



Capt. Daley's Sea Stories

Victoria Falls (2) Zimbabwe, Africa

6 April 2010



Victoria Falls, one of the Seven Wonders of the World lies between Zimbabwe and Zambia. It is the largest volume of falling water in Africa. It is one mile long yet the exit for the water is only a tenth of its length. On exiting the fall the water snakes around in a deep chasm with several tight 180 degree bends.



Welcome to No-Man's Land. We have cleared customs & immigrations for Zimbabwe and are on a one mile walk to cross the Livingstone Bridge on the way to Zambia. The bridge is claimed by neither country! It felt dangerous and we were approached by a variety of shady characters to buy worthless stuff or just give them money.



The Livingstone Bridge is rather old and shakes when the train crosses. There is room for a train, pedestrians and one lane of truck traffic. With this bridge Livingstone's dream of connecting Johannesburg to Cairo became true.



There are a variety of activities in No-Man's Land including Bungee Jumping, Running the Rapids and Zip Lining. We chose zip lining across the gorge, but ran out of time to do it. Before you could go, they weighed you and "branded" you with your weight in kilograms your number in line. The SL stood for zip lining. The weight included all your effects.



The platform in the middle of the bridge was the platform for the bungee jumpers. The cables were some of the different rides. One was a swing of sorts rather than a bungee jump.



I really wished we would have had time to do this. It looks like so much fun!



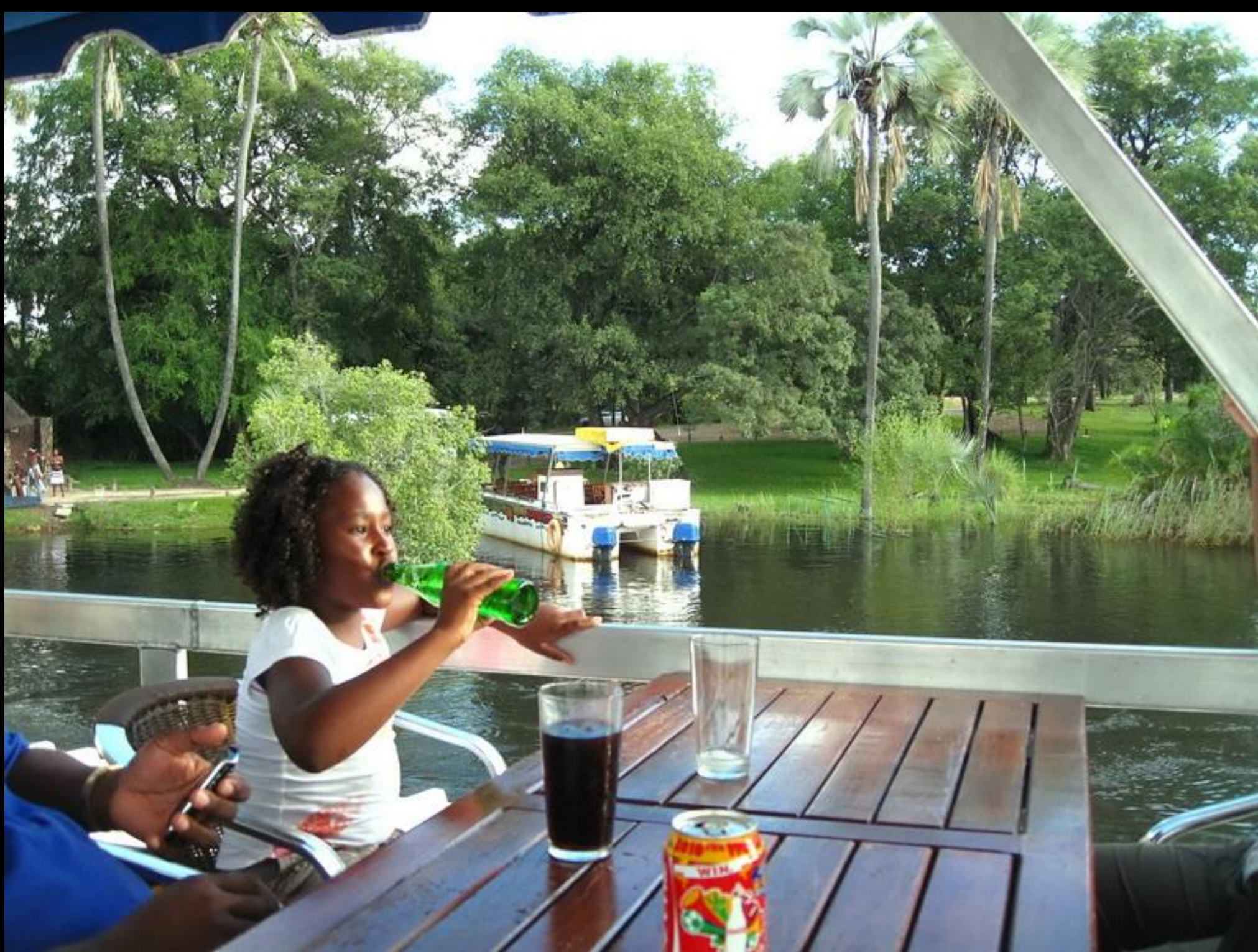
This is the Hotel Ilala, the smallest of the three nice hotels. It was more than adequate and we visited the other hotels.



We did a river cruise of the Zambezi River. These natives sang and danced as we boarded our boat. The African drum plays a unique set of sounds when played correctly. A large African drum is another item for my wish list to bring home with me.



The dancers were quite energetic and performed very well.



This little girl was from South Africa and was a terrific spotter. She found animals and birds before we saw them.



There were about 25 tour boats on the river this day. We weren't alone. We cruised down close to the falls and then back up along an island in the middle of the river.



A couple of hippos were bathing near the island.



Here is a better photo of the mother hippo.



We ate at the old historic Victoria Falls Hotel on our last night. The buffet was huge and exotic. It was a feast!



But the entertainment is what made the night special. There were three different tribes doing two sets of dances each.



This fellow came out with a five foot stick tied to one leg only. He proceeded to dance around for quite a long time on the one stick. He was very impressive.



I liked this artist rendition of a baobab tree made from copper wires used as a candle holder.



The two weeks of safari travels ended here in the lobby of the Ilala Hotel. There were very interesting books on the coffee tables telling of big game hunting stories from the 1800's. Not quite as luxurious as the experience we had.



En route back to my vessel, the Gubert Tide in Pemba, Mozambique, I spent another night in the Intercontinental Hotel in Johannesburg. Looking at the porcupine needle mobile overhead, I had a new understanding of what the artist was saying.



Flying into Pemba, I was given a great view of my vessel waiting for me. The month in South Africa and the two weeks in Botswana and Zimbabwe were life changing events. To be able to travel like this and see so many new things is a real gift.