

Rooms

What type of plugs are at your properties?

Three pin square UK plugs.

What kind of supplies are offered in the rooms (hairdryers, shampoo, etc)?

Shampoo, soap, body lotion, facial tissues and insect repellent can be found in the rooms as well as hair dryers in some of the camps but not all (Nsefu, Tena Tena, Mkulumadzi, Kuthengo Camp, John's Camp and walking trails do not have).

Do the rooms have mosquito nets and is there repellent available?

All rooms have mosquito nets (Tena Tena and John's Camp tents are mosquito proof when closed but also have mosquito nets available on request). Insect repellent is also available in all rooms. Mobile Walking Safari tents & Luangwa Bush Camping tents do not have mosquito nets.

Seasons & Weather

When is the best time to travel and what to expect?

There is no actual 'best' time to visit. We have very distinct seasons, each with its own unique appeal; so 'best' time is largely dependent on your specific interests. Please see the Seasons and Climate Pages for Zambia, Zimbabwe and Malawi for the highlights of each season.

What is the weather like?

The dry months are from April – October. May and June being the main winter months where temperature drops slightly; requiring you to pack a light jacket/fleece or two. The wet months are November – March; with rainfall mainly falling by night, making it still a good time for game viewing activities. Temperatures range throughout the year from between 11-40°C.

Safari

What to bring on safari?

A hat, high-strength sun screen, strong insect repellent, anti-histamine cream/tablets, three sets of bush-coloured safari outfits, two sets of casual evening clothes and a medium-weight sweater plus a warm jacket if you come in winter (June - early August). Pack soft bags, not hard cases. DO NOT exceed the limit of 15 kg for hold luggage and 5 kg for hand luggage.

Most properties offer laundry service, so you will not need too many clothing options.

Can I go on a game drive on day of arrival?

Yes, in most cases you can but it depends on the time of your arrival. The transfer from the airport to the camp is usually a game drive in itself!

When are the migratory birds in these areas?

Migratory birds in Zambia and Malawi are with us from November through to around April and for Zimbabwe it is from August to late January. See wildlife sections of the different regions for details.

Medical

What anti-malaria drugs are recommended?

Doxycycline or Malarone currently; but we do recommend that you consult your usual GP or Travel Clinic for up to date information.

Is Lake Malawi bilharzia free?

Bilharzia can be found in certain areas of Lake Malawi. We have been testing the vicinity of Pumulani on a regular basis and the tests have been clear.

Phone and Internet

Is there mobile phone network coverage?

Very limited access in the lodges and no access in the bush camps.

Is there internet available at the camps?

Generally no access at the camps though one or two properties may offer limited access.

Money

Are credit cards accepted as a form of payment at Robin Pope Safaris?

Credit cards are only accepted at the Zambian camps (by filling out a form - 5% surcharge) and at Pumulani in Malawi (Visa Card - 5% surcharge. Signal permitting).

How much are the park costs?

Park costs range from \$10-\$110 per person per day depending on the camp, these include national park fees and Conservation & Community Fees.

How much tip should I give?

Tipping is generally not expected but always enthusiastically received if you are happy with the service. We recommend US\$5 per person per night for camp staff and the same for guides.

Travel

What are the transfer times between Robin Pope Safaris' camps?

Depending on which camp you are visiting, it is an average of a 2 hour transfer time between the Zambian camps (except from Stanley Safari Lodge in Livingstone which is a flight away) but normally transfers are done as a game drive transfer.

In Malawi transfer time between the Malawi properties is varying from 2,5-6 hours.

Transfers between Zambia properties to Malawi properties are about 6 hours (depending on whether air or road transfers are used).

John's Camp in Zimbabwe is approximately 5 hours from the South Luangwa properties, or 4 hours from Lusaka (dependent on flight times, border procedures and traffic).

What are the visa requirements?

Most nationals can obtain their visa at the point of entry into Zambia. Current charges are \$50 for tourists of most nationalities, including US, Canadian, British and most European countries. If you are not one of the above please ask about visas before booking. Please visit the Zambian Immigration website for full information.

For Malawi visa regulations are applicable to visitors from any country which requires Malawian Citizens to acquire visas to visit their country of citizenship. These countries include but not limited to the United Kingdom, United States, Canada, Schengen member states, Australia, New Zealand. Most Middle East countries will also be required

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to pay visa fees. Exempt from this visa fee are countries belonging to SADC and COMESA; with the exception of those countries that charge visa fees to Malawian nationals.

Transit (valid for 7 days) - US\$50 | single entry (valid for 3 months) - US\$75 | Multiple entry (valid for 6 months) - US\$150 | Multiple entry (valid for 12 months) - US\$250.

Citizens of most Southern African countries including South Africa do not require visas to enter Zimbabwe. Other passport holders do need visas, which can usually be purchased at your point of entry. Fees differ according to country of residence.

Canadian passports: Single entry - US\$75 | British and Irish passports: Single entry - US\$55 (or equivalent in ZAR or GBP); Double entry - US\$70 | Other passports (USA, Europe, Australia, New Zealand): Single entry - US\$30 (or equivalent in ZAR or GBP); Double entry - US\$45 (or equivalent).

Zimbabwe immigration visa website link www.evisa.gov.zw

Other

What to bring for community projects?

Anything from books and stationery to clothes and toys. Cash donations are also accepted. Please ask us as well for updated 'wish list' from the projects we support.

If you save just a few kilos of space in your suitcase and take supplies for the projects we support in need, you'll make a priceless impact in the lives of our local children and families.

Can I bring my children?

Children of all ages are allowed at Robins House, Stanley Safari Lodge, Pumulani, Kuthengo Camp and Mkulumadzi. The rest of our properties have a minimum age limit of 7 years except for Tena Tena, Nsefu and John's Camp whose minimum age limit is 12 years (unless booked exclusively).

As for the walking trails, Luangwa Bush Camping is minimum 16 yrs and Walking Mobile Safari is 21 years minimum.

There are many more properties we work with who also accept children across Zambia, Malawi and Zimbabwe, so there are a good number of options for families to choose and combine from.

What is your cancellation policy?

Confirmation to 91 days 20% of accommodation only is due, then of full invoice 90-61 days 25%, 60-31 days 50%, 30- 0 days 100%. Cancellation fees will be applied and so we ask that you ensure full "Trip Cancellation Insurance" is bought at time of confirmation.

What are your emergency contact numbers?

Malawi office: +265 (0) 993 504 600

Zambia office: +260 (0) 957 090 441

Zimbabwe office: +263 (0)772 361 712