



MACHABA SAFARIS

CLASSIC SAFARI CAMPS
BOTSWANA & ZIMBABWE

Est. 2012

VERNEY'S CAMP

May 2026 Sightings Report

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May marked the arrival of winter in Hwange, bringing chilly mornings, cooler evenings, and pleasant temperatures during the day. A light drizzle during the month was a reminder of the recently departed rainy season, while shorter days and longer nights signalled the changing season. Across the concession, grasses began to dry, some trees started shedding leaves, and wildlife adjusted to the cooler conditions.

Predator sightings featured strongly throughout the month. One of the highlights was an encounter with the well-known male cheetah coalition known as the *Chiz Boys*. Found resting beside a termite mound on the open plains, one brother remained in the shade while the other used the mound as a lookout point. Their relaxed behaviour allowed guests plenty of time to enjoy the sighting.



Another memorable encounter came when two female leopards were spotted moving through tall grass alongside the road. Having already seen several predators that day, guests were not expecting another surprise. The pair remained visible long enough to be followed briefly before disappearing back into cover, completing an exceptional game drive.

A rare sighting of lions and cheetahs within close proximity of each other was a highlight of May. As the lions approached, the cheetahs remained motionless in the grass, relying on their camouflage to stay hidden.

Fresh lion tracks later led guides to two lionesses resting on a grassy rise overlooking the plains..



Around camp, resident hyenas continued their nightly patrols, while four hyena cubs were seen playing near their mother. Spring hares also remained regular visitors around the guest rooms after dark

