want to enjoy a variety of African experiences without having to travel great distances.

In order to capitalise on this proximity, and make the region even more travel-friendly, the governments of Zambia, Zimbabwe and Botswana joined forces to create the KAZA visa or univisa. This 30-day visa allows visitors to move between Zambia and Zimbabwe as well as make day trips into Botswana. You can read more about the KAZA univisa in our Border Posts chapter on page 11.

Incidentally, this is the only place in the world where you'll find an international quadripoint, a place where four countries meet at one point. But you'll have to be on a boat to reach it as it lies in the middle of the Zambezi River, close to the course followed by the Kazungula ferry. There are those who would argue that rather than a quadripoint, what exists here is two barely-separated tripoints. The only thing that would resolve this debate with any finality is a four nation boundary survey which isn't likely to happen anytime soon!

So what is on offer in our Four Nations region? Well, top-of-the-pops for many would be Victoria Falls (aka Mosi-oa-Tunya Falls) - a natural wonder well worth seeing from both Zambia and Zimbabwe after crossing



Although slow and somewhat stressful, the Kazungula ferry provides travellers with a feeling of adventure! Once the bridge is completed, they'll be missed. (photo: Hans Dillinger)



the bridge. Then, from the town of Kasane in Botswana, it's a short drive to Chobe National Park which offers incredible game viewing opportunities (especially elephants) whether from your vehicle on a trail or from a safari boat (join a scheduled trip or book a private charter). If you're looking for closer encounters, there's a snake park, crocodile park and wildlife orphanage in the same area. Kasane has also become a great place for air charters (both scenic and lodge transfers).

Zambia's Livingstone has become an adrenaline junkie's dream with white water rafting, bungee jumps, bridge swing, zip line as well as helicopter and monorail trips over the falls. In this region the problem isn't finding something to do, it's deciding what you're not going to do!

If you're looking for a contrast of experiences, consider a trip which combines the rough and tough elements of National Parks like Kafue and Luwa Plain, with a well deserved G&T at Victoria Falls once you've earned your dust stripes!

- Detailed descriptions of towns and cities which are of interest to the traveller. These include detailed street maps and a list of services available as well as the grade of diesel on offer.



The Kazungula Ferry seen in the foreground will soon be replaced by the bridge you see being built in the background. (photo: Hans Dillinger)

If Kazungula comes up in conversation, you're advised to listen carefully. You see, there's a fairly good chance that the speaker is referring to the small town in Botswana located close to the banks of the Chobe River. But there's also a possibility they could be referring to the tiny border town of Kazungula which lies a couple of kilometres east, on the opposite side of the Zambezi river in Zambia! Botswana's Kazungula is a much larger, more developed town than its Zambian twin. To this end, most of the icons above refer to Kazungula Botswana.

Traveller Description

The current Kazungula ferry crossing is situated at the main confluence of the Zambezi and Chobe Rivers and is the only place in the world where four countries share a common border. Standing in Zambia at the Kazungula ferry looking southwest across the Zambezi, Botswana lies in front of you, Namibia's Impalila Island is on your right and Zimbabwe's Matetsi Safari Area on your left. The Kazungula ferry crosses the Zambezi between Botswana and Zambia; travellers heading for Namibia have to enter via the Ngoma Bridge border post. Visitors to Victoria Falls make use of the Kazungula Road border post.

Note: At the time of writing, the construction of a new bridge across the river next to the Kazungula ferry crossing was progressing well. Due for completion at the end of 2020 or early 2021, the new bridge is bound to have a profound impact on cross-border traffic patterns and -loads, which in turn, are sure to influence the growth and development of towns and settlements in the area. Such changes are beyond the scope of our reckoning.

Travel Info

At the time of writing, trucks transporting goods between South Africa and Zambia make use of the Kazungula Ferry border post, and you will see long queues of them waiting for their turn to board the ferry. Passenger vehicles get preference so you can move to the front of the queue to use the ferry. Rates for the ferry vary according to the size of the vehicle, but most off-road vehicles are charged BWP200 or US\$20 per vehicle, more if you're towing.

It's not unusual for the ferry to be out of order, in this case you can detour to Livingstone, enter Zimbabwe at Victoria Falls, and travel to Botswana via the Kazungula Road Border Post. Alternatively, continue to Sesheke and enter Namibia

at Katima Mulilo and exit at Ngoma Bridge, where you will enter Botswana. Take note, if you're driving between Livingstone and Sesheke, the section from Kazungula onwards to Sesheke, is in a particularly bad condition due to the amount of trucks using it, and the going is slow.

As mentioned at the outset, the Zambian Kazungula is a small border town with little to offer the tourist. There's a bank with an ATM (this only accepts VISA) and some reasonably clean guesthouses, but you may be disturbed by the celebrations at nearby pubs and nightclubs. You can buy basic supplies from a traditional market and some small kuka stores. On the Botswana side you'll find a shopping centre with a Checkers Superstore, bureau de change, a fuel stop and ATM. Nearby there are several good lodges and campsites. Suffice to say, if you're heading from Botswana into Zambia at this crossing, you're advised to fuel up and stock up in Kazungula Botswana.

From Kazungula in Botswana you can enter into Zimbabwe through the Kazungula Road Border Post. There's no ban on taking fresh meat and fresh produce for personal consumption from Botswana into Zimbabwe (or Zambia) but you may be hassled by entrepreneurial officials. If you want to avoid this bother, there's an OK food store and brand new Pick 'n Pay supermarket in Vic Falls (Zimbabwe) and a Shoprite in both Mongu and Livingstone (Zambia) which are all well stocked.

If you're travelling from Zambia or Zimbabwe, into Botswana, remember that no meat, fruit and vegetables may be taken from these two countries into Botswana, to prevent the spread of Foot-and-Mouth Disease, and fruit fly.

TRAVEL TIP If you are travelling between Zambia, Zimbabwe and Botswana, the fuel is much cheaper in Botswana. To avoid the queue of tourists at the Kazungula Road Border post into Zimbabwe, arrive before 07:30 - most big tour buses leave their lodges from 08:00 onwards.

Town Info:
Police: +267 625 0398
Tow-in: +267 625 2294 / +267 71 752 785



- 407 lodge listings, including contact details and facilities
- 167 official camp sites, including contact details and facilities

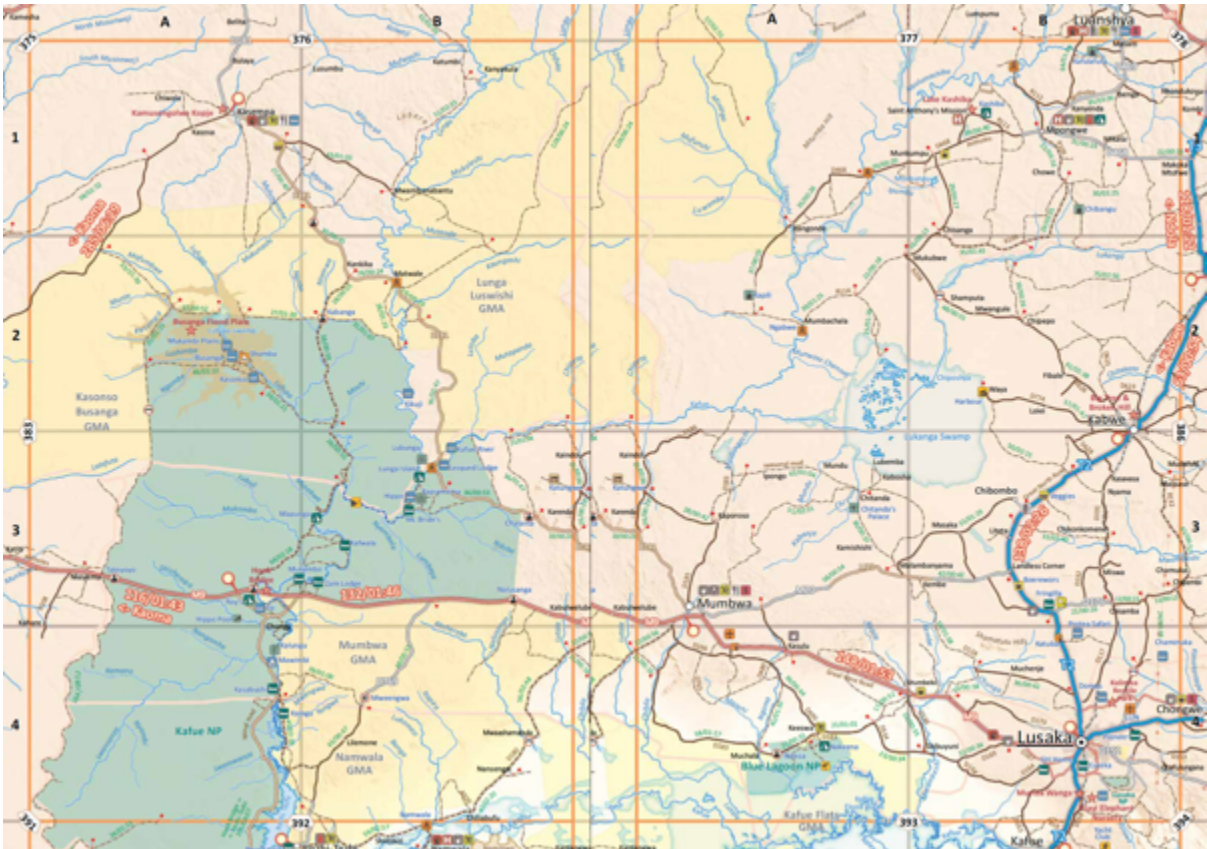
Kazungula (Zam / Bots)

Big 5 Chobe Lodge 1 Lodge 55 10km NW of Kazungula w17030 Tel: +267 625 2272, Fax: +267 625 2276 olamso-@hotmail.co.za www.big5chobe.com Each chalet has a three-quarter bed, air-conditioning, mosquito-net, safe, TV and coffee/tea facilities. Languages: English Facilities:	Big 5 Chobe Lodge Campsite 2 Lodge Camp 55 10km NW of Kazungula w17030 Tel: +267 625 2272, Fax: +267 625 2276 olamso-@hotmail.co.za www.big5chobe.com Campsites in the shade of acacia trees, each site has its own ablution block (show toilet, basin and hot shower). Kitchen areas and braai facilities also available. Languages: English Facilities:	Botswana Border Lodge 3 Lodge 55 422, Kazungula w17030 Tel: +267 625 2988, Cell: +267 71 760 036, Fax: +267 625 2988 BotswanaBorderLodge@gmail.com Double en-suite, bar and triple rooms, or chalets. All rooms are air-conditioned and have TV's and coffee/tea making facilities. There's a braai and picnic area. Languages: English Facilities:
Chobe Bank Camp 4 Lodge 55S 10km S of Kazungula w17030 Tel: +267 625 1771, Cell: +267 71 279 288, reservations@chobebankcamp.com www.chobebankcamp.com 3 double chalets overlooking a waterhole, in protected forest reserve. Solar and generator powered. No shops nearby. Reservations mandatory. Languages: English Facilities:	Chobe Bank Camp House & Backpackers 5 Guest House 5 10km S of Kazungula w17030 Cell: +267 71 269 636 chobebank@chobebankcamp.com Air conditioned, en-suite rooms with private entrance. Plus dormitories with shared bathroom and toilet (showers get very sandy at certain times of the year). Languages: English Facilities:	Chobe Bank Lodge 6 Hotel Camp 55S 2km S of Kazungula w17030 Tel: +267 625 1888, Fax: +267 625 1888 www.chobebanklodge.com Luxury, 3-star style tents with en-suite shower toilet, and bar. River cruises on Chobe River. Road to lodge can get very sandy at certain times of the year. Languages: English, Setswana Facilities:
Chobe Bank Lodge Chalets 7 Self-catering 5 42km S of Kazungula (of which 12km is 482) w17030 Cell: +267 625 1220 info@chobebanklodge.com Chalets, beds and solar beds. Restaurant, bar and library at main camp. Reservations mandatory. Languages: English Facilities:	Chobe Lodge 8 Lodge 55 2km S of Kazungula w17030 Tel: +267 625 6942, Cell: +267 71 269 000, Fax: +267 625 1982 reservations@chobelodge.net, www.chobelodge.net Privately owned, 5-star lodge on Chobe River banks. En-suite chalets with ceiling fans, mosquito-nets and coffee/tea making facilities. Double restaurant. Languages: English Facilities:	Chobe Lodge Campsite 9 Lodge Camp 5 2km S of Kazungula w17030 Tel: +267 625 6942, Cell: +267 71 269 000, Fax: +267 625 1982 reservations@chobelodge.net, www.chobelodge.net On Chobe River banks. Site set in grassed-out under shade. Campsites have power and water and access to braai areas, picnic pavilions, scullery and ablutions. Languages: English Facilities:
Chobe Safari Lodge 10 Lodge 55 2km S of Kazungula w17030 Tel: +267 625 1181, Cell: +267 76 614 211, reservations@chobesafari.com www.chobesafari.com On-site chalets and guest rooms, plus permanent tents with communal bathrooms. Airport transfers available but must be booked. Languages: English Facilities:	Chobe Safari Lodge Campsite 11 Lodge Camp 5 2km S of Kazungula w17030 Tel: +267 625 1181, Cell: +267 76 614 211, reservations@chobesafari.com www.chobesafari.com Camping grounds with facilities available for overnight and private tents. Shared ablutions. Languages: English Facilities:	Chobe Lodge Safari & Tours Campsite 12 Camping 55 12km S of Kazungula w17030 Tel: +267 625 2376, Cell: +267 71 530 016, Fax: +267 625 1450 kag@chobe.com Campsites with water and fridge/freezer. Generator but no mains power. Half the campsites are shaded. Reservations mandatory. Languages: English, Setswana Facilities:

Chobe Fishing Lodge 13 Lodge 55 20km S of Kazungula (of which 2km is 482) w17030 Cell: +267 625 2376 info@chobefishinglodge.com www.chobefishing.com Shaded river chalets on raised platforms, with thatched roofs. Languages: English Facilities:	Magopos Mills Lodge 14 Guest House 5 in Kazungula, Botswana w17030 Cell: +267 625 481 3033 magoposmillslodge@gmail.com www.magoposmillslodge.com Standard, twin-bed and executive rooms. All have air conditioning, with in-shower, bathroom, laundry services, WiFi and fully equipped kitchen. Languages: English Facilities:	Ngwena Safari Lodge 15 Guest House 5 10km S of Kazungula w17030 Cell: +267 625 1888 ngwenasafari@gmail.com Spacious rooms with fan and showers. Guests have access to WiFi, BBQ facilities and laundry services. Reservations mandatory. Languages: English Facilities:
Ngwena Safari Lodge Campsite 16 Lodge Camp 5 10km S of Kazungula w17030 Cell: +267 625 1888 ngwenasafari@gmail.com Tents and ablutions. Or bring your own tent. Guests have access to lodge facilities like restaurant and WiFi. Reservations mandatory. Languages: English Facilities:	Ngwena Safari Lodge 17 Lodge 55S 10km S of Kazungula w17030 Cell: +267 625 1888, Cell: +267 76 614 211 info@ngwenasafari.com Fully equipped twin, double, triple or quadruple chalets. Plus a home within a private area of the lodge. Located on the banks of the lower Chobe River. Languages: English, Spanish, French Facilities:	Ngwena Safari Lodge Island Lodge 18 Lodge 55S 10km S of Kazungula (of which 2km is 482) w17030 Cell: +267 625 1888 info@ngwenasafari.com Villa for 4-6 people, with lounge, dining area and bar. Located in the peaceful environment of Ngwena Island. Ngwena Safari can be heard from the lodge. Languages: English Facilities:
Ngwena Safari Lodge River Lodge 19 Lodge 55S 10km S of Kazungula (of which 12km is 482) w17030 Cell: +267 625 1888 info@ngwenasafari.com New 5-star lodge featuring 14 chalets on the banks of the Chobe River. Accommodation includes meals. Languages: English Facilities:	Selima Island Lodge 20 Tented Camp 55S 20km S of Kazungula (of which 12km is 482) w17030 Cell: +267 10 256 8066, Cell: +267 76 708 3767, Fax: +267 625 1581 info@selima.co.za, www.selima.co.za Luxury en-suite twin-bed tents on raised wooden decks. Thatched communal area and deck, with fully stocked bar. Reservations mandatory. Languages: English Facilities:	Selima Safari Camp 21 Self-catering 55 10km S of Kazungula (of which 2km is 482) w17030 Cell: +267 71 881 306 campsite@selimasafari.com Three en-suite, self-catering chalets, each sleep 4. Plus an executive family unit. Located in Kazungula Forest Reserve. 482 required in very season. Reservations mandatory. Languages: English, Afrikaans Facilities:
Selima Safari Camp Campsite 22 Lodge Camp 55 10km S of Kazungula (of which 2km is 482) w17030 Cell: +267 71 881 306 campsite@selimasafari.com 20 campsites, each with own ablution and braai stand. Plus a cooking area and deck to view elephants at the waterhole. Reservations mandatory. Languages: English, Afrikaans Facilities:	The Islands Of Kazungula Lodge 23 Lodge 55S 20km S of Kazungula (of which 12km is 482) w17030 Cell: +267 625 1220, Cell: +267 625 1220, Fax: +267 625 1220 info@islands.com, www.islands.com Fully equipped rooms and homespun suites or beds furnished and stocked. Situated by swimming bridges and waterholes in the tree canopy. On the Zambezi side. Languages: English Facilities:	

FOUR NATIONS • Kazungula (Zam / Bots)

- 25 pages of 1:1 000 000 scale detailed maps featuring driving times based on road conditions
- Time and distance table for trip planning



- Livingstone detailed street map, 6 pages
- Lusaka detailed street map, 22 pages



- 9 transit routes between major destinations described in great detail

Lusaka - Chirundu

Total distance 136 km
Estimated driving time 2 hr 50 min
Road conditions Good tar but traffic will slow you down.

The drive from Lusaka to Chirundu is fairly short, it's largely used by trucks or tourists visiting the Lower Zambezi NP or those heading for Mana Pools or Kariba in Zimbabwe. Don't be fooled by its short length (136 km) as this route takes at least three to four hours to complete. Trucks carrying goods from South Africa to Zambia (and beyond) use this route so it can become very congested at times.

Between Tumpika and Chirundu you will drive a small mountain pass. Be very careful along this section as trucks often break down on the hills, sometimes even catching fire. The road surface is good for the whole way but your obstacles will be slow traffic or broken-down vehicles.

Although it's a short distance you should refuel and stock up in Lusaka. Adventurous travellers on their way to Lower Zambezi NP should consider the 4WD alternative route from Leopards Hill road (D152) in Lusaka, down the escarpment, emerging northeast of Chirundu. Don't attempt this route during the rainy season as conditions here become very unpredictable; allow at least four to five hours for this alternative.

If you want to push on Siyavonga after Chirundu, take the M15, a minor tar road in fairly good condition; you'll find it at the Chirundu Fossil Reserve on the T2.

More information (incl. accommodation listings) is available for the following towns:

Chirundu	page 268
Kafue	page 316
Kariba	page 272
Lusaka	page 318
Siyavonga	page 286

top: Kafue NP (photo: Alan Grew)
middle left: Zambezi River, just below Kariba dam wall (photo: Brent Elwell)
middle right: Siyavonga Plains, Kafue NP (photo: Karin Thurner)
left photo: Kinkamepa lodge www.kinkamepa.com
above: Kasabath Camp, Kafue River (photo: Pedro Pacheco)

- 4 suggested touring routes to assist with planning an unforgettable self-drive trip

TOURING ROUTES

Route Camps, Bangweulu Wetlands, Bangweulu Game Reserve
opposite page: Chitinda Falls, northwest of Kasama (photo: Johann Gorenwald)

These touring routes were designed to offer you an easy introduction to Zambia's attractions.

At the risk of stating the obvious, it's worth noting that these routes aren't meant to capture all of Zambia's attractions! Doing so would require an entire series of books...

Once you've been through the routes, there's nothing to stop you from selecting the bits that appeal and casting off those that don't. Indeed, you could even combine some of the routes. If you're driving to a single destination, a look at our transit routes (page 82) might provide you with more suitable detail.

Although wildlife is undoubtedly Zambia's greatest drawcard, some of these touring routes are less about wildlife and more about exploring a beautiful wilderness area. And on this point, we'll be remiss if we didn't remind you that Zambia is a very large country so the distances you need to drive are often significant. Plus, it's also a fairly undeveloped country so when you're travelling its remote areas, there's a fair chance you might not come across anyone else for a day. Be warned, be prepared.

And lastly, don't forget that rain can dramatically affect road conditions which may require you to travel greater distances as you detour. Or could cause you to abandon some routes altogether.