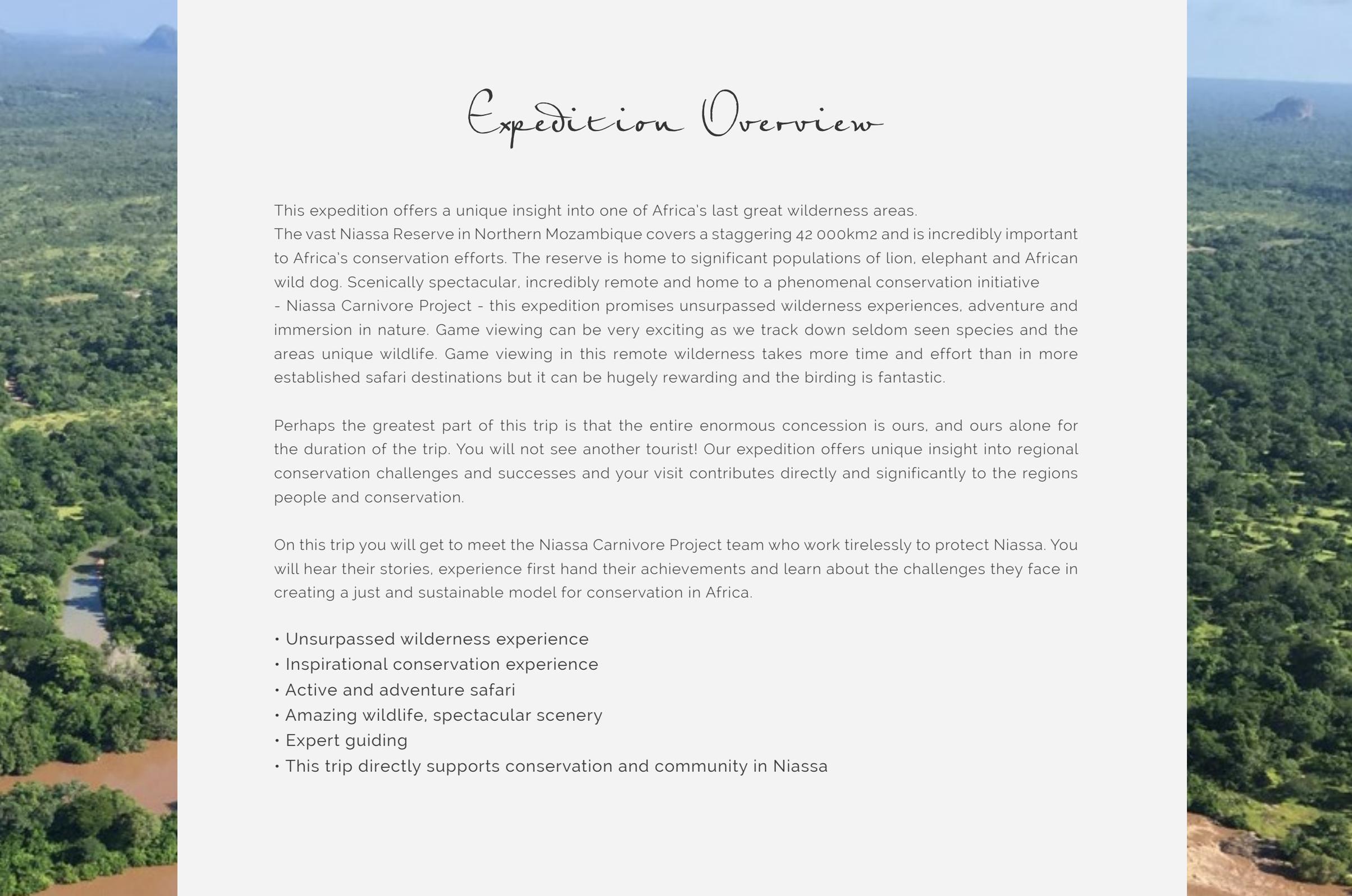


NIASSA
Expedition





Expedition Overview

This expedition offers a unique insight into one of Africa's last great wilderness areas.

The vast Niassa Reserve in Northern Mozambique covers a staggering 42 000km² and is incredibly important to Africa's conservation efforts. The reserve is home to significant populations of lion, elephant and African wild dog. Scenically spectacular, incredibly remote and home to a phenomenal conservation initiative - Niassa Carnivore Project - this expedition promises unsurpassed wilderness experiences, adventure and immersion in nature. Game viewing can be very exciting as we track down seldom seen species and the areas unique wildlife. Game viewing in this remote wilderness takes more time and effort than in more established safari destinations but it can be hugely rewarding and the birding is fantastic.

Perhaps the greatest part of this trip is that the entire enormous concession is ours, and ours alone for the duration of the trip. You will not see another tourist! Our expedition offers unique insight into regional conservation challenges and successes and your visit contributes directly and significantly to the regions people and conservation.

On this trip you will get to meet the Niassa Carnivore Project team who work tirelessly to protect Niassa. You will hear their stories, experience first hand their achievements and learn about the challenges they face in creating a just and sustainable model for conservation in Africa.

- Unsurpassed wilderness experience
- Inspirational conservation experience
- Active and adventure safari
- Amazing wildlife, spectacular scenery
- Expert guiding
- This trip directly supports conservation and community in Niassa



Itinerary Overview

Day 1 - Start of Niassa Expedition

- Arrive in Nampula, Mozambique
- Charter flight from Nampula to Niassa
- Welcome and orientation

Day 2 & 3 - Lugenda Mokoro Expedition

- Early morning walks
- Travel downstream on the Lugenda by Mokoro
- Wide range of wildlife visit the beautiful Lugenda river to drink

Day 4 - Hike to Mpopo Island camp

- In the afternoon we will venture out on the game drive vehicle to explore a little further afield in search of the regions resident wildlife.
- In the evening we head out after dinner on a nocturnal safari in search of shy nocturnal animals and birds under a starry sky.

Day 5 - Full day trip to explore the enormous concession area

- Full day trip to explore the enormous concession area and search for wildlife.

Day 6: A day spent on the wonderful Mpopo Island

- Walking or game drive on Mpopo Island
- Early evening hike up an inselberg mountain
- Overnight under the stars on the mountain top

Day 7: Tour of the Mariri environmental centre

- Descend the inselberg
- Mpopo Island brunch
- Tour of the Mariri environmental centre

Day 8: Depart

- Charter flight from Niassa to Nampula





Day 1,2,3 - Lugenda Mokoro Expedition

Arrive via charter flight, Mariri airstrip. Welcome and orientation, sort luggage and depart upstream for start of 3 night Lugenda mokoro expedition. On the mokoros we will carry lunch, drinks and equipment for the day only. Our back up team will travel to pre-arranged camp sites along the river to set up camp and cater for breakfasts and dinners. Along our journey downstream we will take opportunities to explore on foot from our camps on early morning walks. Birding is spectacular and the scenery is mid blowing. Towering granite outcrops loom over the river, dense riverine forest is home to pels fishing owl, flocks of African skimmer escort our mokoro's in buoyant flight and a wide range of wildlife visit the beautiful Lugenda river to drink. Our camp sites are spectacular wilderness settings on sandy beaches or in shady groves along the river. This really is an immersive start to your exploration of Niassa and its spectacular wilderness.



A wooden deck with a woven mat floor overlooks a river. A wooden table holds a tea set including a teapot, cups, and a pitcher. A book titled 'BIRDS' is on a small table to the right. The background is a lush green forest with a river.

Day 4 - Hike to Mpopo Island camp

An early start from our last river campsite today for a hike to our base for the next 2 nights, Mpopo Island camp. After a decent hike we arrive at Mpopo to settle in and enjoy the rest of the day in this beautiful and shady retreat. In the afternoon we will venture out on the game drive vehicle to explore a little further afield in search of the regions resident wildlife. The region is home to a wonderful diversity of wild animals that are recovering in numbers due to the dedicated efforts of the conservation team. Excellent birdlife, spectacular scenery and botanical wonders await us. This evening we head out after dinner on a nocturnal safari in search of shy nocturnal animals and birds under a starry sky.



Day 5 - Full day trip to explore the enormous concession area

Today we head out early for a full day trip to explore the enormous concession area and search for wildlife. The area is often used by denning Africa Wild Dog at this time of year and if we are really lucky we could be treated to an encounter with these incredible canids. The projects lion conservation includes lion monitors that search daily for the resident prides greatly increasing our chances of an encounter with these animals. Unique wildebeest subspecies - Niassa wildebeest, herds of eland, buffalo and Zebra are all found in the area.

Day 6: A day spent on the wonderful Mpopo Island

Today we can plan according to our wishes, perhaps another dawn walk along the river or a game drive to seek out different wildlife or explore different areas. A day spent on the wonderful Mpopo Island may be just what is needed with its ever-present birds and wildlife. This evening we head out to the base of a spectacular inselberg for an early evening hike to the summit from where we will watch the sunset and marvel over the incredible wilderness that spreads out in all directions as far as the eye can see. Tonight is very special and we will overnight under the stars on the mountain top. A unique and moving experience that really connects one to the wilderness.

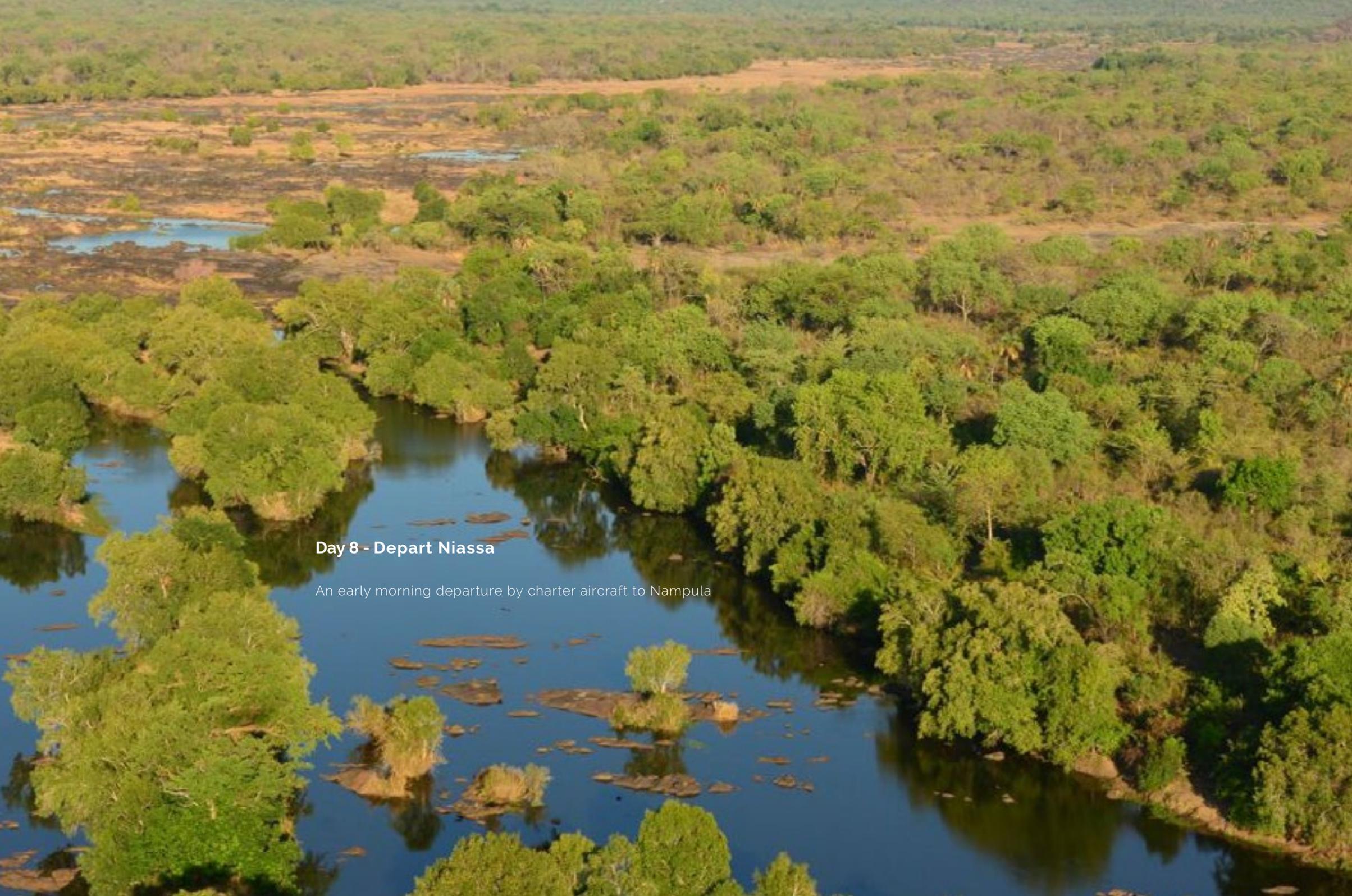


Day 7 - Tour of the Mariri environmental centre

After climbing down from our lofty sleep out location we return to Mpopo Island for brunch and a bit of down time to soak up the wonders of the area. In the early afternoon the project team will give us a tour of the Mariri environmental centre and explain their unique and forward thinking efforts on regional conservation. We will meet the team and learn a lot about of the history of the project, its challenges and remarkable successes. This is frontline conservation work and learning the stories of this passionate and dedicated team promises an inspirational round up to our Niassa exploration.

Our last evening we will head out with the team for a short drive and sundowner at a wonderful riverside / mountain view location.





Day 8 - Depart Niassa

An early morning departure by charter aircraft to Nampula



Your Expedition Guide – Fraser Gear

Fraser is an excellent naturalist, guide and explorer. He has spent the last 28 years leading wildlife, photographic and birding expeditions across the length and breadth of Africa, Madagascar, Middle East, Asia and into the neo-tropics. Fraser's interests and skills are as diverse as his explorations. A passionate birder, tracker, botanist and wildlife enthusiast, Fraser has a great love of the planet's wildest places and the adventure that comes with exploring these regions. Fraser is at his happiest when in the thick of things on foot in the African savanna, on a remote sea kayak expedition with his wife and best friend Sandra, or deep in a steamy jungle seeking out avian wonders. A sensitive and caring tour leader, a wonderful teacher with a passion for nature, a wicked sense of humor, a repertoire of incredible tales of challenge and a sharp intellect combine to make Fraser the exceptional expedition leader he is today.



www.andersonexpeditions.com
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Niassa Carnivore Project - www.niassalion.org