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# A New Era of ILA SAFARI LODGE

[ WRITER : Robyn Simpson ]

[ PHOTO: Green Safaris ]

**Ila Safari Lodge by Green Safaris is where guests seeking luxury in nature will find what they're after. More so, prepare to be awestruck by a thoughtful rebuild amid the longstanding wonders of Kafue National Park.**

A Phoenix in Kafue National Park, you say? Ila Safari Lodge by Green Safaris opened its doors to guests again on 1 March 2024 with a brand-new look. The rebuild was the result of a fire which claimed the beloved boma area.

Green Safaris' director and founder, Vincent Kouwenhoven, watched as the first of his properties in the group, and his first step into sustainable design many moons ago, was swept to the ground as the flames roared. A big part of being eco-conscious is ensuring that things stand the test of time. Mother Nature, however, had other plans for Ila. But the property and its people are resilient and something glorious has risen from the ashes.

Ila Safari Lodge has always retained an air of opulence. It's the mother property in a family of camps and lodges across Zambia and Malawi, all revolutionising travel thanks to Green Safaris and its unwavering commitment to sustainability.

The new Ila does not sway on these values and — at the same time — is a nod to luxury. This, as evident at all Green Safaris properties, is how high-end experiences and preservation co-exist, offering a unique experience for visitors and a chance for the environment to breathe.

Staring at a blank canvas for the boma area, Vincent was struck with an idea rooted in his recent experience of building nests, for people, at Chisa Busanga Camp. The nests are sustainably striking, built from a simple metal frame and woven with sticks collected around northern Kafue National Park. It is this epic concept that now features at Ila — but bigger and with a twist.

*The new boma resembles an infinity sign: an ode to balance in nature and an omen for the future of Ila. Two half-domes are connected by a curved pathway to mimic the symbol, most evident when looking at the structure from above.*

Inside, you'll find a lounge and bar area, as well as a dining area with a live cooking station. Above ground, there's a stargazing deck where you might spot Magellanic clouds, unique to the southern hemisphere, and the Milky Way — a photographer's delight.

The construction process is, in itself, a sustainable development. The exterior of the boma is cased in sustainably grown African bamboo, sourced from local communities

to add another level of empowerment to this project. The build also prompted the acquisition of a machine capable of producing blocks from abandoned termite mounds. When you visit, you can appreciate that you are, quite literally, sheltered by nature's own design.

If the dazzling infinity boma wasn't enough, Ila surprises with its new Ila Safari House. It boasts seven rooms, two of which are family rooms. A private pool is outside in the main area, adorned with loungers overlooking your own slice of the Kafue River. Ila Safari House guests also get to enjoy meals made in the exclusive kitchen.

Ila's iconic luxury safari tents remain, perfect for couples seeking privacy. Wherever you decide to rest your head at night, the lodge and its staff will, as always, be ready to blow you away. All that's left to do is hop in an e-Cruiser, step into an e-boat, or take a stroll on a walking safari. The wonders of Kafue National Park await.

Get in touch with Green Safaris to experience Ila reborn:  
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