



Zambia Zambezi River Private Rafting

9 Days



The Adventure Company | EST. 1969

MT·SOBEKTM
MOUNTAIN TRAVEL SOBEK

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS
AS THE PIONEER OF ADVENTURE TRAVEL

Zambia Zambezi River Private Rafting

Join us for an iconic and memorable rafting experience on the mighty Zambezi River! Start your adventure with a beautiful sunset cruise to Victoria Falls and a swim in the thrilling Devil's Pool. Then set out for your epic 5-day rafting adventure, navigating famous Class III-V rapids with expert river guides. End your adventure by enjoying a bird's-eye view of the river on an exciting helicopter flight back to Livingstone. This special adventure celebrates Sobek's first rafting descent of the Zambezi back in 1981!

Details

Arrive: Livingstone, Zambia

Depart: Livingstone, Zambia

Duration: 9 Days

Group Size: 14 Guests

Minimum Age: 18 Years Old

Activity Level:



Testimonials

"Great experience every time with some of the most knowledgeable guides in their fields. We always come home with wonderful memories of the people we meet and things we see."

Bob J.

"I've taken six MT Sobek trips and they have all exceeded my expectations. The staff, the food, the logistics and the communications have always been exceptional. Thank you for being my "go to" adventure travel company!"

Margaret I.

GOT QUESTIONS? SPEAK WITH AN EXPERT.

 1-800-974-0300

 info@mtsobek.com

Why Take This Trip With Us?

REASON #01

MT Sobek ran the first descent of the Zambezi River, which for many is considered the most epic river trip in the world.

REASON #02

Our trip has been specially crafted to celebrate the rich wildlife and culture of Africa.

REASON #03

We've been exploring remote destinations since 1969, from the Zambezi River - it's at the cornerstone of what we do.

What to Expect



ACTIVITIES

Scenic canyon rafting, covering 10 to 15 miles per day, with fun, big-volume whitewater stretches.



LODGING

Combination of comfortable hotels/river camps and riverside camping accommodations with tents and sleeping bags provides.



CLIMATE

Expect warm days in September, with temperatures ranging from 85°F to 95°F.

Meet Our Guides

Our expert guides and trip leaders are truly the key to our trips' success. Many are locals who live in-country year-round; others have made it their second home—all are passionate, enthusiastic and endlessly knowledgeable. Meet two of the guides that might be on your trip.

Mandela was raised on a nature reserve at the southernmost point of South Africa, and in the mountains and open plains of Montana. Over her 15-year career as a full-time professional river guide, she has led trips in Montana, Idaho, New Zealand, Morocco, the Grand Canyon and Southern Africa. Mandela also works for the National Wildlife Federation to bring awareness to wildlife conservation, protect public lands, and drive clean water acts. Through films, creative storytelling, and her podcast "The Trail Less Traveled," Mandela brings the many wonders of the outdoors to life.

Mandela Van Eeden

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Itinerary

DAY 1

ARRIVE IN LIVINGSTONE, ZAMBIA

Welcome to Livingstone! Meet your trip leader at the airport and transfer to your beautiful riverside lodge. Enjoy the afternoon unwinding by the pool, enjoying a walking safari, or taking a cultural tour of Mukuni Village — you could even try bungee jumping! Once your entire group has arrived at the lodge, gather for a welcome orientation this evening to learn what's in store on this amazing trip.

DAY 2

EXPERIENCE THE EXHILARATING DEVIL'S POOL

Wake for the experience of a lifetime! Take a thrilling dip in the Devil's Pool, which laps over the edge of Victoria Falls. Float right up to the rock brim for a close-up view of the Zambezi crashing over the cliffs just a few feet away. Enjoy lunch on Livingstone Island before returning to the hotel for an afternoon of active adventure of your choice. As the sun begins to set, meet your group at the riverside dock for your sunset cruise on the upper Zambezi River, upstream of Victoria Falls. Keep an eye out for elephants, hippos, crocodiles and more local wildlife. After the cruise, delight in a gourmet meal at the hotel's riverside restaurant

Activity: 3-hour Devil's Pool morning adventure and afternoon/evening river cruise

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 3

RAFT THE MIGHTY ZAMBEZI

Gear up for your first full day rafting the Zambezi. The put-in is directly below Victoria Falls. You'll emerge from the swirling mists to experience some of the most exciting rafting in the world - for more than 8 spectacular miles. End the day at your riverside camp.

Activity: 8 miles rafting Class III-V

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 4

TACKLE THRILLING BIG DROPS

Wake to a hearty breakfast on the banks of the Zambezi River, then load up for the next stretch of rafting. Today, you'll tackle some of the river's most famous rapids, including Oblivion and Overland Truck Eater. Reach camp in time for sunset and sundowners.

Activity: 12 miles rafting Class III-V

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 5

FLOAT THE SCENIC BATOKA GORGE

The rapids spread out before you on today's stretch, so just sit back and enjoy the scenery and wildlife of the Batoka Gorge before another burst of action. Today's colossal rapids include Closed and Open Season and the Narrows.

Activity: 14 miles rafting Class III-V

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 6

EXPERIENCE THE THUNDER OF MOEMBA

Today you'll feel the thunder of Chimambo Falls and Upper Moemba. As you begin setting up for the next day's portages, camp will be prepared at an impressive location above the 20-foot Lower Moemba waterfall.

Activity: 8 miles rafting Class III-V

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 7

PORTAGE & PROPOSED BATOKA DAM SITE

Wake up to run Upper Moemba, followed by the day's two portages, Lower Moemba Falls and Chibango, several miles downstream. Continue on to tackle Ghost rider after scouting the final rapid — one of the Zambezi's best and named after MT Sobek founder Richard Bangs' memorable run. Pass through the infamous proposed Batoka Dam site before settling in overnight at Ghost rider camp. Tonight, celebrate your run of the epic Zambezi River! We know the wildlife, the river and the people of Africa will stay in your heart after this unforgettable experience.

Activity: 5 miles rafting Class III-V, 2 portages

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 8

RIDE THE HOME STRETCH OF THE ZAMBEZI

Your final day on the river will allow you to bid farewell to your guides as you await the helicopter. After your goodbyes, set off for the scenic 30-minute flight to the top of Victoria Falls. Enjoy your final afternoon in Livingstone, fitting in last-minute local activities or reminiscing about your days on the river.

Activity: Scenic helicopter flight

Meals: B

DAY 9

DEPART FROM LIVINGSTONE, ZAMBIA

After breakfast, transfer to Livingstone Airport for your homeward-bound flight or extend your trip with 4-day safari to Lower Zambezi National Park or South Luangwa National Park. Contact us to add a safari extension to your Zambezi adventure!

Dates

For full terms and conditions please visit www.mtsobek.com/terms. Please note that our itineraries may be subject to change.

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Inclusions & Exclusions

PRICE INCLUDES

- Expertise and services of our experienced adventure guides
- All on river accommodations
- All on river breakfasts, lunch and dinners as noted in the itinerary
- Snacks and water between meals
- Comprehensive Trip Planner with detailed pre-trip information
- Special events and other select attractions as mentioned in the itinerary
- All gratuities for the shuttle company
- Equipment and experienced guides for activities as described in the itinerary
- Baggage transfers and portorage

PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE

- International airfare, airport taxes, and excess baggage fees
- Alcoholic beverages (MT Sobek provides wine at select events)
- Gratuities for MT Sobek guides and guide-drivers
- Travel Protection Program
- Personal expenses
- Any transfers or meals or activities outside the itinerary
- Pre- and post-trip hotel accommodations
- Recommended post trip Safari

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➤ Rafting & Kayaking with MT Sobek

At MT Sobek, we take you to premier wilderness rivers and beautiful island locations to experience some of the most breathtaking rafting and kayaking on the planet. In addition to our world-class guides who offer entertaining experiences, you'll enjoy comfortable camping and delicious meals. Here are the key things that set us apart:

- **Expert Guides** ~ Our professional guides are the best in the business. From the first safety briefing to the final high five, you'll be led by experienced guides who have made trip leading their profession.
- **Small Groups** ~ We are proud of our commitment to small group sizes, which don't exceed 20 guests. Our guide to client ratio on river trips is 1:4.
- **Special Permits** ~ With special permits, we are able to gain access to less-traveled regions, far off the beaten path, including the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and the Salmon-Challis National Forest.
- **Comfortable Camping** ~ After a day of thrills on the river, take it easy as guides cook up tasty meals at your comfortable camp. Enjoy creature comforts in the wilderness!
- **Range of Trip Levels** ~ Our rafting and kayaking trips range from easy to moderate-strenuous, so there is something to suit every level.
- **Sterling Safety Record** ~ We have a sterling safety record on our rafting and kayaking trips and all guests are required to attend mandatory briefings.



Sobek Expeditions was founded in 1973 by Richard Bangs (*left*) and John Yost. Named after the Egyptian River God, Sobek ran more than 40 first descents on some of the world's most famous rivers, including the Bio Bio and the Omo. In 2022, Richard Bangs was named one of the 100 Greatest Explorers of the Last 100 Years by explorersweb.com! Sobek Expeditions will celebrate 50 years of intrepid rafting in 2023.

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➤ A Day on the River

Many guests ask us “what’s a typical day on the river like?” Other than being super fun, here’s what you can expect. On Day 1, you’ll either meet your group and guide in town or on the riverbank, depending on your itinerary. After introductions and a thorough safety briefing, you’ll receive your personal floatation device and step into your raft or kayak. The first stretch of the river is usually gentle and you’ll arrive at camp in the late afternoon. Once you’ve found your tent and settled in, enjoy games and drinks by the river while your guides prepare a delicious dinner. The evening winds down with stories and laughs around the camp fire.

In the morning, awake to the soothing sounds of the river and savor a warm breakfast before setting out for an exhilarating day of rafting and kayaking—led by your expert guiding team. Along the way you’ll have plenty of rest stops and time to explore historic or natural sites along the river’s edge. Then it’s back in the raft for epic rapids and more fun on the water!

River Rafting Terminology



Oar Boat

Classic inflatable raft, equipped with two long oars rowed forward-facing by the guide. Accommodates gear and 2-3 passengers. Perfect for relaxing.



Inflatable Kayak

“Duckies” are your chance to get intimate with the river. Paddle or sit at river level with a double-bladed paddle and be in charge of your own destiny!



Paddle Boat

Up to 6 passengers sit on the perimeter of the raft with legs inside and paddle under the direction of the guide, who sits in the stern of the raft.



Stand-Up Paddleboard

Balance on these surprisingly stable craft, also known as SUP, and propel yourself downstream with a single-bladed paddle.



Gear Boat

Also called the sweep boat, the gear boat carries all the camp necessities, plus all our waste—ensuring that we leave the river as pristine as we found it.



Portage

When rivers become un-navigable, the gear has to be taken out and carried to the next navigable stretch. This is known as portage.

River Rafting Classification

Class I-II Rapids

Sit back and enjoy the scenery. Experience placid river conditions with interspersed wave trains and enjoyable splashes.

Class III-IV Rapids

Things are getting exciting! Begin to see more frequent irregular waves. This level requires a good response to guide commands and efficient team paddling.

Class V Rapids

The highest level of rafting difficulty, likely involving long, continuous rapids. Successful navigation requires great physical fitness and precise paddling.

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SEVEN CONTINENTS.

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