



ZIMBABWE

This information is provided by *People and Places* as a guideline to the country you will be visiting. For further information you can visit the official Zimbabwe Tourism Authority website at www.zimbabwetourism.net

TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

All visitors to Zimbabwe must have a passport which is **valid for at least 6 months beyond their intended departure date from Zimbabwe**. Visitors to southern Africa must ensure they have enough blank VISA pages (not endorsement pages) in their passports. Our recommendation is **3 pages (or even 4 if you are travelling through more than one country on your journey)**. If there is insufficient space in the passport then entry into a country could be denied.

Visitors must also be in possession of outward travel documents and have sufficient funds for the duration of their stay.

VISAS

Visas are the responsibility of the traveler. Those nationalities that are required to have visas to enter Zimbabwe may have to apply for these in advance while others can obtain these on arrival at the port of entry. Costs also vary depending on the nationality of your passport so please contact us if you are not sure. Zimbabwe have recently launched an online facility that travellers may use to pre-apply for visas. For further information, please refer to the website www.evisa.gov.zw Alternatively, please visit the following website for additional information – bearing in mind that People and Places is not responsible for the content thereof: www.zimbabwe-embassy.us

Please note:

- If visas are required, please ensure you have the correct cash amounts available as credit cards and travelers cheques are not accepted at immigration.
- You must advise the relevant official of the total number of days that you are spending in Zimbabwe otherwise you may be charged to obtain an extension/additional visa later on.
- If you arrive in Zimbabwe but continue your safari in another country (such as Botswana, Namibia or Zambia) and then return to Zimbabwe, then a double-entry visa must be obtained on arrival from the immigration official.**see Univisa

UNIVISA

A Univisa (KAZA Visa) is now available for people who are visiting both Zambia and Zimbabwe on their travels. This can be applied for in Zambia at Harry Mwaanga Airport in Livingstone, Victoria Falls Land Border, Kazungula Land Border (Botswana) and Kenneth Kaunda International Airport in Lusaka. And in Zimbabwe at Victoria Falls Airport, Victoria Falls Land Border, Kazungula Land Border and Harare International Airport. The visa costs USD50 and lasts for up to 30 days as long as you remain within Zambia and Zimbabwe. It also covers those who visit Botswana for day trips through the Kazungula borders. It is only eligible for those countries who are able to receive visas on arrival in both Zambia and Zimbabwe. If you require a pre-approved visa for Zambia or Zimbabwe the Univisa is not applicable to you.

MEDICATION & HEALTH

The information that follows is simply designed to give the reader some guidelines and general tips. We strongly advise you to consult your doctor prior to travel and get accurate and up-to-date advice on inoculation requirements, and anti-malarial precautions.

Medical insurance, preferably one that includes air evacuation, should be regarded as a pre-requisite for any safari holiday.

Tetanus and the hepatitis vaccinations are recommended.

Malaria: is caused by a mosquito borne parasite and is endemic in Zimbabwe. Please remember that the best precaution is the preventative kind.

- Avoid being bitten by using mosquito repellents liberally. A lot of camps provide a locally made repellent, however, please feel free to bring your own if you suffer from any skin sensitivities or allergies.
- Wear long-sleeved shirts and trousers/slacks in the evenings.
- Please use the mosquito net over your bed where supplied/available.
- Where provided, please use the insecticide supplied to kill any mosquitoes that may have flown into your room.
- Mosquito coils are also effective.

Malaria is transmitted by a very small percentage of female *Anopheles* mosquitoes. They are mainly active in the early evening and throughout the night. Malaria transmission is at its highest during the warmer and wetter months of November through to April. From May through to October the risks of contracting malaria are reduced.





There is a 6 to 7 day minimum incubation period before symptoms present themselves. If you become ill on your return, while still on prophylaxis or even once you have stopped taking them, ensure that your medical practitioner does everything to establish that your illness is not malaria. Malaria can be prevented if you are sensible and take basic precautions. It is important to consult your doctor prior to your safari; he will prescribe a course of prophylactics.

The Sun: The African sun can be very strong and sunburn can occur through clouds and even a light T-shirt. Bad sunburn can spoil your safari so be sensible, use cream and wear a hat.

De-Hydration: in a mild form can be fairly common in the hotter months. It is not dangerous so long as you recognize the symptoms and react accordingly. The key is to keep body fluids up by drinking plenty of water. If nausea or vomiting result, then medical attention should be sought. It would be worth including a couple of packets of re-hydration salts in your holiday medical kit if you have one.

Diarrhea: is a common problem when traveling anywhere in Africa. The standards of hygiene in all of the safari camps booked by us is very high but it is not uncommon for individuals to react to a change in diet or water. The best bet is to be sensible about what you eat and drink and bring suitable medication just in case. Camps will generally advise if the tap water is suitable for drinking or not. Most camps will provide bottled mineral water which we suggest you use for drinking to avoid any stomach reactions.

If you do have any particular medical needs or requirements, please advise us in advance so we can ensure the best care in each of the properties you are visiting.

INSURANCE

People and Places and its agents, staff or associates cannot be held responsible or liable for loss, damage, or theft of personal luggage and belongings, nor can they be held liable for personal injury, accident or illness. Please ensure that you have yourself and your belongings adequately insured before your departure. Insurance is compulsory for all our trips. If you do not possess a policy, please contact your broker for details.

a) Health Insurance

Before you travel anywhere it is imperative to have medical/accident insurance which covers you while you are away, as well as for emergency repatriation.

b) Cancellation

You might have to cancel your safari due to unforeseen circumstances. If you cancel a trip close to departure date for any reason you could lose all that the safari was going to cost you. Dependant on the reason cancellation insurance should cover you for this eventuality.

c) Baggage Insurance

Airline liabilities with respect to your baggage is limited. It is advisable to take out insurance if you are carrying expensive and valuable camera equipment. You should always carry such equipment as "carry-on" luggage. Do not put anything of value in your checked baggage!

d) Claims

If you anticipate an insurance claim upon your return, be sure to document as accurately as possible any accident, injury or loss. Doctor's notes and police reports will aid any claim.

DIETARY REQUIREMENTS

Should you be following a special diet or have allergies to certain types of food, please advise us in advance so we can notify the properties where you are staying. Most camps are able to cater for dietary requirements, but due to the remote locations, they do require necessary notice so as to be able to order any special supplies in advance.

DEPARTURE TAXES

Major airlines include Departure Taxes in their ticket costs. However, if you are travelling on cross-border private charter flights ex Zimbabwe, you must pay this directly at the airport. In addition to the Departure Taxes, there is an AIDF tax which has been introduced in Zimbabwe to fund the upgrading of its airports. This tax needs to be paid either directly by the client on departure per light aircraft/private charter or will be included in the costs of any scheduled/commercial airline ticket. Currently, and subject to change, these taxes are:





- Domestic flights – US\$ 10.00 departure tax plus US\$ 5.00 AIDEF fees (Aviation Infrastructural Development Fund), total of US\$ 15.00 per person
- International flights – US\$ 35.00 departure tax plus US\$ 15.00 AIDEF fees (Aviation Infrastructural Development Fund), total of US\$ 50.00 per person

This is applicable on departure from any registered, manned airports which include Harare, Bulawayo, Kariba, Hwange and Victoria Falls airports. This fee, currently US\$ 15.00 per person, must be paid direct at the airport in US\$ cash or the equivalent in previously mentioned hard currencies.

Small denominations of US Dollars are encouraged for easier and quicker transactions and it helps to have the exact amount to hand as change is sometimes not provided. Travellers Cheques and credit cards are also not accepted for this purpose.

LUGGAGE ON AIR TRANSFERS

There are strict weight restrictions in place on any itinerary which includes light aircraft transfers:

- You should always travel with **soft bags** not hard suitcases (not only for the smaller aircraft but also to fit into vehicles).
- Please check your confirmed tickets or check with us on your flights booked and applicable weight allowances before packing. On Charter flights checked in luggage should generally not exceed 15 kg.
- A small camera bag or similar can be taken on board not exceeding 5kg but space is limited as there are no overhead lockers so any bags taken on board will have to fit under the seat in front.
- These limits are applicable to guests travelling on a seat rate basis so it may differ if guests have booked on a sole use or private charter option in which case the maximums depend on the type of aircraft and the number of passengers booked.
- Please check your confirmed tickets prior to packing for exact details of weight allowance on your booked sectors.

These luggage restrictions appear minimal, however, please bear in mind the following:

- Most safari camps / lodges and hotels provide basic toilet amenities.
- Laundry can be done on a daily basis (many camps provide this service free of charge but some camps and hotels do charge a nominal fee).
- Mainly casual clothing is required.

As no formal clothes are needed throughout most of southern Africa, we recommend that you limit your luggage to the basics. More formal attire is usually required only when staying in the more prestigious city hotel establishments or on any of the luxury trains. On a wildlife safari, casual clothing is the order of the day. We have included a suggested packing list in our documentation for your reference.

EXCESS LUGGAGE

If you need to bring luggage in excess of your allowance, you may have the option of buying an extra seat. The additional cost of this varies depending on your flight schedule so please contact us for further details.

CLIMATE

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 September), it can get really cold at night and in the early morning, 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. Please also refer to our packing suggestions list.

Summer

October to April - days are hot and generally sunny in the morning with possible afternoon thunderstorms. Day temperatures average 25°C - 35°C, sometimes going into the 40's. Night temperatures drop to 14°C - 20°C. The rainy season is generally from November to March.

Winter

May to September - days are dry, sunny and cool to warm 20°C - 25°C, while evening temperatures drop sharply to 5°C - 10°C. Temperatures in some parts can go below 0°C in the mornings and evenings.





OUR SUGGESTED PACKING LIST

Khaki or neutral-coloured clothing is best (dark colours stand out less in the bush than light ones). Loose clothes are preferable and layers are always useful. Evening dress in all camps and most hotels is casual but bring longs to protect against mosquitoes when eating out in the bush. A sweater or light jacket is useful at most times of the year. If traveling in our winter months a warm jacket will be necessary.

Clothing

- Sun hat/bush hat.
- Headscarf/bandana – particularly for dusty dry regions.
- Golf-shirts and/or T-shirts – preferably with sleeves to protect your shoulders from the sun.
- Long-sleeved cotton shirts.
- Shorts and/or skirts – really short skirts are not practical for getting in and out of game drive vehicles.
- Long trousers/slacks.
- Track suit.
- Pyjamas – lightweight for summer and warm/thermal for winter.
- Underwear – on game drives the roads can be bumpy and uneven so a suitable bra may be required.
- Socks – thermal options are recommended for the winter months.
- Good closed walking shoes (running/tennis shoes are fine).
- Sandals – preferably low heeled or flat if you are going on safari.
- Swimming costume.
- Lightweight jersey or fleece in summer.
- Light rain gear or jacket for summer months.
- Warm jersey or fleece plus anorak or parka in winter.
- Additionally, a scarf, gloves and beanies/woollen hats for the cold winter months.
- More formal attire for your stay at prestigious city hotels.

Equipment and Other

- Good quality sunglasses
- High strength sun block (SPF 30 or higher)
- Moisturizer and lip salve
- Insect repellent for body application
- Basic Medical Kit (aspirins, plasters, Imodium, antiseptic cream, anti-histamine cream and tablets)
- Binoculars – an absolute must if on any type of safari. Many options are available but with this equipment invariably the more you spend the better you get.
- Torch – Many camps have no mains power so night-time lighting may be by candle or hurricane lamp, a lot of camps will have torches by the bed but best to pack your own.
- Glasses – if you wear prescription glasses bring a spare pair. If you wear contact lenses bring a pair of glasses as well since dust can be a problem.
- Camera equipment – This is obviously very personal but zoom or telephoto lenses are useful. Cleaning equipment and a dust proof bag are also useful. Spare batteries and memory cards are very important.
- Visas, tickets, passports, money, credit cards, insurance details, etc

LAUNDRY

Laundry can be done at most camps. This service is generally complimentary. Laundries are available at the hotels in major centres and laundry is charged for per hotel rates.

POWER

A lot of the camps booked are situated in remote areas and electricity is generated in a number of ways. Camps will normally have a generator that runs for about 6 hours per day (3 hours in the morning and 3 in the afternoon when guests are out on activities). These generators then charge batteries for an inverter system to provide lights when the generators are switched off. There are only 220v power points in camp. If something runs on 110v, you will need to bring your own converter in order to have your video battery re-charged, which can be done while you are out on an activity. Therefore, please bring spare batteries for use while the other is being charged. These systems are simple and perfectly functional. Electrical plug outlets are not available in most camp rooms and therefore it is not possible to use appliances such as hairdryers or electric shavers during your stay there. In major cities electrical appliances run on 220/240 volts AC, accessible via 14 amps, square-pinned fused plugs.





TIPPING

Generally it is customary to tip staff a small amount if you feel the service has been up to scratch. In a hotel, restaurant or bar, this would usually not exceed 10%. Whilst staying in safari camps, one is not expected to tip staff during the course of your stay but rather to leave something with the camp manager at the end. As a guideline, whilst staying in camps we advise something in the region of \$5 - \$10 per guest per day but of course this is entirely discretionary and depends on the service you have received. If you have had a particular guide looking after you then it would be customary to give him a small gratuity separately in order to show your appreciation but, as ever, this should only be given on merit.

DRINKS POLICY

Unless otherwise specified in your quotation all local drinks are included in the standard Fully Inclusive (FI) tariff, but exclude premium imported brands and champagne. Please refer to your itinerary for specific details.

CURRENCY

The country has adopted a multi currency system as payment mode. The readily accepted hard currencies are USD, GB Pounds, Euros and SA Rand, although USD are most common and all goods and services in Zimbabwe are now priced in USD. Visitors are encouraged to carry their hard currencies in small denominations for ease of trade.

CREDIT CARDS

Though credit cards are generally not accepted as a form of payment, there are some hotels that will – Visa is most widely accepted, while MasterCard and American Express are less so. Please check with us for specifics prior to travel.

SHOPPING

Zimbabwe sells a wide range of locally made soapstone statues, wooden carvings and basket ware, crotchet ware and hand printed African sarong.

VALUE ADDED TAX (VAT)

There is a 15 percent Value Added Tax (VAT) levied on most products which is not refundable to visitors.

DUTY FREE

Visitors may import into Zimbabwe without incurring customs duty, goods up to a value of US\$300 per person, inclusive of tobacco, perfume and gifts and for persons of 18 years of age or older, 5 litres of alcoholic beverages (up to 2 litres of which may be spirits).

LANGUAGE

English is the official language. Other widely spoken languages are Shona and Sindebele, which also have various dialects and other minority languages.

RELIGION

Between 60 and 70 percent of Zimbabweans belong to mainstream Christian denominations such as the Roman Catholic, Anglican, and Methodist Churches; however, over the years a variety of indigenous churches and groups have emerged from these mainstream denominations.

TIME

Zimbabwe is 2 hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time (GMT), 7 hours ahead of Eastern USA time and 10 hours ahead of Western USA time.

RECOMMENDED READING

We recommend the following books specific to the Zimbabwean region.

- Zimbabwe: The Beautiful; Zimbabwe: Beautiful Land - Peter Joyce
- African Thunder: The Victoria Falls - Jan & Fiona Teede
- Butterflies of Southern Africa – Ivor Migdoll
- Newman's Birds of Southern Africa - Ken Newman
- Behaviour Guide to African Mammals - Richard Estes
- A Guide to the Reptiles of Southern Africa - Johan Marais, Graham Alexander
- Sasol Birds of Southern Africa - Phil Hockey, Ian Sinclair and Warwick Tarboton
- Victoria Falls: The Insider's Guide - Ian Michler Mukiwa - Peter Godwin
- Zimbabwe - Globetrotter Road Atlas
- Kingdon Pocket Guide to African Mammals - Jonathan Kingdon





- The Kingdon Field Guide to African Mammals - Jonathan Kingdon
- Field Guide to the larger mammals of Africa - Chris & Tilde Stuart

