



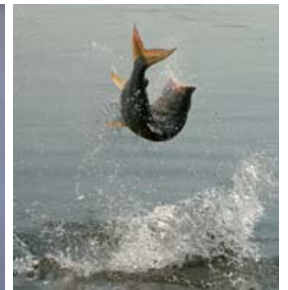
In 2007, my wife, Marte, and I began planning our first African adventure. Our objective was to combine fishing for tigerfish and game viewing in Africa with a week of salt water flats fishing in the Seychelles. All our information pointed toward the Lower Zambezi National Park in Zambia as offering the best possible combination of tigerfish and safari style game viewing. Our personal experience in 2008, combined with many client reports, have proved that to be true.

The Lower Zambezi National Park is a 4,000 square kilometer preserve and nothing dies by human hand within the park, including the tigerfish,. No native netting is allowed and this is the key to preserving the fishery. There are six camps within the park; of those six, two are primed for the fly fisher. Of those two, one has the best tigerfish fly fishing guide in the park.

September and October are the best months for tigerfishing. At that time, the river is as low and clear as it gets. This is the dry season and all the waterholes are dried up, congregating the animals close to the river. This timing provides the best of both options – throwing flies for tigerfish and game viewing. What an exciting combination it is!



Betty Wilms is a globe hopping outdoor photographer who usually has her sidekick fly fishing husband, Paul, along with her. Last October, they (center, below) used the top two camps in the Lower Zambezi National Park as part of their Africa itinerary which also included a stop at Victoria Falls and two other safari camps in Botswana. Most of the outstanding photos in this photo essay were shot by Betty (a few by Paul), including the banner photo above of Paul hooked into a racing tigerfish with the elephants ignoring him.



Betty's comments on the overall Africa experience: "Our trip is hard to put into words.....all these animals graced us with their presence and it truly was a lifetime experience. If you like animals, Africa will take your

breath away. At our cabin at one camp, the elephants were at our private pool everyday. We have pictures of an elephant with ears open and trunk up at me in the pool. The safari cars were fun, up close and personal with all the wildlife. Fishing was great and as Paul fished, I took many photos of hippo's up close, elephants, and other animals around the waters edge. Our trip was out of this world for animal viewing."



Ever the fly fisherman, Paul discussed the fish: "The tigerfish is an aggressive striking fish who puts on a ferocious run and is a great leaper, much like a baby tarpon. I was able to take four fish over ten pounds with a large of 14#. Fishing the Lower Zambezi provides constant choices of admiring the wildlife, casting, or putting the rod down and picking up the camera. We both agreed that this was our best trip ever."



Thanks to Betty and Paul for contributing an outstanding collection of photos for this photo essay!

