



Likumbi Lya Mize Festival

ZAMBIA

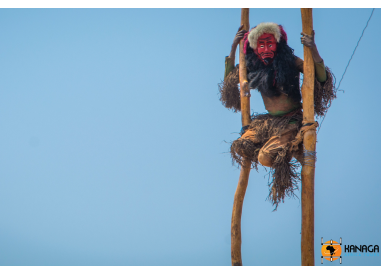


13 days
17 - 29 August 2024
English speaking guide



The 'unforgettable' of the trip:

- The **Mukanda** initiation rites of the **Luvale**, during the **Likumbi Lia Mize** celebrations
- The impressive **Makishi masks**, a UNESCO Intangible World Heritage Site
- Buffalo, elephants and lions in **Kafue Park**, one of the largest in Africa



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In the far west of Zambia, near the town of Zambesi, the historic ceremony of the Likumbi Lya Mize of the Luvale people is perpetuated in August. It is the concluding part of the complex Mukanda initiation rite, a three-month training to adult life, of young adolescents who are also circumcised. The ceremony is accompanied by the coming out of a multitude of Makishi masks with their dances, declared Intangible Heritage of Humanity by UNESCO in 2008.

Mize is the name of the village that hosts the traditional Luvale court, not far from the town of Zambezi. The Makishi dancers and their beautiful, large masks impersonate the spirits of the ancestors who accompany each initiate in his or her training. At the beginning of the Mukanda, the young people are escorted by the masks and the women towards the river, symbolising the passage to the Hereafter, since they will die as children and resurrect after their training in a secret and isolated place, returning to the world of the living as adults, on the day of the Likumbi Lya Mize. The ceremony thus celebrates a kind of collective resurrection, in which hundreds of different Makishi masks/spirits accompany the young initiates towards the town of Zambezi and the court of Mize, shouting and making incomprehensible sounds, amidst dances and songs, colours and dazzling rhythms, welcomed by the community and festive mothers.

A trip off the tourist track, for real travellers

A trip to these remote regions of Zambia requires strong motivation and an excellent spirit of adaptation. The treasures this country holds are not easily accessible, organisation and logistics are complex. There will be whole days of transferring, you will have to face bumpy routes and long waits for the masks to come out... in short, an experience for 'real travellers' who are not discouraged by the complexity of the African reality, aware that the possibility of being able to admire the evolutions of the makishi masks, or watch the watering of an entire family of elephants are privileges reserved for the few, and precious gifts that will certainly repay the group for the hard work of the trip.



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Day 1: Saturday 17 August

Outward flight/Lusaka (LBV)

Overnight flight to Lusaka.

Day 2: Sunday 18 August

Lusaka

Arrive late morning, meeting with the Kanaga Africa Tours staff and transfer to Wild Dog Lodge or similar. Afternoon for relaxation or additional sightseeing in Lusaka. Overnight stay in double rooms with private facilities.

Days 3-4: from Monday 19 August to Tuesday 20 August

Lusaka/Solwesi/Zambezi

Two long days are spent travelling north-west to the town of Zambezi, where the festival will take place. We will make several stops along the way to admire scenes of daily life in markets and villages. Breakfasts in hotels, lunches in local restaurants along the way. Overnight stays in hotels (Mutanda Nature Resort or similar in Solwesi, Mbingilaa Lodge or similar in Zambezi) in double rooms with private facilities.

Days 5-8: from Wednesday 21 August to Saturday 24 August

Zambezi (Likumbi Lya Mize Festival)

Breakfast at the hotel. Four days dedicated to participation in the LIKUMBI LYA MIZE MASK FESTIVAL. Lunches, dinners and overnight stays at Mbingilaa Lodge or similar.

Day 9: Sunday 25 August

Zambezi/Kafue Park

Breakfast at the hotel. Transfer to KAFUE PARK, lunch in a restaurant en route. Accommodation at McBrides Camp and overnight in double rooms with private facilities.



Day 10: Monday 26 August

Kafue Park

A day dedicated to SAFARI PHOTOGRAPHY IN KAFUE PARK. The 22,000 square kilometre Kafue National Park is Zambia's main national park and among the largest in the whole of Africa. This immense protected area is still little explored in its entirety and little visited by safaris, although it offers incredible and varied opportunities for sightings on its territory. Its environmental variety ranges from vast expanses of savannah, to rocky areas, from swampy areas to miombo and mopane forests, and river scenery along the course of the Kafue River. One of the areas most frequented by wildlife is the Busanga Swamp, on the edge of the swamp areas, where hundreds of elephants, buffalo, wildebeest, lechwe antelopes, lions and leopards congregate in the driest season. Breakfast at the hotel, lunch box and overnight stay at the hotel.

Day 11: Tuesday 27 August

Kafue Park/Lusaka

Breakfast at the hotel. Transfer day to the capital, lunch in a local restaurant on the way. Accommodation at Wild Dogs Lodge or similar and overnight in double rooms with private facilities.

Day 12: Wednesday 28 August

Lusaka/Flight

Breakfast at the hotel. Depending on the flight schedule, time is available for additional sightseeing in Lusaka. Transfer to the airport for the return flight. End of services.

Day 13: Thursday 29 August

Return flight

Arrival at the destination airport.

