



# ZIMBABWE

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PERSONAL TRAVEL GUIDE



A full-page background image showing a sunset over a body of water. The sun is a bright yellow-orange orb on the right side of the frame. The sky is a gradient of orange and yellow. In the middle ground, there is a dark silhouette of a forest line. On the right side of the water, there is a multi-story boat or houseboat with some lights visible. The water in the foreground has gentle ripples and reflects the light from the sun.

# Important Tips When Traveling to Zimbabwe


Zimbabwe is the ideal destination for travellers who want to do more than simply view wildlife from a safari vehicle. The country's many game parks offer a variety of game viewing experiences, from day and night game drives in open vehicles to boat cruises, walking safaris, canoeing and houseboats. Find out what is available in the areas that you intend to visit.



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An aerial photograph of Victoria Falls at sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm orange glow over the scene. The Zambezi River flows from the left, cascading over the edge of the falls. A large plume of white mist rises from the base of the falls. The surrounding landscape is a mix of green vegetation and brown, rocky terrain. A road with a bridge is visible on the right side of the image.

# Your Personal Travel Guide to ZIMBABWE

Tourism is an important source of revenue in Zimbabwe and standards at hotels and restaurants in the more popular tourist destinations are stringently maintained. Most of the country's popular tourist spots are situated far away from its main cities in secluded locations. One of Zimbabwe's top tourist attractions, Victoria Falls is geared almost exclusively towards tourism and remains a popular destination.

Please Note:

- The Victoria Falls/Zambezi River experiences low water levels between August and January (subject to rainfall).
- In order to participate in a white water rafting excursion, you will need to spend a minimum of two nights in Victoria Falls

Victoria Falls lies between Zimbabwe and Zambia, two countries separated by the Zambezi River and the chasm of the Batoka Gorge. The waterfall can be viewed from either country, but in all honesty, you want to see it from the Zimbabwe side because sixteen of the twenty viewpoints are in the rainforest on the Zimbabwean side – that's 75% of the waterfall! In the dry season the water levels drop, and the side facing Zambia dries up. You are here to witness the Mosi-Oa-Tunya (Smoke that Thunders), so for those only visiting Zambia then, a dry rock face is going to be very disappointing.



## TIME DIFFERENCE



Zimbabwe shares the same time as all of southern Africa which is two hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) + 2 hours, in the Central Africa Time Zone (CAT).



**The use of credit cards is not recommended in Zimbabwe.** Visa and MasterCard are accepted by most restaurants, shops and hotels. Diners Club and American Express are sometimes not accepted. Proof of identity may be requested, so be sure to carry a passport or some form of photo identification at all times.

Victoria Falls – a World Heritage site and one of the seven natural wonders of the world, is one of the world's greatest natural spectacles and the largest waterfall in the world.

Long before the Scottish missionary and explorer Dr. David Livingstone 'discovered' the Falls in 1855, the local Batonga people had named them Mosi-oa-Tunya, 'the smoke that thunders'. Livingstone named them for his queen Victoria.

Today, the village claims the title of Adrenaline Capital of Africa, with an endless variety of adventure sports from bungee jumping to canoeing and white water rafting.

## LANGUAGE

English is the official language. Other widely spoken languages are Shona and Sindebele which also have various dialects and other minority languages. The various ethnic groups are Shona, Ndebele, Tonga, Zezuru, Kalanga, Lozi, Manyika and Venda.

## CURRENCY

US dollars and South Africa Rands are accepted everywhere; however, notes dated before 2003 are no longer accepted. Also, high denomination notes may not be accepted.

## VALUE ADDED TAX (VAT)

Most goods in Zimbabwe are priced to include value added tax (VAT) of 14.5%, however, this is not refundable to visitors. Accommodation services include 14.5% VAT; while flying, transfers and touring/sightseeing, are zero rated with no VAT implication.



## CLIMATE

Zimbabwe enjoys pleasant temperate climate with 365 days of sunshine and 10 sunshine hours per day on average. The seasons are the reverse of those in the northern hemisphere, with midsummer at Christmas and winter lasting from May to August. The weather in southern Africa is generally pleasant throughout the year – warm to hot days, and cool to warm nights. During our winter months, however (May to August), the nights and early mornings can become really cold, particularly when on safari, so we would like to suggest that you pack accordingly – very warm clothing including an anorak/winter jacket, a beanie, scarf and gloves are recommended.

Generally, the days are bright and sunny and the nights clear and cool. November to April are the summer months (which is the rainy season) while winter is from May to August (which usually

brings dry weather). September and October are very hot and very dry. The winter months from May to August inclusive, can bring freezing temperatures (below 32°F sometimes) in the early morning and evenings.

To witness the Victoria Falls in peak flow visit during the months of March to June.

White-water-rafting is at its best between August and December when the water is low, but if you are looking for a quintessential safari, travel between July and October when the bush is dry and animals congregate around the only available water sources.

Visiting Livingstone Island and Devil's Pool is open during the drier months of the year, usually between mid August and mid January, when the Zambezi water levels are low enough for swimmers to take the plunge.

### Temperature (°F) - These are the average highs and lows

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
VFA	63/89	63/86	64/88	57/84	50/84	44/77	43/77	46/82	57/91	64/93	64/87	63/87
HWN	64/84	64/84	61/86	57/81	48/77	43/77	43/82	46/90	55/93	63/93	64/90	64/86
MNP	70/88	70/88	68/88	64/88	55/84	52/81	52/81	54/84	63/91	70/97	70/93	70/90

### Average Rainfall (inches) - This varies according to the year and location

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
VFA	8.5	7.3	3.9	1.7	0.2	0.1	0	0.1	0.2	0.8	3.9	7.5
HWN	5.3	4	2.2	1.1	0.2	0.1	0	0	0.2	0.8	2	4.6
MNP	7.3	6	3.6	0.9	0	0	0	0	0	0.6	2.8	7.3

## HEALTH

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### Don't underestimate the sun

Sunstroke and heatstroke are common conditions for new, over-ambitious visitors to Africa. As Zimbabwe does not have a very humid climate, the temperature is much more tolerable than in other tropical countries, so it can be easy to forget how long you've been out in the direct sunlight. Avoid getting ill by staying well hydrated throughout the day (with water, not G&Ts!) and by sitting in the shade where possible.

### Drink water from boreholes or bottles

Municipal tap water is treated and theoretically safe to drink, but it's better to drink from borehole-sourced tap water or bottled water in Zimbabwe. Your accommodation will let you know whether their tap water comes from a municipal supply or borehole.

### Take precautions against malaria

Malaria is present in certain areas of Zimbabwe at certain times of the year, so visit your doctor or travel clinic to discuss prophylactics (prevention), ideally 2 months before you go. Tell the doctor/nurse that you are going to Zimbabwe – this is important because Zimbabwe has a species of mosquito (*Plasmodium falciparum*) that is resistant to certain antimalarial drugs such as chloroquine and pyrimethamine/sulfadoxine, so you will need to ensure you take the correct type of medication.

Antimalarial medication for Zimbabwe: Malarone (atovaquone-proguanil) is the most widely recommended anti-malarial medication for Zimbabwe because it doesn't have many side-effects, and it has a simple dosing regimen. It is also effective against the drug-resistant species *P. falciparum*. There are adult and paediatric doses for children over 24lbs.



## SAFETY

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- It is wise to avoid deserted areas, particularly at night.
- Dress-down (i.e. don't wear excessive jewellery) when exploring Africa's diverse cities. Concealed travel wallets are recommended.
- Stopping for hitchhikers is not recommended.



## PASSPORT & VISA REQUIREMENTS

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Guests visiting Zimbabwe must be in possession of a passport that is valid for at least six months from the date of travel. Passports should have two blank pages available. Visitors who intend travelling to Zimbabwe's neighbouring countries and back are advised to apply for multiple entry visas.

Visas are issued on arrival in Zimbabwe. When arriving in Victoria Falls or Livingstone please apply for a Kaza Uni-Visa, which will allow you to access to both Zambia and Zimbabwe. The cost is \$50 per person. Please ensure if you pay cash that you have the correct amount due – No change is given. It is advisable due to potential operational or connectivity problems at these ports of entry, that guests carry the necessary amount in cash to expedite their entry.



It is a good precaution to make copies of all your important documents such as the first pages of your passport and air tickets and keep these in a separate place for safekeeping.



## PHOTOGRAPHY

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Please be sensitive when photographing people. Zimbabweans are renowned for being friendly; however, it is courteous to ask permission before snapping away. It is illegal to take photographs of public buildings, government institutions or military personnel.

The use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (Drones) is not allowed in any of the conservation areas until such time as their impact on wildlife and anti-poaching initiatives can be assessed. This rule will apply throughout Africa, as our partners in various countries and regions have adopted a similar stance.

## ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES

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Electricity in Zimbabwe is 220-230 AC voltage. Most outlets take a 13 amp fused square-pin plug but round pins are still in use so an adaptor that can take both is useful.





## WHAT TO PACK

As a general guide, comfortable and casual clothing that you can wash and wear is recommended while on safari. Muted colours are best for game viewing. Game drives are generally conducted in the early morning and the late afternoon, which can be cold, especially in winter. The temperature often warms up during the day, so it is best to dress in layers.

It's hot, so our advice is to pack lightweight, loose-fitting clothes in natural fabrics such as linen, silk, bamboo and cotton that will keep you cool and are easy to wash and dry. If you are going on safari, neutral colors such as khaki or stone are advisable. It is also worth being aware that it is illegal to have army/combat type clothing or print. A wide-brimmed safari hat is really useful at any time of year, as even the winter sun is hot. Wear plenty of sunscreen and sunglasses, and don't forget your insect/mosquito repellent. Long pants and long-sleeved tops are best, to protect you from the harsh sun by day and mosquitoes at night. There is a very relaxed dress code in restaurants – shorts or pants are acceptable for men and women.



**Camouflage-patterned clothing is not permitted in Zimbabwe.** This applies to any clothing that can be construed as mimicking military-wear. Travellers are urged not to wear, or even carry, any military-inspired clothing while travelling in Zimbabwe.

The most practical items to pack for your Zimbabwe safari are:

- Clothes in khaki, green, beige and neutral colours
- Long-sleeved shirts that offer protection from the sun and mosquitoes
- T-shirts
- Shorts or a light skirt
- Jeans or safari trousers for evenings and cooler days
- Jackets and sweaters for early morning and late afternoon game drives
- A lightweight waterproof jacket in case of rain
- Swim and beachwear
- Comfortable walking shoes
- Sunscreen, sunglasses, a hat, insect repellent, moisturiser and lip salve
- Binoculars and camera equipment



## LUGGAGE RESTRICTIONS



The luggage allowance on small flights is usually limited to a maximum of 44lbs, which includes hand luggage, so please bear this in mind when packing. Most lodges and camps provide a same-day laundry service for your clothes.

## PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

The dates of certain public holidays change from year to year – refer below. If a public holiday falls on a Sunday, then the Monday is also declared a public holiday.

01 January	New Year's Day
21 February	National Youth Day
Varies	Good Friday
Varies	Easter Monday
18 April	Independence Day
01 May	Workers' Day
25 May	Africa Day
10 August	Heroes Day
2nd weekend August	Defence Force's National Day
22 December	National Unity Day
25 December	Christmas Day
26 December	Public Holiday