

TRIP NOTES: Zimbabwe



This information is provided by Africa Answers as a guideline to the country you will be visiting. Further information is available to you at www.zimbabwetourism.net and <https://www.africaanswers.com/destinations/zimbabwe>

While Africa Answers endeavors to provide current information, regulations and requirements can change without notice and we are not responsible for travelers whose trips are interrupted due to documentary or medical non-compliance.

ENTRY DOCUMENTS

Travelers arriving in Africa are required to have passports that will be valid for at least six months from the date of departure and contain at least two blank pages per country to be visited for affixing entry and exit stamps.

US passport holders may purchase a single-, double- or multiple-entry visa for Zimbabwe on arrival for 30/45/160 USD in cash (subject to change without notice). Credit cards are not accepted. Single- and double-entry visas can also be purchased online at <https://www.evisa.gov.zw/home>.

Travelers who are visiting Zimbabwe plus Zambia and/or Botswana may purchase a Kaza Univisa on arrival at Victoria Falls airport or online at <https://www.evisa.gov.zw/home>.

TIPPING

Service staff in Africa depend on tips as part of their livelihood. As a guideline, hotel porters get about \$1.50 per bag carried each way. City restaurant and bar servers should be tipped 15% - 20%. Airport transfer drivers at \$3 - 10 per person per transfer, depending on distance. Camp and lodge staff at \$10 per person per day in camp to be split between the entire camp crew – there is often a Tips box for this group tip in the main area of the camp or lodge. Driver- guides are with you the most and should receive \$10 - \$15 per person per day. If you have both a tracker and a guide, the tracker should receive \$5 per person per day.

VACCINATIONS, ANTI-MALARIALS AND MEDICATION

All travelers to Zimbabwe should consult a travel clinic at least 6 weeks before departure for advice as to the recommended medications and vaccinations for their safari, based on their itinerary and personal health profile.

Zimbabwe is a low-risk Malaria destination, however malaria is present, especially from November to June. Although malaria medication is not *required* for entry to Zimbabwe, your travel clinician may recommend it.

Yellow fever vaccination is not required for travelers arriving from the US or South Africa into Zimbabwe.

Travelers entering Zimbabwe from countries where yellow fever is present, such as Rwanda, Uganda and most West and Central African countries, must have certification of yellow fever vaccination, or a waiver document provided by

their physician citing the waiver reason. Travelers who are in airport transit for less than 12 hours are not required to have yellow fever vaccinations. If in doubt, please ask your Travel Clinician to review your itinerary and advise.

BAGGAGE

Airlines into and out of Botswana routinely weigh both checked and carry-on bags. To avoid paying excess baggage fees, please adhere to your airline's restrictions.

Important rules for shared in-country air transfers in light aircraft, to and from game camps/lodges:

- 1) Luggage, including carry-on luggage, is restricted per person travelling on seat rates to 44lbs total.
- 2) Only soft bags will be accepted - no hard suitcases or bags with wheels can be transported as they physically cannot fit into the aircraft.
- 3) The maximum dimensions of the soft bags which can be accommodated are as follows: 12 inches wide x 12 inches high and 24 inches long.
- 4) Passengers weighing 220 lbs or more, must purchase an additional seat for safety and comfort.

MONEY

Accepted currencies in Zimbabwe are the US dollar and South African Rand, however ATMs do not dispense these currencies. Zimbabwe is primarily a cash economy, but shops and restaurants in tourist areas may accept credit cards for a fee of about 3%.

When using USD bills, they must be clean and in excellent shape, and issued after 2008. Your bank will be familiar with this request if you explain that the notes are for use overseas.

Visa and Mastercard are widely accepted, American Express less so.

SAFETY AND SECURITY

Always use the safe in your room to store cash, important documents and other valuables. Larger items can be left in the lodge or camp safe at the front desk.

During a game drive, the driver-guide will offer instructions concerning safety. This includes advising tour members when it is safe to exit the vehicle. At lodges and camps, the staff will often escort guests to and from the rooms to ensure safety. In National Parks, guests must be back in the lodge or camp by 6pm; this Park rule will be enforced by your driver/guide.

ELECTRICITY

Africa uses 240 volt electric current. Zimbabwe outlets are round 3 pin and rectangular 3 pin. Some remote lodges and camps generate their own electricity and may not generate 24 hours per day, which will impact CPAP machine users. The electric current is subject to voltage fluctuation and power cuts are possible, even in larger cities. For detailed information, images and links to purchase adaptors, please consult <https://www.power-plugs-sockets.com>

POTABLE WATER

Tap water in Zimbabwe should be boiled before drinking. Bottled water is provided by most hotels and lodges at a modest cost. Safari vehicles also carry drinking water for your refillable flask.

