



TAITA FALCON LODGE

FACT SHEET

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GPS

S 17° 58' 52.6"

E 25° 54' 39.2"



**TAITA FALCON LODGE**

LIVINGSTONE, ZAMBIA

SUN DESTINATIONS



## INTRODUCTION

Nestled above the Zambezi River, overlooking its winding waters and the dramatic cliffs of the Batoka Gorge lies Taita Falcon Lodge. This wilderness retreat is located in the heart of Zambia, downriver from the mighty Victoria Falls. This secluded lodge has a total of 7 en-suite chalets all of which are designed and built using local materials, with stones from the gorge and reeds from the river. Each chalet is named after a bird of prey that can be seen soaring the skies. Décor is simple, yet stylish, with hints of handmade crafts and natural features, keeping in tune with its wilderness surrounds. The lodge itself was designed to showcase the dramatic views that surround it, with its vast viewing platform, open-air bar and lounge perched over the sheer cliffs, it's the perfect place to sit and take in Zambia's scenic vistas. Winding stone lined pathways lead the way through the grounds from the main lodge, bar, pool and boma area around to the secluded chalets.

There are various walks to explore the gorge and the indigenous forests, where ancient mopanis, white seringas, marulas, leadwoods and African star chestnuts dot the diverse landscape. Beyond the lodge there are a vast array of activities to suit everyone, from thrill seekers to wildlife lovers. Experience the falls in all its wonder on foot, on the water and even from the air, there are more ways than one to discover this part of wild Zambia.

## AT A GLANCE & LODGE FACILITIES

- The lodge is located 11km from the mighty Victoria Falls, a 20km drive from the town of Livingstone.
- Perched on the sheer cliff edge, 230 meters above the Zambezi River, and overlooks the dramatic Batoka Gorge.
- There are a total of 7 en-suite chalets all of which have their own secluded sun garden, outdoor shower and seating area, private lounge, stone bathroom and indoor shower, mosquito net, fan, toiletries, safety box, luggage and wardrobe area.
- Accommodating up to 18 people, depending on bed configurations. Taita is an intimate Zambian retreat.
- Double, Twin & Family rooms available.
- Shuttle service & Airport pick-up available on request (Additional Charge)
- An ideal base to explore the falls and the many activities that are available in the area.
- Owners Faan & Anmarie Fourie run and manage the lodge.
- In the winter months, hot water bottles are put in the beds in the evening and in the summer, mosquito coils are lit in the rooms.
- Daily turnaround service & laundry is available.
- Limited Wi-Fi available at the main lodge. (During certain times of the day)

“PERCHED OVER THE SHEER CLIFFS IT'S THE PERFECT PLACE TO SIT AND TAKE IN ZAMBIA'S SCENIC VISTAS”

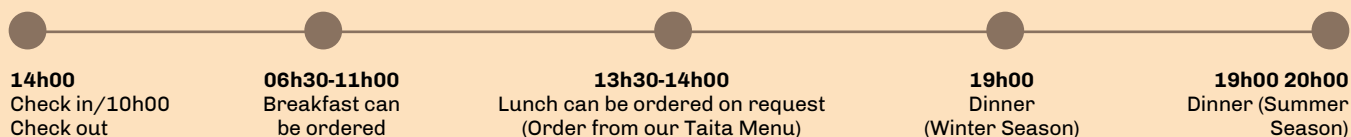
- Swimming pool and sun loungers surrounded by the Taita gardens.
- The Taita Viewing deck – showcasing the dramatic views that lie before the lodge, it's an ideal place to take in the panoramic vistas and bird-watch.
- Natural décor throughout, winding stone pathways lead the way around the lodge grounds, which are lit up with lanterns in the evening.
- If the weather permits most meals are served on the viewing deck which towers over the Batoka Gorge. In winter Mbola fires are lit in the indoor dining area.
- Classic boma area where dinner around the fire is sometimes served.
- The Taita Bar – A place to share drinks and stories before dinner.
- Cuisine consists of good home cooked dishes with an African twist.
- Breakfast – A cold breakfast buffet is prepared and there is also a hot breakfast option available to order after.
- Lunch – If you're not out on an activity, order from our Taita menu and enjoy a light lunch on the viewing deck overlooking the flowing waters below.
- Dinner – A three-course meal is prepared for dinner consisting of hearty and delicious dishes. The chef's also bake their own homemade bread which always goes down a treat at the dinner table.





## A TYPICAL DAY AT TAITA FALCON LODGE

Daily schedules change according to what guests have planned or pre-booked for the duration of their stay. A typical day at Taita Falcon will include a leisurely breakfast, a light lunch (if not out on an activity) and a three-course meal on the viewing deck. (The full board rate includes all meals and the half board rate includes breakfast and dinner.) The day is at your leisure, if you are not booked onto any activities, spent time by the pool, taking in the views with a drink on the deck, hike one of the trails or simply read in your secluded garden. The only structured time is for the evening meal.



Timings are not set in stone and we can adapt timings to the guests needs. Tea & coffee can be ordered the evening before to be delivered to your room in the morning.

- Bird-watching – look out for the many species of birds, including a variety of raptors that flutter throughout the camp and soar the surrounding skies.
- Walking Trail from the lodge that takes you through ancient indigenous forests and down 230m into the dramatic gorge, next to the Zambezi River rapids.
- Located above rapids 16 & 17, watch in the morning as the white-water rafters tackle the swirling waters below.
- The lodge electricity runs on a generator system and is on between 18h00 to around 22h30 at night, however the generator can be started on request if needed.
- All rooms run on solar power and have solar lights.
- It is best to charge any devices or batteries at the bar during the times that the generator is on and if really needed during the day the inverter can also be switched on.



## ACTIVITIES

Taita Falcon Lodge is an ideal base to explore the falls and experience the many activities offered in the area. Some excursions will include a pick-up from the lodge however we also offer a shuttle service at an additional charge and recommend combining a few activities in a day before returning back to the lodge in the evening.

We've included a list of popular activities below:

- Victoria Falls Tour (Zambia & Zimbabwe)
- Cultural Village Tour
- Walking Safari
- Livingstone Tour
- River Cruises
- Canoeing Safaris
- Game Drives / Wildlife Viewing
- River Boat Safari
- The Elephant Café
- The Floating Restaurant
- Zambezi River Fishing
- Helicopter Flight
- Micro Light Flight
- White Water Rafting
- Jet Boat Ride
- Abseiling & Gorge Swing
- Vic Falls Bungee jump
- High-Tea on Livingstone Island
- Livingstone Express
- Tram Bridge Tour
- Chobe Day-Trip (Safari)
- Quad-Biking

Some activities are best booked prior to arrival, especially in peak season but most can be arranged during your stay. Contact reservations for a full price list as we can also recommend combinations that can be done in the same day to save on transfers.



## LOCATION & DIRECTIONS

Taita is located in the heart of Zambia, downriver from the mighty Victoria Falls and a short drive from the vibrant town of Livingstone. The nearest airport is just outside Livingstone and from there it's a 45minute drive to Taita Falcon. We have an airport shuttle service available which needs to be pre booked prior to arrival. There is also helicopter pad on site and if self-driving the directions are as follows:

- From the airport head towards the main town of Livingstone which is approximately 5km
- Turn right once you reach the main Livingstone road (Mosi-o-Tunya)
- Drive 9km outside of town until you see a left turnoff and sign saying Taita Falcon Lodge.
- Drive over the railway line and turn right at the large Baobab lookout tree.
- From the turnoff it's approximately 11km to the lodge and is well signposted through the Songwe village and indigenous forest.



The lodge is approximately 45minute drive from Livingstone and is well signposted from the main Livingstone/Victoria Falls road. Access by road requires a high clearance vehicle as the last 11km of the road is a dirt road and is a slow drive through the bush. You can fly directly into Livingstone Airport from Johannesburg, Lusaka, and other regional centers. Scheduled and chartered airlines fly into Livingstone, including British Airways, South African Airways, Air Kenya (Via Nairobi to Cape Town), S.A Air-link from Nelspruit. Alternatively, scheduled and charter airlines also fly into Victoria Falls Airport (over the border in Zimbabwe) so note that additional transfer charges apply and you'll need Zimbabwean visa or Kaza Visa for most nationalities.

## GPS COORDINATES

S17°58'52.6" E025°54'39.2"

## CHILD POLICY

Children of all ages are welcome here at Taita Falcon, please note the lodge is not toddler friendly with its sheer cliff edge and un-fenced pool area. Children must be accompanied by an adult at all times.

## GENERAL TRAVEL INFO

### WEATHER, FALLS & WHEN TO GO

One of the most iconic Natural Wonders of the world is Victoria Falls, known locally as Mosi-oa-Tunya translating into 'The Smoke That Thunders'. Whilst exploring this unique land back in 1852 and 1856, Dr. David Livingstone named the falls after the reigning British monarch at the time; Queen Victoria. This UNESCO World Heritage Site has the largest curtain of falling water in the world, over 1708 m wide and up to 500 million liters of water cascades over the basalt rocks per minute at certain times of the year. There are 8 spectacular gorges that the water flows over and there are several islands in the core zone that serve as breeding sites for endangered and migratory bird species, including the Taita Falcon.

### DECEMBER - MARCH

Better known as the 'Emerald Season' these are the rainy months around Livingstone and also the height of summer. The mighty Zambezi River will slowly start rising from January and the falls itself will begin to pick up in power. Dramatic thunderstorms are present some afternoons. The weather is hot and humid, with temperatures reaching well over 30 °C in the daytime. The white-water rafting season usually closes around February due to high water levels and the famous Livingstone Island and Devil's Pool often close in January/February due to the dangerously high water levels.

### APRIL – JUNE

The Falls is at its fullest at this time of the year. This is also the only time of year that the Lunar Rainbow can be viewed at its best. The spectacle lasts from sunset to sunrise and is one of Africa's best kept secrets. During these months the Zambezi is in flood and the Falls are at their most magnificent however visibility on foot from some of the lookouts can be limited by the abundance of spray and mist. Temperatures during the day are warm at 25-30 °C. This is also the best time for a helicopter flight over the falls.

### JULY – AUGUST

These months bring the peak season in Zambia, with lower water levels and less spray allowing for excellent visibility of the mighty falls. Activities such as Livingstone Island, rafting



and devil's pools open again as soon as the water drops. Although this is peak wintertime, you can expect warm and sunny days 20-28 °C, but it's best to bring warm layers for the cool evening temperatures. These are also prime game viewing months nearby the Chobe National Park, Hwange and Mosi-o-Tunya.

**SEPTEMBER – NOVEMBER**

These months mark the end of the dry season and this is when the falls are at their lowest, drying up to reveal the intricate rock formations. However, there is still excellent visibility from the Zimbabwe side where day trips and falls visits can be arranged from the lodge. This time of year is perfect for white-water river rafting and the Livingstone Island and is best booked in advance. The weather is very hot, averaging at around 35-40 °C. The game viewing is fantastic along Chobe River and its surrounds and in late October/November, the landscape starts to transform from an arid and golden land to a luscious green oasis.

**VISAS**

Most countries' residents visiting Zambia will need a VISA upon entry and it can be bought at the border - please enquire if not sure as some countries have to get their visas from the Zambian Embassy in their country. Single entry will cost US\$50 and double entry visa US\$80 (needed if you want to go to Zimbabwe or Botswana and back to Zambia). The Kaza UNIVISA, (cost US\$50) and is valid for a month between both Zambia and Zimbabwe and can also be used once for a day visit into Chobe, Botswana.

**MALARIA & HEALTH**

Before travelling, guests are encouraged to consult their local doctor on anti-malarial medication and vaccinations in preparation for their visit to Zambia. Insect repellent should also be utilized during your stay. A doctor's surgery is available in Livingstone and Taita Falcon Lodge is a member of an immediate medi-vac scheme for all of our clients provided they have their own travel insurance.

**WHAT TO PACK**

For any overseas adventure it's good to be prepared for all weather changes and activities. We've put together a rough guide of what we recommend to pack for your African Adventure in Zambia:

- During the summer months, we recommend packing lightweight clothing, comfortable shoes and a light jackets.
- The winter months bring a cool front so bring warm clothes and layers for when the sun goes down, much needed for those cool evening temperatures at camp at sundowner activities.
- Raincoat (needed if visiting the falls on foot)
- Bring sun protection in the form of sunblock, sun hats, and glasses.
- Swimming costume
- Insect Repellent
- Comfortable walking shoes/hiking shoes/walking sticks
- Waterproof shoes (If joining one of the many falls activities)
- Open sandals for when the weather is hot.
- Cameras & Binoculars
- Adaptor plug
- Device chargers and additional battery's.

**PACK FOR A PURPOSE**

We are proud members of Pack for a Purpose, an initiative that allows travelers like you to make a lasting impact in the community at your travel destination. If you save just a few kilos of space in your suitcase and take supplies for the projects we support in need, you'll make a priceless impact in the lives of our local children and families. Please click here to see what supplies are needed for our project/projects.

