

Zimbabwe



Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe has a generous sampling of the African continent that many people hope to see: exotic scenery, unique cultures and a variety of game parks. Without a doubt, the highlights of Zimbabwe are the Hwange and Mana Pools national parks, and the dramatic Victoria Falls, which the country shares with neighboring Zambia. There, the mighty Zambezi River crashes into the Bakota Gorge. Victoria Fall deserves its title as one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World.

VISAS & TAXES

A visa is required for entry into Zimbabwe. Visas may be purchased upon arrival. Please refer to your Pre-Travel Checklist and itinerary for details. If you are not a US passport holder your entry requirements may vary; please contact your local government office for entry requirements.

Travelers flying within/out of Zimbabwe may be required to pay a departure tax directly at the airport. Please refer to your itinerary for details; if there are no details in the itinerary this means that the taxes are already included in your tickets. Most major airlines include this departure tax in the cost of the ticket. All government fees are subject to change without notice.

Visa fees and departure taxes must be paid in USD cash directly at the airport. Exact change is required.

CURRENCY

The currency in Zimbabwe is the U.S. Dollar. When shopping or paying for activities, cash is king. Traveler's checks are not accepted.

CREDIT CARDS

Visa is the only credit card accepted in Victoria Falls and surrounding areas.

VAT

Goods and services in Zimbabwe are priced to include value added tax (VAT) of 15%. This tax is not refundable on departure from Zimbabwe.

PERSONAL SAFETY

We recommend only visiting tourist areas and to venture out into other areas only when accompanied by a reputable tour operator. Avoid demonstrations and other political gatherings.

At safari lodges/camps, listen to the camp staff and guides. Safety precautions need to be taken seriously, and strictly adhered to.

LANGUAGE

There are three official languages of Zimbabwe: Shona (or chiShona), Ndebele (or SiNdebele), and English. All three languages are acceptable in education and government, but English is traditionally the language used for official business and serves as a common language for most Zimbabweans.



RECOMMENDED READING

- * *This is Zimbabwe* - Gerald Cubitt & Peter Joyce
- * *Zimbabwe: The Beautiful & Zimbabwe: Beautiful Land* - Peter Joyce
- * *Zambezi - The River of the Gods* - Jan & Fiona Teede.
- * *Hwange - The Retreat of the Elephants* - Nick Greaves
- * *African Thunder: The Victoria Falls* - Jan & Fiona Teede

JUST FOR FUN

- * The Zambezi River god is a fish-headed, serpent-tailed creature called Nyaminyami, whose image, like the Zimbabwe bird, is a popular motif in local curios and jewelry.
- * The Scottish explorer and missionary Dr. David Livingstone was the first European to view Victoria Falls in 1855. In his journal he described them as, "scenes so lovely must be gazed upon by angels in their flight."
- * Zimbabwe has the highest lightning-strike rate in the world because of the amount of underground metals in the landscape.
- * Zimbabwe's 1980 independence ceremony was attended by Britain's Prince Charles and the singer Bob Marley, who wrote and performed a special song titled "Zimbabwe."
- * Zimbabwe has been populated since the Stone Age, and the ruins of Great Zimbabwe, dating back to the ancient African kingdom of Munhumatapa, testify to the advanced level of civilization that existed before European contact.

Zimbabwe *Average lows and highs													
Temp.		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
VicFalls	°F	63/90	63/86	64/88	57/84	50/84	45/77	43/77	46/82	57/91	64/93	64/88	63/88
Harare	°F	62/79	61/79	60/79	56/77	51/74	48/71	46/69	49/74	55/81	58/82	61/83	61/80
VicFalls	°C	17/32	17/30	18/31	14/29	10/29	7/25	6/25	8/28	14/33	18/34	18/31	17/31
Harare	°C	16/26	16/26	15/26	13/25	10/23	8/21	7/20	9/23	12/27	14/27	16/28	16/26
*Rain variations occur each year. Amounts are dependent on your specific location.													
Rain		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
VicFalls	in	8.47	7.28	3.94	1.77	0.19	0.11	0.03	0.11	0.15	0.78	3.94	7.48
Harare	in	7.5	6.50	4.10	1.40	0.20	0	0.1	0.1	0.20	1.40	3.40	7.1
VicFalls	mm	215	185	100	45	5	3	1	3	4	20	100	190
Harare	mm	191	165	104	37	5	0	3	3	5	36	86	180