

ZIMBABWE DESTINATION INFORMATION & TRAVEL TIPS

VISA INFORMATION FOR ZIMBABWE



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

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

Visa information Zimbabwe : <https://www.victoriafalls-guide.net/zimbabwe-visa.html>

Zimbabwe E-Visa services : <https://www.evisa.gov.zw/home>

KAZA or UNIVISA - this visa should only be purchased if visitors are traveling into Zimbabwe and considering visiting the Falls from the Zambian side.

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

Zimbabwe enjoys a temperate climate as it is almost entirely occupied by a plateau at an altitude of between 1,200 and 1,600 meters (3,900 and 5,200 feet). Temperatures never drop below freezing and remain between the low to mid 20°C range (70°F to 80°F) during the day in winter, but can soar to 40 °C (104 °F) in the heat of summer.

One can expect three seasons in Zimbabwe, starting with the hot and humid rainy season from around mid-November to mid-March, followed by a high temperature drier season from mid-March to mid-May. Winter is cool and dry from mid-May to mid-August after which an intense period of dry heat from mid-August to mid-November.

Seasonality in Zimbabwe 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
Mid	Mid	Mid	Mid	High	High	Peak	Peak	Peak	Mid	Mid	Mid

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

If travelling to one of the further game reserves by scheduled seat in aircraft charter flights strict limitations and restrictions for luggage style and weight will apply. Pack 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. There is no overhead storage for additional carry on luggage on safari flights.

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. Do keep colours neutral if you are planning on participating in any bush walks, otherwise pretty much

anything goes on the back of a game drive vehicle. We do recommend steering clear of very bright colours, red in particular.

NOTE - it is illegal to wear camouflage clothing in Zimbabwe

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. You need not bring hiking boots, trainers will suffice. However hiking boots are a bit more sturdy on uneven terrain.

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 t-shirts.

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
Trainers or Lightweight Boots	Trainers or Lightweight Boots
Windproof Gloves	Swimming Costume
Woolen Hat & Scarf	Sun Hat

Gents :

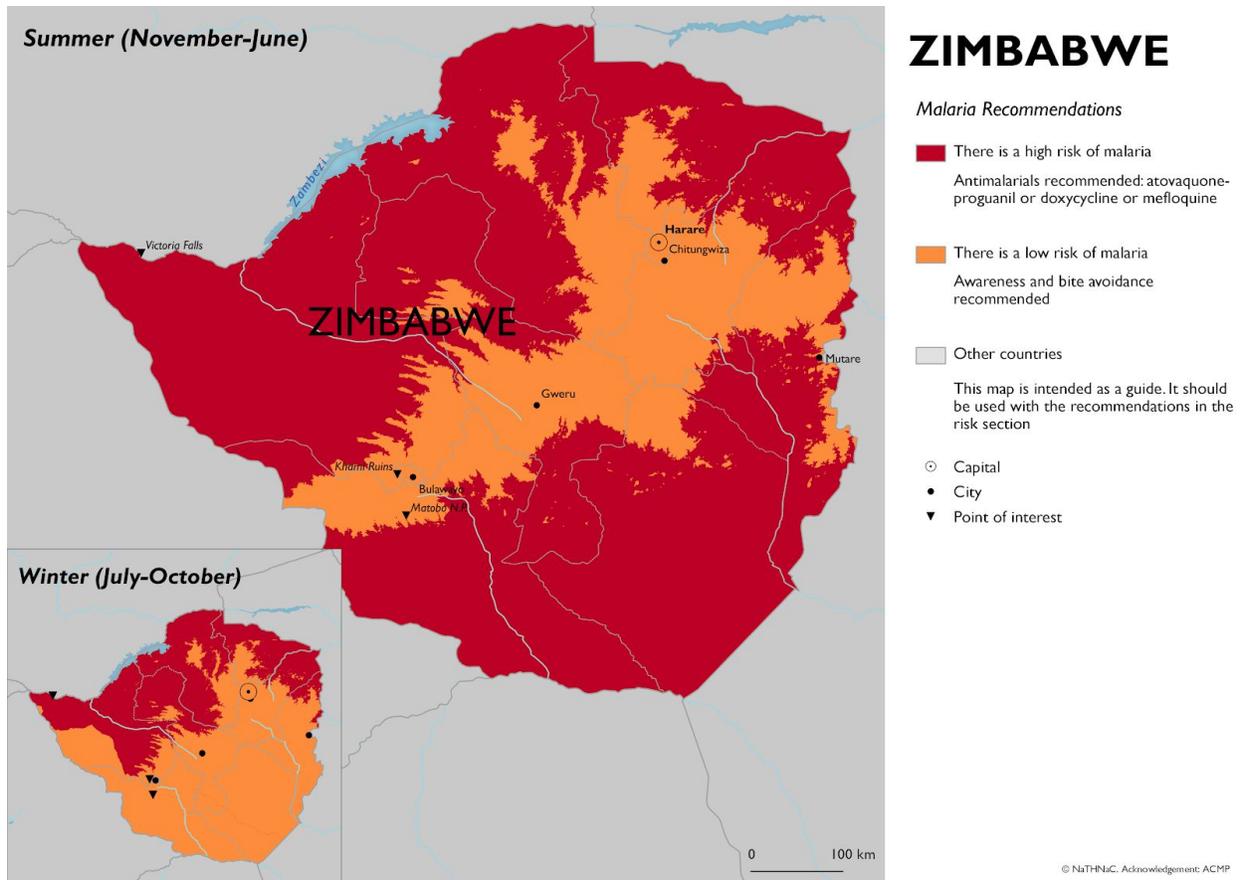
WINTER/AUTUMN	SUMMER/SPRING
3 x T-Shirts	3 x T-Shirts
2 x Long Sleeved Shirts	2 x Long Sleeved Shirts
1 x Soft Shell or Fleece Jacket	1 x Lightweight Rain Jacket
1 x Windproof Jacket	3 x Lightweight Shorts or Trousers
2 x Lightweight Trousers or Shorts	Safari Hat or Cap
2 x Jeans or Thicker Trousers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

Zimbabwe 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.

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

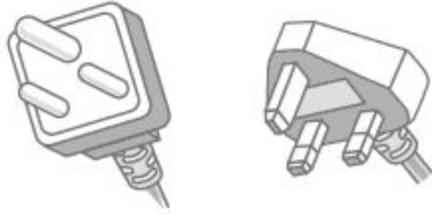


Source : <https://travelhealthpro.org.uk/country-details.php?cnt=248#Malaria>

CURRENCY

The Zimbabwean Dollar is the official currency, however due to a volatile exchange rate and limited circulation of Zimbabwean Dollar notes it is difficult to obtain. Most lodges & travel service providers will accept credit and debit cards for purchases and in many instances US Dollars or South African Rands. American Express cards are not generally accepted in Zimbabwe. As a traveller to Zimbabwe we advise travelling with US Dollar in small denominations for incidental purchases and gratuities, and prebook all activities and transfers. Visa fees are payable in US Dollars. ATMs are available but will only dispense Zimbabwean Dollars which generally cannot be exchanged outside of Zimbabwe.

POWER POINTS



In Zimbabwe the power plugs and sockets are of type D and G. All power sockets in Zimbabwe provide a standard voltage of 220V 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 Zimbabwe, 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