



WILDERNESS

Discover Earth's Ultimate,
Untamed Places

DESTINATION GUIDE

REPUBLIC OF ZIMBABWE

We're pleased to host you at our camps in Zimbabwe and have compiled these travelling tips and guidelines, and some facts about the destination. Check out www.wildernessdestinations.com/ for more information, or the official Zimbabwe Tourism Authority's website www.zimbabwetourism.net/

The great Zambezi River sits on the northern boundary of Zimbabwe, with the Limpopo River on its southern border. A variety of habitats attract travelers to experience impressive wildlife and adrenalin-filled adventures. The rich history of Zimbabwe is home to one of the world's natural wonders: Victoria Falls.

Wilderness' concession in the Mana Pools National Park and Hwange National Park offer some truly impressive wildlife viewing and birdlife. Zimbabwe is about the size of California or Germany, landlocked and neighboured by South Africa, Botswana, Zambia and Mozambique. The capital is Harare and the current population of the country is estimated at 15.2 million.



ZIMBABWE

GREAT-TO-KNOW FACTS



Green represents agriculture and the rural areas of Zimbabwe.

Yellow is for the wealth of minerals in the country.

Red represents lives lost in the wars.

Black is for the heritage and ethnicity of native Africans.

The white triangle is for peace.

The bird is a national symbol of Zimbabwe, with the red star the nation's hopes for a bright future.

Economy

The government of Zimbabwe has faced economic challenges. Programmes implemented over time damaged the commercial farming sector, and turned Zimbabwe into a net importer of food products. However, the economy is registering growth almost a decade after the removal of the Zimbabwe dollar and price controls.

Currency

Cash transactions are permitted in a foreign currency (i.e. use of forex), with US Dollars being the most widely accepted and used — however, the South African Rand (ZAR) is allowed as well. When paying with a foreign debit card, this is then converted to the foreign currency equivalent at the prevailing rate of exchange.

Time

Zimbabwe shares the same time as all of Southern Africa, which is two hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time — (GMT) + 2 hours, in the Central Africa Time Zone (CAT).

Language

English is the official language. Other widely spoken languages are Shona and IsiNdebele, which also have various dialects and other minority languages. The various ethnic groups are Shona, Ndebele, Tonga, Zezuru, Kalanga, Lozi, Manyika and Venda.

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.



Essentials to Pack



SAFARI
SUN HAT



BINOCULARS



GOOD
CLOSED SHOES



SAFARI
DUFFLE BAG



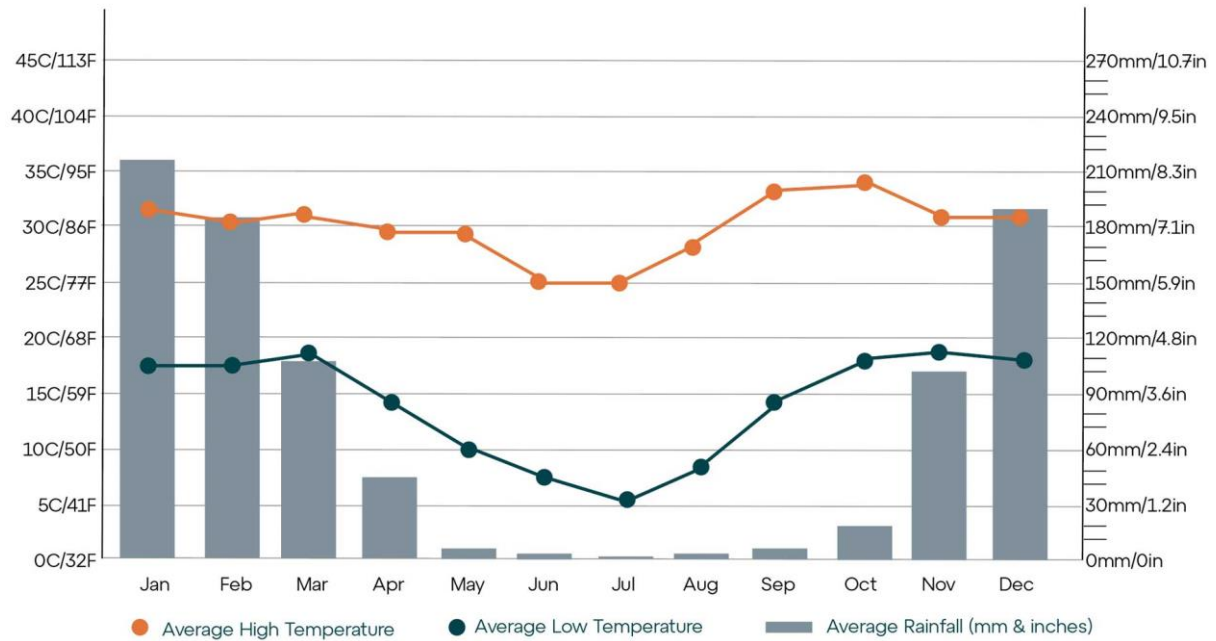
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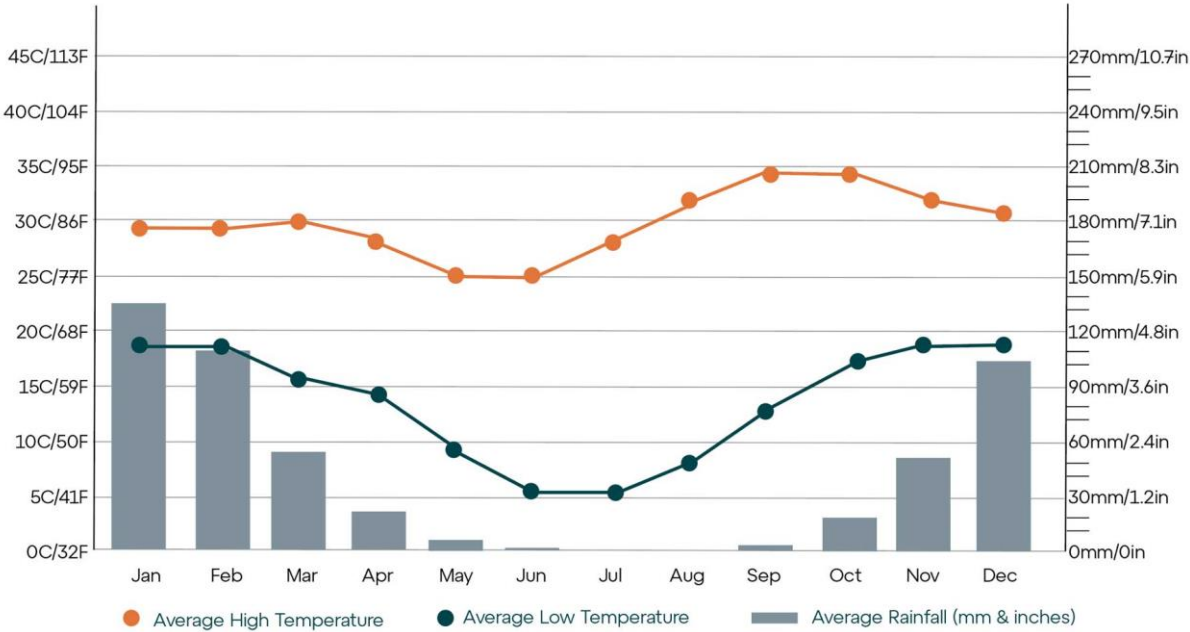
VICTORIA FALLS

Temperature Average (°C) (°F). These are the average lows and highs.
Average Rainfall (mm) & (inches). This varies according to the year and location.



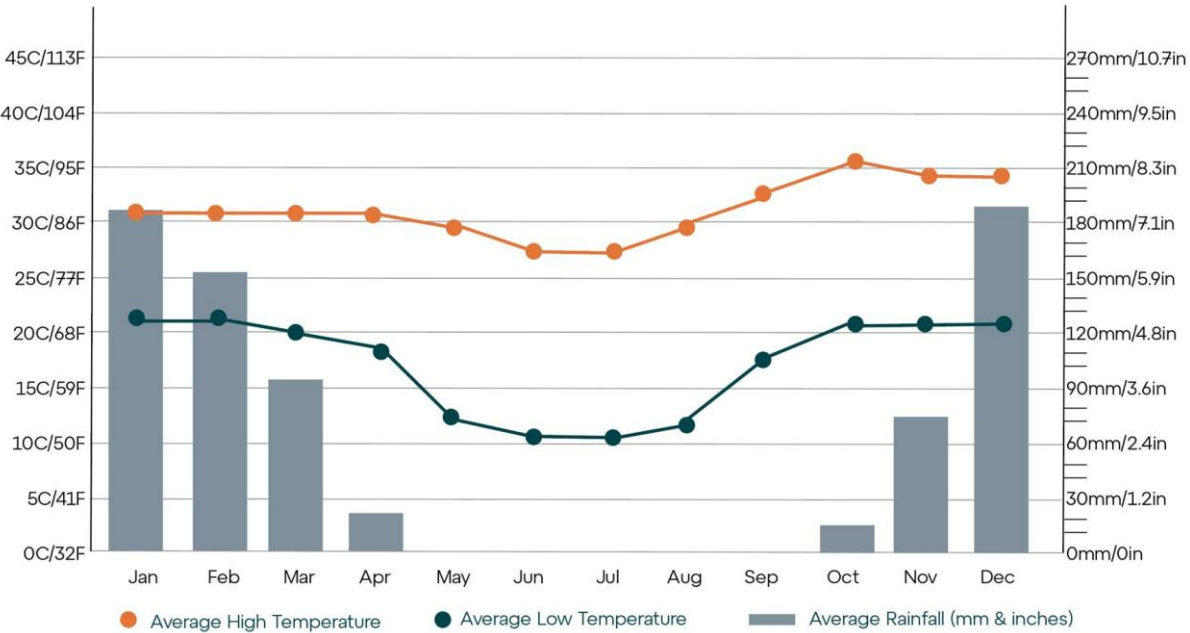
HWANGE

Temperature Average (°C) (°F). These are the average lows and highs.
Average Rainfall (mm) & (inches). This varies according to the year and location.



MANA POOLS

Temperature Average (°C) (°F). These are the average lows and highs.
Average Rainfall (mm) & (inches). This varies according to the year and location.



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.

New Year's Day	01 January	Africa Day	25 May
Robert Gabriel Mugabe National Youth Day	21 February	Heroes' Day	Varies in August
Good Friday	Varies	Defence Force National Day	Second weekend August
Easter Monday	Varies	National Unity Day	22 December
Independence Day	18 April	Christmas Day	25 December
Workers' Day	01 May	Boxing Day	26 December

USEFUL TRAVEL INFORMATION

Visas

Visas are the responsibility of the traveler and 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 Designer for exact details relevant to you. Zimbabwe has recently launched an online facility that travelers may use to pre-apply for visas. For further information, please refer to the website: www.evisa.gov.zw/home — bearing in mind that Wilderness is not responsible for the content.

Please Note:

- If possible and required, our recommendation is to obtain your Zimbabwe visa prior to arrival, as this will facilitate the immigration process at both airport and border crossing. The Government of Zimbabwe has an eVisa system and travelers may apply and pay for their visas online.
- If visas are required, we do recommend that you have the correct **cash** amounts (US Dollars) available as this will expedite the process.
- 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 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 UniVisa is available at Harry Mwaanga Nkumbula International Airport (Livingstone), Kenneth Kaunda International Airport (Lusaka), Victoria Falls International Airport, Harare International Airport, as well as Victoria Falls Land Border and Kazungula Land Border — i.e. only at ports of entry and not available online. Payment can be made using cash (US dollars). It is advisable that guests carry the exact amount in cash or smaller denominations to expedite their entry, as change may not be possible in the transaction.

Shopping

Zimbabwe sells a wide range of locally made soapstone statues, wooden carvings, baskets, crochet-ware and hand-printed African chitenge (sarong) fabric.

Value Added Tax (VAT)

Most goods in Zimbabwe are priced to include value added tax (VAT) of 14.5%, not refundable to visitors. Accommodation services include 14.5% VAT; flying, transfers and touring/sightseeing are zero-rated with no VAT applicable.

Departure Taxes

Major airlines include both Departure Taxes and the AIDEF tax in the cost of their scheduled commercial airline tickets. The AIDEF tax was introduced in Zimbabwe to support airport upgrades.

Currently, and subject to change without notice, the taxes are as follows:

- Domestic flights: USD 10.00 departure tax + USD 5.00 AIDEF fee (Aviation Infrastructural Development Fund) = USD 15.00 per person
- International flights: USD 35.00 departure tax + USD 15.00 AIDEF fee = USD 50.00 per person

These taxes apply to departures from any registered, manned airports in Zimbabwe, including Harare, Bulawayo, Kariba, Hwange, and Victoria Falls airports.

Note that additional taxes apply to light aircraft transfers within Zimbabwe; however, these do not apply to air transfers departing from Livingstone or Victoria Falls.

Banks

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

Driving in Zimbabwe

In Zimbabwe one drives on the left-hand side of the road. The speed limit is usually 60 kilometers per hour in built-up areas, 70 kilometers per hour on gravel roads and 120 kilometers 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 their 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 Designer regarding the minimum age.

Power Supply

All Wilderness camps are situated in remote areas and in some instances, we have to generate our own electricity. Generators are used as a main power source. Sleep apnea 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 tents. 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 accessible via 14-amp AC, 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.

Sightseeing

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

Map of Zimbabwe

