

# TREK INTERNATIONAL SAFARIS, INC.

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## REPUBLIC OF ZIMBABWE



At 390 580 square kilometres, Zimbabwe is about the size of California. It is a landlocked country surrounded by South Africa, Botswana, Zambia and Mozambique – blessed with fertile soils, mineral wealth and wonderful wildlife and natural scenery. Two major rivers form its northern and southern boundaries: the great Zambezi River cuts along its northern frontier, while the more languid Limpopo forms the southern border with South Africa.

The capital is Harare and the current population is 14.2 million (reported figures as of 2015).

### INTERESTING FACTS



Green in the Zimbabwean flag represents the agriculture and rural areas of Zimbabwe, yellow the wealth of minerals in the country, red the blood shed during the first and second Chimurenga (wars) and black the heritage and ethnicity of the native Africans of Zimbabwe. The white triangle on the side represents peace, while the Zimbabwe Bird is the national symbol of Zimbabwe and the red star denotes the nation's hopes and aspirations for the future.

## Government

The United Kingdom annexed Southern Rhodesia from the British South Africa Company in 1923. UN sanctions and a guerrilla uprising finally led to free elections in 1979 and independence (as Zimbabwe) in 1980. Zanu-PF has since dominated the country's political system until the formation of a unity government between ZANU-PF and the Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) in 2009.

## Economy

Despite Zimbabwe's mineral wealth, the government of Zimbabwe faces a variety of difficult economic problems. Its 1998 – 2002 involvement in the war in the Democratic Republic of the Congo drained hundreds of millions of dollars from the economy. The government's chaotic land reform programme has badly damaged the commercial farming sector, traditional source of exports and foreign exchange, turning Zimbabwe into a net importer of food products. Until early 2009, the Reserve Bank routinely printed money to fund the budget deficit, causing hyperinflation. The economy is now registering its first growth in a decade due to the elimination of the Zimbabwe dollar and removal of price controls, however, is reliant on further political improvement for greater growth.

## Currency

With the removal of the Zimbabwean Dollar in 2009, the country has adopted a multi-currency system for payments. Hard currencies such as US Dollars (no specific series), GBP Sterling, Euros and South African Rand are accepted widely and you are encouraged to carry small denominations for ease of trade.

## Language

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

## Time

Zimbabwe shares the same time as all southern Africa, except Namibia, which is Greenwich Mean Time – (GMT) + 2 hours.

## 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 August), the nights and early mornings can become really cold, 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 refer to our packing suggestions list.

Generally, the days are bright and sunny and the nights clear and cool. November to April are the summer months (which is the rainy season) while winter is from May to August (which usually brings dry weather). September and October are very hot and very dry. The winter months from May to August inclusive, can bring freezing temperatures (below 0°C sometimes) in the early morning and evenings.

### Temperature (°C) – These are the average lows and highs:

|            | Jan   | Feb   | Mar   | Apr   | May   | Jun   | Jul   | Aug   | Sep   | Oct   | Nov   | Dec   |
|------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| <b>VFA</b> | 17/32 | 17/30 | 18/31 | 14/29 | 10/29 | 7/25  | 6/25  | 8/28  | 14/33 | 18/34 | 18/31 | 17/31 |
| <b>HWN</b> | 18/29 | 18/29 | 16/30 | 14/27 | 9/25  | 6/25  | 6/28  | 8/32  | 13/34 | 17/34 | 18/32 | 18/30 |
| <b>MNP</b> | 21/31 | 21/31 | 20/31 | 18/31 | 13/29 | 11/27 | 11/27 | 12/29 | 17/33 | 21/36 | 21/34 | 21/32 |

### Temperature (°F) – These are the average lows and highs:

|            | Jan   | Feb   | Mar   | Apr   | May   | Jun   | Jul   | Aug   | Sep   | Oct   | Nov   | Dec   |
|------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| <b>VFA</b> | 63/89 | 63/86 | 64/88 | 57/84 | 50/84 | 44/77 | 43/77 | 46/82 | 57/91 | 64/93 | 64/87 | 63/87 |
| <b>HWN</b> | 64/84 | 64/84 | 61/86 | 57/81 | 48/77 | 43/77 | 43/82 | 46/90 | 55/93 | 63/93 | 64/90 | 64/86 |
| <b>MNP</b> | 70/88 | 70/88 | 68/88 | 64/88 | 55/84 | 52/81 | 52/81 | 54/84 | 63/91 | 70/97 | 70/93 | 70/90 |

**Average Rainfall (mm) – This varies according to the year and location:**

|            | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| <b>VFA</b> | 215 | 185 | 100 | 45  | 5   | 3   | 1   | 3   | 4   | 20  | 100 | 190 |
| <b>HWN</b> | 135 | 111 | 57  | 27  | 5   | 2   | 0   | 0   | 4   | 20  | 52  | 116 |
| <b>MNP</b> | 186 | 152 | 92  | 23  | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 15  | 72  | 186 |

**Average Rainfall (inches) – This varies according to the year and location:**

|            | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| <b>VFA</b> | 8.5 | 7.3 | 3.9 | 1.7 | 0.2 | 0.1 | 0.0 | 0.1 | 0.2 | 0.8 | 3.9 | 7.5 |
| <b>HWN</b> | 5.3 | 4.0 | 2.2 | 1.1 | 0.2 | 0.1 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.2 | 0.8 | 2.0 | 4.6 |
| <b>MNP</b> | 7.3 | 6.0 | 3.6 | 0.9 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.6 | 2.8 | 7.3 |

**VFA** = Victoria Falls

**HWN** = Hwange

**MNP** = Mana Pools

**Public Holidays**

The dates of certain public holidays change from year to year – refer below. If a public holiday falls on a Sunday, then the Monday is also declared a public holiday.

|                       |                              |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| 01 January            | New Year's Day               |
| Varies                | Good Friday                  |
| Varies                | Easter Monday                |
| 18 April              | Independence Day             |
| 01 May                | Workers' Day                 |
| 25 May                | Africa Day                   |
| 11 August             | Heroes Day                   |
| Second weekend August | Defence Force's National Day |
| 22 December           | National Unity Day           |
| 25 December           | Christmas Day                |
| 26 December           | Boxing Day                   |

**USEFUL INFORMATION**

**Visas**

Visas are the responsibility of the traveller. Those nationalities that require visas to enter Zimbabwe may have to apply for these in advance, however, some nationalities are able to obtain these on arrival at the Port Of Entry. Costs vary depending on the nationality of your passport so please contact your travel consultant for exact details relevant to you. 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](http://www.evisa.gov.zw). Alternatively, please visit the following website for additional information – bearing in mind that Wilderness Safaris is not responsible for the content thereof: [www.zimbabwe-embassy.us](http://www.zimbabwe-embassy.us).

**Please Note:**

- If visas are required, we do recommend that you have the correct **cash** amounts (US Dollars) available as this will expedite the process. Travellers Cheques are not accepted as a form of payment.
- 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 before continuing with your safari in another country (such as Botswana, Namibia or Zambia) and then return to Zimbabwe prior to departure; or will be staying in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe and doing some touring across the border into Botswana or Zambia, then a **double-entry** visa must be obtained on arrival from the Immigration Official.

- The Kaza Uni-Visa is available at Harry Mwaanga Nkumbula International Airport (Livingstone), Kenneth Kaunda International Airport (Lusaka), Victoria Falls International Airport, Harare International Airport, as well as the Victoria Falls Land Border and Kazungula Land Border – only at ports of entry and not available online. Payment can be made using cash (US Dollars).

### **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 your travel consultant for specifics prior to travel.

### **Banks**

Banking hours in Zimbabwe are Monday to Friday: 08:00 – 14:30 and Saturday: 08:00 – 11:30.

### **Shopping**

Zimbabwe sells a wide range of locally made soapstone statues, wooden carvings, baskets, crocheted-ware and hand printed African sarongs.

### **Value Added Tax (VAT)**

Most goods in Zimbabwe are priced to include value added tax (VAT) of 15%, however, this is not refundable to visitors. Accommodation services include 15% VAT; while flying, transfers and touring/sightseeing, are zero rated with no VAT implication.

### **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 AIDEF 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.

Note that on all light aircraft transfers in Zimbabwe, additional taxes do apply and these are excluded from those air transfers departing Livingstone or Victoria Falls. You will need to settle the necessary amounts directly at the airport.

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.

### **Driving in Zimbabwe**

In Zimbabwe one drives on the left hand side of the road. The speed limit is usually 60 kilometres per hour in built up areas, 70 kilometres per hour on gravel roads and 120 kilometres per hour on major tar roads. Safety belts must be used at all times. The driver or any authorized co-driver must produce a valid driver's license at time of rental and must not have been convicted of any criminal offence which resulted in the endorsement or cancellation of his/her driving license.

The driver's license needs to be in English with a photograph. If not, an International driver's license will be required. In addition, please check with your travel consultant regarding the minimum age.

Whilst conducting your own self-drive itinerary, there are many factors beyond our control, e.g. parking of a vehicle/s at a meeting point or pick-up/drop-off point will be at own risk. Wilderness Safaris or Wilderness Adventures will therefore not accept any liability, responsibility or claim for compensation, for any incident or accident involving you (the client), your vehicle and/or any third party.

Vehicles must have two reflective triangles for putting up in the event of a breakdown, one fire extinguisher, one reflective vest, two white reflective strips on the front bumper and two red reflective strips on the rear bumper.

### **Power Supply**

Sleep apnoea machines can be accommodated by either the use of the standard plug outlets or arranging for a 12V battery and an inverter to be placed in the rooms, however, please note that prior warning is required. Please ensure that you bring a spare battery/ies as a back-up as power outages may occur.

In cities and towns, all electrical appliances run on 220V/240V AC accessible via 14-amp alternating current and outlets are square 3-pin plugs. While some camps can supply adaptors (3-prong round, 3-prong square, 2-prong round, 2-prong flat) it is advisable that you carry your own.

As a responsible ecotourism operator with conservation as our core value we strive to reduce our own energy use. Please help us save energy by using appliances sparingly.

### **Sightseeing**

If you are visiting Victoria Falls, there are many optional tours available. Please contact your travel consultant for further details and we do recommend that these are pre-booked to avoid disappointment.

### **Please Note:**

- The Victoria Falls/Zambezi River experiences low water levels between August and January (subject to rainfall).
- In order to participate in a white water rafting excursion, you will need to spend a minimum of two nights in Victoria Falls.



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