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Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe, officially Republic of Zimbabwe, formerly (1911–64) Southern Rhodesia, (1964–79) Rhodesia, or (1979–80) Zimbabwe Rhodesia, is a landlocked country of southern Africa. The name Zimbabwe is believed to derive its name from the Shona term dzimba-dza-mabwe which translated means "large house of stone" referring to the ancient ruins of Great Zimbabwe in the south of the country.

Zimbabwe shares a 125-mile (200-kilometre) border on the south with the Republic of South Africa and is bounded on the southwest and west by Botswana, on the north by Zambia, and on the northeast and east by Mozambique. The capital is Harare (formerly called Salisbury). The total area is only 390,580 sq km which is just a bit bigger than Japan or the state of Montana. Yet this small country once described as the "Jewel of Africa" has just so much to offer. The country lying north of the Tropic of Capricorn, is completely within the tropics but enjoys subtropical conditions because of its high average elevation.

Through the total area of Zimbabwe's land 13% (50 000sq km) is preserved as wildlife estates some of which are without equal like Mana Pools, Hwange, Matobo Hills, Matusadona and Gonarezhou.

On the northern border we have the mighty Zambezi River which gives rise to 3 outstanding tourist attractions; Victoria Falls, Lake Kariba and the lower Zambezi River's Mana Pools, all of which are filled with unsurpassed natural beauty and wildlife, surely making Zimbabwe one of the most desirable wildlife and safari destinations in Africa.

Victoria Falls

Victoria Falls Township is within the northwestern Zimbabwe. The town faces Livingstone, Zambia, across the river. The first storage and rest huts in the original village were built in 1898 by Albert Giese. The township was founded in conjunction with the construction of a steel-arch railway bridge just below the waterfall in 1905. The Victoria Falls Hotel dates from that year. In 1930 the bridge was altered to carry automobile traffic as well as trains.

Victoria Falls is the customs and immigration post for travellers to and from Zambia and a major tourist centre. It is surrounded by Victoria Falls



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National Park. The township has an international airport 14 miles (22 km) away.

The town has many quaint restaurants and cafes where light meals, fine dining or a drink can be enjoyed. You can also take time out to do curio shopping, where local traders at the vibrant markets sell a wide range of beautiful arts and crafts to take home and remember your holiday by.

The town of Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe is situated less than one kilometre away from the Victoria Falls.

This spectacular waterfall is located about midway along the course of the Zambezi River, at the border between Zambia to the north and Zimbabwe to the south; it is approximately twice as wide and twice as deep as Niagara Falls, the waterfall spans the entire breadth of the Zambezi River at one of its widest points (more than 5,500 feet [1,700 metres]). At the falls, the river plunges over a sheer precipice to a maximum drop of 355 feet (108 metres). The falls' mean flow is almost 33,000 cubic feet (935 cubic metres) per second. The Zambezi River does not gather speed as it nears the drop, the approach being signaled only by the mighty roar and characteristic veil of mist for which the Kalolo-Lozi people named the falls Mosi-oa-Tunya ("The Smoke That Thunders"). The lip of the falls' precipice is split into several parts by various small islands, depressions, and promontories along its edge. The eastern portions of the falls are mostly dry during times of low river flow.

At the gorge's end is the Boiling Pot, a deep pool into which the waters churn and foam at flood time. Just below the Boiling Pot, the gorge is spanned by the Victoria Falls (Zambezi) Bridge, which carries rail, automobile, and pedestrian traffic between Zambia and Zimbabwe. The river's waters then emerge into an enormous zigzag trough that forms the beginning of Batoka Gorge, which has been cut by the river to a depth of 400–800 feet (120–240 metres) through a basalt plateau for a distance of 60 miles (100 km).

Livingstone

Livingstone town is within the extreme southern Zambia. It lies on the northern bank of the Zambezi River at the Zimbabwe border, just north of Victoria Falls.

The first European settlement in the area was upriver at the Old Drift Ferry Station in the 1890s; the town's present site was occupied in 1905 with the completion of Victoria Falls Bridge and the railway line. Livingstone was the capital of Northern Rhodesia from 1907 to 1935 and became the country's first municipality in 1927. Situated on the main railway system of southern Africa, it is a distribution point for agricultural products and timber. The



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town's secondary industries include automobile assembly, sawmilling, blanket weaving, and the making of furniture.

Livingstone has an international airport, which has greatly facilitated tourism not only to Victoria Falls (designated a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1989) but also to other nearby attractions, including Lake Kariba, Livingstone Game Park, and Kafue national park. A small hydroelectric power station is located on Zambia's side of Victoria Falls. The Livingstone Museum has a collection of ethnological, archaeological, and historical exhibits, including those related to the 19th-century Scottish explorer-missionary David Livingstone, for whom the town is named.

The View of the Falls

Zimbabwe

75% of the Falls are seen from the Zimbabwean side, with a variety of 16 viewpoints bisecting the rainforest. A network of paths allows you to thoroughly see the Falls from every angle.

- A true rainforest, where it rains 24hrs, 365 days of the year, from the falling spray created by these powerful Falls.
- In Zimbabwe the Falls never dry up even at the height of the dry season in October and November, Main Falls and Devils cataract will still have impressive water flow.

Zambia

- Zambia has only a 25% view of the Falls - the eastern cataract. There is a reasonable network of paths and several viewpoints covering this small section. One of the advantages is that you can look right down the length of the Falls at Sunset and yet be close enough to the exit gate to get out quickly before they close them.
- No true rainforest on this side as there are times of the year when the water flow is very low or has completely stopped.
- At the height of the dry season the Zambian Section the eastern cataract dries up completely leaving just a rock face.



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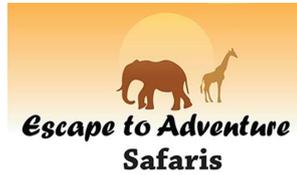
➤ Livingstone island tours are only available from the Zambian side, this is a highly recommended activity as you get to see the Falls from a completely different angle, right on the edge exactly where David Livingstone saw it for the first time.

➤ There are only two hotels close to the entrance of Victoria Falls, the Royal Livingstone Hotel and the Avani Resort. Residents at these two hotels are entitled to Free entrance to the Zambian section of the Falls via their own entrance gate. This is a huge advantage and a big money saver.

Why Book With Us ?

Some people and even some overseas travel agents are unaware that Victoria Falls lies between two countries that is Zimbabwe and Zambia. We have seen people book accommodation in one country and then all their activities in another entailing lengthy and unnecessary border crossings every time which also results in a lot of unplanned expenses. Escape to Adventure Safaris comes in to rescue by preparing transfers and activities which are well co-ordinated and arranged that your holiday itinerary would then all match up – then with all this that is where our advice from first-hand experience and local destination knowledge is invaluable.

VISAs- *are required by several nationalities to enter Zimbabwe. There are 3 categories, those who don't need a visa, those who need a visa but can get it at the point on entry and those who need a visa and have to apply for it from their own country. Visas purchased at the point of entry need to be paid for in cash. Please go to this page [Zimbabwe evisa](#) to find out how much visas cost and if you need one.*



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