

Massive Africa

5 x 60'

EPISODIC BREAKDOWN

1. Luangwa Valley

Zambia's Luangwa Valley is a land of extremes. It's vast, vibrant, vistas pulsate with one of the world's largest concentrations of wildlife. As the mighty Luangwa River carves across the landscape, it powers its vitality through 15 000 square kilometres of grasslands and forests. But the valley's unparalleled magnificence is truly revealed in the drastic dichotomy that accompanies the changing of the seasons. Each year, a glittering paradise of emerald canopies is forced into sub-mission and transformed into bare, bone-dry expanses of burnt sand. For the valley's inhabitants, this seemingly infinite season of desperation is a tragedy of anguish and conflict played out in nature's greatest stadium.

2. Namib Desert

The sheer enormity and monumental scale of the Namib Desert leaves no doubt that this 55 million year old landscape reigns supreme as Africa's most magnificent, untamed wilderness. Spanning over 80 000 kilometres, it's a bizarre domain, where middle-earth meets mars in a heart-stopping array of distinct realms. Its immense beauty is matched only by the unbridled hostility of Mother Nature's displays. Creating an unparalleled stage, on which to witness the dramatic and daily life-and-death dramas of desert wildlife play out. Standing on the rim of the Fish River Canyon, second only to the Grand Canyon in size, sweeping vistas paint a portrait of a world made in anger, stained with hostility and seemingly without end. Sheer cliffs and jagged rocky outcrops, the colour of dried blood, drop vertically down for hundreds of meters. Unsettled rocks disappear from view, only to be heard smashing into the unforgiving valley below. This isolated world is a modern-day Jurassic Park, home to the desert's last remaining dinosaurs!

3. Okavango Delta

The Okavango Delta is the prized jewel in Africa's crown of monumental wildernesses. The largest inland delta in the world, its 2 million hectares of swamp glisten and glean in unrivalled psychedelic displays. In this teeming oasis of giants and gentiles, all creatures' struggles for survival are inextricably intertwined with the ebb and flow of the river's life-sustaining and life-severing waters. The Delta's grandiose scale screams out for awe-inspiring spectacles, and its bustling diversity of inhabitants deliver...and so much more. The underpinning ecological systems operating in the Okavango Delta are as compelling and riveting as the life-stories of its inhabitants. As the dry season reaches its peak on the Delta's tinder-dry Grasslands, terrific lightning storms seed ravenous fires that scorch through mile-upon-mile in minutes. Vast chim-neys of smoke rise

to meet the clouds, triggering torrential downpours that soak the rich ash into the land. The Delta is rejuvenated, and life begins anew in one of the most astonishing ecosystems on the planet.

4. Mashatu

Bordering the parameter of the Mapangubwe trans-frontier park, lies an ancient land where infinite vistas are only broken by the wild giants that dwell in its wide-open planes. Defined by the life-giving vein of the great Limpopo River, whose banks burst with some of Africa's most iconic creatures, Mashatu tells an exciting tale of times past.

This extraordinary region is a place of contrast, where life can either flourish or be snuffed out in an instant. Here, the constant war between predator and prey plays out on a daily basis across some of Africa's most dramatic and unforgiving terrain. Appropriately named the "Land of the Giants" this diverse region is home to some of the largest fauna and flora on the planet.

5. Mala Mala

Thirty three thousand acres of unspoilt land makes up world renowned Mala Mala game reserve. This fascinating region is a hotbed for wildlife activity with some of the greatest game viewing opportunities in Africa. Home to one of the largest concentrations of predators in the world, Mala Mala plays host to some of Africa's most epic animal confrontations. The Sand River serves as a life-line for Mala Mala's wild inhabitants, as it winds its way across the rugged landscape - big cats like the Lion and the Leopard battle it out for prime territory, while across the banks vast herds of antelope are drawn to the lush greenery and the dappled shade of sprawling Acacia trees.