

Day 4 & 5 - Tuesday 22nd and Wednesday 23rd July

After breakfast at Fawltly Towers, we had our first drive on rural Zambian roads - and really put our minibuses' suspension to the test! We were driving to the Zambezi river - but passing through national park territory we were lucky enough to see zebras, impala and buffaloes en route. We loaded into our rafts and were off down the river! The views were stunning and we all had our eyes out for wildlife. Jack had particularly keen eyes and spotted couple of 'rockoppotamouses' on the banks before spotting a real hippo...



We visited a rural village for lunch and were very warmly welcomed by the village leader and lots of the local children. Soon we were back on the water to navigate some more of the rapids. Yasar managed to take to the helm, steering his boat with remarkable skill - we don't think the guide knew when he handed over the reins that he couldn't see where he was going!! His endeavours were rewarded with the 'star of the day' accolade.

We arrived to our wild camp and couldn't believe our luck - we were glamping in style! A beautifully prepared evening meal was followed by some hilarious campfire songs led by Andy on guitar, Jamie E on percussion and Chantelle and Lizzie heading up vocals. An especially dramatic rendition of

Hakuna Matata was enough to scare any wild beasts away... With the exception of a couple of large spiders who braved staying in the girls' tent!

After a frosty night, the earliest risers were treated to a beautiful sunrise and the remaining sleepy-heads awoke to the first of many renditions of 'Happy Birthday' to Shaun who turned sixteen today! We couldn't believe our luck when our hosts served up a full English breakfast, as well as speedboat rides and a cake as birthday treats!



We had canoes as well as rafts for the next section of the river, and Steph and Hannah excelled in their first experiences of paddling, as we travelled past many hippos and exotic birds. With much singing and chanting, we raced to the finish line spurred on by the sighting of a large crocodile.



A short journey back to Fawltly Towers left us with time to relax by the pool before a traditional Zambian meal of nsima with chicken and local vegetables. And another few renditions of Happy Birthday, of course!

Country one complete: Katie's verdict - "Awesome!"

