Welcome to Zimbabwe, a land steeped in history. The name Zimbabwe derives from the Shona expression zimba ramabwe, meaning “big house of stone.” Zimbabwe’s recorded history goes back tens of thousands of years, a place where legends of Arab traders, English explorers, and Zulu warlords collide with the wildlife of Hwange National Park and the mountains of the Eastern Highlands. The sweep and grandeur of Zimbabwe offers something for everyone and we can design Luxury Zimbabwe safari tours just for you.

This enchanting country is home to a portion of the magnificent Victoria Falls, one of the Seven Wonders of the World, and the numerous adventure safari activities it supports. We can design a custom safari vacation which will include activities for you adrenalin junkies – did you know that on a Zimbabwe safari tour you can include bungee jumping or white river rafting?
One of the best ways to view the mighty Victoria Falls is from the air. An aerial flight is a must on your Zimbabwe adventure. Call one of our safari specialists to start planning your dream safari now and mention a river cruise on the almighty Zambezi river.

Zimbabwe is a wonderful African safari destination. The Victoria Falls and wildlife paradise of Mana Pools National Park account for just two of Zimbabwe’s four World Heritage Sites. The great Zimbabwe Ruins are the largest stone structures in Africa after the pyramids in Egypt, and their mysterious past continues to enthrall visitors.

Hwange National Park is arguably one of the most exciting safari destinations in Zimbabwe right now. Superb lion sightings as well as the usual plains game and huge herds of elephant are just some of the exciting game viewing you can look forward to on a safari to Zimbabwe. Zimbabwe safari lodges and camps are top class with every amenity necessary to make for an extremely comfortable experience. Add on a few days in Malilangwe Wildlife Reserve for optimizing your chances of viewing chance to see black rhino, sable antelope and roan antelope.
And then of course there is Lake Kariba, one of the largest man-made lakes in Africa, offers superb game viewing by canoe, motorboat, or houseboat as well as excellent fishing for bream, carp, black bass and the famed tiger fish. Lake Kariba is also well known for Operation Noah – a wildlife rescue operation in Rhodesia (Zimbabwe) lasting from 1958 to 1964, caused by the creation of Lake Kariba on the Zambezi by the Kariba Dam.

The drama and beauty of the landscape is matched by a rich and infinitely varied wildlife. Combine these factors with an enormous range of outdoor activities and an exciting cultural scene, and one finds it easy to see why more and more tourists want to discover Zimbabwe for themselves.

Here is a PDF of Zimbabwe pretour information/requirements/tips for planning your safari to Zimbabwe that you may print at your convenience.
Why Safari In Zimbabwe?

Zimbabwe is often disregarded as a safari destination because of its political history. However, it is a beautiful country with wonderful people and more and more tourists are choosing a Zimbabwe safari vacation destination.

There is much on offer on a safari adventure which includes Zimbabwe in addition to the glorious Victoria Falls which is usually the focal point of the visit.

Game viewing in Hwange National Park which has the largest elephant concentration in the world, Boating and fishing on Lake Kariba and Matusadona National Park (the largest manmade lake in the Southern hemisphere), Walking and canoeing trails in Mana Pools National Park with its large concentration of buffalo and elephant in or near the mighty Zambezi River.
TOP REASONS TO VISIT ZIMBABWE:

• The Spectacular Victoria Falls
• Bungee jump off the Victoria Falls Bridge
• Hectic white water rafting names like Stairway to Heaven, The Terminator, The Washing Machine, Judgement Day, Devils Toilet Bowl and Oblivion may give you a clue as to what to expect!
• Or if that’s not insane enough try the Gorge Swing, The Flying Fox or the Foofie Slide.
• Lake Kariba – largest manmade lake in the world
• Mana Pools or as we like to refer to it, “The Garden of Eden”
• Boating safaris
• Hwange National Park
• The Mighty Zambezi River
• Sunset “booze-cruise” on the Zambezi
• Cecil John Rhodes burial place in Motopos National Park
Best time to go to Zimbabwe

If you are planning a safari in Zimbabwe, you must know that the best time for an unforgettable Zimbabwe safari is; “The Peak Season” or “Dry Season” optimal game viewing time and is during the Zimbabwean winter which runs June through November.

The mornings and evenings in June, July and August can be very cold but the days are usually warm and sunny and dry. The initial months have a moderate, dry climate, while October and November can be very hot.

“The Green Season” – Summer rainfall brings the plains of Hwange to life, with grazing animals and birds in equal abundance. This is the time of births – synchronized antelope births from impala to zebra – and arrivals – of migratory birds from far away.

Incredible green season big game viewing with substantial herds of zebra, wildebeest, eland, waterbuck and impala together with giraffe, lion, buffalo and elephant.
Covering almost 3.5 million acres, Hwange National Park represents the largest game reserve in Zimbabwe. Its sandy soils support extensive broad-leaved woodlands that, despite low rainfall, erupt in a profusion of green during the summer months.

Along with salt pans, acacia scrub, and grasslands the park supports an abundance of wildlife, boasting some of the highest densities of wildlife in Africa, particularly its herds of elephant and buffalo.

Wildlife is drawn to a number of shallow pans spread throughout the park, creating excellent game viewing opportunities. In the park’s southeast corner you will find the private Makalolo and Linkwasha concessions, run by industry leader Wilderness Safaris. These areas prove to be incredibly ecologically diverse with vast palm fringed plains, grasslands, acacia woodlands, and teak forests.

This ensures large numbers of animals all year round including elephant, buffalo, sable, roan, giraffe, wildebeest, impala, and gemsbok. Of course, where these species go their predators will surely follow, making for excellent sightings of lion, leopard, wild dog, and cheetah as well as the African wildcat, serval, honey badger, civet, and spotted hyena.

Birders will not feel left out as Hwange boasts excellent birdlife including Dickinson’s Kestrel, Bradfield’s Hornbill, and Arnott’s Chat.

Please follow this link to see our Hwange National Park Camps and Lodges
Mana Pools National Park lies in the heart of the Zambezi Valley, where the Zambezi River meanders to the Mozambican border. Karell’s Mana Pools National Park Safari Tours offers spectacular views of the broad river, floodplains, riverine woodland, and the mountains of the Rift Valley escarpment.

This particular stretch of the Zambezi River garnered fame for its four main pools (Main, Chine, Long, Chisambuk), for which the park is named. In actual fact, “mana” translates to “four” in the Shona language. These pools are remnants of channels of the river that stopped flowing years ago.

The main 4 as well as smaller seasonal pools hold water year round, drawing a plethora of wildlife in during the dry season. The floodplains boast a healthy population of ana trees, shedding their protein rich pods and in turn providing vital sustenance for many species, particularly the elephant.

Wildlife at Mana Pools National Park

Game viewing in the area is excellent, with large concentrations of buffalo and elephant cropping up along the river’s edges while predators such as lion, leopard, and wild dog often come into view. Kudu, zebra, impala, and waterbuck feed on the surrounding plains while the grunting of hippo can be heard all day long, creating yet another wonderful cacophony in the African bush.

The area has proven quite resourceful for birding, particularly woodland and riverine species while numerous local specials abound such as the Black-throated Wattle Eye, Red-necked Falcon, and the Eastern Nicator.

Please follow this link to see our Mana Pools National Park Camps and Lodges
Named for the awesome feat of nature it borders, the town of Victoria Falls lies on the southern bank of the Zambezi River at the western end of the Falls themselves. First settled at the turn of the 20th century, Victoria Falls remains a small quaint town centered on tourism to the Falls.

The Victoria Falls represent one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World, and upon first glance they immediately appear deserving of that reputation. Named by legendary explorer David Livingstone after his Queen, locally it remains known as “Mosi-oa-Tunya” which translates as “the smoke that thunders.”

The Falls form as the Zambezi plummets over 5600 feet into what’s known as the First Gorge, creating a roaring cloud of mist during the rainy season. When planning a trip to the Falls, guests must consider the time of year as during the dry season (approx September to January), the roaring Falls are reduced to a mere trickle, considerably altering the experience. Moving into February the Zambezi comes to life once again, with the Falls coming into their heaviest flow around April each year.

There are numerous ways to make your Victoria Falls Safari Tours, including walking trails in and around them, early morning hot air ballooning, and micro-lite flights. Victoria Falls Bridge attracts thousands of thrill seekers each year in search of the ultimate rush: a bungee jump over the Falls’ Second Gorge!

Please follow this link to see our Victoria Falls Camps and Lodges
MALILANGWE WILDLIFE RESERVE

One of Africa’s best-kept secrets, Singita Pamushana Lodge is found within the Malilangwe Wildlife Reserve in south-eastern Zimbabwe.

Nestling beneath the trees, the lodge incorporates the natural environment and the forest-like architecture enhances views of the pool, the lush gardens and the lake below.

Singita Pamushana Lodge comprises six luxury suites and one villa, each offering incredible views of the Malilangwe dam.

Malilangwe Wildlife Reserve is teeming with birds and wildlife, including rare and endangered species – such as the Roan and sable antelope, and the black rhino.

Famous for its cathedral Mopane forests and majestic ‘upside-down’ Baobab trees, Malilangwe is an area where you will also find over 100 rock sites that date back more than 2 000 years.

All master bedrooms feature en suite bathroom and shower, as well as an outdoor shower, private plunge pool, double-sided fireplace, mini-bar and fridge, room safe, air conditioning, overhead fans, private lounge, direct dial telephones and game viewing deck with Swarovski spotting scope.

Singita Pamushana Lodge main lodge area offers an indoor dining room, open dining room, teak-deck dining areas, bar, library, open-air lounge, wine cellar, two heated swimming pools and a jacuzzi, all overlooking the Malilangwe dam and sandstone hills.
LAKE KARIBA

Interested in going on Lake Kariba Safari Tours in Zimbabwe? Lake Kariba is the world’s largest artificial lake and reservoir by volume. The lake has several islands, including Maaze Island, Mashape Island, Chete Island, Sekula, Sampa Karuma, Fothergill, Spurwing, Snake Island, Antelope Island, Bed Island, and Chikanka.

Lake Kariba was filled between 1958 and 1963 following the completion of the Kariba Dam at its northeastern end, flooding the Kariba Gorge on the Zambezi River.

Operation Noah was a wildlife rescue operation in Rhodesia (Zimbabwe) lasting from 1958 to 1964, caused by the creation of Lake Kariba on the Zambezi by the Kariba Dam. In the late 1950s, North and South Rhodesia (present-day Zambia and Zimbabwe) became home to the world’s largest man-made dam – a hydroelectric power station built across the Zambezi River, about 400 km from Victoria Falls.

It provided power for most of the country, but in the process form Lake Kariba and flood the Zambezi Valley – home to thousands of native animals. In a wildlife rescue operation lasting 5 years, over 6000 animals were rescued and relocated to the mainland.

The operation was led by Rupert Fothergill. Wildlife was moved from the rising waters and largely relocated to Matusadona National Park and around Lake Kariba. Over 6,000 animals (elephant, antelope, rhino, lion, leopard, zebra, warthog, small birds and even snakes) were rescued.

Please follow this link to see our Lake Kariba Camps and Lodges
ZIMBABWE ANNUAL WEATHER

The below is a rough guideline to an understanding of Zimbabwe annual weather patterns and associated activities and game viewing. This is by no means the last word. Patterns can change and rains may be later or earlier from year to year and game viewing maybe be affected accordingly. Data below is based on Victoria Falls minimum and maximum temperatures and monthly rainfall. Victoria Falls is a good general indication of the weather patterns in the other regions, although temperatures in Hwange are renowned for sharp drops during winter that are colder than those reflected at the Falls. Likewise summer temperatures in Mana Pools National Park are renowned for being oppressive on occasion.

Rain occurs mainly over the summer months where the total annual rainfall for example is only 871 millimeters or 34 inches. Phrases like ‘rainy season’ or ‘afternoon thundershowers’ need therefore to be seen in context. Rain typically falls in short thundershowers in the late afternoon, which produce spectacular dark skies and vivid rainbows before passing. Game viewing is good year round, however, there are some seasonal highlights over the dry winter months.
ANNUAL TEMPERATURES IN ZIMBABWE