



## TRAVEL INFO ZIMBABWE



### ZIMBABWE

May to October is the winter season (dry and no rain) and seen as the best season to visit Zimbabwe. For the Victoria Falls the best time will be April to May just at the end of the summer rainy months.

**The best places to explore in Zimbabwe are as per our recommendations:**

- Hwange National Park
- Lake Kariba / Kariba Dam
- Mana Pools National Park
- Matusadona National Park
- Matobo National Park
- Gonarezhou National Park / Malilangwe Wildlife Reserve
- Victoria Falls

**Top 3 reasons why one should Go:**

- Diverse range of species in the great National Parks
- Various land and water activities offered
- Fantastic sceneries and remote landscapes



### **Some great things we recommend to Do and See:**

- Visit Victoria Falls
- Zambezi River hosts adventure activities
- Go whitewater rafting below the falls
- Lake Kariba and go boat based game viewing of fishing
- Hwange Reserve
- Visit the Zimbabwe ruins which is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site
- Matobo National Park with it thousands of rock paintings
- Large black Eagle sighting and population to be found at Matobo National Park

### **CURRENCY:**

The Rhodesian dollar was the old currency before the Zimbabwe dollar become the official currency from 1980 to 12th April 2009, with a period of inflation, followed by hyperinflation.

The hyperinflation reduced it to one of the lowest valued currency units in the world and it was re-denominated three times 2006, 2008 and 2009.

Currencies such as the South African Rand, Botswana pula, Pound sterling, Euro, Japanese yen, Australian dollar and US dollar are now used of all transactions in Zimbabwe.

Some of the ATM's have a biting cash shortage which has forced banks to lower their daily withdrawal limits but one can withdraw with your debit/credit cards. Alternative is to go into the bank and do the actual exchange at the counter.

Credit Cards are safe way to make payments but don't rely on them completely. All payments are processed in US dollar and is largely paper based. But mostly, Visa and MasterCard are accepted and can be used in restaurants, hotels, petrol stations and retail shops. American Express and Diners also offering services but sometimes these cards are not accepted at some places.

### **DRIVING INFO:**

Driving in Zimbabwe is on the left side of the road and seat belts are mandatory for all passengers. The driver is to carry at all times a valid drivers licence, registration documents and insurance documents.

Petrol stations are easy found in the main cities and towns. However in more remote areas they are not.

Please note that roads in Zimbabwe are now in a very dilapidated condition with potholes and one must be cautious when driving during the day and especially at night.



### Speed limits:

Maximum speed in Zimbabwe is **120 km/h**. Before entering a town or village you will see **80** followed by **60 km/h** signs. Respect them. There will probably be a police vehicle with radar speed control at the end of the speed limit area.

Sometimes there is no sign indicating you can start to drive faster (these signs are sometimes stolen), so keep the 60km/hour until the end of the inhabited area. Traffic policemen may take advantage of the fact the signs are not present! So beware. Do also reduce the speed when you see a school sign and animals/life stock on the road.

Fines are carded for excess speeding of 6 - 49 km/h above the applicable limit. Speeding at 50 km/h and more above the applicable limit results in a court appearance.

### **EMERGENCY NUMBERS:**

In the last 15 years of operating and selling holidays in Africa we fortunately did not experience any big emergency's. But just in case anything would happen please find some important info below.

All Emergencies: 999  
Police Emergency: 995  
Ambulance Services: 994  
Fire Department: 993

### MARS - Medical Air and Rescue services:

Bulawayo +263 9 64082 / 62611  
Gweru +263 54 223 339  
Harare +263 4 705 905 / 706 034 / 771 221  
Kariba +263 61 3006  
Kwekwe +263 21999  
Marondera +263 279 24949  
Masvingo +263 39 263222  
Mutare +263 20 66466  
Victoria Falls +263 13 44646

### Hospitals:

Bulawayo: Central Hospital, Tel: +263 9 252 111  
Bulawayo: Mater Dei Hospital, Tel: +263 9 240 000  
Gweru: Clay Bank Private Hospital, Tel: +263 54 223 330  
Harare: Candaro Clinic, Tel: +263 4 882 350  
Harare: Parirenyawata Hospital, Tel: +263 4 708 864 / 5  
Harare: St. Annes, Tel: +263 4 339 933 / 6  
Victoria Falls: VF Medical Center, Tel: +263 13 433 56



### Main Police Stations:

Bulawayo: +263 9 995

Harare Central: +263 4 748 836 / 77651

Victoria Falls: +263 13 42206

### **CREDIT CARD EMERGENCY NUMBER:**

We suggest to keep the emergency number which is on the pack of your Credit Card separate in case the card gets lost or stolen so that you can contact your bank directly.

### **LANGUAGES / HOSPITALITY:**

Zimbabwe is an ethnically diverse country of roughly 13 million people. The Shona is then most widely spoken language in the capital beside English which is the official language, Sindebele and Ndebele.

Most arable land is located in the north and east, and the lower lying land in the south and west which is primarily suitable for grazing. They have high mineral resources throughout the country such as coal, platinum and chromium ore.

There are a large number of tourist attractions, including the 26 national parks and game reserves. Traditional arts include pottery basketry, textiles, jewellery and carving.

Herewith a few basic in Shona:

<b>Mauya</b>	Welcome
<b>Mhoro (sg) Mhoroi (pl)</b>	Hello
<b>Wakadini zvako (sg)?</b>	How are you?
<b>Wakadini zvenyu (pl)?</b>	How are you?
<b>Ndiripo</b>	Reply to "how are you?"
<b>Ko, vemakore!</b>	Longtime no see
<b>Unonzani (sg)?</b>	What's your name?
<b>Munonzani (pl)?</b>	What's your name?
<b>Ndinonzi Sam / Zita rangu i Sam</b>	My name is Sam
<b>Ndinobva ku....</b>	I am from....
<b>Ndafara kukuziva (sg)</b>	Please to meet you
<b>Ndafara kukuzivai (pl)</b>	Please to meet you
<b>Mangwanani</b>	Good morning
<b>Masikati</b>	Good afternoon
<b>Manheru</b>	Good evening
<b>Urare zvakanka (sg)</b>	Goodbye
<b>Murare zvakanka (pl)</b>	Goodbye
<b>Uve nemhanza yakanaka</b>	Good luck
<b>Uve nezuva rakanaka</b>	Have a nice day
<b>Pamusoroyi</b>	Bon appetit
<b>Handisi kunyaso nzwisisa</b>	I dont understand



<b>Ndinokumbirawo kuti musakurumidze kutaura</b>	Please speak more slowly
<b>Unotaura...?(sg) / Munotaura...?(pl)</b>	Do you speak....?
<b>Pamusoro (sg) / Pamusoroyi (pl)</b>	Excuse me
<b>Chinoita marii?</b>	How much is this?
<b>Ndineurombo</b>	Sorry
<b>Maita zvaka (sg) Maita zvenyu (pl)</b>	Thank you
<b>Chimbuzi chiripi?</b>	Where is the toilet
<b>Moto</b>	Fire
<b>Mira!</b>	Stop
<b>Daiidzayi mapurisa!</b>	Call the police

### **THE FOOD IN ZIMBABWE:**

Like many African countries they depend on staple food called “Mealie Meals” / cornmeals. It is used to prepare Bota, a porridge made by mixing cornmeal with water which becomes a thick paste. They flavour it with butter or peanut butter and is preferably eaten as a breakfast dish.

For the dinners they prepare a Sadza similar to Bota and is served with vegetables (spinach, spring greens etc), beans and either stewed, grilled roasted or sundried meat. They also like to eat with their Sadza a beef or pork boerewors (sausage) or curdled milk (sour milk) known as “Lacto”. Beside the Bota and Sadza rice and coleslaw salad is also served with main meals. When a celebration comes up like a wedding it is usually celebrated with killing of a goat, sheep or cow.

Since Zimbabwe was a British colony they have adopted some English habits like having a porridge in the morning and the 10 o'clock tea and 4 o'clock tea in the afternoons. It is not uncommon for tea to be served after dinner.

### **Tipping:**

- Restaurants - 10%
- Extra accommodation waiters - an extra \$5.00 for extra special service
- Bartenders - 15% to 20%

### **SAFETY:**

Where ever you travel your safety is of course always of our utmost concern. With over 15 years of travel experience in Africa we compiled some general tips below.

Zimbabwe is still a relatively safe destination which is good news. The main tourist destinations are far away from the areas where the unrest is situated like Harare and other cities. The people who are employed in the parks and game reserves know that their livelihood depends on the tourists who come to visit them. Their efforts allows these locations to remain safe to tourists from all over the world.



Herewith safety tips which will proceed your trip to Zimbabwe without any difficulty:

- Restrict your stay to the tourist destinations only
- Keep your personal documents (passport, driver's license, cash etc.) safe at all times
- Remember to refuel more often due to the fuel shortage that is gripping the country and for emergencies
- Drive with your doors and windows locked at all times and don't leave any valuables visible in your car
- Don't take risks and don't drive at night due to animals and vehicles without lights found on the roads
- Park in safe and designated parking areas

#### **VISA REQUIREMENTS / BORDER POSTS:**

For fly-in:

Visas can be obtained upon the arrival at Harare and Victoria Falls airports only. The fees vary between US\$ 75.00 and \$130.00.

For self-drive tourist please log onto: [www.evisa.gov.zw](http://www.evisa.gov.zw) or make an appointment with your nearest Zimbabwean Embassy or visit their website.

**PLEASE NOTE** as from the 1st July 2015 visitors entering SA travelling with kids require an unabridged birth certificate to enter the country.  
No passenger will therefore be allowed to travel without these papers - be it by land, sea or air.  
For more detailed info on the minor travel/immigration regulations, please visit - [www.dha.gov.za](http://www.dha.gov.za)

For our self-drive tourists the most used border posts into Zimbabwe are:

Zimbabwe / South Africa:

**Breitbridge Border Post (A bridge toll is payable to cross the Limpopo)**

Opening hours: 24 hours

Zimbabwe / Botswana:

**Plumtree Border Post**

Opening hours: 06h00 - 20h00

**Kazungulu Border Post**

Opening hours: 06h00 - 18h00



Zimbabwe / Mozambique:

**Forbes Border Post / Mutare**

Opening hours: 06h00 - 18h00

**Nyamapanda Border Post**

Opening hours: 06h00 - 18h00

Zimbabwe / Zambia:

**Chirundu Border Post**

Opening hours: 06h00 - 18h00

**Kariba Border Post**

Opening hours: 06h00 - 20h00

**Victoria Falls Border Post**

Opening hours: 06h00 - 22h00

For self-drive clients:

Private motor vehicles including caravans and trailers can be brought temporarily into Zimbabwe. They have to be licensed in their home countries, must have a appropriate registration plate and a national plaque.

Make sure you bring the international certificate of motor vehicle with you which is recognised in Zimbabwe.

**The vehicle must be insured against third party risks and a short-term policies are obtainable at the border posts and a road tax per vehicle is applicable and payable too.**

**HEALTH / INSURANCE:**

We recommend that you obtain malaria prophylactics and please tell your doctor or pharmacist that you intend visiting Zimbabwe and Zambesi area. Whatever prophylactics you use, remember to complete the course as directed after leaving the malaria area. Take precautionary measures to prevent contact with mosquitoes, like: sleeping under a bed net or in a room / tent with mosquito proofing; making use of a mosquito repelling lotion or stick at sunset time is recommended and cover your body with a long sleeve shirt/pants and close shoes.

For all extra needed vaccinations, all travelers should consult their personal physician or a travel clinic 4-8 weeks before departure.

A Medical and Travel insurance is highly recommended prior to the start of the holiday.



## WHAT TO PACK:

**Zimbabwe has** a sub-tropical climate that is influenced by altitude. There are **four** distinct **seasons**. ... A cool dry winter **season** from May to August and a warm dry **season** from August to October.

Swim and beachwear. Jeans or safari trousers for evenings and cooler days. A lightweight waterproof jacket in case of rain.

For game drives aim for reasonable neutral colours – think of the movie “Out of Africa”. A windbreaker or hoddie is ideal too. For evening we suggest something more formal at more up market and exclusive lodges/hotels. **DO NOT FOGET** the binoculars for the game viewing!

camping  
Africa