



Rhodesia's
**Matusadona
lake-shore**

A FISH-EAGLE in a long-drowned tree holds a tigerfish firmly in its talons — a scene typical of the Matusadona lake-shore. Here the 1 350-square-kilometre Matusadona National Park sweeps down from its rugged plateau to Lake Kariba, and along the hundreds of kilometres of bays and creeks, where lush lake-shore vegetation faces drowned forests, a unique experience awaits the visitor. Against a backdrop of magnificent scenery a rich and varied wild life — birds and animals — may be seen in undisturbed natural surroundings.



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Sanyati Gorge

The eastern boundary of the Matusadona lake-shore and the Matusadona National Park is marked by one of Lake Kariba's most dramatic natural features — the Sanyati Gorge (main picture above). This was once the narrow valley through which the Sanyati River rushed from the mountains to the now-flooded Zambezi Valley. It is now a winding, fjord-like finger of the lake which is navigable for over 12 kilometres.

To travel deep into this gorge, with thickly wooded hills rising hundreds of metres on either side, and the cry of a fish eagle echoing high overhead, is a most memorable part of a Matusadona holiday. In

addition to the Sanyati River, other rivers and streams also enter the gorge, and there are several spectacular waterfalls which plunge from the surrounding hills.

Fishing within the gorge is particularly good, although all along the Matusadona lake-shore the visitor will find good sport for tigerfish and tilapia. Kariba's tigerfish (inset 1) have achieved a reputation far beyond Rhodesia's borders as one of Africa's finest freshwater sports fish, and they live up to their scientific name, *Hydrocyon vittatus*, which means striped water-dog. The visitor should not miss the thrill of hooking, fighting and landing one of these superb fishes, and all the lake-shore resorts and most boat-hire companies provide tackle for hire.

The high land into which the Sanyati Gorge has been cut over thousands of years is part of the Matusadona Mountain range, which forms a scenic backdrop to the lake-shore plain and islands. The greater part of the 1 350-square-kilometre Matusadona National Park extends over this upland area, high above the lake (inset 2).

This inaccessible part of the park has been declared a wilderness area and may only be visited by those who can exist without any facilities, and who are fit enough and intrepid enough to carry all their equipment through trackless country. Entry to the wilderness area may be made only with the prior approval of the Department of National Parks.

Spurwing Island

To holiday on an island induces a pleasant sense of isolation from the rest of the world, particularly when that island is situated in a 5 000-square-kilometre lake, a few kilometres from the shore of a major national park.

Spurwing Island (main picture, below) is one of two island resorts situated just off the Matusadona lake-shore. Here, unobtrusively, a small but well-organised resort has been created for the visitor in search of an individually styled holiday. Accommodation is provided in luxury tents, shaded with thatched shelters (inset 4), all

close to the lapping waters of the lake and facing the Matusadona Mountains. There is also a four-bed lodge.

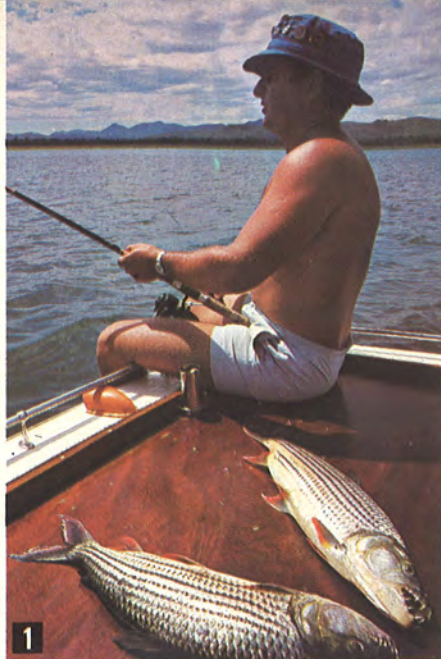
The resort provides full table d'hôte dining-room and bar services in a central double-storey block on a small promontory (inset 3), and communications with Kariba may be arranged by float plane or fast launch.

The island has its own resident population of wild life, which is swelled from time to time by elephant (inset 5), buffalo, waterbuck, and occasionally lion, which swim from the mainland using the smaller islets as resting stages. At night, the sounds of lion in the national park can

clearly be heard across the water, and hippo snort in the shallows.

Game-viewing may be enjoyed on the island, or by boat along the Matusadona shore-line, and there are also opportunities for fishing.

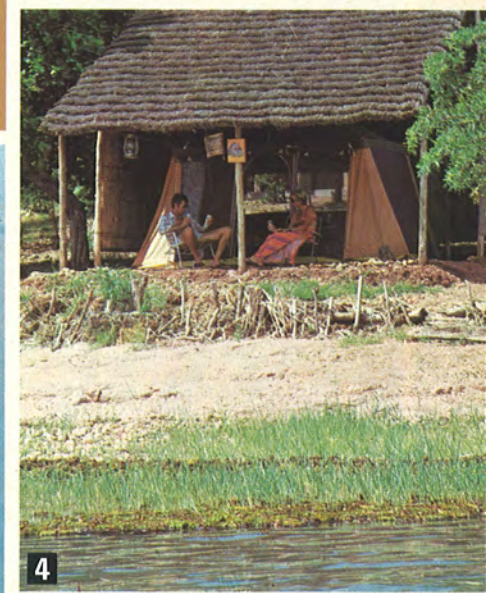
On Spurwing Island the visitor may relax in the utter peace of this unspoiled and unpolluted area of wild Rhodesia.



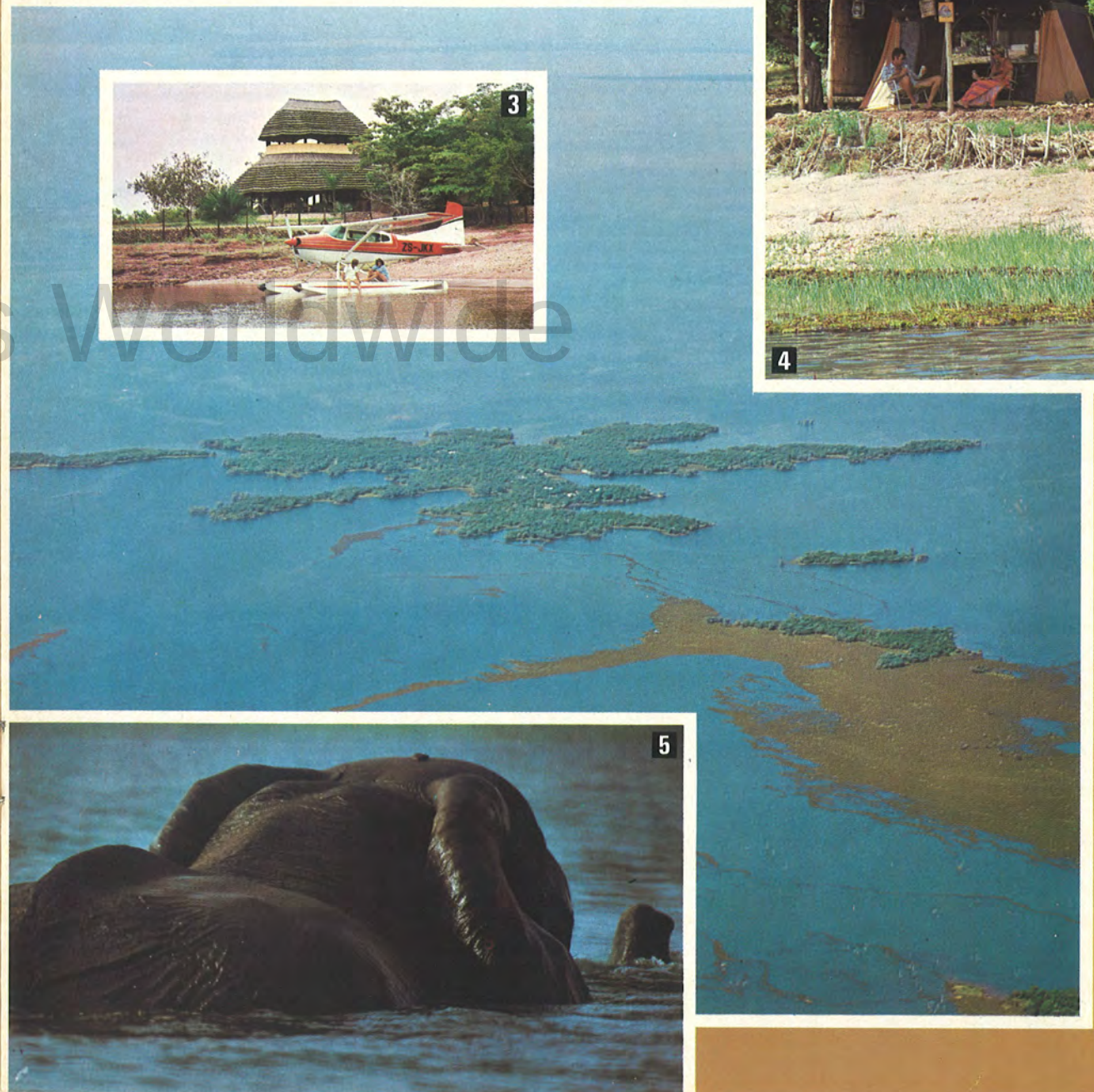
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Matusadona National Park

The Matusadona lake-shore is a unique part of Rhodesia's scenic and wild life heritage. Backed by the Matusadona Mountains, steep foothills sweep down to a wide lake-shore plain, broken where it meets Lake Kariba by river mouths, creeks and bays that form a shoreline of several hundred kilometres (background picture, left). This shoreline and the heavily wooded and well-watered plain form a habitat for many species of game, large and small.

The visitor can expect to see elephant (inset 4) and buffalo feeding on the bright green, sweet panicum grass that grows along the water's edge, and waterbuck splashing in the shallows (inset 5). Impala, kudu, rhino, lion, eland and sable are also present here. In the forests of dead trees that extend for many kilometres, water birds of many types have found ideal roosting sites, and storks (inset 6), cormorants and darters perch on the whitening branches in large numbers, particularly during the breeding season.

However, the visitor should not come to Matusadona with a checklist in hand, although he will certainly view many species of animals and birds. It is the total experience of this unique, unspoiled and unpolluted area that is its principal appeal. Moving through its drowned forests in special game-viewing boats (inset 2), while the hippo submerge ahead, is only part of an opportunity to be part of a natural scene that is disappearing as pressures on the earth's lonely spaces grow.

To enable those who wish to cater for their own type of holiday, the Department of National Parks has created two camp sites and two bush camps in the Matusadona National Park, all situated on the lake-shore.

The camp sites are situated at Sanyati (inset 1) at the eastern end of the Matusadona lake-shore, near the Sanyati Gorge, and Tashinga near the western end. Facilities at each site include a serviced ablution block.

Bush camps are superbly situated at Muwu (main picture, right) on Elephant Point, and at Ume (inset 3) on the mouth of the Ume River. Each bush camp offers two self-contained cottages with two double-bedrooms, with a central unit containing communal dining-room, kitchen, ironing room and deep freeze. All linen, crockery, etc., for up to 10 persons is supplied — the visitor need bring only his food. The camps are available exclusively for six days for a total fee of \$80.

One of the privileges of staying at the camp sites and bush camps is that of being permitted to game-view on foot — at one's own risk. This is the most exciting way of seeing the many species present in the Matusadona National Park.

Access to the camps is by float plane or boat from Kariba, and super-grade petrol is available at Tashinga. An unregistered airstrip is situated near to Ume bush camp and Tashinga camp, suitable for light aircraft.

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Fothergill Island

Fothergill Island (main picture, above) is the second resort based on an off-shore island, and is of most recent origin. This island is named after Rupert Fothergill, one of the principal figures in Operation Noah, which rescued animals from the floods as Lake Kariba filled in 1960.

Accommodation is provided in two grades of attractive Batonga-style huts made with local natural materials (inset 1), and full

meal and bar service is provided in a central complex which is also a meeting place for guests. Visitors to the island may arrive by float plane or boat from Kariba, and there is also a landing strip for light aircraft.

The services offered here include fishing, sailing and canoeing. Game-viewing is undertaken by boat along the Matusadona lake-shore (inset 2) or on foot in personally conducted safaris in the Matusadona National Park (inset 3), when not only

animals and birds are commented on by an experienced guide, but also the rich plant life and the uses to which it is put by the local tribespeople on the lake-shore to the west and east of the park.

There are many animals resident on Fothergill Island, and due to its proximity to the shoreline, elephant and waterbuck swim to graze on its plentiful foliage. In fact, the development of the trees to their full height on the island has been inhibited by the pressure of browsing elephants.

Bumi Hills Safari Lodge

Bumi Hills Safari Lodge is the most westerly resort on the Matusadona lake-shore, splendidly situated on a peninsular at the mouth of the Ume River (main picture below). The Matusadona National Park's western boundary is the

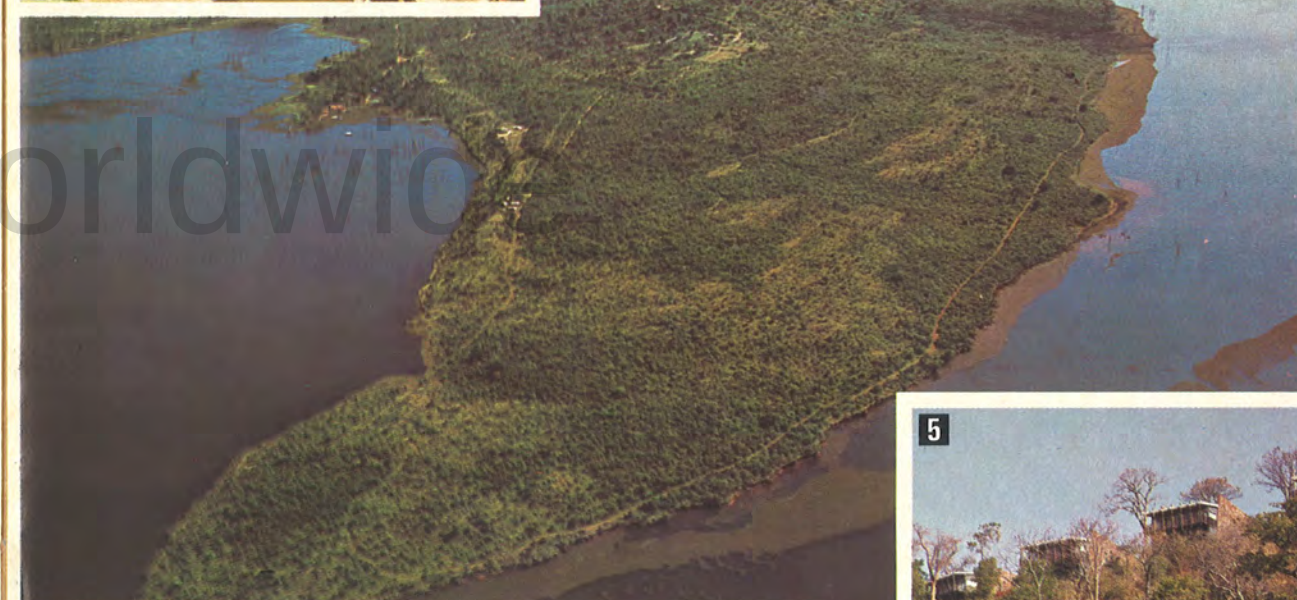
opposite bank of this river.

Bumi Hills is a place for those who want to visit the wilds, but who do not want to sacrifice a single civilised comfort. The hotel offers superbly furnished luxury rooms (inset 4), built along the edge of a ridge (inset 5) overlooking some of the finest lake scenery at Kariba. Each of these rooms has a balcony and often game may be seen on the shoreline below. The hotel's swimming-pool is also situated with a view

of the lake.

The hotel provides facilities for game-viewing by Land-Rover, special boat and on foot, and among the species which are plentiful are impala (inset 6), buffalo and elephant. Among the islands and in the Ume River, fishing for tigerfish is excellent, and tackle and boats may be hired at the hotel.

Bumi Hills may be reached by float plane, fast launch or light aircraft from Kariba, as the hotel maintains its own small airfield.





The visitor may travel between Kariba township and the Matusadona lake-shore and its resorts by the fast float plane service offered by Lake Air Kariba (six minutes to Fothergill Island) or, in a more leisurely fashion, by boat.

There are four boat hire and charter companies at Kariba (inset 2) who will transport visitors to the Matusadona lake-shore area: to the resorts, or for game-viewing or fishing trips. Licensed coxswains who know the lake well are in charge of these boats.

Kariba Ferries (inset 1) also operate cruises to the area and offer a package holiday, including overnight stops at Spurwing Island, Tashinga Camp and Fothergill Island.



Air Rhodesia operate daily scheduled services to Kariba (inset 3) from Salisbury, Wankie and Victoria Falls. Their range of Flame Lily package air holidays, operating from South Africa and within Rhodesia, includes periods at Spurwing Island, Fothergill Island or Bumi Hills.

For the light aircraft owner, or for those who choose to charter their own air transport, there are landing strips at Fothergill Island, Tashinga Camp and Bumi Hills (inset 4). Details of these facilities must be sought from the resorts, or National Parks, before any landings are planned.



USEFUL ADDRESSES

Detailed information on the accommodation and communication services in the area covered in this brochure is available from:

Matusadona lake-shore resorts:

Spurwing Island, P.O. Box 101, Kariba (Tel. 466); also P.O. Box 1698, Salisbury (Tel. 702271).

Fothergill Island Safari Camp, P.O. Box 81, Kariba (Tel. 253); also c/o Musgrove & Watson, Hardwicke House, Jameson Avenue, Salisbury (Tel. 705040).

Bumi Hills Safari Lodge, P.O. Box 41, Kariba (Tel. 353); also c/o Meikles Southern Sun Hotels, 9th Floor, Travel Centre, Stanley Avenue, Salisbury (Tel. 27744).

Matusadona National Park, Dept. of National Parks & Wild Life Management, Central Booking Office, P.O. Box 8151, Causeway (Tel. 706077).

Package holidays and ferry cruises:

Air Rhodesia, P.O. Box AP.1, Salisbury Airport (Tel. 52601).

Kariba Ferries, P.O. Box 70, Kariba (Tel. 460); also P.O. Box 578, Salisbury (Tel. 705894).

Boat hire and charter companies based at Kariba:

Anchorage Marina, P.O. Box 61, Kariba (Tel. 245).

Blue Water Charters, P.O. Box 78, Kariba (Tel. 369).

Caribbea Bay Marina, P.O. Box 120, Kariba (Tel. 454); also c/o Meikles Southern Sun Hotels, 9th Floor, Travel Centre, Stanley Avenue, Salisbury (Tel. 27744).

Lake Safaris, P.O. Box 34, Kariba (Tel. 474).

Float plane charters, and scenic and game-viewing flights:

Lake Air Kariba, P.O. Box 102, Kariba (Tel. 450).

Kariba ground transport and car hire:

United Touring Co. Ltd., Lake View Inn and Cutty Sark Hotel (Tel. 420).

Further information on the Matusadona lake-shore is available from Kariba & District Publicity Association, P.O. Box 86, Kariba (Tel. 369). Information on other tourist areas in Rhodesia is available from the Rhodesia National Tourist Board, P.O. Box 8052, Causeway, Rhodesia (Tel. Salisbury 706511).

