



GENERAL TRAVEL GUIDELINES



REPUBLIC OF ZIMBABWE

Area: 390 757 sq km (150 872 sq m)

Population: 16,337,760

Capital: Harare

Country Tel Code: + 263

Language: English + 16 other official languages

Local greeting: "kanjani"

PASSPORT & VISA REQUIREMENTS

Passport is required on entry and must be valid for at least six months after the intended date of departure from Zimbabwe. Two blank visa pages are required - if transiting South Africa, an additional blank visa page is required for each entry.

USA passport holders need a visa to visit Zimbabwe, and this can be obtained at the port of entry. Correct denomination, undamaged and relatively new (+5 yrs) dollar bills to be available for visa payments on entry.

KAZA UNIVISA - \$ 50

The KAZA UNIVISA allows tourists to obtain one visa to visit both Zambia and Zimbabwe multiple times. The visa is valid up to 30 days as long as the holder remains within Zambia and Zimbabwe. It also covers those who visit Botswana for day-trips through Kazungula Borders.

Single entry visa: \$ 30 (if only visiting Zimbabwe)

Double entry visa: \$ 45 (if entering Zimbabwe more than once during the validity of the visa)

For further information and updates please refer to:

<http://www.zimimmigration.gov.zw/index.php/visa-application-requirements>

VISA AVAILABILITY

Zimbabwe - Victoria Falls Airport, Victoria Falls Land Border, Kazangula Land Border (Border with Botswana) and Harare Airport

Zambia - Harry Mwaanga Nkumbula International Airport – Livingstone: Victoria Falls Land Border - Livingstone

Kazungula Land Border (border with Botswana): Kenneth Kaunda International Airport -Lusaka

HEALTH, INOCULATIONS AND MEDICAL REQUIREMENTS

Malaria is prevalent in some of the areas to be visited. Please consult your physician for suitable anti-malaria medication

No Yellow Fever inoculations are required for entry into Zimbabwe direct from the USA

No Yellow Fever inoculations are required for entry into Zambia from Zimbabwe

For further information please consult the website: <https://www.passporthealthusa.com/>

WEATHER

Zimbabwe has a tropical climate with many local variations. The rains come primarily in **December, January, February** and **March**; the further north you are, the earlier the precipitation arrives and the later it leaves. Zimbabwe's higher eastern areas usually receive more rainfall than the lower-lying western ones.

By **April** and **May** most of the rain is gone, leaving a verdant setting, which is starting to dry out. Especially in more southerly and higher locations, the night-time temperatures start to drop.

The nights in **June, July** and **August** become much cooler, so don't forget to bring some warmer clothes, in case you want to spend a night outside; the days are still clear and warm. For Zimbabwe, this is the start of the 'peak season'— days are often cloudless and game sightings continually increase.

Into **September** and **October** the temperatures rise once again: Zimbabwe's lower-lying rift valley – Mana Pools – can get very hot in October. During this time, you'll see some fantastic game, as the Zimbabwe's wildlife concentrates around the limited water sources.

November is unpredictable; it can be hot and dry, it can also see the season's first rainfalls – and in this respect it's a very interesting month, as on successive days, you can see both weather patterns.

PACKING TIPS AND BAGGAGE RESTRICTIONS

Most transfers between parks use light aircraft which results in a luggage restrictions.

- ❖ Domestic flights inter camp within Zimbabwe are booked on light aircraft. Soft (duffle type) bags only due to light aircraft luggage storage.
- ❖ Baggage allowance: checked baggage allowance of 12-15kg (33lbs) per person
- ❖ Hand baggage allowance 5kg (11lbs) – hand baggage is weighed.

There will be opportunities to do laundry along the way and it is always easier in airports /airstrips and in the camps to move a lighter bag. Please note that there may be an opportunity to store excess luggage and we request that you please discuss this with us before you travel.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS TO BRING

A hat, sunglasses, high strength sun block, moisturizer, lip salve, insect repellent with you. Also binoculars and a Torch (Flash Light). 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, smart phone chargers and adaptors – Lens cleaning equipment and a dust proof camera bag. Spare batteries and memory cards are very important. Dust mask or scarf for dust if you are sensitive.

Also include:

- ❖ Day backpack - very handy for day trips and excursions
- ❖ Money belt or Bag – also to keep travel documents and immunization cards
- ❖ Flashlight – nights are dark
- ❖ Binoculars – so you don't miss a thing!
- ❖ Guidebook / phrase book – extra knowledge is always good
- ❖ A good book for leisure reading
- ❖ Travel diary or journal – you see and experience so much that this is a great way to keep an invaluable record of your amazing journey – just so you don't forget anything!

We suggest you leave your good jewelry at home, except, of course, jewelry you normally wear at all times. If you do bring very good jewelry, it is strongly suggested that you make use of safe deposit boxes at each hotel/camp which are generally offered free of charge. Holden Safaris cannot be held responsible for any lost or stolen valuables. Check with your insurance company before departure to assure that any valuables you decide to bring are properly insured.

CLOTHING

Travelers require only comfortable, casual clothes in neutral colors – beige/khaki. Evening dress is casual. At times, the safari itinerary will take you to different places where the climate is variable, and to ensure your comfort, pack clothing that you can layer when it's chilly and peel off during the hottest part of the day. A light weight wind /rainproof jacket is very useful and comfortable trail shoes or hiking boots – preferably water-proof – are recommended when out in the bush.

Even though your travel time can be in the hottest months, it is advisable to include long pants and long sleeve shirts to minimize the number of insect bites, sun exposure and scrapes and scratches during bush walks, and of course a sunhat is a must.

CURRENCY IN ZIMBABWE

The Zimbabwean dollar is no longer in active use after it was officially suspended by the government due to hyperinflation. The United States dollar (US\$), Euro (€), South African rand (R), Botswana pula (P), Pound sterling (£), Indian rupees (₹), Australian dollars (A\$), Chinese Renminbi (¥/元), and Japanese yen (¥) are legal tender. The United States dollar has been adopted as the official currency for all government transactions.

Due to the cash situation, banks in Zimbabwe have put restrictions on withdrawals. Cash machines are currently only allowing small daily cash withdrawals, to card-holding customers of that bank only. Until recently, foreigners could use their Visa cards to withdraw cash, but this has been put on hold. In tourist hubs like Victoria Falls, cash withdrawal may still be possible, but don't expect this to be the norm. Travellers' Cheques are not accepted.

It will be difficult to get change in US Dollars if you use, for example, a \$100 bill. The solution to this is to avoid notes of denominations larger than \$20. In Zimbabwe, \$1 notes are useful for tipping and at road toll gates. \$2 are still accepted, despite not being used in USA. \$5, \$10 and \$20 notes are useful in cafes and restaurants. If you use an independent taxi or are using National Parks facilities, you'll need cash. If paying for your visa fee on arrival in Zimbabwe, life will be easier if you have the exact change to hand. You may be given change in the form of Bond Notes (which are meant to be the equivalent of US Dollars), but try to get US Dollars if possible. If you are given Bond Notes, try to spend them first and keep your remaining US Dollars.

If you've underspent during your holiday (or are holidaying in another country afterwards), remember that **you are not permitted to exit Zimbabwe with cash of more than US \$1 000 unless you completed a blue Baggage Declaration Form (47) when you entered the country.**

To be allowed to take more than US \$1 000 out of Zimbabwe, visitors need to do the following: When arriving in Zimbabwe, go to Customs (red route), declare your cash in the blue Form 47 provided, and keep this form safe to display it to officials when departing Zimbabwe. (To see details of this form, you can view the PDF online by Googling "Zimra Form 47".) If you enter the country with less than US \$1 000, you don't anticipate taking more than this amount out, then you don't need to declare your cash.

TIPPING

In most countries it is customary to tip as a way of expressing gratitude. Below is a general guideline, however this is just a guideline - tipping is at your discretion and depends entirely on your own opinion and your personal satisfaction:

- Porters US\$ 1 per person per day.
- Waiters US\$ 2 per person per day
- Driver guide US\$ 10 per person per day

Normally the guide/ranger is tipped separately in order to show your appreciation.

At many camps there will be a tipping box at checkout or you can give to the manager to share with Camp staff.

PHOTOGRAPHY

If taking photographs of local people, always ask their permission beforehand. They may ask for payment. As in most countries, do not take photographs in airports or airport buildings, military or police buildings and of uniformed personnel.

If you are traveling with digital photographic and/or video equipment, ensure you have the specific charging apparatus for each piece of equipment (as well as the appropriate socket plug adaptor and voltage converter if required).

Ensure you have enough memory cards before you head off for the bush – people usually end up taking more pictures than they thought they would!

ELECTRICITY

Electric Power is 220V - 240V running at 50Hz.

PLEASE NOTE: Some camps have limited or no electricity. Candles and hurricane lamps may be provided.



Type G