



Zambia Travel-Information

Travel Documents

The Zambian Government requires that all visitors' passports **be valid for at least six months beyond the intended departure date from Zambia.**

Visas

Nationals of all Commonwealth countries do not require visas to enter Zambia except for countries that need visas on a reciprocal basis such as: Australia, Britain, Canada, Gambia, India, New-Zealand, Sri-Lanka, Serra Leone, Pakistan and Papua New Guinea. Of those nationals that do require a visa, some countries are required to apply in advance of arrival in Zambia and others can apply on arrival at the port of entry. Costs also vary depending on the nationality of your passport so please contact your travel consultant for exact details relevant to you.

Important Information for Visitors to Zambia

Southern African Development Community (SADC) passport holders and a few other nationals are exempt from visa fees - for details please refer to the lists that are posted on their website www.zambiaimmigration.gov.zm . Please ensure your guests travelling to Zambia are aware of the requirements and that they have the correct cash amounts available as credit cards are not accepted.

Those travelers obtaining a visa on arrival at the port of entry are strongly urged to check their passports after it has been stamped by the immigration officer to ensure that the correct number of days' stay have been authorized. On arrival in Zambia, instead of being asked how long a visitor is staying in Zambia in total, travelers are often asked how many days they are staying "here" or in "Livingstone" (i.e. point of entry). At this point, the immigration official then authorizes only those number of days in the passport! Thus, if the guests are staying 2 days in Livingstone but then are going on to other destinations in Zambia such as the Kafue, Lower Zambezi, South Luangwa etc, they need to advise the relevant official of the number of days that they are spending in Zambia in total otherwise they will be charged to obtain an extension/additional visa later on.

Please note: if guests arrive in Zambia but continue to another country (such as Botswana, Namibia, Zimbabwe) and then return to Zambia, OR are staying in Livingstone, Zambia but doing some touring in Botswana or Zimbabwe, then a double entry visa must be obtained on arrival from the immigration official. Multiple entry visas have to be obtained in advance and these are only issued at the Immigration Department's headquarters in Lusaka and the following consulates abroad: London, Pretoria, Lubumbashi, New Delhi, Beijing and Lilongwe. Further visa information is available on the following website www.zambiaimmigration.gov.zm . Please note we have provided this website as a guideline for further information, Wilderness Safaris is not responsible for the content thereof.

Medication

Certain over-the-counter medications contain ingredients that are on Zambia's list of controlled substances. As a precaution we recommend that you do not take unnecessary non-prescription medications with you when travelling to Zambia. For prescription medications please carry a doctor's prescription with you and ensure that the medication is in its original bottle. A list of these controlled substances is available from your consultant on request.

Currency

The currency in Zambia is the Kwacha, which is not available for purchase outside the country. United States Dollars is accepted in all lodges/hotels and most restaurants, shops in Zambia.

Tourist activities are quoted and paid for in US dollars. US dollars and UK pounds are easily changed into Kwacha locally at any of the Bureaux de Change offices in the main towns. If you are offered an exchange on the black market at the borders, exercise extreme caution as they are notorious for cheating you without you even realising it. Please ensure that all USD notes are the 1996 series or above with large heads, as no one accepts notes below 1996 with small heads. Traveller's cheques are not accepted in the Wilderness Safaris camps nor at most lodges, camps and hotels.

Credit Cards

International Visa and MasterCard are generally accepted but American Express and Diners Club are often not. Some camps in very remote parts of Zambia do not accept credit cards at all so it is advisable to travel with small denominations of cash.

Banks

There is an Automatic Teller Machine (ATM) outside Barclays Bank in Livingstone town which accepts Visa cards only. You cannot change your USD in a bank in Zambia, unless you are an account holder. There are various banks in Lusaka; however this would require you to go into the CBD. There are numerous banks in the other major towns as well as many Bureaux de Change.

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.

1st January New Year
12th March Youth Day
Varies Good Friday
Varies Holy Saturday
Varies Easter Monday
1st May Labour Day
25th May Africa Freedom Day
3rd July Heroes Day
4th July Unity Day
7th August Farmers Day
24th October Independence Day
25th December Christmas Day

Shopping

Zambia sells a wide range of locally made wooden furniture, batiks, candle holders, lamps shades, hand-dyed cloths and carvings. Please be advised that souvenirs may be exported without restriction but game trophies such as tooth, bone, horn, shell, claw, skin, hair, feather or other durable items are subject to export permits.

Tax

All goods and services in Zambia are priced to include value added tax (VAT) of 16%

Departure Taxes

For passengers flying out of Zambia, there is a US\$25 International Airport Departure Tax which is not included in the cost of the safari and must be paid directly on departure at the airport (South African Airways and British Airways include this departure tax in the cost of their ticket). There is also a US\$8 per person Domestic Departure Tax payable direct when departing internally on a flight out of Lusaka, Livingstone and Mfuwe airports. Please ensure that you have the exact amount of US Dollars in cash (change is usually not provided) before you leave your home country as you cannot get any US\$ within Zambia. Please note that large denomination bills such as US\$50 or US\$100 bills are not accepted. Traveller's cheques and credit cards are also not accepted for this purpose. From 01 January 2011, a new Security tax of US\$5 per person for international travel, and US\$3 per person for domestic travel will be introduced, which must be paid on

departure at the relevant airports.

Duty free

Visitors may import into Zambia, without incurring customs duty, goods for their own consumption as follows: 2.5 litres of duty free beer, one bottle of wine or spirits, 400 cigarettes or 500gms of tobacco, 1oz bottle of perfume.

Excess Luggage

If your itinerary includes light aircraft sectors and you need to bring more luggage than the stipulated allowance, please consult us for details on the excess luggage options that are available at an additional cost. This is a "seat in plane" which allows for a maximum of 70 kg (154 lbs) excess weight, on the proviso that the bag(s) conforms to the dimensions 40 x 40 x 80 cms (16 x 16 x 31 inches); soft bag i.e. no wheels/frame/rigid structures; able to physically fit onto a light aircraft seat; able to be physically secured with one seatbelt; will not impact on the comfort of other guests on the flight. This needs to be pre-booked through your agent prior to travel please as we need to know in advance if this service will be needed so that arrangements can be made and the transfer can be handled smoothly.

Laundry

Laundry can be done at most Lodges; however the bush camps have limited facilities and may only do smalls. Laundries are available at hotels in major centres and charges are per the hotel rates.

Power

The bush camps and lodges in Zambia are all powered by a combination of diesel generators and large batteries with invertors and chargers.

Plug outlets are available and are connected to 220volts/13 amp alternating current. The bush camps and lodges can supply plug adapters that will accommodate most USA and European plug types.

Drinks policy

All properties have their own drinks policy. Please refer to your itinerary for specific details regarding the places at which you are staying.

Check out times

Guests may usually check in at 14h00 and must check out by 10h00 at hotels.

Language

Over 73 African dialects are spoken in Zambia, however the official language is English.

Time

Zambia is two hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time (GMT).

Climate

Summer

From, October to April. Days are hot and generally sunny in the morning with possible afternoon thunder storms. Day temperatures average 25C - 35C and night temperatures drop to 14C - 20C. Low-lying areas such as Lake Kariba, Victoria Falls, Luangwe Valley, Lower Zambezi National Park, Lake Tanganyika, Kafue National Park, Zambezi Valley and the Zambezi Valley can also be considerably warmer all year round (35C - 50C). The rainy season from November to March.

Winter

From, May to September. Days are dry, sunny and cool to warm (20C - 25C) while evening temperatures drop sharply to 5C - 10C. Exceptionally cold spells can occur (0C - 5C) we recommended to bring appropriate clothing. The sun can be very harsh and it is advisable to wear a hat and sunblock.

Sightseeing

If you are visiting Livingstone, there are many optional tours available such as below. These should be pre-booked through your agent.

- Morning or afternoon game drive in Mosi-Oa-Tunya Park
- Flight over the Falls by helicopter or micro light
- Livingstone Island Lunch
- Half or full day Canoe Safari
- Livingstone Museum & Railway Museum
- Crocodile Farm
- Horse Riding
- Gorge Swing, Abseil or Hire Wire
- Jet Boating
- Bungy jumping
- Sundowner cruise on the Zambezi
- Visit to an African village
- Maramba Market Tour
- Elephant Back Safari half day
- White water rafting on Zambezi (1 day)

(Please note that in order to participate in the white water rafting excursion, you will need to spend a minimum of 2 nights in Livingstone).

Recommended Reading

We recommend the following books specific to the Zambian region. A further list of recommended books is contained in our main pre-tour information.

- **Zambezi - The River of the Gods** - Jan & Fiona Teede.
- **African Thunder: The Victoria Falls** - Jan & Fiona Teede
- **Zambia – the Bradt Travel Guide** – Chris McIntyre

Everyone should bring his or her own pair of BINOCULARS in order to get the most out of the safari.

Enjoy Zambia!

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