

Welcome to Liuwa Plain National Park...

Liuwa Plain offers its visitors a unique blend of rich natural and cultural heritage in this pristine and remote corner of Africa.

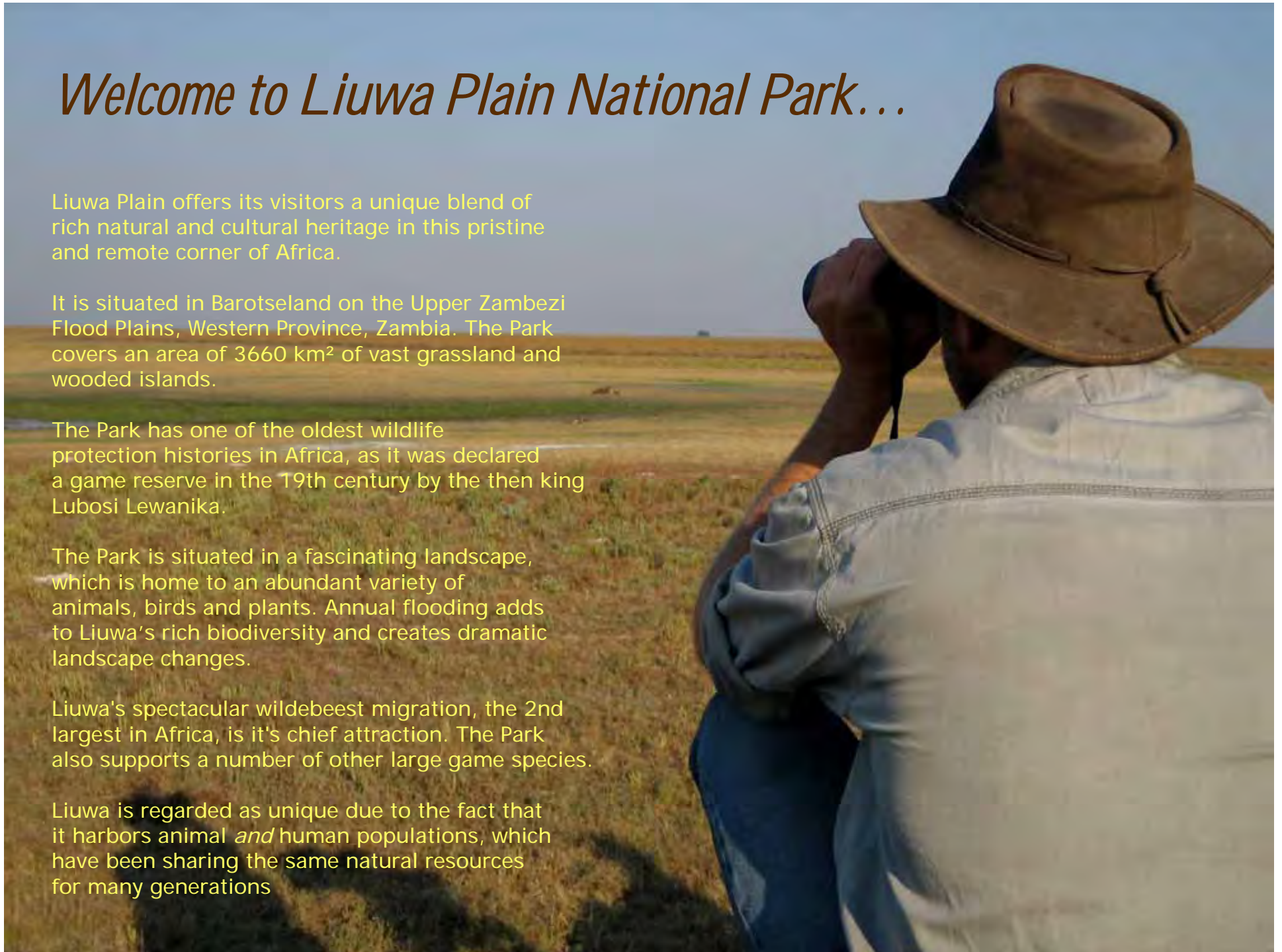
It is situated in Barotseland on the Upper Zambezi Flood Plains, Western Province, Zambia. The Park covers an area of 3660 km² of vast grassland and wooded islands.

The Park has one of the oldest wildlife protection histories in Africa, as it was declared a game reserve in the 19th century by the then king Lubosi Lewanika.

The Park is situated in a fascinating landscape, which is home to an abundant variety of animals, birds and plants. Annual flooding adds to Liuwa's rich biodiversity and creates dramatic landscape changes.

Liuwa's spectacular wildebeest migration, the 2nd largest in Africa, is its chief attraction. The Park also supports a number of other large game species.

Liuwa is regarded as unique due to the fact that it harbors animal *and* human populations, which have been sharing the same natural resources for many generations



Biodiversity

Plains game, predators, over 300 species of birds, vast grasslands, wetlands and islands of false mopane, silver cluster-leaf, Zambezi teak and weeping wattle.....

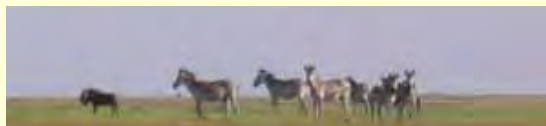


Liuwa is home to a rich variety of fauna and flora, of which the wildebeest herds and water birds feature in abundance. Every year, thousands of blue wildebeest converge on the plains of Liuwa. It is considered to be Africa's second largest annual migration of these animals. The wildebeest start their journey in the north – it is believed in Angola – and move to the northwest regions of the Park in June. When the rainy season starts around November each year, the herds move en masse southwards to converge on the southern plains of Liuwa, where they remain in large numbers until the following May. Other game to be found on the plain are tsessebe, zebra, red lechwe, oribi and reedbuck.

For the keen birdwatcher, Liuwa is a paradise – with the opportunity to observe abundant populations of water birds, birds of prey, and large populations of endangered species such as the wattled and grey-crowned cranes. Visitors to the Park should be on the lookout for the large groups of marabou stork, saddle-billed storks, white pelicans, the African fish eagle and the martial eagle, to name but a few

Predators play a large role in the Park's ecosystem. Smaller predators include the side-striped jackal and the African wild cat. Large numbers of hyena in the Park provide hours of wildlife viewing opportunities – on occasion, over twenty-five hyena have been spotted together on a wildebeest kill early in the morning. Other predators seen in the Park include cheetah, wild dog and very rarely, leopard. The Park's most distinguished resident predator is Lady Liuwa – a lone lioness. She is usually spotted in the south central region of the Park. She can often be heard calling during the night and visitors fortunate enough will even catch a glimpse of her resting during the heat of the day under a tree in one of the wooded islands in the area.

Liuwa Plain is an untouched wilderness, teeming with wildlife, existing in their natural habitats as they have for centuries.



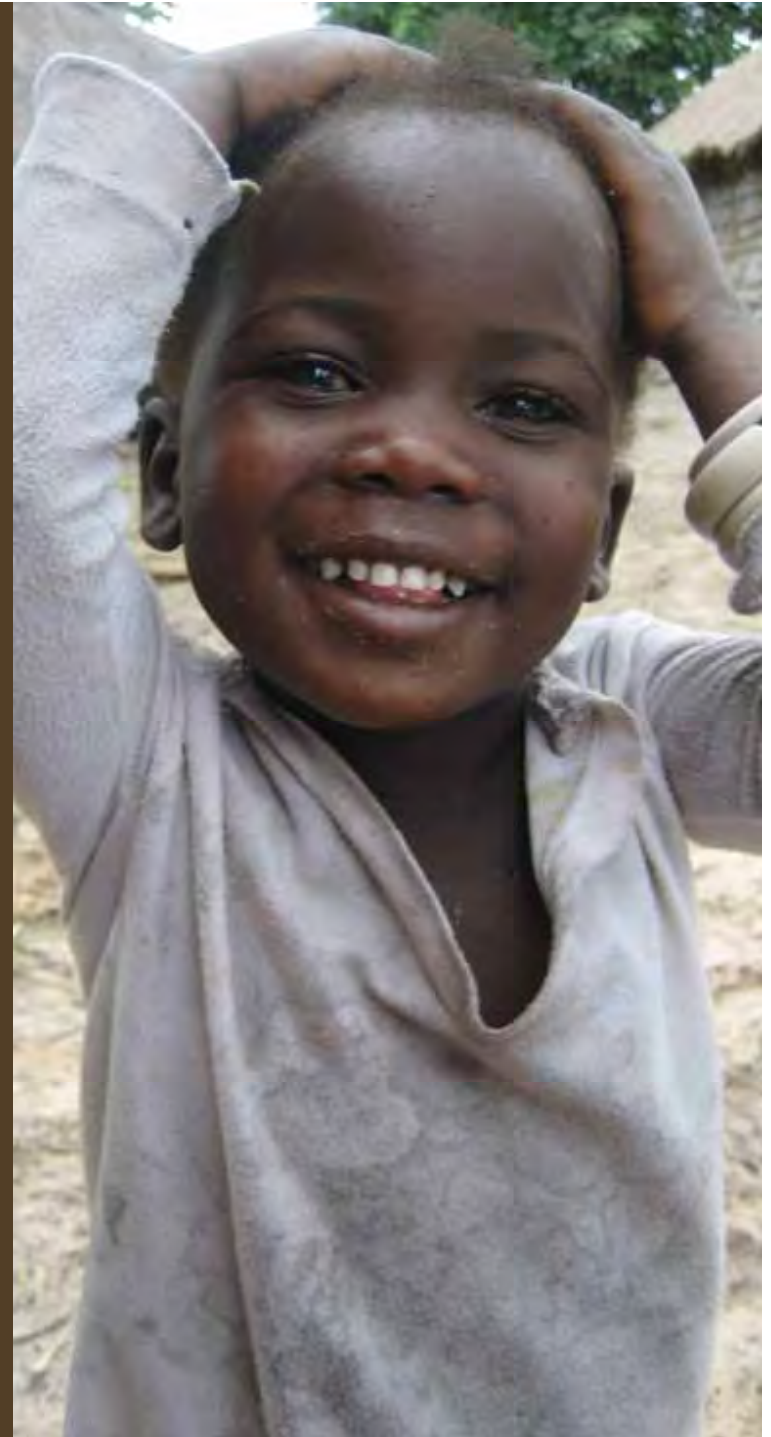
Lozi Culture

muzuhile cwani?

Liuwa is home to people of Lozi descent. They are largely subsistence farmers, growing maize, rice and cassava, and some keep cattle. Fishing also makes up a large part of their daily activities as fish forms an integral part of their diets.

The Park has a long history of animals and humans co-habiting the same area. There are currently 432 villages in and around the Park with close to 20,000 inhabitants. Many of these people's ancestors were placed here by previous Kings (Litungas) to protect the Park and its wildlife. All of this was monitored by a complex set of traditional laws and systems, which are all documented, some as early as 1902. Many of these laws are still intact.

The villagers have utilisation rights in the Park, so it is not unusual to see people grazing their cattle, or practising traditional fishing in the many pans and pools throughout the Park – sometimes up to a hundred people will be involved in the process. They utilise many of the wild plants for traditional basket and mat making.



Campsites



Camping for self drives is allowed at one of three designated campsites in the Park. These camps are owned and managed by the local communities in partnership with African Parks. These communities benefit fully from the camping fees and activity fees levied on visitors. Each camp is run by two attendants, who are there to provide guiding services and any other duties to make visitors' stays more enjoyable

Visitors are assigned their camping site when their reservation is made. Each campsite accommodates a maximum of 5 vehicles – visitors or tour operators wishing to do so may book the entire camp exclusively. The campsites are located within the most densely populated game areas. They are within a 10-15km radius of Matamanene bush camp.

Each campsite provides the following basic amenities:
2 cold water showers / 2 flush toilets with septic tanks / 1 washbasin area / Craft shop stocking makeenge baskets, mats, carvings and other traditional souvenirs

About Kwale...

Distance from Kalabo: 22.1 km
Est. driving time: 1 hour
Location: South East
GPS: S 14°49'03"
E 022°41'01"

This campsite has five well-situated and shady sites, alongside open grasslands. Since most of Liuwa's wildlife are migratory or locally nomadic, this camp celebrates an abundance of wildlife during the later part of October, onwards. The area is well known as a "calves dropping hotspot" during the breeding season for wildebeest (mid-October to January).

Places to explore nearby

Ulunge and Luamukushi Plain - drive the Sausage Tree Pool loops and enjoy the rich variety of birdlife. There is also the possibility of spotting an elusive cheetah on the vast plains.

About Lyangu...

Distance from Kalabo: 26.4 km
Est. driving time: 1h 15min
Location: South West
GPS: S 14°46'49"
E 022°34'44"

This campsite comprises five beautiful sites in a peaceful wooded area under the canopies of dense Mobola Plum and Water Pear trees. A vast array of indigenous flora offers magnificent views – the loops are well laid out to allow for enjoyable game viewing and bird-watching experiences.

Places to explore nearby

Namunda area lagoons, Lyangu pool and an active hyena den in the vicinity of the Palm Tree. A visit to Pelican Pan is well worth the drive, and keep an eye out for the Palm Nut Vultures which are found in the area.

About Katoyana...

Distance from Kalabo: 49.9 km
Est. driving time: 2hr 30min
Location: Central East
GPS: S 14°36'42"
E 022°42'08"

This campsite is neatly tucked on to the edge of Katoyana woodland in the vast Nundu grass plain, encircled with scanty distant wooded areas. This campsite is indelibly linked to several water filled pans – these are abundantly rich in bird and animal life. It is advised to explore every corner of this lovely area along the loops laid out.

Places to explore nearby

The pools present in the surrounding area as well active hyena dens in the vicinity. Lady Liuwa – the lone lioness, and the only sand stone in the entire park can be found north of Matiamanene.

Campsite Products & Services..

Crafts

A variety of unique crafts hand-made from locally sourced materials are available for purchase from the craft shops at the campsites. Makege and mukulwani baskets, misemi mats, fishing spears, drums, wooden dish plates and stools are some of the souvenir products available.



Dances & Musical Performances

Dance ceremonies celebrate many events in Lozi culture. Performances are held in selected villages or at your campsite (by arrangement with your camp attendant). On some occasions, the famous Makishi dancers can be invited for a visit.

Traditional Fishing Trips

Visitors are invited to witness ancient spear and basket fishing that is still today commonly practiced by the local people. A crash course in their techniques can be arranged for visitors to try their hand at this age old practice.

Boat Trips

Two major rivers, the Luambimba and Luanginga, offer serene and picturesque environments for a leisurely trip. Visitors can enjoy the prolific birdlife to be seen, or simply just sit back and relax in the beautiful scenery and sunset.

Guided Walks

Arrangements can be made with the camp attendants for guided walks into the Park with an armed, qualified scout. There are excellent game viewing opportunities on foot – being able to experience the natural sights, sounds and smells of their environment is a must for every visitor.



Travelling to Liuwa by road

From Lusaka

Lusaka – Mongu is all tar (624km). The road across the floodplain from Mongu to Kalabo usually opens halfway through June till about the end of December.

From the South (South Africa / Botswana / Namibia)

The road from Livingstone to Sesheke has been repaired and now takes roughly 2 hours. The bridge across the Zambezi at Sesheke to Katima has been opened so travelers can cross on the western side of the river. From Katima, head north (along western side of Zambezi) to Sitoti – it is a good dirt road (approx. 170km long) which takes about 5 hours. At Sitoti, travelers can choose from two options:

1. Cross the Zambezi on the pontoon (Ferry: S 16°14.716' E 23° 14.251') to Senanga, then carry on north to Mongu on the eastern side of the Zambezi.
2. Alternatively, continue on the western side of the Zambezi from Sitoti to Kalabo, which is about a 182 km long track. There are two routes very close together – one on the edge of the floodplain through all the villages, and the other on higher ground through the bush. Both roads have bad parts with heavy sand (especially at the end of the dry season in October), and sometimes low-range 4x4 is necessary. This 182km long stretch will take about 6 – 8 hours. Bush camping along the road is possible, and some tour operators camp there en-route to Liuwa.

From Kalabo

To access the Park from Kalabo, visitors will be required to use a pontoon to cross the river. The pontoon is operated by the Kalabo Council and the cost is currently KW 40,000 per vehicle. From there it is 12km to the Park boundary.

Travelling to Liuwa by air

Kalabo Airfield

There is an airfield in Kalabo, although there are no regular services in operation. Charter flights can be arranged by visitors themselves. The airstrip is tarred and in reasonable condition. Airfield information:

GPS Co-ordinates:	S 14° 59' 50.1" E 022° 38' 48.4"
Length:	1 200m
Direction:	East West
Elevation:	1 047m asl
Call sign:	118,500 Kalabo

In the Park

The Park is accessible by a vehicle from mid-May until mid-January. Since the annual rainfall and floods vary, it would be wise to contact Liuwa reservations ahead of time if planning a trip to Liuwa in May, June and January.

As Liuwa is a unique and fragile system, a low density tourism policy has been put in place regarding vehicles. The number of vehicles is restricted to 25 in the Park at any one time in order to preserve the unique ecosystem and the wilderness experience for the tourist due to the high level of visibility across the plains.

A basic road structure is laid out in the Park at the beginning of each season. Visitors are required to keep to these roads at all times, unless given permission by an AP-ZAWA guide. Limited off-roading is permitted in remote areas where the road system is limited, and in cases of exceptional sightings.



Getting to Liuwa...

Accommodation En-route

Mongu

There are a variety of guesthouses and a few camping grounds in Mongu. These are suggested establishments:

Crossroads Motel	Air-conditioned rooms	+260 7 221 649
Ngulu Hotel	Twin rooms available	+260 7 221 258
Cheers Lodge	Pleasant overlooks floodplain	+260 97 526 460
Green View Guesthouse	Four chalets	

Kalabo

A basic campsite is currently under construction with toilets, showers, shaded pitches and cold drinks, please inquire.

Senanga

Senanga Safaris have clean rooms available from about KW 75,000 p/n.

Supplies and Amenities

Mongu

Petrol and diesel are sold at BP and Total filling stations. There is a Shoprite where you can buy dry goods, meat and often fresh fruit and vegetables. Fresh bread is available and the town market has a good supply of local fruit and vegetables.

Mumwa Crafts Association, on the road coming in from Lusaka, sells crafts and baskets at very reasonable prices. Nayuma Museum in Limulunga (12km from Mongu) has a well stocked craft shop as well as the exhibits of local history.

There are internet facilities in town. Banks are open Monday to Friday, 08h15 – 14h30, and on the last Saturday of the month 08h15 – 11h00. The fee for exchanging money is very hefty. Zanaco has an auto teller that works most of the time and accepts Visa cards. No other businesses in the district accept credit cards. Please note: MasterCard is NOT accepted anywhere in Zambia. The current exchange (on 02/19/2007) is: KW 585 = ZAR 1.00 and KW 4,170 = US\$ 1 but fluctuates regularly.

Kalabo

Petrol and diesel are not available for sale in Kalabo. There are shops stocking basic supplies such as milk, sugar, tea, coffee and basic tinned goods. You can also buy mineral water, Cokes, Fanta, Sprite and Mosi Lagers. The local market stocks basic fruit and vegetables – tomatoes, sweet potatoes, onions, bananas, eggs, etc. There are no banks in Kalabo, and no internet facilities.

More travel info

Medical Facilities

There is malaria throughout the region of the Western Province and Prophylaxis pills are highly recommended for any traveler to the area.

Mongu

This district hospital in Mongu with a private doctor where you can have basic blood tests done. Medicines are in short supply and travelers are advised to bring any personal medication they may require, as well as a well stocked first aid kit.

Kalabo

This district hospital will do blood tests and there is a doctor for basic treatments. Medicines are in short supply, travelers are advised to bring any medication they may require.

Yuka

This mission hospital in Yuka (about 8km west of Kalabo) has a professional staff of expatriate doctors and better availability of medicines.

Travel Visas

All travelers – please ensure that at your point of entry into Zambia your passport has been correctly stamped with the number of days you require for your stay. If your days are expiring and you need to get an extension, go to the nearest Immigration Office (there is one in most towns) and request an extension. DO NOT let your days expire as there are checks all over Zambia and you will either be heavily fined or possibly arrested! When travelers have paid their Park Entry Fees at the Kalabo Office, they need to report to the local immigration office in order to get their passports checked and stamped. South African passport holders do not require a visa to visit Zambia.



Contact Details

*African Parks Office (Kalabo)
Liuwa Plain National Park Headquarters*

Contact person: Mr. Joost Hugo van Son

Email address: liuwa@africanparks.co.zm
Website: www.liuwain.com
www.africanparks-conservation.com

Telephone number: +260 97 158 733

Physical Address: Kalabo
Western Province
Zambia

Postal Address: Po Box 930094
Kalabo
Western Province
Zambia

Rates & Reservations

Rates

Entry and camping fees:

NON-RESIDENTS

US\$ 40 entry fee per person per day
US\$ 10 camping fee per person per night
Children under 12 *free*
Children between 12 and 15 *half charge*

RESIDENTS

ZMK 20 000.00 entry fee per person
ZMK 20 000.00 camping fee per person
Children under 12 *free*
Children between 12 and 15 *half charge*

GUIDE

US\$ 10 per Scout per day

Reservations

Step 1 – Initial Enquiry (Request a reservation form)

Contact person: Mr. Joost Hugo van Son
liuwa@africanparks.co.zm

Step 2 – Fill out and return the reservation form

Step 3 – Payment

A deposit of 50% of the fee must be paid to secure the booking. The remaining balance is to be settled upon arrival at Kalabo. Deposits can be made into the Zambian bank account for African Parks, and a copy of the deposit slip / confirmation can be emailed to liuwa@africanparks.co.za.

Account name:	African Parks Zambia Limited
Bank name:	Standard Chartered Bank
Branch:	Lusaka Branch
Address:	Standard Chartered House, Cairo Road
Account number:	87002 118805 00
SWIFT Code:	SCBLZMLX

Step 4 – Confirmation

Once we have received your completed reservation form and proof of payment, we will confirm your reservation by email.

Check in and reservation rules

Visitors are required to check in by 15h00 on the day of arrival. Should they not arrive by this time, their booking may be allocated to someone else and their deposit forfeited. No visitors will be allowed into the Park without a booking unless there is a vacancy. This will be for a specified campsite. A maximum of 25 vehicles are permitted into the Park at any one time.



African Parks Foundation

Park Management

African Parks (AP) is an international organisation set up to assist in the protection and development of National Parks in Africa. Here in Zambia with the partnership of the BRE (Barotse Royal Establishment) and ZAWA (Zambian Wildlife Authority), African Parks aims to restore and protect the Liuwa Plain National Park for the long term benefit of biodiversity and the people living in and around the Park. In 2004, a 20 year agreement was signed between the three partners for the management of the Park. AP is working with the local communities to implement a sustainable model where both humans and wildlife can co-exist. Ultimately African Parks would like to see Liuwa Plain NP become one of Africa's premier national parks and a key tourist destination in Zambia. All income derived Park Entry Fees is put back into the conservation of Liuwa Plain National Park.

Rules and Regulations

To minimise the environmental impact to the area, we would ask you to assist us by abiding the few points below:

1. While driving around the Park, please try wherever possible to stay on the visible roads already in use. In areas where there are no roads you are permitted to drive off road.
2. Please adhere to the speed limit of 30 km/h
3. Please ensure that you leave the site without any trace of your stay.
4. No chopping of trees is permitted. Dead trees may not be collected for firewood. Firewood is available for purchase at a nominal fee at each campsite. Charcoal is available in Kalabo.
5. Take all litter with you when leaving the Park. Do not bury any litter or tins, it is likely to be dug up by wild animals. Bags are supplied at the Park Office for a nominal fee and we will dispose of the litter for you.
6. Please do not:
 - Drive between sunset and sunrise
 - Disturb, chase or feed the animals or birds
 - Light or cause bush fires
 - Carry any firearms
 - Bring pets
 - Sound your horn
 - Remove anything from the Park, whether it be dead or alive
7. Please respect the local communities that live in the Park, this is their land. People traditionally walk with spears and residents of the Park are permitted to fish in certain ponds in the Park. There are also some areas where they are permitted to graze their cattle and cut grasses.