

📍 Victoria Falls

# Trip Notes: Zimbabwe

## TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

Travelers arriving in Zimbabwe 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.

## PRIOR TO ARRIVAL

To streamline and speed up the immigration process on arrival, The Zimbabwe Immigration Department has implemented an online immigration declaration form that should be completed by all travelers **prior to arriving** at any Zimbabwean border post, including Victoria Falls Airport.

- Completing prior to arrival will speed up the process at the port of entry.
- If travellers are unable to complete the form in advance, they can do so upon arrival – either online (subject to Wi-Fi availability) using their own devices, or Immigration officials will provide access to devices at the port of entry.
- Go to <https://www.evisa.gov.zw>.
- Click 'Start the Process' and log in (you may have to create an account first if it's your first visit). Once logged in, select 'New Application' from the dashboard menu.

- Complete the online form and save/print the confirmation. TAKE NOTE TO SELECT THE CORRECT VISA TYPE e.g. single entry, double entry, or KAZA visa.
- Payment can be done online during this process, or on arrival in Zimbabwe. We recommend paying on arrival.

Travelers who are visiting Zimbabwe plus Zambia and/or Botswana may purchase a Kaza Univisa on arrival at Victoria Falls airport or online at <https://www.evisa.gov.zw>

For American nationals, Zimbabwe Immigration has advised that when a guest exits Zimbabwe for a day trip to Botswana and returns to Zimbabwe, the following applies:

A standard single-entry Zimbabwe visa is considered used on exit. On re-entry into Zimbabwe the same day, guests must either:

- Hold a valid KAZA Visa, or
- Purchase a new Zimbabwe visa on return.



📍 Zimbabwe Sunset



📍 Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe



📍 Hwange National Park

## CURRENCY

The official currency of Zimbabwe is the Zimbabwe Gold (ZiG). US Dollars and South Africa Rand are also utilized in Zimbabwe, however, ATMs do not dispense these currencies.

It is suggested to take US Dollars (USD) in cash, especially small bills (\$1, \$5) for tips and local purchases, as credit/debit cards are rarely accepted outside major hotels for anything beyond lodging, and ATMs can be unreliable. Prepay major expenses if possible, and be aware that while the Zimbabwean Dollar (ZiG) is the official currency, USD is the preferred currency for tourists, though the ZiG's value fluctuates.

## CREDIT CARDS

Credit cards usage in Zimbabwe is limited with only major hotels and tourist spots accepting payment. Visa and Mastercard are accepted at major hotels, lodges, and some urban shops, but not universally. American Express and Diners Club are rarely accepted.

## TIPPING

Service staff in Africa depend on tips as part of their livelihood. As a guideline, hHotel porters are typically tipped about \$1.50 per bag carried each way, while restaurants and bars generally expect a gratuity of 15%–20%. Airport transfers usually warrant a tip of around \$3–\$10 per person per transfer, depending on the distance. For camp and lodge stays, a common guideline is to contribute about US\$10 per person per day to be shared among the entire camp staff, often placed in a communal tips box located in the main area. Driver-guides are usually tipped \$10–\$15 per person per day, and if there is a separate tracker in addition to the guide, the tracker should receive approximately \$5–\$10 per person per day.

## SHOPPING & VAT

Shopping in Zimbabwe offers a mix of modern malls, vibrant flea markets, and unique art/craft centers, focusing on local art (especially Shona sculpture), souvenirs, and daily necessities, with major hubs in Harare (Joina City, Sam Levy's Village) and Victoria Falls, featuring diverse shops from upscale boutiques to traditional vendors selling unique Zimbabwean goods. Key spots include Avondale Flea Market, Mbare Musika, Elephant's Walk Shopping & Artist's Village, and The Jairos Jiri Craft Shop for authentic souvenirs, alongside supermarkets and specialty stores.

- Shops generally open 8AM–5PM weekdays and 8AM–1PM on Saturdays; closed Sundays outside tourist areas.
- Zimbabwe's VAT is 15.5%. Zimbabwe does not have a formal VAT refund scheme for non-resident visitors.

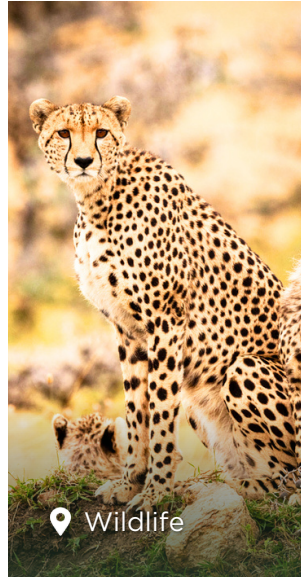
## BAGGAGE

Airlines into and out of Zimbabwe 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:

There is a weight allowance of 20kg (44 lbs) per person, including hand luggage, which must be in soft bags. Note that one flat/hard side is allowed, but the majority of the bag needs to be soft.



📍 Zambezi River



📍 Wildlife



📍 Independence Day

The maximum dimensions are 27.5 inches (70cm) x 13.8 inches (35cm) x 11.8 inches (30cm). Wheels are only allowed if they are not part of a solid frame or rigid structure.

### VACCINATIONS

All travelers to Zimbabwe 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 health profile.

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

### LANGUAGE

Zimbabwe has 16 official languages, with the majority speaking Shona. English is widely spoken in tourist areas

### TIME DIFFERENCE

Zimbabwe is on Central Africa Time which is 7 hours ahead of Eastern Standard Time and 10 hours ahead of Central Standard Time.

### PHONES

To dial Zimbabwe from the US: 011 + 263 + number

To dial the US from Zimbabwe: 00 + 1 + area code + number.

### POWER

Africa uses 240 volt electric current. Zimbabwe outlets are round 3 pin and rectangular 3 pin.

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.

### SAFETY & 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.

### NATIONAL EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Dial 112 for police, ambulance, or fire.

### CLIMATE

Zimbabwe has a subtropical climate with wet summers (November–April) and dry winters (May–August), moderated by its high elevation. Winters are sunny with cool nights, while summers are hotter with afternoon thunderstorms, and October is typically the hottest month.



📍 Mana Pools Canoe

### SUGGESTED PACKING LIST

For a Zimbabwe trip, pack neutral-colored, lightweight clothing for layering (long sleeves/pants for sun/bugs), a warm fleece/jacket for cool mornings/evenings, a hat, sunglasses, sunscreen, and insect repellent; essential toiletries, a first-aid kit, comfortable walking shoes, binoculars, camera, adapter, and US dollars; importantly, avoid camouflage clothing, use soft-sided luggage for small planes, and bring copies of your passport.

### ETIQUETTE

Zimbabwean etiquette emphasizes deep respect for elders, modesty in dress (shoulders covered, knee-length skirts), using both hands to give/receive items, and a reserved public demeanor, with key concepts like hunhu (humaneness) guiding politeness, including avoiding direct eye contact with seniors, bowing slightly or kneeling as signs of deference, and not raising your voice to elders.

### PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

1 January – **New Year's Day**  
21 February – **Robert Gabriel Mugabe National Youth Day**  
3 April – **Good Friday**  
6 April – **Easter Monday**  
18 April – **Independence Day**  
1 May – **Worker's Day**  
25 May – **Africa Day**  
10 August – **Heroes' Day**  
11 August – **Defence Forces Day**  
22 December – **Unity Day**  
25 December – **Christmas Day**  
26 December – **Boxing Day**

### OTHER USEFUL LINKS

[US State Department Travel Advisories](#)

[U.S. Embassy and Consulates in Zimbabwe](#)

[Smart Traveler Enrollment Program \(STEP\)](#)

[US Passports](#)

[International Travel Guidance](#)

This information is provided by Travel Answers as a guideline to the country you will be visiting. Further information is available to you at [www.zimbabwetourism.net](http://www.zimbabwetourism.net). While Travel Answers endeavors to provide current information, regulations and requirements can change without notice and we are not responsible for travelers whose trips are interrupted due to documentary or medical non-compliance.