



Matusadona National Park
Zimbabwe

Matusadona National Park

INFORMATION PACK



Welcome to Matusadona National Park

Thank you for choosing to work with Matusadona Conservation Trust, we are delighted to welcome your clients to Matusadona National Park.

To ensure your guests enjoy a safe and comfortable stay, please take note of the following key information.

WATER & ENERGY

- All camps are powered by high-quality Victron solar systems.
- Hot water is provided by solar geysers and is available throughout the day (unless there is heavy cloud cover)
- Tap water is sourced from Lake Kariba and is **not suitable for drinking**
- Safe drinking water is available via reverse osmosis filtration systems at all camps.

HOUSEKEEPING & LAUNDRY

- Standard housekeeping begins at 10h00 each morning
- Sheets and towels are changed every third day to conserve water (fresh linen available on request)
- Laundry services are available only where specified in camp descriptions

DEPARTURE

- Check-out is at 10h00am
- Keys should be returned to Reception or handed to housekeeping staff

WILDLIFE & SAFETY

- Wildlife moves freely through all camps. Guests should remain vigilant at all times
- At **Jenje Bush Camp**, guests need to be escorted by a professional guide to and from their rooms after dark.
- Personal belongings should be brought indoors at night to avoid being taken by hyena
- Keep all food sealed and stored properly to prevent monkeys and elephants from entering
- For safety reasons, vehicle movement is permitted **only between 30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset**. Driving outside these hours is strictly prohibited.

HEALTH & SAFETY

- Only toilet paper may be flushed. Brown paper bags are provided for sanitary waste
- Smoking is not permitted indoors. Designated ashtrays are provided in outdoor areas
- Guests are asked to dispose of all cigarette butts responsibly



FIREWOOD & BRAAI FACILITIES

- Collection of firewood from the bush is **strictly prohibited**. Firewood and eco-friendly charcoal are available for purchase at Reception
- Braai (BBQ) drums can be provided on request

RUBBISH POLICY

- Due to the Park's remote location, we operate a **Carry In/Carry Out** waste system - all non-biodegradable waste should be taken out
- Properly separated biodegradable waste can be left with our staff for disposal

FISHING REGULATIONS

- The daily fishing limit is **five fish per person**
- Fish cleaning is not permitted in the camp to avoid attracting wildlife
- The Matusadona Ladies Committee offers a fish cleaning service for \$5 per day. They have a designated hygienic and specially constructed area where they will clean your fish before returning it to you
- Bait can be safely stored overnight at Reception to avoid attracting wildlife

SHOP & SUPPLIES

A small shop at Reception offers:

- Ice
- Firewood & Charcoal
- A selection of cold drinks
- Additional food and gift items

TIPPING POLICY

- Guests may leave tips in the Reception Tip Box or hand them directly to one of our Tourism Operators (Tinaye and Kelvin)
- All contributions support both staff welfare and community initiatives, and are not solely focused on tourism

COMMUNICATIONS

- Internet access is available at Reception
- Phone signal is available in certain areas of the Park but is not always reliable

FINAL REMINDERS

- Respect Wildlife - maintain a safe distance at all times
- Respect Nature - take all litter with you
- Respect Fellow Guests - keep noise to a minimum, especially at night
- Respect Staff - they are available to assist with any needs or concerns





Accommodation



Tashinga Campsite

Currently the Park's only serviced Campsite, Tashinga is perched on the picturesque peninsula near the Park's north-west Reception. Campers can enjoy spectacular views of both sunrise and sunset over Lake Kariba's expansive waters.



Tashinga Self-Catering Cottages

Raise the bar on camping and stay in the Park's own handsome canvas cottages, tucked away in a quiet corner of the Tashinga peninsula. These cottages are primarily self-catering with the option to hire a chef at an additional cost.



Matusadona Bush Camps

An intimate and secluded retreat for nature enthusiasts at the confluence of the Jenje and Biriwiri Rivers. This exclusive camp is operational from May to October with the addition of a Fly Camp option all year-round.



Wilderness Campsites

For those with a true sense of adventure, set up camp in one of the Park's scenic wilderness campsites. With five sites in the Matusadona escarpment and three on the valley floor, campers can experience the diversity of the Park by "road tripping" between a few. Campers must be fully self-sufficient.

Matusadona National Park- Camp Info Sheets



MATUSADONA NATIONAL PARK, ZIMBABWE

Nestled between the vast waters of Lake Kariba and the rolling Matusadona Hills, this iconic landscape was once home to Africa's highest density of lion and a vital refuge for elephant and the Critically Endangered black rhino.

Spanning 1,470km², Matusadona National Park boasts some of Zimbabwe's most magnificent landscapes. Panoramic grasslands extend across the valley floor while dense forested escarpments provided refuge to elusive wildlife such as African aardwolf and Temmincks ground pangolin.

This diverse landscape is a walking safari enthusiast's dream. Hidden springs and internally fed rivers create lush oases during the dry season, where towering riverine trees shelter an array of wildlife. Adventurers can explore the interior by vehicle and on foot while those looking to enjoy the tranquility of nature can unwind on the lake, soaking in Kariba's iconic sunsets.

This incredible wilderness is being co-managed by the African Parks Network and the Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority through a 20-year agreement which was signed in 2019. Under this agreement the Park continues to thrive, emerging as one of Africa's most up-and-coming safari destinations.

MATUSADONA NATIONAL PARK



LOCATION AND SIZE

On the shores of Lake Kariba in Northern Zimbabwe, the Park expands over an area of 1,470km²



ACCESS TO THE PARK

The Park can be accessed by road from Harare or Victoria Falls/Hwange via the Binga/Magunje road (4x4 vehicle advised) Alternatively, guests may fly into one of the airstrips within the Park, or arrive by boat directly from Kariba town.



TASHINGA CAMPSITE GPS

The Park's main campsite, as well as Reception and HQ can be found at -16.813071; 28.446178



RESERVATIONS

Email

reservations.matusadona@africanparks.org

Website

<https://visitmatusadona.org>

Jenje Bush Camp - Camp Info Sheet





ABOUT JENJE BUSH CAMP

Jenje Bush Camp is an exclusive, semi-luxury camp situated on the confluence of the Jenje and Biriwiri Rivers. In a high density game area with no fences or boundaries, this camp offers a truly immersive experience.


This camp celebrates the essence of a traditional safari experience, providing a bespoke adventure in the heart of the wilderness. Resident elephant herds and the infamous 'Jenje' lion pride are often seen taking refuge beneath the thick bush and broad, shady trees.

The camp is fully staffed including a full-time professional guide who leads bush walks, game drives, and boat safaris.





GETTING TO CAMP

Jenje Bush Camp is located at the confluence of the Jenje and Biriwiri Rivers, about an hour from Tashinga Headquarters.


GPS LOCATION

-16.776434879226628, 28.56445259306112


RESERVATIONS

Email
reservations.matusadona@africanparks.org

Website
<https://visitmatusadona.org>



CAMP DETAILS

Powered by a 3kva solar unit, the camp has 5 twin tents and a common living and dining area situated under a large evergreen Mahogany tree.



TENT DETAILS

5 fully serviced canvas tents, ensuite bathroom with flushable toilets, hot water showers and bathroom amenities. Clothing and luggage racks, as well as bedside tables, lamps and overhead lighting. Solar fans provide relief from the afternoon heat.



ACTIVITIES

Game Drives
Guided Walks
Boat & Fishing Cruises
Fly Camping



SERVICES

This fully catered for camp offers breakfast, lunch and dinner, as well as on-site laundry and twice-daily room turn down. Dedicated staff ensure the safety and comfort of our guests.

Tashinga Campsite - Camp Info Sheet





ABOUT TASHINGA CAMPSITE

The Park's main campsite, Tashinga, is set on a peninsula in the northwest, close to Reception and Tashinga Headquarters. The unique layout of the site offers visitors the experience of viewing sunrise and sunset over the expansive views of the mighty Lake Kariba.


Campers coexist with free roaming wildlife as resident elephant, bush buck, kudu and impala, with the occasional leopard, seek shelter from the afternoon sun, while an array of bird life provides constant entertainment overhead.


At this campsite, you are able to immerse yourself in the beauty of Matusadona National Park, where the wonders of nature unfold right from the comfort of your tent




GETTING TO CAMP

Tashinga Campsite can be accessed by boat from Kariba town, by plane into one of the various airstrips within the Park, or by car via the Binga/Magunje road.


GPS LOCATION
-16.813071; 28.446178


RESERVATIONS

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Website
<https://visitmatusadona.org>



CAMP DETAILS

The campsite offers seven separate camping spots with a view of the Lake. A shared ablution unit is centrally located with hot water showers and flushing toilets. There is a reverse osmosis filtration system where campers can refill with safe drinking water.



TENT DETAILS

A tent hire service is available for those without access to their own equipment. Tents are provided with basic, but comfortable furnishings and fittings. Each tent accommodates two single beds with quality linens and duvets.



ACTIVITIES

Game Drives
Guided Walks
Boat & Fishing Cruise



SERVICES

The campsite is unserviced with a laundry bay located outside the central ablution block. Please note that all waste is operated on a Carry In, Carry Out basis.

Tashinga Self-Catering Cottages - Camp Info Sheet




ABOUT TASHINGA COTTAGES


The Tashinga Cottages - Mopane and Mahogany A&B - are a comfortable stay within Tashinga Campsite. These hybrid tent-and-concrete cottages provide all the conveniences of a fully stocked home while still enjoying the peace and tranquility of the surrounding wilderness.

Mopane Cottage, the original blueprint for these popular sites, is a standalone twin cottage and private kitchen on the outskirts of Tashinga Campsite. Nestled in the surrounding shrub, this site offers complete privacy from neighbouring sites.


Mahogany A&B are cottages of the same design with a shared private kitchen and tented dining area. Designed to be booked together, they can accommodate two guests each with the option of adding additional mattresses for children.

Twin beds can be converted to double beds on request.





GETTING TO CAMP

Tashinga Campsite can be accessed by boat from Kariba town, by plane into one of the various airstrips within the Park, or by car via the Binga/Magunje road.


GPS LOCATION

-16.813071; 28.446178


RESERVATIONS

Email
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Website
<https://visitmatusadona.org>



CAMP DETAILS

Fully equipped cottage and private kitchen with: gas oven and stove, fridge/freezer, toaster, cooking utensils, pots & pans, cutlery & crockery, glassware & tea station, and safe drinking water provided by Reverse Osmosis filtration system.



TENT DETAILS

Each Cottage is equipped with: two single beds with the option for a double on request, overhead fans, clothing cupboard and luggage rack, bedside tables and lights, power outlets, outdoor seating, ensuite bathroom with hot water showers and flushable toilets, bathroom amenities.



ACTIVITIES

Game Drives
Guided Walks
Boat & Fishing Cruise



SERVICES

Self-catering
No laundry service available
Cottages and kitchen powered by 3kva solar unit



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Albida Self-Catering Camp - Camp Info Sheet





ABOUT ALBIDA CAMP

Albida Camp is a tented camp within Tashinga Campsite. With three fully equipped canvas tents and a shared kitchen, dining area, and modern ablution block, this camp is perfect for families and groups of friends.


Tucked away on the eastern side of the Campsite, with an incredible view of Lake Kariba, this camp is the perfect destination for larger groups wanting to enjoy the immersive wilderness experience while experiencing the comforts of a fully serviced safari camp.

The shaded dining and living area, known as 'The Gazebo' provides shelter from the afternoon sun without having to retreat to separate tents.





GETTING TO CAMP

Tashinga Campsite can be accessed by boat from Kariba town, by plane into one of the various airstrips within the Park, or by car via the Binga/Magunje road.


GPS LOCATION

-16.813071; 28.446178


RESERVATIONS

Email
reservations.matusadona@africanparks.org

Website
<https://visitmatusadona.org>



CAMP DETAILS

Fully serviced kitchen with: gas oven & stove, fridge/freezer, toaster, cooking utensils, pots & pans, cutlery & crockery, glassware & tea station. Central modern ablution unit for ladies and men, as well as a lockable store room for extra luggage & personal belongings.



TENT DETAILS

Three canvas tents equipped with: two single beds with the option of a double on request, bedside tables and lamps, clothing cupboard and luggage rack, overhead lighting, ensuite bathroom with hot water showers and flushable toilets, and patios with outdoor seating.



ACTIVITIES

Game Drives
Guided Walks
Boat & Fishing Cruise



SERVICES

Self-catering
No laundry service available
Cottages and kitchen powered by 3kva solar unit
Drinking water through a reverse osmosis plant



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Wilderness Camping - Camp Info Sheet



ABOUT WILDERNESS CAMPING

For those with a true sense of adventure, set up camp in one of our eight Wilderness Campsites - five nestled in the rugged escarpment and three scattered across the valley floor. Each site offers a completely unique setting, allowing visitors to experience the Park's incredible diversity in the most authentic way possible.

These sites are entirely unserviced and campers must be fully self-sufficient, bringing their own equipment, food, and water.

For the ultimate adventure, it is highly recommended to road trip between a few sites to enjoy the full spectrum of landscapes and uninterrupted wilderness experiences that Matusadona has to offer.



GETTING TO CAMP

An Avenza link with directions to all Wilderness Campsites is available upon request through our reservations.



EMERGENCY NUMBER

In the event of an emergency, visitors can contact our Control Centre using these numbers:

+263(0) 77 618 0570
+263(0) 71 645 2059

Please note that we can not always guarantee phone signal



RESERVATIONS

Email
reservations.matusadona@africanparks.org

Website
<https://visitmatusadona.org>



CAMP DETAILS

There are a total of eight wilderness campsites - three on the valley floor, and five in the escarpment. Each site is completely different to the last, offering visitors the chance to experience the diversity of the Park in the most authentic way possible.



TENT DETAILS

Our wilderness campsites are currently not serviced, with visitors being expected to provide their own equipment, food and water. There are plans to build basic ablution units at each site at the start of 2026.



ACTIVITIES

Visitors have access to all activities on offer in the Park including game drives, guided walks, and boat/fishing cruises, all of which can be booked through the Tashinga Reception.



RULES AND REGULATIONS

Visitors are not permitted to collect firewood or drive off-road. All rubbish must be carried out of the Park, and camps left clean and natural, with fire ash buried and no trace of human impact.

Matusadona Backpacking Trails - Info Sheet



ABOUT MATUSADONA BACKPACKING TRAILS

The Matusadona Backpacking Trails offer an unforgettable trek through some of the Park's most remote and scenically beautiful areas. Fully customised, guests can choose to stay for up to seven days or more, with a recommended duration of 2-3 nights.

Each trail is led by an experienced professional guide with extensive knowledge of Matusadona's terrain and wildlife, and for safety purposes, groups are kept small with a maximum of six persons per guide. Larger parties are spilt into smaller groups that can meet up for lunch breaks and overnight spots.

Visitors carry all their own equipment, with no resupply points along the way. Water is sourced and treated from natural springs, and lightweight, good quality backpacking food is recommended. A full set of equipment can be supplied by Matusadona Conservation Trust for those without their own gear.




GETTING TO CAMP

All finer details will be finalised beforehand with the reservations team.


EMERGENCY NUMBER

In the event of an emergency, visitors can contact our Control Centre using these numbers:

077 618 0570
071 645 2059

Please note that we can not always guarantee phone signal


RESERVATIONS

Email
reservations.matusadona@africanparks.org

Website
<https://visitmatusadona.org>



WALKING DETAILS

Visitors can expect to walk an average of 10km a day, with routes and duration adapted to suit fitness levels and condition.



CAMPING DETAILS

Campers sleep under the stars, with the option to bring a lightweight tent or use sleeping equipment provided by MCT.



ACTIVITIES

Visitors can customise their trip with optional add-ons such as a game drive, boat or fishing cruise, or an overnight stay in one of our accommodation units. All arrangements can be made with our reservations team prior to booking.



RULES AND REGULATIONS

Visitors are not permitted to collect firewood or drive off-road. All rubbish must be carried out of the Park, and camps left clean and natural, with fire ash buried and no trace of human impact.

Matusadona National Park - Info Sheet



PARK HOURS

Movement in the Park is only permitted 30 minutes before sunrise and 30 minutes after sunset



HEALTH & SAFETY

Malaria prophylaxis recommended. For all other vaccines, please consult your physician. There is a clinic at Tashinga HQ, however medical evacuation insurance is recommended.



PAYMENT

Cash, EFT, & Visa Credit Card accepted.
Currency accepted: US Dollar and Zig (only for Zimbabwe residents)



RESERVATIONS

Email

reservations.matusadona@africanparks.org

Website

<https://visitmatusadona.org>

TRAVEL INFORMATION

Matusadona National Park's climate is mostly hot year-round with three distinct weather patterns - a hot, dry season; a hot, wet season; and a cool, dry season.

HOT, DRY SEASON

AUGUST - OCTOBER

Average Rainfall: NIL

Average Temperature: 28°C
(maximum 40°C and minimum 14°C)

HOT, WET SEASON

NOVEMBER - APRIL

Average Rainfall: 650mm

Average Temperature: 29.8°C
(maximum 40°C and minimum 21°C)

COOL, DRY SEASON

MAY - JULY

Average Rainfall: NIL

Average Temperature: 24°C
(maximum 34°C and minimum 14°C)



Activities



Game Drive



Matusadona Trails



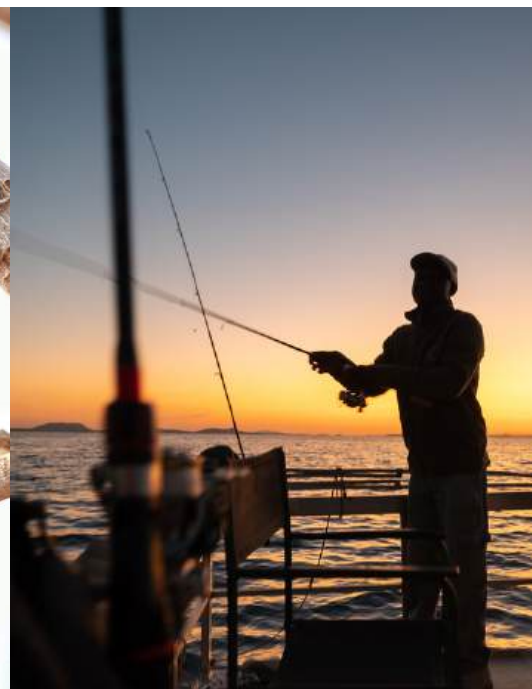
Guided Walks



Morning/Evening Boat Cruise



Bird Watching



Fishing



Access to The Park



AIR

Closest Airstrips:

- Tashinga Airstrip - 700m
- Rokari Airstrip - 1,200
- Kanjedza Airstrip - 1,100m

Nearby Private Airstrips:

- Bumi Hills - 1,200m
- Fothergill - 1,200m

Kariba Airport offers immigration services for cross-border flights (must be booked in advance)

Charter Companies Include:

- Grand Air
- Executive Air
- Halsted Aviation
- Mack Air

Mack Air Charters will be offering scheduled flights from January 2026.

Key Notes:

- Tashinga Airstrip is not always able to accommodate caravans due to the length of the runway. Visitors can make use of Rokari Airstrip where they will be met by a guide and game drive vehicle to accompany them to Tashinga across the Ume River by ferry.
- A new waiting area is under development at Kanjedza Airstrip with guide accommodation and vehicle support to service all transfers and game drives in the eastern side of the Park.



BOAT

Visitors can transfer with their own boat from Kariba to Tashinga Harbour where they will be met by a guide and game drive vehicle to transfer them to their respective camps.

Alternatively, visitors wanting to cross with their vehicles can make use of Davy McMaster's ferry. Please note that this is a privately operated ferry that must be booked and paid for through Davy and not MCT.

There are plans for a new MCT ferry to be launching soon - exact dates TBC.



ROAD

Visitors driving to the Park from Harare via Karoi/Magunje can expect to drive for approximately nine hours. A 4x4 vehicle is recommended as roads outside the Park are not in the best condition.

Visitors can also drive to Kariba town and cross the Lake either by speed boat or ferry. This journey consists of approximately six hours driving with a three hour ferry crossing, or one hour speed boat crossing.

Visitors driving from Victoria Falls/Hwange will access the Park via the Binga Road. Please note that this is a full day drive as the Binga Road is currently not in good condition.

Unfortunately, we have no control over the quality of the roads outside of the Park itself, however there are plans in place to put ferry links and a lakeshore road to bypass the Binga Road, but this will likely not happen before 2027.

MATUSADONA NATIONAL PARK

RULES AND REGULATIONS

These rules and regulations are intended for your protection and that of the Park. Failure to abide by these rules will result in a fine or removal without compensation.



No unauthorised entry



Entrance is entirely at your own risk



40km/h maximum



Driving is only permitted between sunrise and sunset



Max three vehicles at a sighting at a time



Do not pass between a sighting and another vehicle



Off-road driving is prohibited



Strictly no walking without a designated official



Only exit vehicle at designated spots



Do not litter



Take all your rubbish with you



Do not feed any wild animals



Do not disturb or harass wildlife



Always keep paths clear for wildlife



Do not remove wildlife, plants, or any artefact from the Park



Do not cut or destroy natural vegetation



Do not use recorded sounds to attract wildlife



No loud noise, music, or radios



Drones and camera traps are prohibited



It is prohibited to collect firewood from in the Park



Camp only at designated camp spots



No fires allowed; only at designated spots



No fishing allowed without a valid permit



Firearms prohibited. Declare them at the gate

If you get stuck or have any vehicle problems, stay in your car and either call or wait for assistance.

Never attempt to walk to find help or a cell phone signal.

For any emergency, please contact:
+263 716452059 or +263 776180570



CONTACT US

Email: reservations.matusadona@africanparks.org

Website: <https://visitmatusadona.org>

WhatsApp: +263 78 677 4616

FOLLOW US

Instagram: [@matusadonationalpark](https://www.instagram.com/matusadonationalpark)

Facebook: [Matusadona National Park](https://www.facebook.com/MatusadonaNationalPark)