Zambia

Southern endemics extension

April to November (6 days)

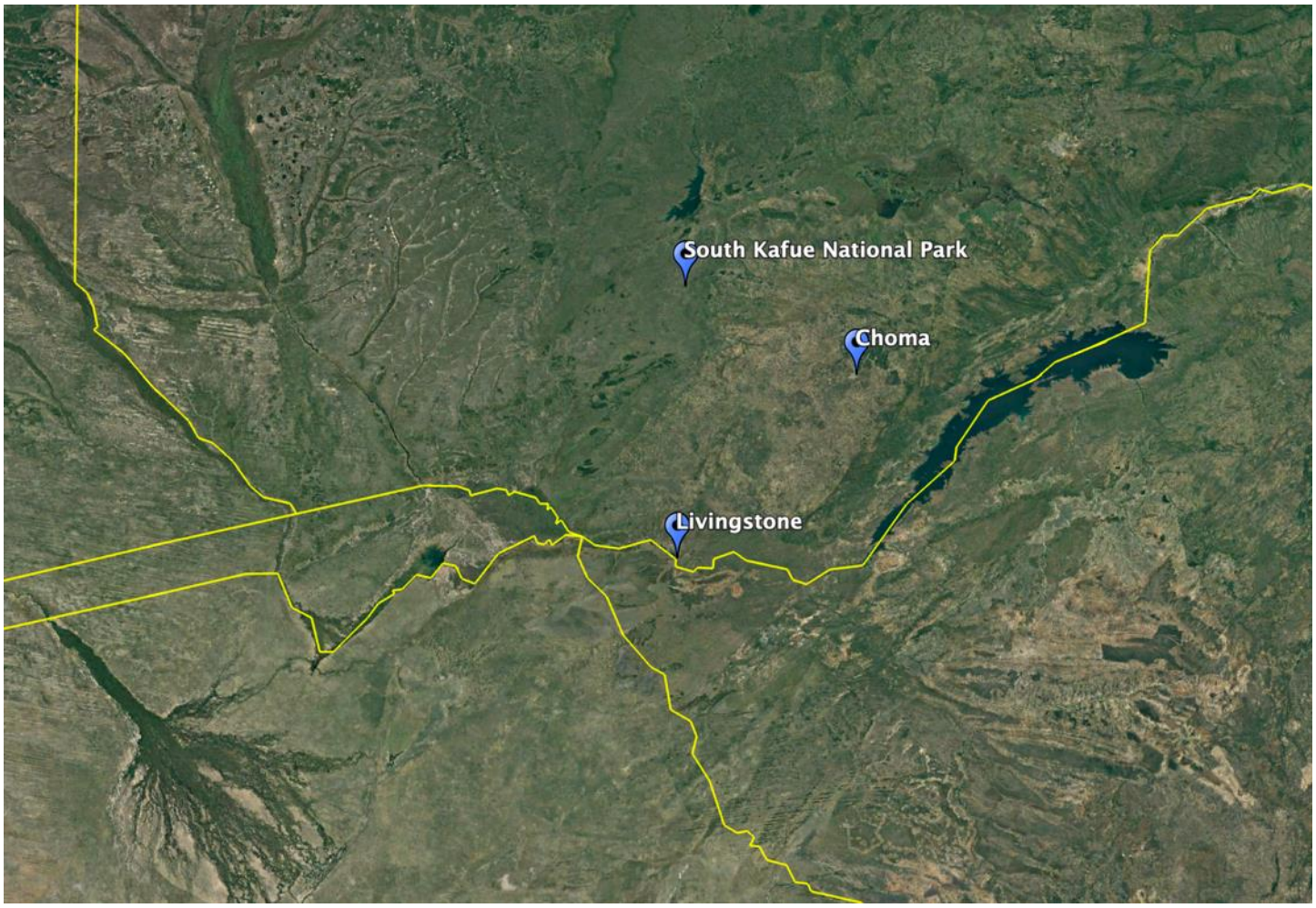


Black-cheeked Lovebird by Daniel Danckwerts

Zambia is often neglected as a birding destination in Africa, and yet it boasts some of the most extensive tracts of pristine wilderness in Africa supporting an almost unparalleled diversity of mammals and well over 700 species of birds including at least two fabulous endemics (the Black-cheeked Lovebird and Chaplin's Barbet). This exciting tour focusses on two sites in the southern part of the country, namely the Nkanga River Conservation Area and the immense Kafue National Park. These two sites will afford you the opportunity to see both of Zambia's endemic birds as well as a host of other highly sought-after Central African species including the African Spotted Creeper, Southern and Yellow-bellied Hyliotas, Racket-tailed Roller, Shelley's Sunbird, Fülleborn's Longlcaw, and Dickinson's Kestrel to name a few. Mammal highlights include distinct chances for Serval, Lion, Cheetah, African Wild Dog, Leopard, both the Sable and Roan Antelopes, Southern Reedbuck, and Hartebeest to name a few.

Itinerary & Map

Day 1	**Arrival in Livingstone and continue to Choma**
Day 2	**Birding the Nkanga River Conservation Area**
Day 3	**Choma to the south Kafue National Park**
Day 4	**Full day to explore the South Kafue National Park**
Day 5	**South Kafue National Park to Livingstone**
Day 6	**Final departures from Livingstone**



Detailed Itinerary



Chaplin's Barbet by Daniel Danckwerts

Livingstone. Situated immediately on the Zambia-side of the incredible Victoria Falls, the town of Livingstone supports a wealth of different habitats that in turn play host to an excellent diversity of birds and mammals. Forested environs closer to the mighty Zambezi River support the Schalow's Turaco, Natal Spurfowl, Trumpeter Hornbill, African Emerald Cuckoo, Bearded Scrub Robin, Tropical Boubou and the spectacular Red-throated Twinspot. We will scan the river for the Rock Pratincole, White-crowned Lapwing, lazing Nile Crocodile, and pods of noisy Hippopotamus. Upstream of the falls, we will search several small tributaries for the African Finfoot, Half-collared Kingfisher, Allen's Gallinule, Dickinson's Kestrel, Cut-throat Finch, White-browed Robin-chat, Red-faced Cisticola and Collared Palm-thrush. In the summer months, one also has an excellent chance of Allen's Gallinule and a few overwinter. Mammals abound throughout this area and there is a distinct possibility of seeing free-roaming African Elephants, African Buffalo, and Bushbuck.

Choma area. The Choma region is famous within birding circles for two key reasons. First, it is perhaps the most accessible site anywhere in Zambia to search for the endemic Chaplin's Barbet. This species is an obligate forager on Sycamore Figs and can only be found in areas where mature trees abound. The trees are somewhat unique in that each species has its own fruiting regime, thereby ensuring fair seed dispersal and keeping the barbets well-fed throughout the year. The second reason is that the Choma district once held the record for the highest number of species to be seen within a 24-hour period. There is superb birding to be had in the immediate

Nkanga River Conservation Area. We have a full day to explore the Nkanga River Conservation area, situated some 20km from the town of Choma. There, we will explore a range of different habitats including mature miombo woodland, rich marshes that are nourished throughout the year by volcanic springs, extensive grassland and savannahs, and open water bodies. The highlight here will no doubt be the Chaplin's Barbet, a species that we will search for in the early mornings when the birds perch conspicuously at the



Racket-tailed Roller by Daniel Danckwerts



Red-throated Twinspot by Daniel Danckwerts

tops of trees sunning themselves. In the surrounding grasslands we hope to find the widespread Sooty Chat, Rufous-naped Lark, White-winged and Yellow-mantled Widowbirds, and a host of cisticolas the Croaking, Rattling, Zitting, and Red-faced. The thornveld savannahs may yield the Greater Blue-eared Starling, Burnt-necked Eremomela, Orange-breasted Bushshrike, Black Cuckooshrike, and both the Bearded and Bennett's Woodpeckers. In the miombo, we will endeavour to find the rare Miombo Pied Barbet, Shelley's Sunbird, Yellow-bellied and Southern Hyliotas, African Spotted Creeper, Racket-tailed Roller, Souza's Shrike, Miombo and Rufous-bellied Tits, Black-eared and Reichard's Seedeaters, Orange-winged Pytilia, Broad-tailed Paradise Whydah, Cabanis's Bunting. Our birding will also take us to numerous wetlands and open water bodies where we hope to see the African Pygmy Goose, Knob-billed and White-faced Whistling Ducks, Lesser and African Jacanas, African Wattled Lapwing, African Snipe, and Malachite Kingfisher while the riverine forests and flowing rivers may yield the African Finfoot, Verreaux's Eagle-owl, Red-throated Twinspot, Black-and-white Mannikin, African Broadbill, Purple-banded Sunbird, Schalow's Turaco, and Narina Trogon. In the summer months (October through April), if we are extremely fortunate, we may even find a host of rare migratory rallids including the mythical Streaky-breasted Flufftail and both the Striped and Corn Crake.

South Kafue National Park. Driving north from Choma, we will enter the extensive mosaic of rich grasslands and Mopane Woodlands that form the Kafue National Park. This is Zambia's largest national park covering an immense area of 22,400Km^2 (8,650mi^2) and making up 25% of the world's largest transboundary conservation areas forming a part of the Kavango-Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area. The park itself supports the highest diversity of mammals of any national park in Africa and plays host to around 515 bird species, 70 reptiles, 58 fish and 36 amphibians. Top among these and a primary target for us will be the endemic Black-cheeked Lovebird, one of the most range-restricted parrots in the world with a total extent of occurrence of under 17,000km^2. We can expect to see large numbers of these colourful birds as they drink routinely each morning and afternoon at a few well-known sites. Other targets in the park will include the Arnot's Chat, Racket-tailed Roller, Fülleborn's and Rosy-throated Longclaws, Wattled



Wattled Crane by Daniel Danckwerts

Crane, Saddle-billed Stork, chances for the rare Slaty Egret, Rufous-bellied Heron, Red-capped Crombec, Pale-billed Hornbill, Böhm's Spinetail, Luapula Cisticola, and Dickinson's Kestrel. Mammal sightings could include the African Wild Dog, Cheetah, Lion, Leopard, Serval, both the Roan and Sable Antelopes, Greater Kudu, Bushbuck, Sharpe's Grysbok, and a host of scarcely seen nocturnal mammals.

Tour Grading & Key

Overall Ease		Birding is undemanding but some long travel days.
Birding Ease		One of the most enjoyable & prolific birding destinations in the Africa. Many species are approachable & provide good visuals in open conditions.
Accommodation		Comfortable throughout.
Walking / Trails		Mostly short walks on flat ground. Predominantly roadside birding or birding in open woodland habitats.
Vehicles / Roads		4x4 style vehicles. Numerous long drives lasting 4-5 hours each. Unsealed roads are variable, sealed roads may have potholes & livestock. Dust is prevalent.
Photography		Good to excellent. No dedicated hides. Many species are approachable, habitat & lighting are often conducive.
Annoyances		Temperatures can be hot, dust is prevalent in some areas, and Tsetse flies are present though are localized in Kafue National Park.

Financial Arrangements and Important Notes

This tour is made available through our Tailor-made tours department. To explore this offering further for pricing, precise day to day itinerary, inclusions & exclusions, or to tailor the tour to your personal requirements, please contact our Tailor-made team on tailormade@rockjumper.com

- **Due to constantly fluctuating exchange rates, we quote our tours in 4 currencies. The tour price is fixed only in the currency printed in bold, and the actual cost in the other currencies listed will be adjusted according to prevailing exchange rates at the time of final invoicing. The same applies to approximate flight and single supplement rates.**
- **Tour prices are subject to unforeseen increases in tour-related costs and may have to be adjusted as a result.**
- **The designated tour leader/s may be changed at short due to unforeseen circumstances.**
- **The itinerary is indicative only. Changes made need to be made to the order in which the tour is conducted, or some of the venues we visit closer to departure. We will attempt to adhere as closely to the original program as possible.**

Arrival and Departure Details

The tour will begin in Livingstone on the morning of Day 1. The tour will conclude in Livingstone at noon on Day 6.

The above information in respect of arrivals and departures is a guide only. Precise arrival and departure information will be sent to you in your Tour Confirmation package once the tour has been officially confirmed. If you wish to arrive early and/or depart late and would like assistance in this regard, kindly contact the Rockjumper office.

Harry Mwanga Nkumbula International Airport, Livingstone (IATA: LVI) is the main port of entry/exit for international flights for this tour and is well-serviced by several major airlines.

Visa requirements differ by country, nationality of the traveller and duration and purpose of your intended stay. It may be necessary to obtain a visa or an electronic travel authorization in advance of your travel. It is therefore vitally important that you check with your travel agent/consulate/embassy for exact visa requirements.

DO NOT book any flights until the Rockjumper Team has officially confirmed the tour.