

Rhodesia's
WANKIE
National Park





ABOVE: A general view of Main Camp; and left (top to bottom) arriving on an Air Rhodesia aircraft at Main Camp; an attractive lodge at Main Camp; and the restaurant at Main Camp.



THE Wankie National Park, occupying an area of over 5,400 square miles in the western region of Rhodesia, has been described by the world's most-viewed wild-life television programme as *Tusker Territory*. This title is certainly apt, for in the northern part of the park the many water-holes attract a large proportion of the reserve's 7,000 elephant, as well as many other species of game. Visitors' cars are often held up by herds of elephant, and buffalo herds of 400 or more are often seen. But there are not only elephant and buffalo: Wankie is well noted, too, for its variety of animals. More than 50 species inhabit the reserve.

Accessibility has increased the reserve's popularity enormously in recent years, and close proximity to the world-famous Victoria Falls has spurred further development of access routes, game-viewing roads and touring and accommodation facilities. At the same time, however, careful planning has ensured that camps are of a limited size and many miles apart, thereby guaranteeing uncrowded game-viewing. Each visitor can thus savour to the full the individual experience of seeing an elephant cow washing her calf, a bambi-like steenbok on the roadside, a pride of lion on a kill—in short, untamed Africa.

WHEN TO GO THERE

Main Camp and Sinamatella Camp are open throughout the year. Robins Camp is open from 1st June to 30th November, subject to the condition of the roads after the rains (November to March). The rains tend to restrict considerably the use of roads throughout the park, and a certain dispersal of game takes place.

HOW TO GET THERE

The park lies between the main road/line-of-rail from Bulawayo to Victoria Falls, and the Rhodesia-Botswana border.

By air from the Victoria Falls, and from Salisbury via Kariba, there are eight scheduled DC3 flights a week to Main Camp. Wankie is prominently featured in Air Rhodesia's "Flame Lily" all-inclusive holiday tours, marketed throughout the world.

By rail, trains from Bulawayo and Victoria Falls arrive at and depart from Dett Station daily, and



ABOVE: A general view of Sinamatella, perched 180 ft. above the plain below; and right (top to bottom) one of the well-constructed lodges at Sinamatella; and the restaurant at Sinamatella.

transport is available for the visitor to cover the 14 miles to Main Camp by arrangement with United Touring Company. The Railways run "Game-trail" package tours to Wankie and "Rainbow" package tours to the reserve and the Falls from all centres in Rhodesia.

By road there are separate access roads to the three camps from the new modern highway between Bulawayo and Victoria Falls, Main Camp is 14 miles from a turnoff 162 miles from Bulawayo or 120 miles from the Falls. Sinamatella Camp is 30 miles from Wankie township, which is 70 miles south of the Falls and 212 miles north of Bulawayo. Robins Camp is 44 miles from a turnoff at Matetsi, only 32 miles from the Falls.

ACCOMMODATION AND FACILITIES

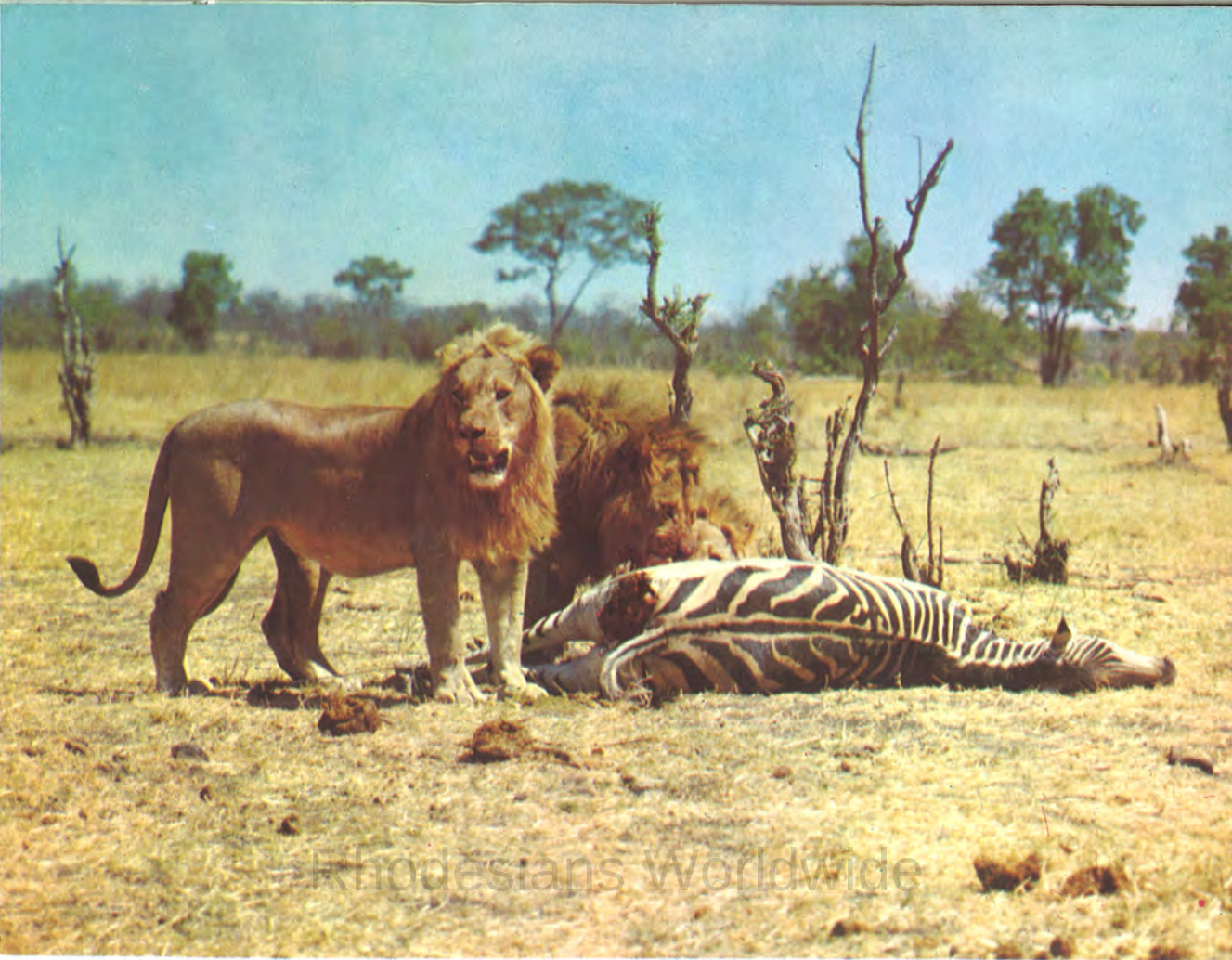
Accommodation is provided at three camps in chalets, cottages and lodges. All chalets have basic furniture, bedding, external cooking facilities and adjacent ablutions with hot and cold water, baths and showers. Cottages have, in addition, internal cooking facilities and individual toilet and washing arrangements. Lodges are fully self-contained, and are equipped with refrigerators, cutlery, crockery, cooking utensils and the services of a camp attendant. Refrigerators for chalets and cottages can be hired. There are also illuminated caravan and camping sites at each camp. Facilities at each camp include a licensed restaurant, petrol filling station and a store selling foodstuffs, liquor, curios, and black-and-white and colour film.

Main Camp is in the eastern part of the park and has been established for about 30 years. Chalet, cottage and lodge accommodation is available. The United Touring Company maintains a fleet of micro-buses, specially adapted for game-viewing, at the camp to cater for the air passengers landing at the Main Camp airstrip, as well as other visitors.

Sinamatella Camp was opened in 1966 and lies near the park's northern border. It consists of two-bedroomed luxury cottages which extend along a ridge commanding a fine view for many miles to the south.

Robins Camp was named after a rancher who formed a private game-sanctuary from which the





GAME TO BE SEEN

Apart from the elephant and buffalo already referred to, the list of game is almost endless. Rhino, black and square-lipped or (white), have been reintroduced. Giraffe, frequently with zebra, are seen throughout the park. Lion in prides of 15 occur. Other predators to be seen are wild dog and black-backed jackal, cheetah, leopard, and side-striped jackal. Antelope such as kudu,



wildebeest, eland, sable, waterbuck, impala and steenbok are most common, and there are also gemsbok, roan and tsessebe. Ostrich, baboon and vervet monkeys can also be freely seen.

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