



ANGOLA
Expedition



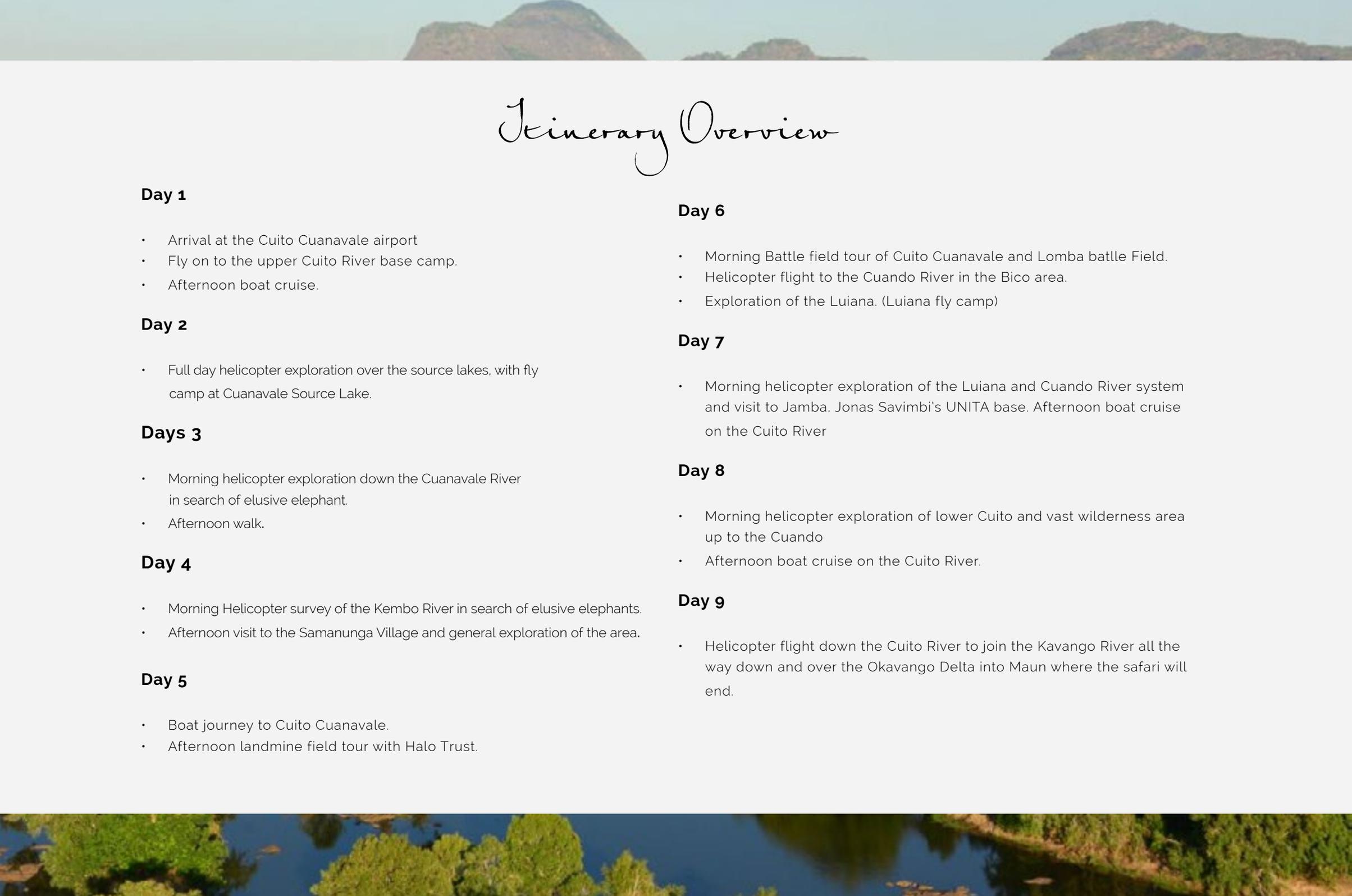
Expedition Overview

A pioneering expedition to the Cuito River region in southeastern Angola. This expedition will be the first of its kind into Angola exploring the remote Cuito River system and will essentially open the way for tourism into one of Africa's last wilderness frontiers.

There is no better way to experience a true African Safari Expedition than in the comfort and privacy of your own exclusive mobile safari camp. An exploratory journey through the wilderness with the intimacy and flexibility of your own camp, guide, boats, helicopter and staff compliment.

We will move our partner mobile rig (operated by Botswana based Beagle Expeditions) and staff, keeping our high standards of service the same.

- 8 night Angolan Expedition
 - Fully inclusive
 - Minimum 4 / Maximum 4 persons
 - Private helicopter use of more than 30 hours
 - Possibility of collaring three elusive Angolan elephants
 - Led by specialist guide Simon Byron
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The background of the page features a scenic landscape. The top portion shows a range of brown, rocky mountains under a clear, light blue sky. The bottom portion shows a lush green forest with a river or stream winding through it, reflecting the surrounding greenery.

Itinerary Overview

Day 1

- Arrival at the Cuito Cuanavale airport
- Fly on to the upper Cuito River base camp.
- Afternoon boat cruise.

Day 2

- Full day helicopter exploration over the source lakes, with fly camp at Cuanavale Source Lake.

Days 3

- Morning helicopter exploration down the Cuanavale River in search of elusive elephant.
- Afternoon walk.

Day 4

- Morning Helicopter survey of the Kembo River in search of elusive elephants.
- Afternoon visit to the Samanunga Village and general exploration of the area.

Day 5

- Boat journey to Cuito Cuanavale.
- Afternoon landmine field tour with Halo Trust.

Day 6

- Morning Battle field tour of Cuito Cuanavale and Lomba battle Field.
- Helicopter flight to the Cuando River in the Bico area.
- Exploration of the Luiana. (Luiana fly camp)

Day 7

- Morning helicopter exploration of the Luiana and Cuando River system and visit to Jamba, Jonas Savimbi's UNITA base. Afternoon boat cruise on the Cuito River

Day 8

- Morning helicopter exploration of lower Cuito and vast wilderness area up to the Cuando
- Afternoon boat cruise on the Cuito River.

Day 9

- Helicopter flight down the Cuito River to join the Kavango River all the way down and over the Okavango Delta into Maun where the safari will end.

Boat and Helicopter Based Mobile Camping Expeditions

This vast wilderness area has very little development as it has been plagued by more than 40 years of war. From 1961 to 1974 as the Angolan War Of Independence against Portuguese colonial authorities and from 1975 as the Angolan Civil War that ended in 2002.

The Cuito River system is one of the least disturbed river systems on the planet with no dams or man-made obstructions along its whole course. The catchment area lying in what scientist call the "Water Tower" has a very small population of people resulting in a largely intact ecosystem and one of the last mega wilderness areas left on earth.





Further South along the Cuito River are some of the most significant battle fields in African history. We will visit the Cuito Cuanavale Battle fields and landmine field and the Lomba Battlefields where the remains of war machines still lie as they have done since the war ended. Making this a phenomenal war theatre to explore.

To ensure our safety at all times we are working with the Halo Trust (an international landmine clearing NGO) that has been actively clearing land mines in Angola for more than 20 years. Using the Halo Trust data base and maps we have planned our exploration to visit safe areas where no mines are to be found.

In addition we have partnered with Okavango Air Rescue (a Botswana based evacuation organisation) to set up a medical evacuation policy that is the first evacuation policy for Angolan tourists

**As with all our Expeditions, we reserve the right to make minor alterations to the itineraries at short notice based on flood water levels, local weather conditions, wildlife movements and Government influences. This ensures you receive the best possible experience while with Anderson Expeditions and Beagle Expeditions.*





Helicopter Horizons

Botswana-based Helicopter Horizons is an experiential helicopter company, specialising in helicopter experiences for every traveller to the Okavango Delta, Makgadikgadi Pans, and the Kalahari Desert. All of their aircraft are maintained to the highest safety standards and their helicopters are fully equipped for bush operations.

We will be travelling with the owner of Helicopter Horizons and one of the most experienced pilots in Africa, Andrew Baker. Andrew has more than 20 Years of bush flying under his belt and will add some good humour to our expedition.

The Water Tower

The headwaters of the entire Okavango basin system lie in South Eastern Angola, primarily in the Cuando Cubango and Moxico provinces of Angola

Our expedition plan is to explore the source areas of the Cuito River, Cuando River and Zambezi/Lungue Bungo Rivers. This sandy highland catchment area is a mosaic of clear winding rivers, endless flood plains and phenomenal Miombo woodland. Some of the source rivers drain from incredibly clear lakes increasing the mystique of this wild and remote river catchment area.

This enormous wilderness area is dominated by Miombo woodlands, a very distinct eco region that forms a vast belt across central Southern Africa. Miombo is essentially a tropical broadleaved savannah ecosystem dominated by *Brachystegia*, *Julbernardia*, and *Isoberlinia* tree species that form either a dense or open canopy of up to 30m up, with very little undergrowth. Surveys conducted by the Okavango Wilderness Project have found almost all large savanna dwelling mammals including lion, leopard, wild dog, sable and roan antelope. Though at present these mammals are very shy and their numbers are relatively low as a result of the bush meat hunting that sustains the economies of the local communities. Thus it is imperative that we introduce tourism to this vast wilderness frontier.



An aerial photograph showing a savanna landscape with a winding river. The river is a vibrant blue, contrasting with the green and yellowish-brown grasses. In the lower center of the frame, an elephant is wading through the water, its body partially submerged. The elephant's reflection is visible in the clear water. The overall scene is a natural, undisturbed environment.

We will explore this region using helicopters to get an aerial view of the various ecosystems, allowing us access to extremely remote and untouched patches of this region. Landing in some places to further explore on foot and have a dip in the crystal clear waters of the catchment tributaries and source lakes. We will explore using boats along the main Cuito and Cuanavale Rivers, giving us a different perspective of the waterways..

The Kembo River flows through one of Africa's last truly wild areas, largely untouched by human influence. This is where the last remaining elephants are to be found in this region. We will spend a good amount of time exploring this area from the air and on foot.



Cuito Cuanavale and Lomba.

Cuito Cuanavale is steeped in history, from the early inhabitation by the first Bantu tribes to settle here to the Portuguese colonisation of Angola to the largest conventional artillery and tank battles to be fought in Africa since the Second World War. We will explore the landmine fields and battle fields of this area with the guidance of the Halo Trust. The Halo Trust is meticulously removing all of the tens of thousands of landmines that were left here after the war. We will spend an afternoon with the Halo Trust exploring and learning about their landmine clearing efforts.

Lomba is the scene of the greatest tank battle fought in Africa since the Second World War. We will survey this battle field from the air, landing at one or two of the tanks for a closer inspection. This battle went down in military history annals as one of the finest tactical military operations in history. The vastly outnumbered and outgunned South African Defence Force repelled the Angolan Forces repeated attempts to cross the Lomba River. By the end the Angolan Forces had lost 1059 dead and 2118 wounded, along with 61 tanks, 83 armoured vehicles and 20 rocket launchers. The SADF lost 17 killed and 41 wounded, plus 5 armoured vehicles.

Bico Region

The Bico region of the Luengue – Luiana National Park has some of Angola's largest wildlife populations including elephant, lion, leopard, cheetah and wild dog. We will explore down the Luiana River in search of the rumored last black rhino in Angola and join the Cuando River, surveying its flood plains. On our return journey we will stop in Jamba, Jonas Savimbi's UNITA base for a walk around before heading back to our camp on the Cuito.



Angola Expedition



500 km

Angola

Cuito Source Lake

Beagle base camp

CUITO CUANAVALÉ

Lomba River

Beagle Base camp 2

Cubango Reserve base

Cuango

Tchitundo Hulo

Baia Dos Tigres

Cunene River

Cuito River

Cunene River Mouth

Cubango River

QJA

Google Earth

Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO

US Dept of State Geographer

Image Landsat / Copernicus



Your Expedition Guide – Simon Byron

Growing up on a farm in central Botswana, the son of an avid exploration geologist, Simon spent his childhood camping out and enjoying nature as his playground. Numerous family holidays to the Okavango Delta and many other wild places in Southern Africa engrained in him a passion for wild and remote places. "I spent every free moment during my childhood and university holidays in the bush, either exploring or guiding (to pay for my student life!); so after I graduated from university it was the natural thing to do and I haven't looked back since!"

Simon has spent more than ten years working as a professional guide in the safari industry. He started his career with Wilderness Safaris as a lodge based guide and was associated with the majority of their Botswana properties. "Lodge guiding was a blast, and I especially enjoyed spending long periods of time in one area, getting to know it and its animals intimately." Simon left Wilderness Safaris in 2010 to start up Beagle Expeditions. This has given him the opportunity to travel extensively throughout Africa, gaining knowledge of, and experience in, the two related fields which he is most passionate about: Conservation and Safari.

He spends his free time with his family, raising his daughter Dalia, travelling, reading, walking and working on various conservation projects. Simon has a wonderful in-depth knowledge of all things wild and historical, with a passion for conservation and Africa that is contagious. Simon has gained a reputation throughout Africa as an exceptional and top class safari guide, and was featured as one of The 25 Best Safari Guides by Condé Nast Traveler at the end of 2013



www.andersonexpeditions.com

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Photo credits:

Richard Anderson

Simon Byron

Helicopter Horizons