

CHISANGA FALLS TRAIL



GRADING: INTERMEDIATE

DISTANCE: 25 KM

ESTIMATED DURATION: 3 HOURS

If you're looking for a pleasant ride with a hint of a challenge then look no further. The Chisanga Falls is a popular destination not only for the splendid cascading waters that roar over the rocks but also for the array of birdlife that visits the area. There is also different scenery over to the western side into Zambia. You will be treated to two dimensions of the park when cycling this route, firstly the unique rolling hills of the plateau interspersed with fragments of dense indigenous forests, and secondly the descending valleys of Miombo woodland which hide many species of game including elephant. Look out on the rocks for leopard and Klipspringers as well as Red and Blue Duikers along the forest edges. En route you can stop in at Zovo Chipolo. Be sure to ask at reception for the booklet that presents interesting facts as you wonder along this short trail through the cool mountain forest. If you're lucky you may spot a Blue Duiker or perhaps a Chequered Elephant Shrew. Forest birds to look out for include the Bar-tailed Trogon and White-starred Robin. Eventually, when reaching the sign post for the falls you can leave your bikes out of view, to avoid any temptations, and hike the 3km trail to the main attraction. Here you are likely to see yellow baboons and Red-winged Starlings at the falls. After enjoying a decent break, perhaps a swim for those that dare head back to the main road where a vehicle will be waiting with a drink and some light refreshments. The bikes will be loaded and your guide will drive you back to camp.

The route:

You will be cycling in a westerly direction as if heading back to the entrance to the park. As you cycle away from camp you will turn right at the first sign post crossing the dam wall. On the other side continue past the 2nd sign post but turn left at the 3rd. The Nyika/Vwaza trust offices will be on your right. Once you've climbed the first hill you will pass the sign for the campsite and turn left at sign post 4. It's up another hill again but then it flattens out quite

nicely. Make sure to keep left at the 5th sign post. This will take you away from the plantations and into the rolling hills. Sign post 6 and 7 come in quick succession. Keep right at the former and left at the latter. This is the point where you will be leaving the plateau and start your long descent. Eventually you'll get to a junction where you will turn right. From this point on, the road forms the boundary between Malawi and Zambia. Soon after the right turn you'll find the entrance to Zovo Chipolo. Stop here to do the forest trail if you wish and afterwards continue along the border road. There will be plenty of scenic photo opportunities along the way. You will get to a sign that directs you to Chisanga Bridge. Do not take this turn but continue just a few hundred meters further and you will reach the end of the trail.

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