



*'creating a level playing field'*

## COUNTRY INFORMATION REPUBLIC OF ZIMBABWE

Flag



Coat of Arms



National Anthem

Blessed be the land of Zimbabwe - English  
Simudza Mureza weZimbabwe - Shona  
Kalibusisiwe Ilizwe leZimbabwe- Ndebele

## **General Information**

Zimbabwe is a land locked country in southern Africa with an estimated population of 12,5 million people. The country has a total land area of 390 757km<sup>2</sup> and a total water percentage of 1%. It is bordered by Botswana on the west, Zambia on the north, Mozambique on the east, and South Africa on the south. The capital city is Harare and other major cities include Bulawayo, Mutare, Gweru and Masvingo.

## **Tourism**

Zimbabwe is a welcoming, unique and fascinating tourist destination and is home to the mighty Victoria Falls, which is one of the seven natural wonders of the world. Other fascinating places include Lake Kariba, the second largest man-made lake on earth, the refreshing Eastern Highlands, the exotic Matobo Hills and the Great Zimbabwe National Monument. The nation is richly endowed with pristine wildlife, a unique culture and a naturally warm and friendly people. These attributes contribute immensely to the high degree of attractiveness that position Zimbabwe as a prime tourist destination in the world.

## **Passport and Visas**

All visitors require valid passports to travel to Zimbabwe and visa regulations vary according to nationality and country of origin and these should be checked for at your nearest tourist office or embassy before leaving your country.

All journalists visiting Zimbabwe need to be accredited by the Department of Information and Publicity. Please contact the Zimbabwe Embassy or Consulate in or near your country.

## **Currency**

Zimbabwe operates a multi currency system. The United States Dollar, South African rand, Pound Sterling and Euro are used for all financial transactions. The US dollar has been adopted as the preferred currency for all government transactions.

## **Communication**

The access code for Zimbabwe is 263 and it operates under the Central African Time zone. The country has one fixed landline operator and 3 cellular network service providers. Internet access is also available from internet cafes in and around the major cities and hotspots at major Hotels and International Airports.

## **Banking Business Hours**

Banks in Zimbabwe open from 8am to 3pm from Monday to Friday and up to 11am on Saturdays, for all your financial transactions. Money transfer agencies are also available countrywide.

## **Culture, Religion and Language**

Zimbabwe is a multi-racial society where people of different nationalities live in harmony. People living in urban areas have a westernized lifestyle and are predominately Christian, while in the country areas many African traditions have been preserved. English is the official language and other widely spoken languages are Chishona and Sindebele which have various dialects and other minority languages, such as Sotho, Venda, Chewa, Shangani and Tonga.

### **Airport Departure Tax**

A departure tax of US\$30 is levied on all foreign visitors (non-residents) at all Zimbabwe airports for international flights. The revenue stamp can be bought at the Airport or pre-purchased at any commercial bank. A total of US\$5 is payable for each domestic ticket. However, this tax is often incorporated in the ticket fare. Always verify with the issuing agent.

### **Electrical Appliances**

In main centres and main tourist resorts, all appliances run on 220 volts. Outlets are of the 3-pin, 13amp type.

### **Traditional Foods**

Hotels, restaurants and homes in Zimbabwe offer a wide variety of meals ranging from oriental recipes, Chinese food, sea food to take aways but the best of all is the local traditional recipes, they offer excellent nutrition and are a healthy option. Sadza is the staple food in Zimbabwe and is made from a thick mealie meal (or mapfunde and mhunga) porridge. A wide range of side dishes are available such as dried meat in peanut butter, or a range of vegetables such as muboora (pumpkin leaves), tsine (black jack), derere (ocra) mufushwa (dried vegetables) such as munyemba, nyevhe, mowa with peanut butter. Pumpkins and their seeds are also a delicious option, mushrooms, button and spawn and other wild varieties. Wild fruits such as matamba, nhunguru, matohwe, maroro are nutritious and are believed to have medicinal qualities. Nuts are available and are also nutritious. These include nyimo (round nuts), nzungu (ground nuts) and nyemba. Tubers such as mbambaira (sweet potatoes) and madumbe are also worth trying. Edible worms (madora) are also a delicacy.

### **Security**

Zimbabweans are known for their hospitality and friendliness towards each other and visitors alike. Although all Zimbabweans are very helpful it is always advisable to be cautious when dealing with strangers. Police officers are very helpful and are easily identified by their uniforms although some may be plainclothes police. Like everywhere in the world valuables should always be safeguarded or left in the hotel safe box. If you do not know where to obtain a certain service or you are not sure always contact The Zimbabwe Tourism Authority, Publicity Association, Police Post or the Hotel Information Desk.

### **Customs Concession**

Your personal possessions which are not intended for disposal or consumption in Zimbabwe are allowed entry duty-free. In addition, other consumable goods which are not merchandise imported for trade purposes may be imported up to a value of US\$250 or its equivalent in other currencies per person.

### **Motor Vehicles**

Private motor vehicles, caravans and trailers may be brought temporarily into Zimbabwe provided they are licensed in their home countries and bear the appropriate registration plates and a nationality plaque. The International Certificate of Motor Vehicles is recognized in Zimbabwe. A vehicle toll fee is levied on all vehicles that pass through the Beitbridge border-post.

### **Driving in Zimbabwe**

International driving and driving licences issued in all SADC countries are valid in Zimbabwe. Visitors from other countries not covered by this agreement are able to drive a period of 90 days using driving licences issued in their home countries. If not printed in English, it should have a certificate of authority and validity, or a translation of the text with the bearer's photograph attached. Renewal after expiry of this period is obtained from the Ministry of Transport and Communications. Drive on the left in Zimbabwe and give way to traffic approaching on the road to your right at uncontrolled intersections. At controlled intersections, motorists are required to yield precedence to pedestrians crossing on a green light. At all intersections a fire engine ambulance or police vehicle sounding a siren takes precedence over all other traffic, move out of its course and remain stationary until it has passed. The general speed limit in Zimbabwe is 120km/h on open roads and 60km/h in urban areas. Toll gates are operational on all major highways and the charges vary from USD\$2.00 to USD\$10.00.

### **Transport**

**Air Services** – Air Zimbabwe, the national airline, operates frequent flights.

**Car Hire** - cars with or without chauffeurs can be hired in most tourist areas from international recognized firms.

**Taxi Services** – Taxis are available at every airport and hotel in Zimbabwe.

N.B. Further details available on request.

**-THANK YOU FOR VISITING ZIMBABWE-**