

Sanctuary Chichele Presidential Lodge



Sanctuary Chichele Presidential Lodge was originally built for Kenneth Kaunda, the former Zambian president, in the 1970s and the original colonial style has been retained in the furnishings. A long veranda stretches outside the dining room, from which guests are afforded views down

the valley to the Luangwa itself. When possible, dinner is served outside. On cooler nights, roaring fires take the chill out of the air. The grunt of lions or the saw of leopards can often be heard from the wooded valleys that surround the lodge.

Each of the ten luxurious suites at Sanctuary Chichele comes complete with a four-poster bed, air conditioning, full bathroom and every other amenity guests could wish for - all in the middle of the African bush. In keeping with the rest of Chichele, the suites are also decorated in an understated colonial style. French windows open onto private terraces, getting up early to watch the sun rise over the Luangwa Valley is a once in a lifetime experience.



Game viewing at South Luangwa is considered to be some of the best in the world. It is a notably good place to see leopards, particularly in the dry season when they have less cover in which to hide. From Sanctuary Chichele Presidential Lodge, guests have the particular privilege of being able to go on night game drives when it is possible to see all sorts of animals that are seldom seen by day - like leopard, hyena and bush baby.

Plains game, such as antelope and zebra, are not scared by the lights so guests are able to get very close to animals for fabulous photographs. A game drive combined with sundowners gives guests the best of both worlds. There are wonderful opportunities in the area for walking safaris. Guided walks are conducted by a professional guide and an armed parks scout. It is on foot that Sanctuary's guides can show travelers some of the most fascinating signs of the bush, many of which are hard to spot from a vehicle. Out in the bush with an armed game scout and a guide, travelers can follow animal tracks along sandy paths. It's not just the big animals that are fascinating - termites, dung beetles and chameleons all have their stories to tell too. The park hosts many herds of the endemic Thornicroft giraffe which can always be found in the prolific Mopane woodland on the valley floor.