



# ZAMBIA, THE REAL AFRICA IS SPECTACULAR BY NATURE

By Jerry W. Bird

What an amazing country! So many lasting friendships were made during our month-long visit to Zambia, we've become life-time ambassadors, eager to spread the good news at every opportunity. When we say Zambia adds zest to your Real Africa Safari we have proof. Who wouldn't be awed by their first sight of Mosi-O-Tunya, the smoke that thunders, or by the denizens we encountered eye to eye on our Lower Zambezi Canoe Safari. Zambia is a fabulous place to get around, thanks to its regional airlines and superb highway system. The country's high elevation allows for a more temperate climate than one would expect in a tropical country. All the more reason to plan an encore. While Zambia Tourism hosted successful ATA events in 1981 and 1993 - the Africa Travel Association's 28th International Congress in May, 2003 was

the first "double-header." Lusaka, the Capital and Livingstone, home of Victoria Falls shared the honors.

## **Discover Livingstone!**

Livingstone Tourism Association has provided the following historical sketch, written by Mr. Gill Staden, a well known journalist from the area. We know that you will enjoy his story.

The City of Livingstone was born on 25 February, 1905, much to the annoyance of the white pioneers who had come to the area. These hardy men and women had settled themselves by the river, 5 km upstream from the Victoria Falls and they felt that a move

up to the new Livingstone would be disastrous for trade. The British South African Company (BSAC), who administered this area of Central Africa had, in 1905, com-

pleted the Victoria Falls bridge and felt that it was about time to move the pioneers from the mosquito-infested swamplands by the river where the people had lived for the past 10 years. The BSAC had to enforce the edict by giving fines of one shilling per day for anyone who failed to move. Eventually the old settlement was abandoned.

There is not much to see at the original site, known as the Old Drift, only some non-indigenous trees and the graves of some of the many who died there. It is now within the Game Park.







## AND OUTSTANDING FOR CULTURE AND ECOTOURISM

### Historically Speaking

The first buildings to be erected at the new Livingstone were made of poles and mud, with tin roofs. The site was high up on a sand ridge in the middle of a forest of teak trees. The railway line had only reached the station, about one km away - quite a distance to walk on the sandy roads. The people were not happy in the new Livingstone and wondered what was to become of them. Then the BSAC decided to move their administrative center from Kalomo to Livingstone. From 1907 to 1935, Livingstone was the capital of North Western Rhodesia, and this was a time of prosperity. It was during these years that many buildings were erected.

### Early Days

We often consider these times as being romantic, and to us it must seem that way, but life was not easy. Water was a continual

problem - it had to be pumped up from the Maramba River and bucketed to the houses. The toilets of all the houses were sited at the back of the yards where the bucket brigade using ox-carts came every morning to empty the sanitary buckets. All the roads were deep sand, making a walk of any distance tiresome. A tram-line was laid from town to the railway station and then on to the boat club. Small cabooses were made for people to sit on and they were pushed up and down the hill by servants. Many of the old houses which were built at this time have fallen into a state of disrepair. But some are being lovingly restored and are well worth looking for. In the future if the economy continues to pick up more will be restored and this will enhance the beauty of Livingstone.

North Western and North Eastern Rhodesia were amalgamated in 1935 to form North-

ern Rhodesia and it was then that the capital was moved to Lusaka - a more central location. Livingstone continued to thrive for some time because it became a manufacturing center.

Factories made blankets, textiles, clothes, cars. But slowly, as the economy started to decline, so did the wealth of Livingstone. After Independence in 1964, Northern Rhodesia became Zambia and shortly after that Zambia adopted the politics of humanism, which is akin to socialism, and a one-party government. More and more Zambia cut itself off from the outside world. The price of copper, their main export, decreased. The economy did not diversify. Zambia became poorer and poorer. Livingstone suffered badly as tourism was not encouraged and the manufacturing base declined.

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