



Busanga Plains Camp Fact Sheet

The Plains Camp is the seasonal luxury bush camp of Mukambi Safaris located deep in the heart of the famous Busanga Plains in the north of beautiful Kafue National Park. The Busanga Plain is 720km² of palm groves, papyrus-choked reed beds and lily-covered lagoons representing one of the few wetland wildernesses in the world – a place where authentic African wildlife thrives, and the safari experience is second to none.

A wide variety of species is found on the plains including lion, buffalo, hippopotamus, lechwe, side-striped jackal, and blue wildebeest. In addition, large numbers of elephants and almost 500 bird species are recorded; watch for roan antelope and the rare oribi antelope.

The raised boma (communal area), with open campfire and dining area, is rustic, informal and overlooks the openness of the plains, only interrupted by tree studded islands where fig trees and wild date palms draw their nutrients from the remains of giant anthills. Relax and enjoy a refreshing dip in our pool or sunbathe on the wooden deck whilst overlooking the surrounding wetlands. A wooden viewing platform on stilts tucked away high up in the characteristic fig tree above the boma offers a breath-taking view directly onto the floodplain.

Busanga, a landscape so distinctive, it is like no other you will see in Africa. This is the Africa you have dreamt of and you can visit this unique area with Mukambi Safaris. It offers a real “home away from home” experience, where service is professional and friendly, yet unobtrusive.

Camp Facilities

- Central dining boma and lounge area
- Sunset and sunrise stilted viewing platform looks out over the water
- Decking jetty with campfire on the end
- Upper deck viewing platform in the camp’s central fig tree, complete with sofas and coffee table
- Infinity swimming pool with sun-loungers and kikoyi towels
- Complimentary laundry service
- 1 pilot/driver tent

Getting Here

GPS coordinates;
S14 10.830 E25 49.165

Air Charters to/from Busanga airstrip;

- Lusaka – Busanga 1.5 hrs
- Chunga – Busanga 30 mins
- Livingstone – Busanga 1 h 45 mins

Our road transfers;

- 1 hour game drive transfer Busanga airstrip to camp
- By scenic 5 - 6 hour game-drive-road transfer from Mukambi Safari Lodge through Kafue National Park, picnic en route

Self-drive from Livingstone and Lusaka;

- Tar roads from Livingstone and Lusaka to the western boundary
- 4x4 required to drive on the plains in the early part of the season (Jul & Aug)
- High clearance vehicle needed throughout the season



Camp is open from July until the end of October each year.

Accommodation

Our Busanga Plains Camp, in the middle of the flood plain, offers an intimate experience with accommodation consisting of;

- 4 luxury safari tents (2 twin and 2 double)
- With en-suite open air bathrooms with flushing toilets and bucket showers, each one overlooking the Busanga Plains
- The tents are light, airy and spacious with large beds draped with mosquito nets
- Experience the total peace of nature from your private veranda.
- Enjoy the glow of lantern lights on canvas walls and drift off to sleep to the sounds of the African night.
- Toiletries (soap, shampoo, conditioner & skin moisturiser)
- Bug spray, insect repellent and mosquito coils
- In-tent power, with a 3-pin (UK) plug socket for charging electricals
- Hot water bottles in winter time provided with turndown service

Food & drinks

There is a main dining area with a bar on a raised wooden deck with an expansive thatch roof. This looks out to the East, allowing for beautiful sun rises to be seen in the morning. A small fireplace on the end of a wooden deck is where the nights are spent warming up and telling stories. Mukambi is famous for its excellent cuisine and friendly staff.

What to Bring?

Early mornings in winter (Jul-Aug) can get a little chilly whilst out on an open game-viewer, and whilst Mukambi provide fleece-lined ponchos on the vehicles for our guests, it is advisable to bring along some suitably warm clothing for these activities. A warm fleece hat and gloves is also recommended.

Mukambi provide towels in the tents and around the pool, so feel free to bring along your swimming costume to enjoy the view from our infinity pool.

The birdlife on the plains is one of the major reasons people visit, so it is advisable to bring along your binoculars to maximise your viewing.

Standard safari clothing (neutral coloured, not white or black) is recommended for all activities as well as sturdy, closed-toe shoes should you wish to join a nature walk.

Please bring any medication you may need as well as spares; we are a long way from the nearest pharmacy or doctor.

Game Drives

Game drives depart from Busanga Plains camp daily. One departs at sunrise and the afternoon drive (partly a night drive) leaves at approximately 2 hours before sunset. Drives are 3.5 to 4 hours long. You will make your way across the open plains from camp, the beauty of drives here is the openness of the plains, it guarantees that you will see multiple species in view at once. It also means you have the chance to see some spectacular stalking by predators of the various types of antelope, and the speed at which they can run on open ground.

Park Fees

Park fees and bed levies are payable in Kwacha cash or USD to the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Park on departure unless included in your rate. The combined per day rate is;

- Citizen: K334 pppd
- Resident: \$45 pppd
- International: \$50 pppd

Special Occasions

If your visit to us includes a special occasion, birthday or anniversary, do let us know in advance so that we can make preparations accordingly.

Communications

There is no phone signal on the plains, but guest wifi is available to use in the main boma.

Child Policy

Busanga Plains camp welcomes young adults above the age of 12 years, but parents take their children on activities at their own risk.

Guests with young adults will be either grouped together or given a separate vehicle.



The Busanga Plains area is also perfectly situated to see large numbers of less common animals such as puku, red lechwe, Lichtenstein's hartebeest, oribi and servals. But is also well known for the big lions, buffalo, elephant and wildebeest. Cheetah and wild dog are also often sighted, while a special treat is the 'resident' herd of rare roan antelope. For birding enthusiasts, the park boasts almost 500 species, including endemics such as Chaplin's barbet.

Nature Walks

Walks leave around an hour after sunrise to avoid the heat of the day. The walks take place around the plains surrounding the camp, and give you the chance to come up close to animals such as lechwe and flying snakes. You can try your luck walking over the 'floating' grass, and capture National Geographic worthy photographs of the sun rising between the branches of lone Musekese and Fig Trees. You may even come across the odd predator or two, but do not fear, our highly trained guides will show you the African Bush at its finest.



Kafue National Park

Kafue National Park is a unique area. The enormous size (one of the biggest National Parks in Africa), the many different habitats and the huge variety of mammals and birds make it an area waiting to be explored. It is Zambia's biggest and oldest National Park and is easily accessed from both Lusaka and Livingstone. But the best of all is the untouched wilderness that the park has to offer as mass tourism does not exist; leaving the park pure and unexplored. This is what a real safari should be like, excellent game viewing with a rich diversity of wildlife, stunning landscapes and unspoiled by mass tourism. Although the park has a lot to offer, relatively few people visit this Zambian treasure.



Activities

- Morning or afternoon game drive
- Walking safari (from July-Oct) subject to DNPW scout availability

Social Media

To get up to speed with local sightings and happenings on the plains, feel free to follow us on any of these platforms;



Mukambi.safarilodge



mukambisafaris



MukambiS

Sustainable Tourism

Responsible tourism must come from a real desire to make a difference; a desire to go further than simply "green" washing.

Mukambi runs 100% on renewable solar energy and we were the first in Zambia to install the most environmental friendly battery technology "LiFePO4", as opposed to lead-acid batteries.



Ultimate Safari Experiences

Kafue Birdlife

The diversity of habitat makes Kafue National Park also one of the best locations in Africa for birding. The Kafue River, wetlands, savannah and woodland boast an impressive 478 of Zambia's 733-recorded bird species. Among them African wattled and crowned crane, fish eagle, woolly-necked stork, saddle-billed stork, wattled crane, goliath heron, ground hornbill, African finfoot, Pel's fishing owl, Schalow's and purple-crested turaco and Chaplin's barbet amongst others.

Busanga Plains

The famous Busanga Plains are in the Northern part of the park. The area consists of an extensive floodplain that falls dry after the rainy season, attracting huge numbers of game and stunning birdlife. 'One Fig', a huge fig tree in the middle of the plains, is a famous landmark. The well-known documentary, 'Swamp Lions', often broadcasted on National Geographic, was filmed exclusively on the Busanga Plains. It is no surprise that Getaway magazine mentioned Busanga as one of the 'top 10 secret gems of Africa'. The plains are seasonal due to the flooding in the wet season. Small safari camps like our own Busanga Plains Camp operate in this area during the dry season.

