

GENERAL INFORMATION



General Information on Hwange National Park

Hwange National Park is Zimbabwe's largest and most iconic game reserve, offering an unforgettable wilderness experience and exceptional game viewing—particularly during the dry season from **June to October**.

Seasons & Wildlife Viewing



During the dry winter months, wildlife gathers in large numbers around waterholes, making it the prime time for game drives and photography. The **rainy season** from **November to March** transforms the park into a lush green haven, ideal for **birdwatching**, though wildlife is more dispersed due to the abundance of natural water sources and dense vegetation.

Birding is excellent year-round, with nearly **400 recorded species**, including numerous migratory birds in the wet season.

Park Safety & Regulations

Crime within Hwange National Park is virtually non-existent. However, guests must remember that this is a **Big Five** reserve, with wildlife roaming freely. Please observe all **National Parks rules and safety guidelines** at all times.

While the park staff and attendants are known for their warm hospitality and willingness to assist, your safety ultimately depends on respecting the animals' space and understanding that **you are in their domain**.

For your convenience, we provide a list of basic do's and don'ts; however, all visitors must ensure they are familiar with and adhere to all official park regulations.

About Hwange National Park

Named after a local Nhanzwa chief, **Hwange** occupies approximately **15,000 km²** in the northwestern corner of Zimbabwe, just south of the world-famous **Victoria Falls**. Originally the royal hunting grounds of **King Mzilikazi**, the park was proclaimed a National Park in **1929**.

Home to over **100 species of mammals**, Hwange is especially renowned for its **elephant population**, one of the largest in the world. Lions, leopards, buffalo, painted dogs, sable, roan antelope, and cheetahs also call this vast wilderness home.

The park is divided into three administrative areas: **Robins**, **Sinamatella**, and **Main Camp**.



Kapula Private Camp is located in the **northern section**, approximately **20 km south of Sinamatella**, adjacent to the scenic **Masuma Dam picnic site**, a popular wildlife-viewing area.

Accessibility & Travel Tips

- **Road Access:** In the dry season (May to October), roads are generally accessible to high-clearance vehicles. During the rainy season (November to March), **4x4 vehicles are strongly recommended**, as roads can become muddy and slippery.
- **Fuel:** There are **no fuel stations** inside the park. Please ensure you fill up before entering. The nearest fuel is available at:
 - Hwange Town (near Main Camp)
 - Pandamatenga (Botswana)
- **Supplies:** While basic items may be available at **Main Camp**, we strongly recommend guests bring **all necessary provisions**, especially if staying at remote camps like Kapula. The closest town with shops is **Hwange**, approximately **50 km from Sinamatella**.

Kapula's Ideal Location in the Tourism Hub

Kapula is perfectly situated within the Victoria Falls / Kasane / Kariba tourism corridor, making it a convenient stopover or base for exploring several iconic destinations:

- Mana Pools, Chizarira, and Matusadona National Parks via Binga, Milibizi, and Kariba
- Zambia's tourism hubs via Victoria Falls and Livingstone
- Botswana's wilderness regions including Chobe, Savuti, and the Okavango Delta
- Or simply stay and explore the diverse offerings within **Hwange National Park**

Conservation Fees

- Conservation fees are payable directly to the **Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority (ZimParks)** upon entry. Visitors must check in at the appropriate office on arrival.
- For the latest rates, please visit: <https://www.zimparks.org.zw/>

Seasons Overview & Vehicle Recommendations

Season	Description	Vehicle Recommendation
Dry Season	July – October (Best game viewing)	High-clearance or 4x4 recommended
Rainy Season	November – March (lush, great birding)	4x4 vehicle required
Cold Season	June – August	High-clearance vehicle recommended
Hot / Wet Season	October – January	4x4 recommended

Kapula Camp... experience the Best of Hwange from Kapula

Kapula General Information

Nestled in the heart of Zimbabwe's Hwange National Park, Kapula offers guests an unforgettable safari experience. This Big Five area is a wildlife haven, particularly during the dry winter months from **June to October**, when large herds of elephant and buffalo frequent the waterholes, lions roar through the night, and game sightings are abundant. In the **green season (November to May)**, the park transforms into a birdwatcher's paradise, with lush scenery and exceptional birding opportunities.



Kapula's prime location places it adjacent to the renowned **Masuma Dam picnic site**, with stunning views over the **Kapula Vlei** from the large game viewing deck at the main building. Whether you're enjoying peaceful moments in camp or exploring the surrounding wilderness, Kapula is your gateway to Hwange's untamed beauty.

Our friendly and experienced staff are committed to ensuring your stay is as comfortable and memorable as possible, delivering warm African hospitality in a truly wild setting.

Getting There

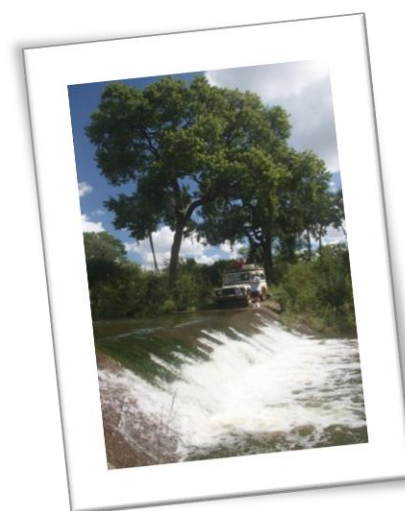
We recommend printing the **Kapula Concession Map** from our website before travel. If needed, assistance is available from the **Masuma Dam Camp Attendant**. Kapula is located approximately **3 km from Masuma Dam**.

From Botswana via Pandamatenga Border Post:

- Distance: 102 km (approx. 3.5 hours on gravel road)
- Guests must check in and pay Park fees at **Robins Camp** before proceeding. Robins Camp also offers meals, drinks, and accommodation.

From Victoria Falls / Livingstone:

- Travel south on the A8 tar road to **Hwange Town** (approx. 100 km, at present the road is not in good condition and we would suggest that visitors from Vic Falls go via Robins Camp to Kapula)
- Refuel and stock up on supplies in Hwange Town
- Travel 40 km on a dirt road to **Sinamatella Camp** (approx. 1 hour)
- Check in and pay Park fees at **Sinamatella**, then continue **28 km (approx. 1 hour)** via Mandavu and Masuma Dams to Kapula



From Bulawayo:

- Travel north on the A8 for approx. 254 km (This road is presently not in good condition)
- Turn left toward **Main Camp**, check in and pay Park fees
- Continue 95 km on gravel road to Kapula via Guvalala and Shumba platforms (approx. 3.5 hours)

Points of Interest

- **Kapula to Masuma Dam:** Excellent for game viewing; ideal for sundowners
- **Mandavu, Deteema, and Shumba Picnic Sites:** Highly recommended day drives



Accommodation Overview

Kapula consists of multiple unique self-catering options designed to suit a variety of preferences and group sizes. All camps are **solar powered**, with a **diesel generator** backup. Basic fans are provided in tents; however, appliances such as hairdryers are not supported.

Charging facilities are available at main buildings for cameras, phones, and laptops. A satellite phone is available for emergency use (additional charge applies).

North Camp

- Four large executive-style safari tents, each with panoramic views over the vlei
- Each suite has either king or twin beds, en-suite bathroom, and mosquito nets
- Children can be accommodated on stretchers
- Shared main building includes a kitchen (gas stove, 2 fridges, freezer), lounge, dining area, deck, and firepit
- Two parties may share North Camp (N1/N2 or N3/N4), or the entire camp can be booked exclusively



South Camp

- Located 450m from North Camp
- Four smaller en-suite safari tents on ground-level concrete platforms
- Shared kitchen tent (fridge, deep freezer, two 2-plate gas stoves, full kitchenware)
- Central viewing platform with views over Kapula Vlei and waterhole



Jackalberry Camp

- Elevated tented suite with panoramic vlei views
- Sleeps 2 adults + 2 children (king/twin + two single beds)
- En-suite bathroom, mini-kitchen (gas stove, fridge, essentials)





Little Kapula

- Private camp 350m southeast of South Camp under large Mopani and Leadwood trees
- Two elegant tented suites with king/twin bed options and stretchers for children
- Each with en-suite bathroom
- Main building with kitchen (gas stove, fridge/freezer), open-plan lounge, dining area, and deck overlooking the vlei.

The Platform

- 3 km north of Main Camp for maximum exclusivity
- Queen bed on upper viewing deck
- Ground-floor room with two single beds next to bathroom
- Separate tent with queen bed and open-air bathroom 10m away
- Fully equipped kitchen (2 fridges, gas stove, crockery)
- Facility is not serviced daily; it is fully prepared before guest arrival
- Waterhole just 20m from the platform with excellent game viewing



What to Bring

- All food and beverages, personal toiletries and effects
- Sturdy vehicle (high clearance required; 4x4 recommended in wet season)

For bookings, maps, and more information, please visit our website or contact the Kapula team directly.

Meals

Kapula Lodge is a self-catering establishment. Guests are kindly reminded to bring all required food and beverages for the duration of their stay. While our staff are not trained chefs, they are more than capable of assisting with the preparation of basic meals. Any such arrangements should be discussed directly with the staff upon arrival. Our team is always willing to help where possible to ensure a comfortable stay.

Daily housekeeping, maintenance of the main building, and servicing of the accommodation units are handled by our dedicated staff.

Activities

Enjoy the privilege of watching wildlife from the comfort of your private tent deck—elephants, buffalo, and plains game regularly pass through the Kapula concession. During full moon nights in the dry season, game viewing can continue well into the night, with magical sightings by moonlight.



Guests may also book **guided walking safaris** directly with the National Parks Office at an additional cost. These offer an incredible opportunity to explore the bush on foot and connect with nature in a more intimate way.

Being in close proximity to **Masuma Dam Picnic Site**, guests are encouraged to make use of the National Park's hide and viewing platform—perfect for sundowners and late afternoon game viewing. Kapula is located just **2 km** from Masuma and provides easy access to this scenic and wildlife-rich area.

The central location within Hwange National Park allows guests to explore a wide network of game drive roads and scenic picnic sites. For those with a 4x4, Kapula also has **private concession tracks**, offering an exclusive adventure through untamed terrain.



Health Advisory: Malaria

Please be aware that Kapula lies within a **malaria zone**. All guests are strongly advised to take appropriate **precautionary measures**, including consulting a medical professional before travel.



Guest Safety

Kapula Lodge is **unfenced** and situated in **Big Five territory**, meaning wildlife may pass through the camp at any time. We urge all guests to exercise **extreme caution**, especially after dark. Vehicle access is available directly to all tents and the main building. Guests must use vehicles for transfers between tents and communal areas after sunset.

Insurance

All guests are **strongly advised** to obtain comprehensive **travel and emergency evacuation insurance** before arrival. This should cover any unexpected medical emergencies, including evacuation due to illness or accident.

The nearest medical facility is located in **Hwange Town**. Please note that it is a rural hospital with **limited services**.

For any further information or assistance, please don't hesitate to reach out to the Kapula team prior to your arrival.

