



"Mosi-oa-Tunya" – At full flood, the mighty Zambezi River cascades over 100m at Victoria Falls

LIVINGSTONE & THE VICTORIA FALLS

For many years we've recognised Livingstone as the perfect location from which to visit the great Victoria Falls. Once eclipsed by the busier Zimbabwean town of Victoria Falls (see page 92), Livingstone is rising to the challenge and there's never been a better time to visit.

BESIDE THE FALLS

Owned by Sun International, there are two hotels very close to the Falls. Both are normally arranged on a bed-and-breakfast basis.

The five-star **Royal Livingstone** has 173 luxurious and well-appointed rooms, complete with satellite TV. They are relatively modest in size, but by contrast, the hotel's lounge and dining room are grand and airy – reminiscent of the colonial Victoria Falls Hotel. The good food is stylishly presented, best eaten on the shady veranda, overlooking the lawn, the pool and the Zambezi beyond.

For a great-value option and a location right beside the Falls, choose the adjacent **Zambezi Sun**. The atmosphere is informal and the design fun and colourful. At the centre of the hotel is a huge, curving swimming pool with a restaurant and café/bar adjacent. Its 212 compact rooms are comfortable, with an en-suite shower, toilet and washbasin. The Zambezi Sun is large, but its superb location and excellent value make it a good choice for many.

New for 2009, and 12km above the Falls, is the 77-room **David Livingstone Safari Lodge & Spa**; call us for the latest news on this.

UPSTREAM OF THE FALLS

In contrast to the above, there are several excellent small lodges beside the Zambezi. These intimate, quiet lodges are more costly than the hotels, but your stay usually includes your meals and many activities.

In May 2008, a new sister-lodge of the River

Club (see below) opened about 12km upstream of the Falls: **Toka Leya Camp**. This has 12 comfortable walk-in tents, raised on individual decks and linked by walkways. Each tent has glass sliding doors, air-conditioning and en-suite facilities including an outside shower overlooking the Zambezi. The camp has a main dining/bar area with good views, a plunge pool, a small curio shop and a fully equipped spa.

Tongabezi is a lovely lodge set on a sweeping bend in the Zambezi. It's long been one of the region's most romantic hideaways and its experienced team of staff maintain a smart, exclusive and distinctly Zambian feel. Along with a thatched riverside bar and spacious lounge area there's a rock swimming pool under a tumbling waterfall.

Tongabezi has five beautiful thatched 'cottages', all tastefully furnished with large picture windows opening onto verandas beside the river, and elegant en-suite bathrooms. A sixth 'garden cottage' has two linked bedrooms and a living room. In addition, there are five spectacular individual 'houses' – stylish suites that face the river; four have completely open sides, one is enclosed with a private plunge pool.

To escape further, consider a few nights at **Sindabezi**, Tongabezi's private island in the

Zambezi. It's a wonderfully relaxed place to watch the river run by. Sindabezi's five en-suite thatched cottages are set among the trees along soft sand paths. All have an open front facing the river, a sundeck, a hot outdoor shower, canopied bed and toilet with a view. Two are honeymoon chalets, which also have a bath.

The River Club has a colonial feel and 10 comfortable, split-level chalets; all look out from a high riverbank with one side open. Beside the lounge and dining room is a small library with a variety of books and parlour games, whilst outside is a swimming pool overlooking the river, a croquet lawn and a short nature trail around the lodge's grounds.

A little further upstream, **Islands of Siankaba** is built on two densely forested islands, linked by suspension bridges. The lodge's seven stylish tents, including a luxurious honeymoon tent, are dotted around the edges of one island, with views out over the river from large verandas. Each is beautifully furnished with a stand-alone bath and a separate shower, a mini-bar, a ceiling fan, and a large walk-in mosquito net around the bed. The bar, lounge, dining area and small swimming pool are all on the other island. The food is excellent and the staff attentive. Whilst you can visit the Falls from Siankaba, its activities focus on the islands and the river – including particularly good walks around the local communities, led by a village elder.



Bungee-jumping over the Zambezi

Activities at the Falls

We can arrange many activities in this area before you get there, from bungee-jumping to white-water rafting and scenic flights. Call our team to discuss the available options – and note down any requests on your booking form.



Open-air lounge beside the Zambezi at Toka Leya Camp