

# January-February 2017

## An epic Air Safari from Kenya to Botswana and return

Southbound: Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, Zambia, Botswana

Northbound: Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Tanzania, Kenya

Start January 25<sup>th</sup> ends February 27<sup>th</sup> (34 days safari)

### About your trips!

#### **Southbound:**

Campi ya Kanzi, Chyulu Hills, Kenya  
Sabyinyo, Virunga Mountains, Rwanda  
Kinondo camp, Serengeti NP, Tanzania  
Mwagusi camp, Ruaha NP, Tanzania  
Shiwa Ngandu, Zambia  
Royal Chundu, Zambezi River, Zambia

#### **Northbound:**

Duba Plains, Okavango Delta, Botswana  
Mana Pools Safari Company, Zimbabwe  
Nkwichi Lodge, Lake Malawi, Mozambique  
Sand River Selous, Tanzania  
Fundu Lagoon, Pemba Island, Tanzania  
Campi Ya Kanzi, Chyulu Hills, Kenya



### **About the flying:**

We will scenic fly over the most beautiful areas of Africa... the Rift Valley and the Mara, Virunga Mountains, the Serengeti and the migration, Southern Tanzania, Luangwa valley, Zambezi river and Victoria falls, the Okavango Delta in Botswana. We will then cross Zimbabwe, fly over Lake Kariba, Lake Malawi, the wild and vast Selous and the amazing coast of the Indian Ocean, from Zanzibar to Mombasa, and back to the Chyulu

Hills. Most flights will be less than two hours long. Truly a trip of a lifetime! Click on the photos below to visit the websites of the camps!

### 25<sup>th</sup> January: Giraffe Manor, Nairobi

Patricia Cruz, your hostess during this epic air safari, will meet you at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport, on your arrival from Addis, at 13:09 on 25<sup>th</sup> January. With James, Luca Safari driver, she will take you to Giraffe Manor, where a room with a double balcony has been reserved to enable you having the best giraffe interaction.





### **26<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> January: Campi ya Kanzi**

After a leisurely breakfast with the Rothschild giraffes at Giraffe Manor, Tricia and James will meet you and drive you to Wilson Airport, where you will meet your pilot, Michael Langston.

He will fly you to Campi ya Kanzi. Luca & Antonella have created this boutique lodge in partnership with the Maasai, in 1996. While at Kanzi we will have a chance to review the itinerary and enjoy sundowners in front of Mt. Kilimanjaro. You will be able to have diverse safari activities (walk the Chyulu Hills, go on game drives, horse-back ride, visit the Maasai village) or simply chill out at our wellness center.



### **29<sup>th</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup> January: Sabyinyo Lodge, Rwanda**

Sabyinyo Silverback Lodge is situated in the foothills of the mighty Virungas, the chain of 15,000 ft volcanoes stretching through Rwanda, Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo. It affords wonderful views of the volcanoes and the surrounding countryside and is located close to the headquarters of the Parc National des Volcans from where guests trek on foot to see the magnificent Mountain Gorilla. We will have a scenic flight toward the Virunga Mountains, landing at Ruhengeri, just 20 minutes from the lodge. We will spend the next three days trekking gorilla, perhaps one of the most dramatic, thrilling and poignant wildlife experiences possible.



### **1<sup>st</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> February, Serengeti National Park, Tanzania**

In about a total of 2 hours amazing flying next to lake Victoria and over the Serengeti plains and kopjes, we will be in Northern Tanzania. We will stay at the Kinondo Camp. Nothing can prepare you for the Pleistocene sight of 2,000,000 animals dotted over infinite savanna! For three days we will enjoy being among the Great Migration, the most amazing wildlife experiences on the Planet. Be prepared for greatest Nature show.



### **4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> February, Mwangusi Camp, Ruaha National Park, Tanzania**

On the 4<sup>th</sup> morning we will leave the migration and the Serengeti plains for another incredibly beautiful landscape, Ruaha, Tanzania's largest National park situated in the southern circuit of Tanzania. Mwangusi Camp is an expression of the unwavering love and passion of its owner Chris Fox for the Tanzanian bush, its wildlife and its people. The camp is built from organic natural materials with guests being treated to a unique tented safari experience. Each en-suite tent is comfortably secured under a cooling thatched roof and nestled snugly into the sandy banks of the Mwangusi River. Elephants are often visiting the camp.



### **6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> February: Shiwa, Ngandu, Zambia**

Shiwa Ng'andu Estate is without a doubt one of the most fascinating and unique destinations in Zambia. Shiwa is located in the northernmost part of Zambia amongst the rolling granite hills that form the tail end of the Great Rift Valley, an area of unsurpassed natural beauty, the "Real Africa". At Shiwa, an intricate and mesmerizing African history - both Ancient and Colonial - delights and intrigues guests to the estate. The estate combines this rich and varied history with a world class private game reserve that is home to over thirty species of wildlife and over two-hundred species of birds. The wildlife reserve covers an area of twenty-two thousand acres of breathtaking terrain and boasts a large natural lake at its center, one of the largest privately owned bodies of water in Africa. Relaxed morning drives, horse-riding through the hills, fascinating historical tours and indescribable afternoon sundowners looking across the lake, make the Shiwa Ng'andu Estate an unmissable destination when travelling to Zambia. The relaxed atmosphere and truly warm Zambian hospitality of all at the Shiwa Ng'andu Estate ensures that every guest feels truly at home and very much a part of the estate's incredible history and culture.



### **8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> February: Royal Chundu, Zambezi River, Zambia**

On the 6<sup>th</sup> morning we will fly to Zambia. An amazing scenic flight over the Luangwa valley and over Victoria Falls. Royal Chundu is a sanctum of quiet solitude and untouched beauty and the first Relais & Châteaux property in Zambia. The mighty Zambezi and the Victoria falls are one of the most amazing water shows on Earth. A heli flight over the falls is certainly recommended!



## 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> February: Duba Plains, Okavango Delta, Botswana

A great flight over the Zambezi river will take us to a very unique habitat: the Okavango Delta. The camp is owned by friends, the naturalist Dereck and Beverly Joubert. They have used this location for many of their magnificent documentaries.



Over-looking a beautiful lagoon, deep in the extreme northern reaches of the Okavango Delta the camp has a superb setting. Wildlife diversity is guaranteed at Duba Plains, which offers large concentrations of iconic game such as red lechwe, impala, kudu and tsessebe, viewed all year round. Birdlife is abundant, as are the elephant herds which traverse this magnificent wilderness. This is superb camp is certainly one of the cherries on the pie of our Pan African Air Safari.



## 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> February: Mana Pools Safari Company, Zimbabwe

Flying over Zimbabwe kopjes to Mana Pools will be simply fascinating. Mana Pools is an incredible wilderness with plentiful wildlife. We will fly over the Zambezi. You cannot imagine its infinite beauty. The mighty Zambezi River flows from Lake Kariba through the Lower Zambezi Valley, a huge rift in the earth's crust. Over the millennia the Zambezi has rushed through this valley creating islands, channels and sandbanks. Old river meanders, left in the mineral-rich volcanic soils, have formed into small ox-bow lakes surrounded by lush vegetation and tall old stands of mahogany and ebony. This abundance of water and luxuriant greenery accounts for the valley's wealth of big game. Here we will have our own private mobile camp. We will have the opportunity for fabulous walking safaris with amazing guides.



## 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> February: Nkwichi Lodge, Mozambique

A great flight will take us from the wilderness of wildlife to the wilderness of pristine lake waters. We will stay at Nkwichi, a halcyon paradise hidden on the pristine Mozambican shores of Lake Malawi.



Nkwichi Lodge is set on a perfect white sandy beach, fringed by rocks, with some of the best snorkeling on the lake. The lodge is cleverly designed, using rocks and local materials, and as a result blends in well with the surrounding landscape. More than a lodge, Nkwichi is a complete experience offering a unique taste of Africa with exquisite lakeside scenery and unparalleled tranquility. With 8 secluded beaches set on 4 km of Rift Valley coastline, Nkwichi is the perfect setting to discover a lost world; a fresh-water oasis and an Africa untouched. The ultimate way to savor Lake Malawi, Nkwichi's 'Lake of Stars' Bed' is a unique and unforgettable experience. Set on a deserted, virgin beach surrounded by breathtaking baobabs, or on a private rock island close to the shore with Fish Eagles soaring overhead, this is the perfect way to see the wonders of an African night-sky.



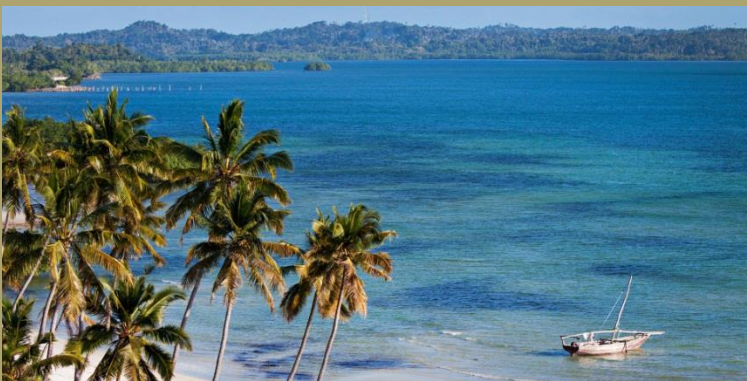
## 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> February: Sand River, Selous, Tanzania

Again a jump of sceneries from one wilderness to another. Sand River Selous was created by Luca's friend and Chyulu Hills conservation partner, Richard Bonham. It was while leading a portered walking safari through this part of the world in the 80s that Richard stumbled upon this particular bend of the Rufiji River. Straightaway he knew he'd found somewhere special. Building a lodge was far from his mind at that point, but when - many years later - with many more miles of the Selous under his belt, the chance came to replace his beloved old base camp with something a little more permanent, he knew for a fact that there was nowhere better to be. It's been a few years now since the first stones for Sand River were laid at the beginning of the 90s and much water has passed in front of the lodge since then, but we like to think that the spirit of Sand Rivers remains the same. Covering 45,000km<sup>2</sup> of wilderness, with grassy plains, open woodland, mountains and forests, the Selous Game Reserve (pronounced Selooo and named after the great explorer and hunter, Frederick Courtney Selous) is Africa's largest game reserve. It's about three times the size of South Africa's Kruger National Park, and twice the size of the Serengeti National Park. At Sand River we will have plenty of activities to choose from: walking safaris, game drives and boating over the river.



## 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> February: Fundu Lagoon, Pemba Island, Tanzania

Once again a change of scenery, from the Ruaha river to Pemba, to the intimate Fundu Lagoon.



Sandy paths and wooden walkways lead through Fundu's tropical gardens to the various parts of the lodge. The main dining and lounge area is set slightly above the beach on a wooden deck and is housed under a high thatched roof. Natural fabrics and wicker furniture add to the natural and rustic style – Fundu feels very in keeping with its surroundings. There is an excellent PADI center, and very many activities on offer: wakeboarding, kayaking, windsurfing... or simply stroll along the peaceful shoreline, where it is lovely to watch women with their kids collecting clams or just passing by... If you are lucky you might see the local fishermen bringing in their daily catch.

## 21<sup>st</sup> till 27<sup>th</sup> February: Campi ya Kanzi, Chyulu Hills, Kenya

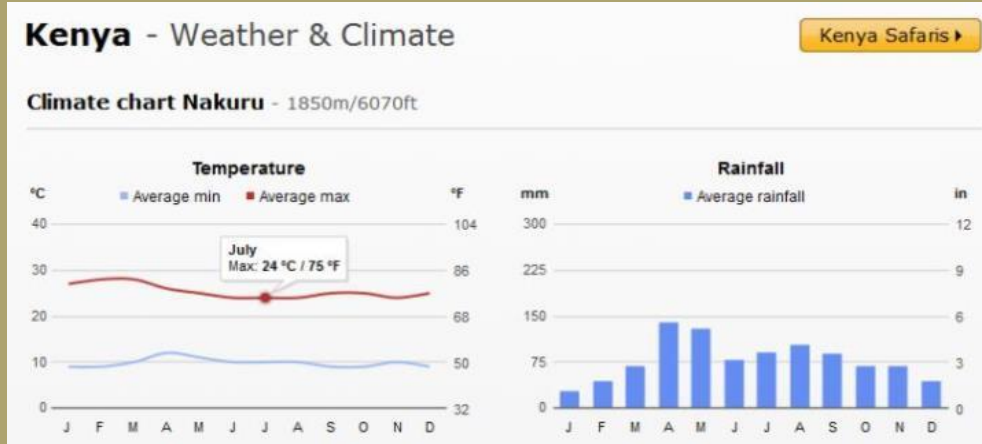
A flight over the Indian Ocean coast will take us to Tsavo and then Campi ya Kanzi. It is our last stop of this epic air safari. Campi ya Kanzi is a unique boutique community ecolodge which enjoys an exclusive wilderness of 280,000 acres, in front of Mt. Kilimanjaro. Authentic ecotourism and genuine immersion in Maasai culture, while on safari in one of the most iconic landscape of Africa. The Chyulu Hills, where the camp is nested, are the Green Hills of Africa of Ernest Hemingway. Game drives, game walks and horse-back riding is available, together with yoga and massages for true African bliss. We will spend a night at Ithumba, to engage with orphan elephants. And we will explore the infinite wilderness of Tsavo National Park and one morning we will fly, at sunrise, next to Kilimanjaro, the highest mountain of Africa, for an incredibly beautiful scenic flight. And we will take you fly camping, where Ernest Hemingway was so inspired by the African wilderness and wildlife.

On 27<sup>th</sup> you will be flown to Nairobi and bid farewell... until the next adventure!



## More about Kenya

Within the borders of a single country, you can find savannahs rich with big game, timeless cultures unchanged by the modern world, pristine beaches and coral reef, equatorial forests and mighty snow-capped mountains, searing deserts and cool highland retreats and endless opportunities for adventure, discovery, relaxation; more than you would ever expect.



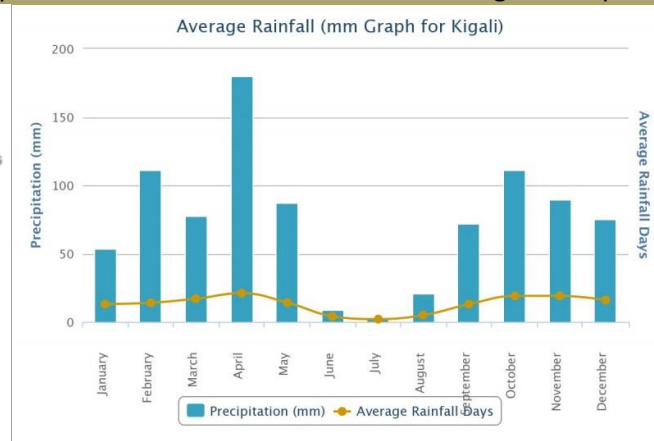
## About Campi ya Kanzi

Campi ya Kanzi is an award-winning boutique eco-lodge that sets a new standard in exceptional luxury in a real, ecologically low-impact way. Working in partnership with the Maasai community of Kuku Group Ranch, the founders have set out to prove that you can enjoy the romance of a great old-world safari, the comfort and service of a top hotel and the fine dining of an Italian palazzo – and all without damaging the very environment you’ve come to immerse yourself in. With wildlife roaming in abundance, massive outcrops of granite rising above the rivers, lava flows cutting across the plains and a deep and mysterious cloud forest on the crest of the emerald hills, this is truly one of the world's greatest wildernesses.

## More about Rwanda

Today, Rwanda has one of the fastest growing economies in Africa. It has more women in Parliament than any other country in the world (64% at the time of writing) and is one of the friendliest, safest countries on the continent. Yet for most people, it inevitably conjures up images of the dreadful genocide of 1994, when almost a million people died. Whilst the genocide is a massive part of its history, twenty years on Rwanda has evolved into a united, proud and optimistic country that warmly welcomes its visitors and provides a truly memorable and inspiring holiday. Rwanda is a surprising and inspiring country for a holiday, not least because of the remarkable way it has united in the twenty years since it tore itself apart during the horrific genocide against the Tutsis of 1994. Whilst it would be naïve to suggest that the entire nation has moved on, a holiday here leaves you with an overwhelming sense of the people’s optimism and national pride, and their determination that genocide must never happen again. Today, people call themselves Rwandans, with no distinctions between Tutsis and Hutus. Yet remembrance is as much a part of the country’s progress as reconciliation. Each year, from April to July, commemorations called Kwibuka take place as part of the country’s healing process. And at any time of year, a visit to Kigali’s Genocide Memorial is important in

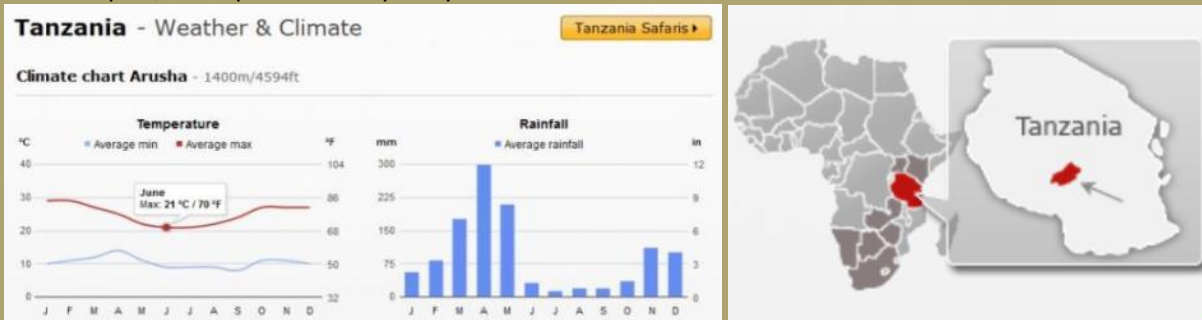
understanding Rwanda's history and the events leading up to the genocide. It may seem an unlikely holiday attraction but it is in fact a beautiful, peaceful place that is testament to Rwanda's strength and spirit of reconciliation.



### More about Tanzania

Tanzania boasts the most impressive National Parks and game reserves in all of Africa. The plains and savannahs of Serengeti National Park are considered “the” spot on the continent to see wildlife up close. Nearby, the Ngorongoro crater teems with wildebeest, gazelle, zebra, lions, leopards, cheetahs and even the elusive white rhino. Not to be forgotten, the Selous Game Reserve is larger than Switzerland. A mountain that needs no introduction is Mt Kilimanjaro, snow-capped and standing as Africa’s tallest mountain at 5,895m (19,341ft). Open for climbing to those with energy and time on their hands, the week-long ascent is one of Africa’s most challenging achievements.

Tanzania is home to over 120 different ethnic groups and takes pride in its multicultural heritage. The tall, red-robed Maasai are the best known of Tanzania’s people. Tanzania’s coastline, known as the Swahili Coast, was a stop on ancient trading routes between the Indian sub-continent and the Middle-East. Spices, jewels and slaves once passed through, bringing with them a mélange of cultural riches that remain today. The language of Swahili was born here, and old mosques, coral palaces and pearly-white beaches still remain.

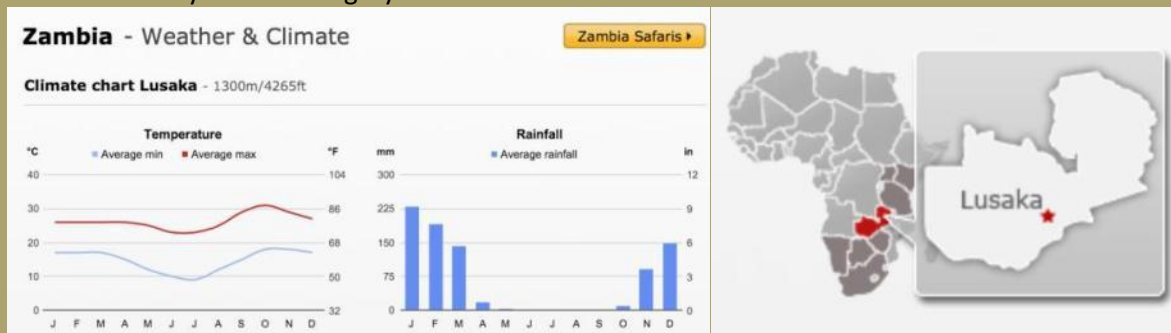


### More about the Serengeti

Largest of Tanzania's national parks, and arguably Africa's premier game park, the Serengeti is the setting for the most awesome wildlife spectacle on earth. Each year, more than two million wildebeest and zebra begin their great circular migration across the open plains and acacia woodlands. Huge columns of advancing zebras and ungainly wildebeest stretch as far as the eye can see with the predators following alongside. Serengeti means "endless plains" in the Maasai language. The extensive grasslands are interspersed with "kopjes", islands of rocky outcrops which are home to their own wildlife communities which include cheetah, leopard, and hyrax, to name a few. The Serengeti leaves the visitor with images of vastness and breathtaking beauty. The most popular time to visit the Serengeti is during January through May when you will find 1.5 million wildebeest and one-quarter of a million zebra in the park. This herd which stretches as far as the eye can see moves north until it reaches Kenya's Maasai Mara sometime in June or early August.

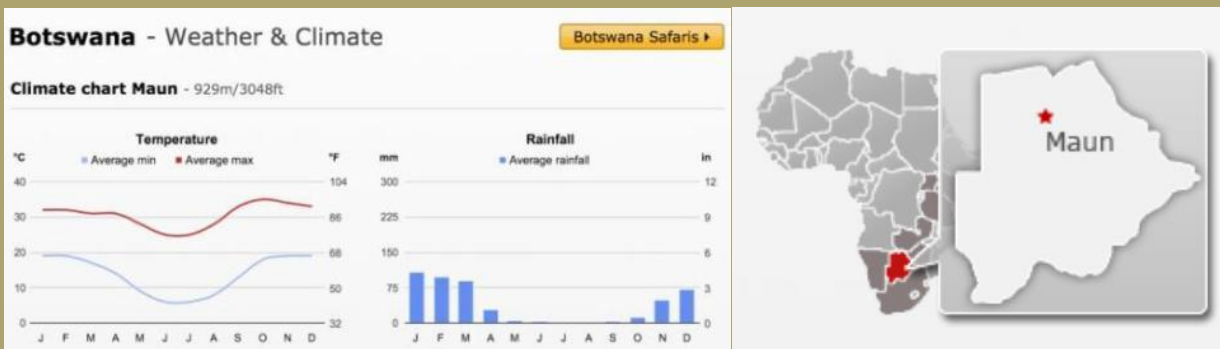
## More about Zambia

Zambia is situated mainly on a vast plateau 1.8 miles above sea level, and boasts the Zambezi, Kafue and Luangwa rivers - as well as one of the largest waterfalls in the world, the Victoria Falls, which it shares with neighboring Zimbabwe. Most of the country has a mild, pleasant climate, while the river valleys are hotter and more humid; the extreme north becomes tropical on the shores of Lake Tanganyika, one of Zambia's ten large lakes. While Lusaka is the country's capital, Livingstone, just 6 miles from the Falls, is better known to travelers as the 'adventure capital' offering adrenalin-packed activities on and around the Falls and the Zambezi River. Zambia offers impressive wildlife diversity as well as large concentrations and numbers, and some of the wildest and most remote game areas on the continent. Endemic subspecies of giraffe and wildebeest are found in the Luangwa, while enormous herds of black lechwe inhabit the floodplains of the Bangweulu. Birdlife is particularly prolific, with 740 bird species found here, including many specials; it is the southernmost extreme of the bizarre-looking African Shoebill's range for example and one of the best places to see this sought-after species. It was in Zambia that the concept of walking safaris originated as the best way of enjoying the rich flora and fauna of the country's 19 national parks. Add to this numerous adrenalin activities on the Zambezi River, such as river rafting, bungee jumping, abseiling and canoeing, and Zambia qualifies as an all-round excellent travel destination. Here one can catch some of the biggest tiger fish in Africa within sight of a large elephant herd on the Lower Zambezi and fly over the mighty Victoria Falls.



## More about Botswana

With an area of almost 373 000 square miles, Botswana is virtually the same size as France or Texas. Situated in the center of southern Africa, it is a landlocked country, with Namibia, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe as its immediate neighbors. Botswana lies an average of 3,000 feet above sea level and is more than 372 miles from the nearest coast. The Tropic of Capricorn bisects Botswana. The most striking features of the country are its flatness and aridity. With the exception of the eastern part of Botswana where the great majority of Botswana live and where the summer rainfall is slightly higher, three-quarters of Botswana is technically a desert. This is what makes the Okavango Delta even more remarkable. It is a wonderful wetland within a desert, getting its waters from rain falling in central Africa, 621 miles away. On the wildlife front Ian Seretse is one of the country's unsung conservation heroes (and currently its president). When he became head of the military, he positioned his troops to secure Botswana's borders from poachers. The game concentrations within the country multiplied overnight. Many people owe their jobs and careers to his actions. The country abandoned mass tourism and focused on high quality / low volume tourism as the best way to create a sustainable industry that would employ a large percentage of its people, while still preserving the environment. Today wildlife and tourism employs about 45% of all the people who live in northern Botswana.



## More about Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe is a land-locked country blessed with fertile soils, mineral wealth and wonderful scenery. Destinations like Victoria Falls, Hwange National Park and Mana Pools are world-renowned and the country is blessed with diverse habitats, from the granite hills of the Matopos to the majestic mountains, lush forests and beautiful rivers of the Eastern Highlands. As such, there is much to attract the traveler, from wildlife viewing and adrenalin adventures to delving into the history of the Zimbabwean people going back thousands of years. The Zambezi has an exceptional variety of spectacular scenery as well as one of the world's natural wonders: the Victoria Falls. The National Parks along the Zambezi are legendary; Mana Pools, located on the floodplains of Africa's Great Rift Valley, offers superb wildlife viewing. Along the Botswana border the easternmost tongues of the Kalahari sands creep into the country and mix with the teak forests of the interior, so that desert-adapted animals share the same habitat with woodland species. Great Zimbabwe is a ruined city that was once the capital of the iron-age Kingdom of Zimbabwe. The kingdom was at its peak between 1100 and 1400, so subsequent to that of Mapungubwe to the south. The ruins are the largest of around 200 such Zimbabwe's most of which feature monumental mortar less walls.

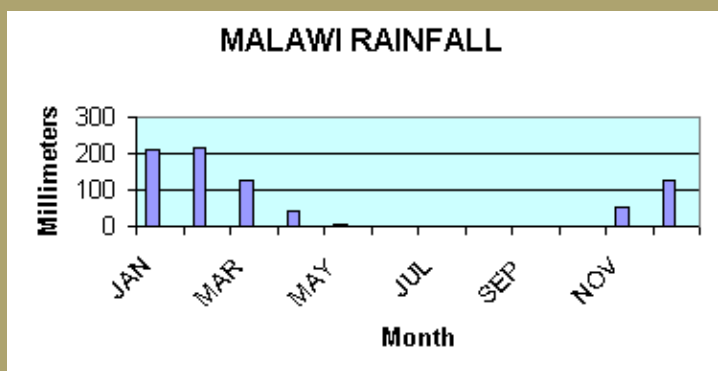
The Great Enclosure has walls 11 meters high and 250 meters long, making it the largest ancient structure south of the Sahara. Artifacts found at the site indicate extensive trade links with Kilwa on the coast of Tanzania and onward to Arabia, India and China. It is thought that up to 1000kg of gold may have been mined during the height of the civilization. Primarily of the Bantu group of south and central Africa, the black Zimbabweans are divided into two major language groups, which are subdivided into several ethnic groups. The Mashona (Shona speakers), who constitute about 75% of the population, have lived in the area the longest and are the majority language group. The Matabele (Sindebele speakers), representing about 20% of the population and centered in the southwest around Bulawayo, arrived within the last 150 years. An offshoot of the South African Zulu group, they maintained control over the Mashona until the white occupation of Rhodesia in 1890.



## More about Malawi:

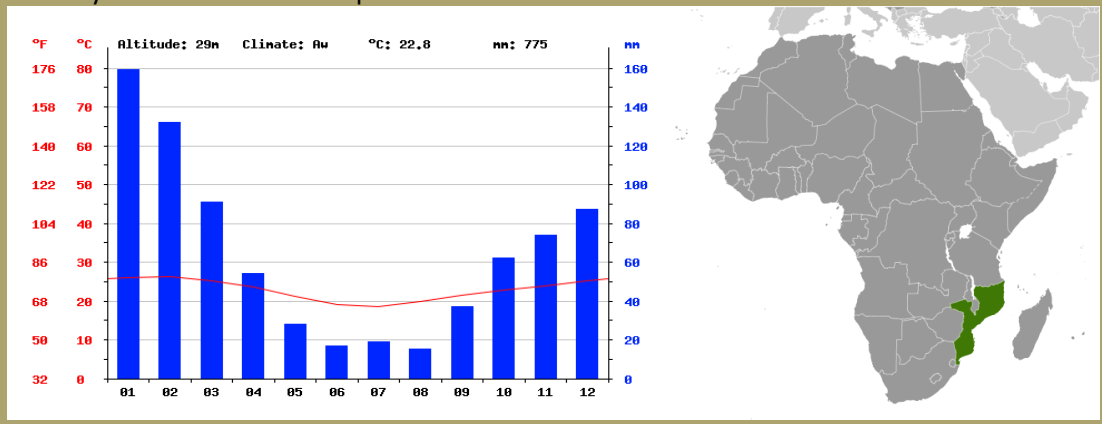
Named one of the top 10 places to go in 2014 by Lonely Planet, Malawi is one of the lesser known African destinations. The Country's big draw is the lake: a magnificent shard of crystal water stretching some 500km along Malawi's eastern border, separating it from the wild and mountainous coast of Mozambique and Tanzania. Isolated villages pepper the northern lakeshore and the beautiful Liwonde National Park rests at its southern tip. Around 500 species of fish inhabit the lake and the freshwater diving and snorkeling here are excellent. Malawi comes from the Maravi, an old name of the Nyanja people that inhabit the area. Malawi was first settled during the 10th century and remained under native rule

until 1891 when it was colonized by the British, who ruled the country until 1964. In 1859 David Livingstone, the British missionary explorer, first reached Lake Nyasa, as Lake Malawi was then called; the Maravi Empire had collapsed under a series of invasions. Malawi has a democratic, multi-party government. The economy is heavily based in agriculture, with a largely rural population. There is a diverse population of native peoples, Asians and Europeans, with several languages spoken and an array of religious beliefs.



### More about Mozambique

Due to its prime location on the East African coast, Mozambique became a significant trading post for gold, ivory and later slaves between the 16th and 19th centuries. Civil war followed the end of Portuguese rule in 1975, but since 1992 the Mozambican government has set about transforming the country into a modern economy. Now a stable democracy, Mozambique remains little explored and the country's spectacular natural treasures are one of the world's best-kept secrets. Mozambique beckons the discerning traveler with exotic, palm-lined beaches and world-class diving and fishing. With its 1,550 mile coastline fringed by one of the most extensive coral reefs in the world, it offers natural splendor and an underwater spectacle that is hard to match. The capital city of Maputo is a feast for the senses with its vibrant street life and superb seafood. Along the coastline, crystal clear waters with dazzling soft corals and a bewildering range of fish are mesmerizing in their beauty. 25 miles offshore the Bazaruto Archipelago offers some of the finest big game fishing, diving and snorkeling in the world. Further north lies the ancient port city of Pemba, with its natural harbor the third deepest in the world. Offshore lies the remote Quirimbas Archipelago like a chain of sparkling jewels, its 27 islands virtually untouched and unexplored.



### Suggested reading:

- Africa, by John Reader;
- The Covenant, by James Michener;
- The Lost World of the Kalahari by Laurens van der Post;
- West With The Night, by Beryl Markham