

ZAMBIA DESTINATION INFORMATION & TRAVEL TIPS

VISA INFORMATION FOR ZAMBIA



Source : Wikipedia - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Visa_policy_of_Zambia

Visas for Zambia may be obtained online through their e-visa service, or purchased at point of entry into Zambia

Visa information Zambia : <https://www.zambiatourism.com/travel-info/visa-information/>

Zimbabwe E-Visa services : <https://eservices.zambiaimmigration.gov.zm/#/home>

KAZA or UNIVISA - this visa should only be purchased if visitors are traveling into Zambia and considering visiting the Falls from the Zimbabwean

Before purchasing visas speak to your travel consultant about the visa types required for your full itinerary, ie single entry/double entry/Kaza visa

CLIMATE & WEATHER

Seasons :

Summer - December to February

Autumn (Fall) - March to May

Winter - June to August

Spring - September to November

Zambia is an exceptionally seasonal destination, receiving a tremendous amount of rainfall from December through to March each year. However the weather does not drive the seasonality, more the surface conditions. During the wet season many wilderness areas are shut off and unsurfaced roads become impassable. Much of the country is covered in black cotton soil which turns into a thick sticky mud during the rains trapping vehicles, making it impossible to move from area to area. For this reason many camps in many wilderness destinations shut down and only reopen after April or May once the land has dried out somewhat. There are still camps in more accessible areas that are open year round, and these offer some exceptional rates during what is known as the Emerald Season. Zambia is famous for walking safaris, and these are usually only conducted in the drier months from around June to October. Victoria Falls in Livingstone is a year round destination, although the Falls are at their lowest between October and December. During these months we advise clients to allow time to cross the bridge to Zimbabwe to view the Falls as there is always water falling. Check with your consultant about necessary visa purchases.

During the rainy months the afternoon temperatures average at about 26°C (78°F) with high humidity. Moving into the winter months the coolest period is from May through to August the low temperatures start from around 10°C (50°F) moving to an afternoon high of around 23°C (73°F). From the months of September through November the temperatures can spike reaching up to between 35°C (95°F) and 40°C (104°F)

Seasonality in Zambia and best time of year to visit :

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Su	Su	A	A	A	W	W	W	Sp	Sp	Sp	Su
Green	Green	Green	Green	High	High	Peak	Peak	Peak	Green	Green	Green

TRAVEL INSURANCE

It is vital that all travellers to Africa take comprehensive travel insurance to cover for trip cancellation or curtailment as well as medical expenses. Most lodges will charge up to full cancellation for any trips cancelled between 30 and 60 days prior to travel, hotels are more lenient but may still charge a cancellation fee. Airlines will also charge cancellation fees on booked tickets and rebooking/rerouting fees.

PACKING TIPS & LUGGAGE

Most travel around Zambia is by Domestic Airlink Proflight which has slightly less restrictions than most scheduled charter flights. However some more remote safari destinations will still enforce a stricter luggage limitation. We still suggest packing away the hard shelled cases and

opt for a duffel bag on wheels. Johannesburg International Airport requires that all bags have at least one hard side, and most travellers will pass through Johannesburg International Airport. The size of the bag is important, however more so the weight. Most small flights will only allow a maximum of 20kg (around 44 pounds) checked and hand luggage combined. Safari travellers should aim for one medium sized soft checked bag and one carry backpack or handbag that can fit on their lap.

Domestic and regional flights differ as they do allow checked luggage and two pieces of hand luggage, in most instances. Although our advice is to stick to the strictest luggage rules on your itinerary throughout. Luggage storage facilities are available at most points, however as flight routings for itineraries in Africa rarely see a return to the same airport we do not advise that you plan to store luggage. Of course we can arrange for excess luggage to be sent from one point to another.

Most lodges and hotels offer overnight laundry facilities to assist with the strict packing limitations, so no need to pack changes of clothes for every day and there is no dress code at the lodges to allow for more packing space for safari clothes. Basic toiletries are also provided at all hotels and lodges.

Recommended Gear Packing List :

- Camera with charger and additional memory sticks
- Travel Power Adaptor
- Mobile phone & charger (ask your service provider about international roaming)

We do suggest you travel with a small pair of binoculars if you are going on extensive safari. Most game drive vehicles will have at least one pair to share among all guests on the vehicle. Tablets are also useful for downtime between activities or during travel, for reading or watching downloaded programs. Remember to pack yours in if you wish, including charger and headphones.

Note on wifi at lodges - if available wifi is often supplied via satellite or routed to the lodge and can be intermittent. It may also be restricted to either lounge or room only. Mobile phone signal in safari regions is also generally quite limited.

Recommended Toiletries & Medical Kit List :

- Basic First Aid Kit - most hotels and lodges will carry an extensive first aid kit, however we recommend a small personal kit with plasters, antiseptic wipes, antihistamine cream etc.
- Basic Medication - hotels and lodges are not able to issue any medication to guests. Please do bring painkillers, anti inflammatories, anti nausea etc

- Hotels and Lodges will provide basic toiletries including body wash, soap and shampoo. Lodges will usually also supply insect repellent. When considering toiletries only pack basics such as toothpaste or hair conditioner to save on luggage space and weight. A high protection sunblock is necessary in both winter and summer in Africa.

What to pack on safari :

Multi pocket jackets in safari khaki, trousers that zip off at the knee, gators and sun hats with insect screens are not essential for your safari stay, unless you absolutely love them. In Zambia we do advise keeping colours neutral for all activities in order to lesson tsetse fly bites. They are particularly attracted to blue and black, although all bright colours will attract them

NOTE - it is illegal to wear camouflage clothing in Zambia

For any walking safaris you will be required to wear neutral colours, which also does not include white. You will need to wear long trousers, preferably tapered, and comfortable walking shoes and socks. Lightweight hiking boots are preferable to trainers, although trainers can be worn as well

Any seasoned safari traveller will tell you that layering clothing is key, as temperatures can vary throughout the seasons and throughout the day. Choose light cotton where possible and remove layers as the day heats up, or add as the evening cools down. Light long sleeves and light cotton long trousers protect from the harsh sun in summer, although remember to pack high protection sunscreen when you feel like enjoying the drive in shorts and tshirts.

We recommend a good quality lightweight windproof jacket for winters on game drives, and for summer a lightweight rain jacket for the short afternoon showers will suffice. Most lodges will supply ponchos for summer rainfall.

Wind chill is the biggest contributing factor to the temperature & comfort on game drives, and more so in winter than in summer. You will get by with a great windproof jacket and gloves in winter instead of a bulky jacket that does not protect from the wind.

Always pack a hat, in both summer and winter. In winter add a warm scarf and windproof gloves, and a woolen cap if you feel so inclined. Again lodges will supply additional blankets on game drives in winter. Tip : pack in an extra pair of sunglasses!

There is generally no dress code at meal times at lodges, guests are most welcome to wear safari clothing to dinner. Remember to pack shoes in for walking around the lodge

Rough guide to packing for safari :

Ladies :

WINTER/AUTUMN	SUMMER/SPRING
3 x T-Shirts	3 x T-Shirts
2 x Long Sleeved Shirts	2 x Long Sleeved Shirts
1 x Soft Shell or Fleece Jacket	1 x Lightweight Rain Jacket
1 x Windproof Jacket	3 x Lightweight Shorts or Trousers
2 x Lightweight Trousers or Shorts	1 x Summer Dress
2 x Jeans or Thicker Trousers	Sandals
Lightweight Hiking Boots	Lightweight Hiking Boots
Trainers	Trainers
Windproof Gloves	Swimming Costume
Woolen Hat & Scarf	Sun Hat

Gents :

WINTER/AUTUMN	SUMMER/SPRING
3 x T-Shirts	3 x T-Shirts
2 x Long Sleeved Shirts	2 x Long Sleeved Shirts
1 x Soft Shell or Fleece Jacket	1 x Lightweight Rain Jacket
1 x Windproof Jacket	3 x Lightweight Shorts or Trousers
2 x Lightweight Trousers or Shorts	Safari Hat or Cap
2 x Jeans or Thicker Trousers	Sandals
Trainers	Trainers
Lightweight Hiking Boots	Lightweight Hiking Boots
Windproof Gloves	Swimming Costume
Woolen Hat & Scarf	

The same general packing list will apply to the cities as they do on safaris. Hardly any restaurant will enforce a strict dress code and will always default to smart-casual, which means

guests can get away with jeans and a shirt. If travelling on a multi destination itinerary we recommend packing at least one fairly smart-casual outfit along with your safari packing list, that will see you through all eventualities. Closed shoes for gentlemen are preferable in most restaurants in the cities, although mainly only in the fine dining establishments where a shirt would be expected. Note - Travellers on Rovos Rail will require a formal outfit for dinners

IMMUNIZATIONS & MALARIA

Zambia does not require any immunizations. If travelling from a country where yellow fever immunizations are required visitors will be required to produce a yellow fever inoculation certificate.

TSETSE FLY : Tsetse fly are prevalent in most destinations in Zambia and are an extremely bothersome aspect to any journey to the wilderness destinations in Zambia. These flies have a particularly nasty bite which can penetrate thick fabric, and are not known to be deterred by repellent. While we cannot offer you advice on how to avoid entirely, we can offer advice on how to minimise their impact. Only wear neutral tones while travelling in Zambia. These flies are particularly attracted to blue and black, so avoid entirely, as well as any other bright colours. Spray all clothing fabric with insect repellent repeatedly throughout your day, and where possible keep arms and legs covered. Always travel with antihistamine or bite creams and antihistamine medication, as reactions to bites can be unpredictable. Tsetse Fly can transmit sleeping sickness, although cases of sleeping sickness are incredibly rare.

Malaria is present throughout Zambia and it is advised, although not mandatory, to take antimalarials. The most recent malaria risk area map included below.



High risk
antimalarials
usually advised

Surrounding
countries with
malaria risk

This map is only intended as a guide and is not exact. The map must always be used in conjunction with the malaria advice text. Bite avoidance measures should be taken in all areas.

Click on an icon below for additional country information



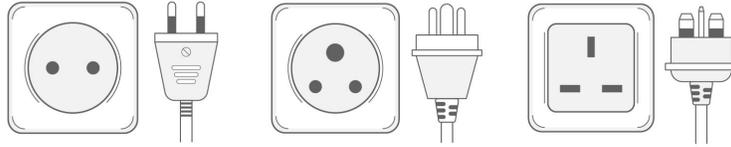
Source : <https://www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk/destinations/africa/zambia/zambia-malaria-map>

CURRENCY

The Kwacha (code: ZMW) is the currency of Zambia. It is subdivided into 100 ngwee. US Dollars are widely accepted in Zambia so there is no need to obtain Kwacha before travel. US Dollars can be used to purchase incidentals and for gratuities, and we advise visitors travel with small denominations. Many will also accept South African Rand, Euros and Pound Sterling as well. Visas

are also purchased in case in US Dollar. ATMs will dispense Kwacha if necessary, and most hotels, lodges and service providers will accept credit or debit cards.

POWER POINTS



Zambia uses power outlets and plugs of types C, D & G. All power sockets in Zambia provide a standard voltage of 230V with a standard frequency of 50Hz.

GRATUITIES

Gratuities are always at your discretion and are appreciated for good service. Gratuities are generally not included in any bill, however do always check your bill prior to paying as a handful of restaurants to levy a service charge for larger tables or during peak days. Below is a rough guide to tipping in Zambia, and shown as *per couple* :

Transfer	\$1 or €1 depending on distance
Hotel or Lodge General Staff	\$10 or €10 per day
Field Guide at Lodge	around \$20 or €20 per day
Tracker at Lodge	around \$10 or €10 per day
Gratuity at Restaurants or Bars	10-15% of total bill