

Meet the local Community Rhino

IMVELO
SAFARI LODGES
CONNECTING PEOPLE & NATURE

COMMUNITY RHINO
Conservation Initiative



Thuza and Kusasa

Meet Thuza and Kusasa, our first two white rhinos pioneering the reintroduction of the species to the Hwange ecosystem! We're confident in saying this experience will exceed expectations - guests often say the rhino activity was a highlight of their African safari.

The arrival of these two rhinos in May 2022 is the pilot phase of CRCI – the Community Rhino Conservation Initiative. Visitors' experience starts at the Cobras Community Wildlife Protection Unit HQ, where guests hear about the project to date and about its ambitious community and conservation goals, and find out more about our two celebrity rhinos.



The Cobras

Meet the Cobras Community Wildlife Protection Unit - a highly trained team recruited from nearby villages. They are proud, motivated and each one has a story to tell. The Cobras Community Wildlife Protection scouts guard Thuza and Kusasa 24/7 and know them the best. You'll be able to meet them and learn more about their training and their important job.

The activity

The whole activity will typically last about two hours – but can extend well beyond that as visitors become immersed in the story of these two animals who were pals long before their move to Hwange.

A short walk will link visitors with the Cobras guarding Thuza and Kusasa. Camelthorn guests sometimes enjoy a surprise visit at the lodge itself, or even during a meal! At midday, they rest in a shady woodland spot, moving out to graze in the afternoon. Rhinos have poor eyesight but extra sharp hearing and smell – the approach of several tons of nearly two-metre-tall white rhino bulls will get hearts racing.

Visitors come away humbled but inspired with the realisation that the future of the Ngamo Plains and Hwange once again includes one of Africa's most iconic large mammals. The actual activity is subject to conditions on the ground.



Rates

Valid 1 January to 31 December 2025

For bookings made at **Bomani Tented Lodge** or **Camelthorn Lodge** for 2025 a mandatory, non-commissionable **Community Rhino Conservation Initiative (CRCI) levy of \$180 per person per stay** is payable. Children 16 and under are \$90 per person per stay.

Includes:

- Visit the sanctuary headquarters and home of the Cobras – hear a short talk on the CRCI project, rhino security, and future plans.
- Walking tour to join the rhino and the Cobras guarding them – lots of photo opportunities and time to appreciate Thuza and Kusasa in their new home. *(How close visitors will be able to get to the rhino is subject to conditions on the ground.)*

Please note:

Rates are quoted in USD, inclusive of 2% Tourism Levy. Subject to availability and terms and conditions apply.

Community Rhino Conservation Initiative

- **Expanding territory for rhino:** locally extinct for nearly 20 years, the project reintroduces this critically endangered species to habitat where it was once prolific.
- **Community custodianship:** Breaking new ground for conservation, for the first time in Africa, CRCI places white rhinos on community land and partners with the people to ensure sustainability. A portion of the income from the project is already supporting nurse salaries and drugs at our new Ngamo clinic. Large numbers of local school children and community members have been visiting their new neighbours and hearing from our Cobras scouts.
- **Locally rooted security:** A policy unique to this project is our scout selection open only to residents of the neighbouring villages. The Cobras Community Wildlife Protection Unit is producing local heroes with their ears to the ground.



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WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHY

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