



VICTORIA FALLS | LIVINGSTONE | ZAMBIA

Maramba River Lodge

Newsletter 2

January 2009

Following peaceful elections on October 30th 2008, His Excellency Rupiah Bwezani Banda was elected President of Zambia. African regional election observers from SADC (Southern African Development Community) have said the poll was free and fair.

In December The President said his administration is working hard to enhance the tourism policy framework in an effort to promote growth of the industry.

Where is Maramba River Lodge?

4K from the Victoria Falls in the Mosi-oa-Tunya National Park

Contact Details?

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**P.O.Box 60975, Livingstone,
Zambia**

Important news re Visas

Visa rates have now been reduced .

Single entry (3 months) \$50 Available at place of entry

Double/Multiple entry \$80 Available at Zambian Missions abroad

Day Tripper \$20 For further details [visa go to www.zambianimmigration.gov.zm](http://www.zambianimmigration.gov.zm)

An elephant feeding in the Lodge grounds



Thoughts about Maramba River Lodge

I have been coming each year to Maramba River Lodge since 2001 when it hosted a crowd of enthusiastic Total Eclipse watchers from Denmark. The Lodge has evolved and improved during this period almost beyond recognition, yet still retains a certain rustic charm

and gives the visitor a truly African experience. It is the nearest Lodge (4K) to the awe inspiring Victoria Falls which is indeed a Wonder of The World and when they are in full spate you can hear their roar as you lie in bed at night. That is not the only sound of the night – hippos in the river make their presence felt, frogs croak around the natural style pool, tiny bush babies cry out in the abundant shady trees and cicadas orchestrate their nightly concert.

Since my last visit, the new Restaurant on the banks of the river has opened and also a spacious comfortable Lounge to while away the time between activities, or simply to chill out as they say.

I must admit I haven't done all the activities (arranged for you at Reception) baulking at the Bungee jumping from the Falls bridge and the white water rafting, but I have micro lighted over the Falls (magic and I have photos to prove it) and swam in the Devil's Pool on the edge of the Falls following breakfast on Livingstone Island. This latter experience was one of the most memorable of my life!

As I am interested in the history of African exploration, this Lodge is an ideal base to visit the Livingstone Museum, the Railway Museum, the Old Drift Cemetery in the Mosi oa Tunya Game Park and other interesting places.

I would recommend Maramba River Lodge to anyone – oh yes. I forgot to say that elephants pass through the attractive grounds of the Lodge now and then !(see photo) They are coming more often because of poaching in Zimbabwe.

Priscilla Hannam, Devon, England

Further Travel news:-

- Coming from Lusaka by road – Renovations that began on the Livingstone /Zimba stretch are progressing slowly due to the rainy season
- Coming from Nambia. The new Immigration/Customs Post is being built on the border at Sesheke should be completed this quarter and will speed up the entry to and exit from Zambia.

The Victoria Falls are most impressive at this time, though the thick spray may impede viewing of the intricate rock formations and gorges. Rainbows are abundant with Lunar rainbows at Full Moon.

Weather from January to March:-

Average temperature:- Day 29C(89F) Night 18C(65F)

Rainfall:- Jan 18.0cm Feb 17.0 cm March 10.0cm

Humidity Jan 73% Feb 77% March 69%



Exchange Rates :-US\$ = 4,775KW, UK£= 6,997KW, Euro= 6,619KW, ZAR =505KW

Recent comments from the Guest Book:-

- *Fantastic place to unwind and enjoy the beauty of Zambia.* Beirmont family (USA)
- *Beautiful!! Great Hippos!! Loved our stay.* Chad & Julie Lebold (Canada)
- *Paradise on Earth.* Lotte Hueisal (Denmark)
- *Tranquil and very beautiful, very helpful and friendly staff. Thank you.* Chris and Jane Harker (South Africa)

Information on Whitewater Rafting

High water rafting has started. Initially high water rafting will run from rapid 7b through to rapid 25, thereafter when the water rises even more it will start from rapid 10 through to rapid 25.

Clients will need to walk down the gorge at both put in points (rapid 7b and rapid 10) but will then be able to get the Jet Extreme Cable Car out of the gorge at rapid 25, which saves them that tricky and steep walk out of the gorge!! The cost of High water rafting is \$130pp.

****Have you heard of the LWIINDE CEREMONY? Every year in February, the chief of the Toka-Leya leads his people down to the whirlpools and spray of the gorge by the Falls, where they offer sacrifices to their ancestors in thanks for the rain. The ceremony is accompanied by traditional dances and rituals.**

The Toka-Leya live in the Livingstone District.

****Also in February, a Canadian Theatrical Group will be performing at the refurbished Capitol Theatre in Livingstone. This Theatre was built in 1931, and Alfred Hitchcock stayed with its owner in the 1950's . It is hoped that this Theatre will become an important focus to both tourists and locals.**

ADVANCED INFORMATION:- Watch out for The Livingstone Festival coming in August

This Festival showcases Zambian talent in all areas of art as well as featuring acts from abroad

For new rates at the Lodge from January 16th, 2009 please check the Web site or contact us

