



golden hour for photography was over. Not that you don't have remarkable photographic opportunities. We'd had the privilege of spending more than an hour late one afternoon to view lion that were spotted near the lodge after a kill.

We'd been lazing in the pool mesmerised by the vistas when the lodge manager, Sonja, came to us and asked if we wanted to go on a game drive as lion had been spotted. We didn't hesitate and minutes later we were on a game drive in our sarongs. Chikwenya's like that, spontaneous and accommodating. You really can choose to do what you like when you like be it game drives, boat cruises, or fishing. There is also a beautiful hide which we spent time in just watching the animals.

The most illustrative example of Chikwenya's harmonious blending into the wild, is when on one of the days we set off for a game drive from the lodge. hilariously, our drive consisted of little more than a loop, and we tracked the lion back to the lodge. There we sat in the open game vehicle, meters from the lodge, watching the lion.

There is an abundance of elephant and buffalo. The elephant have ingeniously developed a skill to ensure survival when the trees are thinning out. They stretch out, arch their backs and extend their trunks or rise up onto their hind legs and reach for the last of the green leaves. We didn't see wild dog, but large packs are often spotted right in front of the lodge.

Boat cruises are a must and offer up not only serenity but a beautiful noisy chaos too as hippo grunt to each other and their guffaws reverberate in the Zambezi Valley and elephants on the land trumpet as you float past them. In the background the water thick-knee (*Dikkop*) *Burhinus vermiculatus* signal the close of another untamed day in Africa. **W**

