

## **Tourist information on Zimbabwe**

**Zimbabwe is a landlocked country in south-central Africa. It lies between the Zambezi River in the North and the Limpopo River to the south. The country has land borders with Mozambique to the north and east, South Africa to the South, Botswana to the southwest and Zambia to the northwest and north.**

**Most of Zimbabwe is rolling plateau, with over 75% of it lying between 610m (2000 ft) and 1,525m (5,000 ft) above sea level, and almost all of it over 305m (1,000 ft).**

**The area of high plateau, know as the high Veld, is some 400 miles long by 50 miles wide, and stretches northeast to southwest at 1,220m (4,000 ft) to 1,676m (5,500ft) This culminates in the northeast in the Udizi and Inyanga mountains, reaching the country's highest point at Mt. Inyangani at 2,596m (8,517 ft). The middle veld is a plateau ranging from 610m (2,000 ft) to 1,220 m (4,000 ft) high. Below 610m (2,000ft) are areas making up the Low Veld, wide and sandy plains in the basins of the Zambezi and the Limpopo.**

**The steep mountain ranges cut Zimbabwe off from the eastern plains that border the India Ocean. The High Veld is a central ridge forming the country's watershed, with stream flowing southeast to the Limpopo and Sabi rivers and northwest into the Zambezi. Deep river valleys cut the Middle Veld. Only the larger of the many rivers have an all-year-round flow of water. Most of rivers have falls and rapids.**

**Zimbabwe is blessed with a good and warm climate with rich flora and fauna. Zimbabwe is also where you find one of the Seven Wonders of the world, the Victoria Falls which is surrounded by the seven wonders of our own world.**

**Travel and tourism in Zimbabwe in 2010 was on the track to recovery following a decade of internal political struggles as well as the adverse effects of the global economic slowdown. Since the formation of a transitional government, the country has become a more favourable tourist destination due to the return of relative peace and stability. Both arrivals and incoming tourist receipts registered positive growth in 2010 despite the slow recovery of the global economy. With increasing signs of unity and solidarity, many Western nations have lifted their travel warnings on Zimbabwe and this has encouraged more tourists to visit the country. The majority of arrivals in 2010 were from other African countries, followed by countries in Europe and the US.**

**Victoria Falls remains the top tourist attraction**

**The rebound of travel and tourism in Zimbabwe has been supported by the vast popularity of Victoria Falls, an astounding geographical site located between Zimbabwe and neighbouring Zambia. The falls are the nation's most popular tourist attraction. The majority of tourists to the country in 2010 visited Victoria Falls in order to have a look at the largest curtain of falling water in the world. The falls are also among the seven natural**

wonders of the world and its surroundings have been established as national parks and a World Heritage Site. The town of Victoria Falls experienced an increase in tourist arrivals towards the end of the review period after several years of losing ground to Livingston, in Zambia, due to political unrest in Zimbabwe. The town is also host to an array of exceptional hotels as well as an airport that serves travel and tourism in that region.

### **Icelandic volcanic ash clouds affect European long-haul flights**

The eruption of Iceland's Eyjafjallajökull volcano in early 2010 had a major impact on air travel between Europe and the rest of the world. Ash clouds from the volcano not only disrupted global air travel but also left many travellers stranded. According to IATA it cost airlines a minimum of US\$200 million per day in lost revenue. In the case of Zimbabwe, many airlines operating long-haul flights to and from Europe were also affected as they were forced to cancel most of their European flights. Air Zimbabwe for example, the main source of revenue of which is overseas flights, cancelled flights to long-haul destination London due to the volcanic ash cloud. The suspension of overseas flights during this period put huge financial stress on the company.

### **Hotels need to improve to maintain healthy occupancy rate**

The occupancy rate of hotels in Zimbabwe improved over the review period due to growth in arrivals. However hotel infrastructure across Zimbabwe, especially in major tourist destinations, deteriorated over the review period due to lack of maintenance. According to the Zimbabwe Council of Tourism, over US\$120 million is needed to upgrade Zimbabwe's hospitality infrastructure. However, because many local players do not have enough funds to upgrade their facilities, the government has adopted a variety of incentives to encourage foreign private investment.

### **Brighter future awaits travel and tourism in Zimbabwe**

Travel and tourism in Zimbabwe has strong growth potential as the country possesses a high number of tourist attractions, including one of the world's greatest natural wonders, Victoria Falls, and incredible game safaris. Its future success lies in political stability and continuous improvement of its political and economic environment as these factors will encourage more tourists to visit the country. Nevertheless, one of the biggest constraints to the future growth of travel and tourism is the lack of financial resources to improve the products that are available. Effort also needs to be made to suppress the negative publicity surrounding the country. Provided these challenges are addressed, the country has the potential to once again be among the top tourist destinations in Africa.

### **Our people and Culture**

#### **Rich History and Heritage**

#### **The Majestic Victoria Falls**

**The Great Zimbabwe the grand medieval palace**

**Pristine Wildlife and Nature**

**The Mystic of the Eastern Highlands**

**Mythical Kariba and the Mighty Zambezi**

The seven wonders of our own world give the visitor seven reasons to visit Zimbabwe. Zimbabweans are a peace loving people, warm and hospitable and as such they are our first wonder. Zimbabwe has a rich history and heritage defining how our people came to be what they are today. The Majestic Victoria Falls which is known by the locals as "Mosi Oya Tunya" the smoke that thunders because of the thunderous noise the water from the falls and smoke like mist from the fall. The Great Zimbabwe is a wonder in itself, built of granite blocks with no mortar or adhesive it has captured the interest of both local and international architects. Our pristine wildlife and nature rivals that of any other African country and is in the top 40 of the beautiful habitats in the world. The eastern highlands is a mountainous plain which is said to be filled with the voices of the ancestors and the waters that flow within the plain are said to contain healing powers and sooth the body. The mythical Kariba and the mighty Zambezi, the home of Nyaminyami the serpent god of the Tonga people. Visitors who come to the area can indulge themselves in the story of this mythical creature and even have a hand carved walking stick in the form of the serpent god.

## **Introducing Zimbabwe**

Zimbabwe continues to make headlines for all the wrong reasons. Despite a power-sharing government headed by Robert Mugabe and Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) leader Morgan Tsvangirai that pledged to improve the lives of Zimbabweans the country still faces a mammoth task consistently frustrated by political infighting. Even though the economy has slowly improved from it's worst nadir, millions are still dependent on food aid and disease outbreaks only compound the situation.

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But behind the grim data lies one of southern [Africa](#)'s most beautiful countries. And despite being forced to sacrifice so much, Zimbabweans have not lost their humour or resolve. With so few visiting the country, those who do can expect royal treatment. They need you. While the world's media focuses on the fall of Zimbabwe, visitors will see a very different image of the country. From the absolute wilderness of [Mana Pools National Park](#),

the ruins of Great Zimbabwe and the mountains looking over [Mozambique](#) in [Eastern Zimbabwe](#), to fine dining in [Harare](#) or bungee jumping over Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe offers something for everyone.

Zimbabwe is no longer nearly as cheap as it once was, but its richness in culture and colour remain. Colonialism remains etched in all sorts of ways, but local traditions are visible. If you're willing to join a tour group, or pay and plan your own trip, then a country of charm, political intrigue and magnificent wilderness awaits. Oh, and Zimbabwe's got one of the world's best climates...even the worst government can't destroy that.

## Some tourist places

### Attractions



### [The Victoria Falls](#)



### [The Great Dyke](#)



### [The Pungwe Falls](#)



### [The Eastern Highlands](#)



### [Great Zimbabwe - Dzimba Dzemabwe](#)



### [Mana Pools National Park](#)



[Lake Mutirikwe](#)



[Vumba Botanical Gardens and Reserve](#)



[Mutorashanga Quarry \(Ethel Mine\)](#)



[Cecil John Rhodes' Grave](#)



[Lake Kariba](#)



[The Matobo Nat Park & Matopos Hills](#)