

## TONGOLE WILDERNESS LODGE

The firelight flickers off the rocks and rippled water and the blue smoke swirls in the full moon light. A fish leaps out the water to grab unseen prey, a Baboon chatters in the trees across the river and far away, barely audible, a Scops owl chirps in the Miombo Woodland. This is the first night spent camping on the Banks of the Bua River and it is an experience that cannot be put into words.

Tongole is now operating and doing very well indeed, all thanks to the tireless support and dedication of everyone who has been involved with the project since its inception many years ago. We have evolved into a cohesive team and look forward to sharing our adventures with you in our wilderness paradise. We have had a number of people staying with us at the lodge now and have found the Bua River to be the star attraction. The most popular way of navigating our waterways are the canoes as they provide the best opportunities for spotting the elusive wildlife and stunning birds that can be found along the banks of the river. This activity also lends itself to fishing which can be done from the riverbank once we have found a suitable spot and the fish are on the bite. Recent expeditions have provided excellent sightings of Elephant with a herd of 27 with 5 babies seen frolicking in the rapids upstream of the lodge by the recent Fam Trip of assorted agents we had over from the UK.

Fish being caught include a 5 Pound Yellowfish caught in a bottle-neck upstream of the lodge on fly by Kevin Hopper along with an Mpasa (Lake Salmon) caught at Nandinga Pools and an as yet unidentified predatory fish caught in the rapids. Given the magical time spent fishing the river it has become apparent that an adventure trek down from Tongole towards the lake spending the days fishing the river and the nights camping alongside may be a feature option soon offered by us. Given the current weather conditions we are experiencing up here in the mountains there are fewer better ways of spending the nights than snuggled up next to a blazing fire with a full belly and a delicious night cap after a good days fishing!!

Walks along the river and on the Island at Muta Falls have also proven spectacular with regular sightings of Reedbuck, Bushbuck and a wide variety of Birds like our resident Osprey, Fish Eagle, Hammerkops and various Kingfishers. If you're really lucky you will catch a glimpse of our newest member of the family, a Hippo that has made the pools in front of the lodge his new home. The first recorded Hippo in the region since the 1960's!! We also had the absolute pleasure of finding some very fresh Leopard spoor and a tree it was using for sharpening its claws....very exciting and great to know they are still around!

Anyway, that's all for now, we have hills and valleys to explore and fish waiting for us in the cool depths of the river. Hope to see you soon!

Kind regards

Zane Volker

If you are interested you can find out more and follow progress by visiting [www.tongole.com](http://www.tongole.com)

Please contact us if you would like to receive more information or if you would like to stay at the lodge.

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