

ZAMBIA

As a guest of Wilderness Safaris, the following information has been compiled to provide you with guidelines and interesting facts about the country you will be visiting. Further information is available to you on our website www.wilderness-safaris.com or the official Zambia Tourism Board website www.zambiatourism.com.



Zambia is situated mainly on a vast central plateau, and boasts the Zambezi, Kafue and Luangwa rivers – as well as one of the largest waterfalls in the world, the Victoria Falls, which it shares with neighbouring Zimbabwe. Most of the country has a mild, pleasant climate, while the river valleys are hotter and more humid; the extreme north becomes tropical on the shores of Lake Tanganyika, one of Zambia's ten large lakes. Offering some of the wildest and most remote game areas, Zambia is a friendly and peaceful country. It has a remarkably low population in a deceptively massive country giving off an impression of an Africa undiscovered. While Lusaka is the country's capital, Livingstone, just ten kilometres from the Falls, is more well known to adventurous travellers.

INTERESTING FACTS



Green in the Zambian flag represents agriculture. Red recalls the struggle for independence. Black stands for the Zambian people. Orange symbolises Zambia's mineral wealth, particularly the major deposits of copper. The eagle flying above the coloured stripes is intended to represent the people's ability to rise above adversity.

Government

Former Northern Rhodesia was administered by the [British] South Africa Company from 1891 until it was taken over by the UK in 1923. In 1964, the land was granted independence and the new name “Zambia” was derived from the Zambezi River. For almost 30 years, Kenneth Kaunda’s socialist party governed the country. Levy Mwanawasa who presided from 2002 until his death in 2008 was credited with having initiated a campaign to rid the country of the corruption that had been introduced (from the highest levels) with Independence. Zambian politics take place in a framework of a presidential representative democratic republic in a multi-party system.

Economy

Zambia's economy has experienced strong growth in recent years, with real GDP growth in the mid-2000s. Privatisation of government-owned copper mines in the 1990s relieved the government from covering mammoth losses generated by the industry and greatly improved the chances for copper mining to return to profitability. Agriculture is Zambia’s secondary industry. During the decades of Kaunda's (first president of Zambia) socialist policies, Zambia fell into poverty and it still remains a significant problem, despite a stronger economy.

Currency

The official currency of Zambia is the Kwacha (KR). US Dollars are accepted for transactions in most instances including departure taxes and entry visas. Euros and most major currencies can be exchanged at the airports. Cash can be withdrawn from ATMs at the airport, while most larger retail outlets and lodges/hotels accept major credit cards. We recommend that you advise your credit card company that you will be travelling to Zambia and will be using your credit card.

Language

Over 72 African dialects are spoken in Zambia, however, the official language is English.

Time

Zambia shares the same time as all southern Africa, except Namibia, which is Greenwich Mean Time – (GMT) + 2 hours.

Climate

The weather in southern Africa is generally pleasant throughout the year – warm to hot days, and cool to warm nights. During our winter months however (May to September), it can get really cold at night and in the early morning, particularly when on safari, so we would like to suggest that you pack accordingly – very warm clothing including an anorak/winter jacket, a beanie, scarf and gloves are recommended. Please also refer to our packing suggestions list.

Summer: October to April – days are hot and generally sunny in the morning with possible afternoon thunderstorms. Day temperatures average 25°C – 35°C and night temperatures drop to 14°C – 20°C. Low-lying areas such as Lake Kariba, Livingstone, Luangwa Valley, Lower Zambezi National Park, Lake Tanganyika, Kafue National Park and the Zambezi Valley can also be considerably warmer all year round with temperatures of 35°C – 50°C. The rainy season is generally from November to March.

Winter: May to September – days are dry, sunny and cool to warm 20°C – 25°C, while evening temperatures drop sharply to 5°C – 10°C. Exceptionally cold spells can occur 0°C – 5°C.

Temperature (°C) – These are the average lows and highs:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
LVI	17/32	17/30	18/31	14/29	10/29	7/25	6/25	8/28	14/33	18/34	18/31	17/31
LUA	20/32	20/31	19/32	18/32	19/31	12/30	11/29	12/30	15/35	20/40	22/37	22/33

Temperature (°F) – These are the average lows and highs:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
LVI	66/86	66/86	64/86	59/86	50/82	44/78	43/78	49/83	58/91	66/91	66/91	66/87
LUA	68/90	68/88	66/90	64/90	66/88	54/86	52/84	54/86	59/95	68/104	72/99	72/91

Average Rainfall (mm) – This varies according to the year and location:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
LVI	215	185	100	45	5	3	1	3	4	20	100	190
LUA	195	287	141	91	0	0	0	0	0	50	108	110

Average Rainfall (inches) – This varies according to the year and location:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
LVI	8.0	7.0	4.0	2.0	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.8	3.9	7.5
LUA	7.7	11.3	5.5	3.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.9	4.3	4.3

LVI = Livingstone

LUA = South Luangwa

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.

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

USEFUL INFORMATION

Visas

Visas are the responsibility of the traveller. Those nationalities that require visas to enter Zambia may have to apply for these in advance, however, some nationalities are able to obtain these 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. Zambia have recently launched an online facility that travellers may use to pre-apply for visas. Visit the following website for additional information – Wilderness Safaris is not responsible for the content thereof: www.zambiaimmigration.gov.zm.

Please Note:

- If visas are required, please ensure you have the correct **cash** amounts (US Dollars) available as credit cards and Travellers Cheques are not accepted for visa payments. There is a possibility that payment may need to be made in Kwacha, the local currency. Kwacha cannot be obtained outside the country, however, there are ATMs and Bureaux de Change offices at major points of entry.
- You must advise the relevant official of the **total** number of days that you are spending in Zambia otherwise you may be charged to obtain an extension/additional visa later on.
- If you arrive in Zambia but continue your safari in another country (such as Botswana, Namibia or 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 from your nearest Zambian consulate. Be sure to apply as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

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 medication with you when travelling to Zambia. For prescription medication, please carry a medical practitioner's prescription with you and ensure that the medication is in its original bottle. A list of these controlled substances is available from your travel consultant on request.

Credit Cards

MasterCard and Visa are generally accepted, however, Diners Club and American Express are often not.

Please note Wilderness Safaris camps are unable to accept American Express and Diners Club cards, however, a credit card surcharge will apply for MasterCard and Visa.

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 are Automated Teller Machines (ATM) outside Barclays, Standard Chartered, ZANACO and Stanbic banks in all the major towns which accept Visa cards only. You cannot change your US Dollars in a bank in Zambia, unless you are an account holder so foreign exchange needs to be obtained from Bureaux de Change offices.

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.

Value Added Tax (VAT)

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

Departure Taxes

All taxes are paid in Kwacha (KR), the local currency, or may be converted to US Dollars. The below are guidelines only so amounts will fluctuate depending on the rate of exchange on the day of the transaction. These taxes must be paid direct at the airport when guests depart from Livingstone Airport, Lusaka Airport or Mfuwe Airport. Travellers Cheques and credit cards are not accepted for this purpose.

For passengers flying out of Zambia, an **International** Airport Departure Tax applies. This is included by most airlines in the cost of your air ticket. If there is an exception, then the equivalent in Kwacha, the local currency, must be paid by guests direct at the airport when departing on an international flight from Zambia (unless in transit). In addition, there is a **Domestic** Departure Tax payable direct when departing internally on a flight out of Kenneth Kaunda International Airport (Lusaka), Harry Mwaanga Nkumbula International Airport (Livingstone) and Mfuwe airports.

In addition to Departure Taxes, **Security and Airport Development Taxes** are charged for at the airports.

Currently, and subject to change, these taxes are:

- International Departure Tax: US\$ 25.00 per person
- International Security Tax: US\$ 5.00 per person
- International Airport Infrastructure & Development Tax: US\$ 10.00 per person
- Domestic Departure Tax: US\$ 8.00 per person
- Domestic Security Tax: US\$ 3.00 per person
- Domestic Airport Infrastructure & Development Tax: US\$ 5.00 per person

Driving in Zambia

In Zambia one drives on the left hand side of the road. The speed limit is usually 60 kilometres per hour in built up areas, 70 kilometres per hour on gravel roads and 120 kilometres per hour on major tar roads. Safety belts must be used at all times. The driver or any authorized co-driver must produce a valid driver's license at time of rental and must not have been convicted of any criminal offence which resulted in the endorsement or cancellation of his/her driving license.

The driver's license needs to be in English with a photograph. If not, an International driver's license will be required. In addition, please check with your travel consultant regarding the minimum age.

Whilst conducting your own self-drive itinerary, there are many factors beyond our control, e.g. parking of a vehicle/s at a meeting point or pick-up/drop-off point will be at own risk. Wilderness Safaris or Wilderness Adventures will therefore not accept any liability, responsibility or claim for compensation, for any incident or accident involving you (the client), your vehicle and/or any third party.

Excess Luggage

If you need to bring luggage in excess of your allowance, you may have the option of buying an extra seat. This "seat in plane" allows for a maximum of 70 kg (154 lb) excess weight, on the proviso that the bag/s conforms to the dimensions 40 x 40 x 80 cm (16 x 16 x 31 inches); soft bag, i.e. no frame or rigid structures; no wheels for safety reasons; is 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. The additional cost of this varies depending on your flight schedule so please contact your agent for further details.

Power Supply

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

Plug outlets (round 3-pin/2-pin plugs and square 3-pin/2-pin plugs) are available in the guest rooms/tents at Shumba Camp, The River Club and Toka Leya Camp and are connected to 220V/240V 13-amp alternating current. If you have an item that runs on 110V, please bring a converter.

If you are staying at Busanga Bush Camp you will need to hand your camera and video batteries to the camp staff for charging.

Sleep apnoea machines can be accommodated by arranging for a battery and an inverter to be placed in the rooms, however, please note that prior warning is required. Please ensure that you bring a spare battery/ies as a back-up as power outages may occur.

Serious digital photographers may wish to bring a mobile device for the downloading of images. All equipment needs to be compatible with 220V/240V power or have an adaptor to convert the 220V to 110V. You are advised to bring a spare battery for use while the other one is being charged, a power converter/adaptor if applicable, cables for computers or cameras and additional flash cards.

In cities and towns, all electrical appliances run on 220V/240V. Outlets are square 3-pin plugs accessible via 13-amp alternating current. While some camps/lodges can supply adaptors (3-prong round, 3-prong square, 2-prong round, 2-prong flat) it is advisable that you carry your own.

As a responsible ecotourism operator with conservation as our core value we strive to reduce our own energy use. Please help us save energy by using appliances sparingly.

Sightseeing

If you are visiting Livingstone, there are many optional tours available. Please contact your travel consultant for further details but we do recommend that these are pre-booked to avoid disappointment.

Please Note:

- The Victoria Falls/Zambezi River experiences low water levels between August and January (subject to rainfall). We, therefore, suggest including a tour to the Zimbabwe side of the Victoria Falls over this period.
- In order to participate in a white water rafting excursion, you will need to spend a minimum of 2 nights in Livingstone.