

Trip Notes: Zambia

TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

Travelers arriving in Africa are required to have passports that will be valid for at least six months from the date of departure and contain at least two blank pages per country to be visited for affixing entry and exit stamps.

US passport holders are granted a 30-day visit visa to Zambia. There is currently no charge for this visa. You may be asked for the name and location of your accommodation in Zambia or safari operator.

The KAZA Uni-Visa is valid for 30 days, and allows you visits into Zambia and Zimbabwe, with day passes granted for Botswana and Chobe. Available online at https://eservices.zambiaimmigration.gov.zm/#/home (Only use if Zambia is your point of entry)

PRIOR TO ARRIVAL

The Zambia National Public Health Institute (ZNPHI) advises that all international travelers entering Zambia to complete an online health check before they arrive. This covers every Zambian port of entry. For our guests that includes Harry Mwaanga Nkumbula International Airport in Livingstone, the Victoria Falls Bridge border and Kazungula.

Travelers can complete the Digital Health Pass at poe-screening.znphi.co.zm.

Once the form is submitted, the portal issues a personal QR health pass. Travelers should save it as a screenshot or PDF on their phone. On arrival, a Port Health Officer scans the code at the checkpoint.

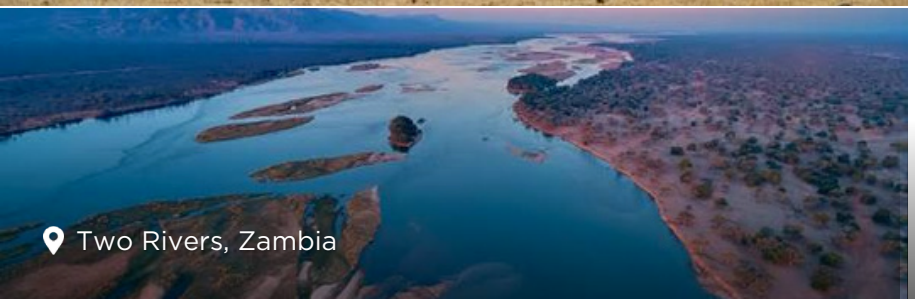
A paper form can be completed on arrival, however it is strongly recommended to complete prior to arrival to save time.

CURRENCY

Accepted currency in Zambia is the Kwacha. Currency is available at ATMs, banks, and foreign exchange outlets in airports. Some shops and restaurants in tourist areas may accept US dollars and/or credit cards for a fee of about 5%.

When using USD bills, they must be clean and in excellent shape, and issued after 2008. Your bank will be familiar with this request if you explain that the notes are for use overseas.


Safari, Zambia


Two Rivers, Zambia


Lusaka, Zambia

CREDIT CARDS
Credit Cards work primarily in major cities like Lusaka and Livingstone, so you should not rely on them as your sole payment method.

Visa and Mastercard are the most widely recognized card networks. American Express and Diners Club have very limited or no acceptance outside of a few select international hotels.

Many establishments add a 3% to 5% commission or surcharge on credit card transactions to cover bank processing fees. Technical glitches, power outages, and offline card machines are also common.

CLIMATE
Zambia features a tropical climate modified by its high plateau elevation, giving much of the country a warm, subtropical feel.

Zambia's dry season is a wonderful time to visit, with cooler temperatures from May to August followed by warmer weather in September and October. The wet season runs from November to April, bringing substantial tropical rainfall. During this time, many camps in Kafue, the Lower Zambezi and Zambia's more remote parks close for the season.

TIPPING
Service staff in Africa depend on tips as part of their livelihood. As a guideline, hotel porters get about $1 per bag carried each way. City restaurant staff are tipped $1 per person per meal. Bar waiters at 10% - 15% value of the beverages purchased. Airport transfer drivers at $2 per person per transfer. Camp and lodge staff at $10 per person per day in camp to be split between the entire camp crew – there is often a Tips box for this group tip in the main area of the camp or lodge.

Driver- guides are with you the most and should receive $10 - $15 per person per day. If you have both a driver and a guide, the driver should receive $5 per person per day.

VACCINATIONS
All travelers to Zambia should consult a travel clinic at least 6 weeks before departure for advice as to the recommended medications and vaccinations for their safari, based on their itinerary and personal health profile.

Malaria is present in Zambia. Although malaria medication is not required for entry to Zambia, your travel clinician will recommend it.

Yellow fever vaccination is not required for travelers arriving from the US or South Africa into Zambia.

Travelers entering Zambia from countries where yellow fever is present, such as Rwanda, Uganda and most West and Central African countries, must have certification of yellow fever vaccination, or a waiver document provided by their physician citing the waiver reason.

Travelers who are in airport transit for less than 12 hours are not required to have yellow fever vaccinations. If in doubt, please ask your Travel Clinician to review your itinerary and advise.


Wildlife Zambia


Elephant on Safari

SHOPPING & VAT
Zambia offers an incredible array of vibrant, handcrafted goods, organic products, and locally made textiles that make perfect keepsakes. Shopping here directly supports local artisans, cooperatives, and wildlife conservation programs.

The absolute staple of Zambian textile shopping is Chitenge fabric. These are beautifully vibrant, multi-colored wax-print cotton fabrics worn daily across the country.

Value Added Tax (VAT) in Zambia is a standard indirect consumption tax administered by the Zambia Revenue Authority. A Standard VAT of 16% applies to most general goods and services.

LANGUAGE
English as its official language, while over 70 indigenous Bantu languages are spoken across the country.

TIME DIFFERENCE
Zambia is 6 hours ahead of Eastern Standard Time and 9 hours ahead of Pacific Standard Time.

PHONES
To dial Zambia from the US: 011 + 255 + number
To dial the US from Zambia: 00 + 1 + area code + number.

NATIONAL EMERGENCY NUMBERS
Dial 991 for police, 992 for ambulance and 993 for fire brigade.

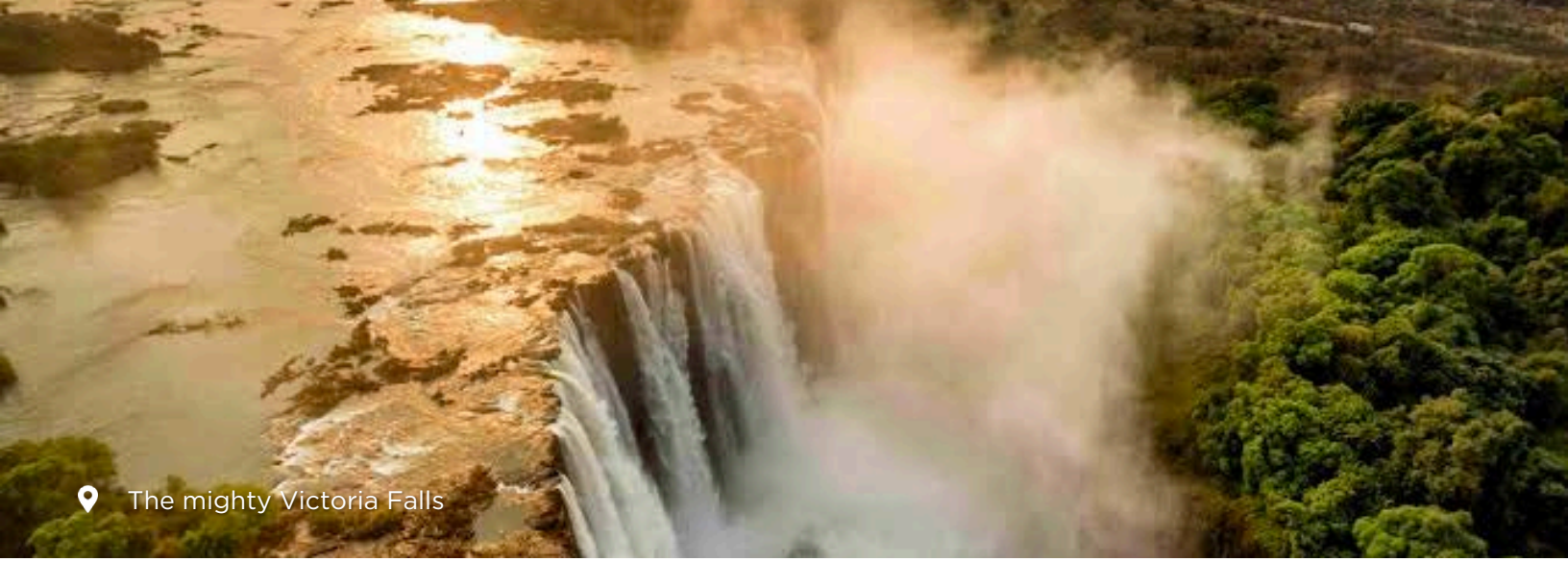
POWER
Africa uses 230 volt electric current. Zambia outlets require plug types C, D and G. Some remote lodges and camps generate their own electricity and may not generate 24 hours per day, which will impact CPAP machine users. The electric current is subject to voltage fluctuation and power cuts are possible, even in larger cities. For detailed information, images and links to purchase adaptors, please consult https://www.power-plugs-sockets.com

SAFETY AND SECURITY
Always use the safe in your room to store cash, important documents and other valuables. Larger items can be left in the lodge or camp safe at the front desk.
During a game drive, the driver-guide will offer instructions concerning safety. This includes advising tour members when it is safe to exit the vehicle. At lodges and camps, the staff will often escort guests to and from the rooms to ensure safety. In National Parks, guests must be back in the lodge or camp by 6pm; this Park rule will be enforced by your driver/guide.

BAGGAGE
Airlines into and out of Zambia routinely weigh both checked and carry-on bags. To avoid paying excess baggage fees, please adhere to your airline's restrictions.

Important rules for shared in-country air transfers in light aircraft, to and from game camps/lodges:

- Luggage, including carry-on luggage, is restricted per person travelling on seat rates to 33lbs total.



The mighty Victoria Falls

- Only soft bags will be accepted - no hard suitcases or bags with wheels can be transported as they physically cannot fit into the aircraft.
- The maximum dimensions of the soft bags which can be accommodated are as follows: 12 inches wide x 12 inches high and 24 inches long.
- Passengers weighing 220 lbs or more, must purchase an additional seat for safety and comfort.

SUGGESTED PACKING LIST

For a Zambia trip, pack neutral, lightweight clothing (long sleeves/pants for sun/bugs), a warm jacket for cool mornings/evenings, sturdy closed-toe shoes for walking, a sun hat, sunglasses, and a scarf/buff for dust; essentials also include binoculars, camera, adapter, power bank, sunscreen, insect repellent, hand sanitizer, personal meds, and a soft-sided duffel bag for smaller planes.

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

1 January – **New Year's Day**
8 March - **International Women's Day**
12 March - **Youth Day**
26 March - **Good Friday**
27 March - **Holy Saturday**
29 March - **Easter Monday**
28 April **- Kenneth Kaunda Day**
1 May **- Labour Day**
25 May **- Africa Freedom Day**
5 July **- Heroe's Day**
6 July **- Unity Day**
2 August **- farmer's Day**
18 October **- Prayer Day**
24 October **- Independence Day**
25 December **- Christmas Day**

OTHER USEFUL LINKS

US State Department Travel Advisories
https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/traveladvisories.html

U.S. Embassy and Consulates in Zambia
https://zm.usembassy.gov/

Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP)
https://step.state.gov

US Passports
https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/passports.html

International Travel Guidance
https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel.html

This information is provided by Travel Answers as a guideline to the country you will be visiting. Further information is available to you at https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/International-Travel-Country-Information-Pages/Zambia.html
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