






Travel Planning

FOR ZIMBABWE

This document offers useful information on travel to Zimbabwe, health planning advice & what to pack.

 info@personalafrica.com

 +27 11 469 3701

 +27 72 731 7526

 www.personalafrica.com

 PERSONAL
AFRICA

About

ZIMBABWE

At 390,580 square kilometres, Zimbabwe is around the size of California, USA, with a population of 15.1 million (reported figures as of 2021). It is a landlocked country surrounded by South Africa, Botswana, Zambia, and Mozambique. Two major rivers form its northern and southern boundaries: the great Zambezi River cuts along its northern frontier, while the more languid Limpopo River forms the southern border with South Africa.

Breath-taking in their sheer size and scope, the Victoria Falls span northern Zimbabwe and southern Zambia's borders on the Zambezi River and are synonymous with travel to both countries. The Falls plunge a staggering 108 metres into the immense Batoka Gorge below. South-east of Victoria Falls, Hwange National Park encompasses a range of diverse habitats, forming a sanctuary for Southern Africa's most famous large (and small) wildlife. Other spectacular natural attractions in Zimbabwe include Mana Pools, Lower Zambezi, Lake Kariba, and much more.

A wealth of cultural heritage and history is reflected in the extraordinary archaeological sites, the most famous being the extensive ruins of Great Zimbabwe in the southeastern region of the country.

The capital city of Zimbabwe is Harare.





CURRENCY

Although the local currency of Zimbabwe is the Zimbabwe Dollar (ZWD), due to its deflation and limited supply, the United States Dollars (USD) has become accepted as the primary currency of Zimbabwe. It is strongly recommended that all visitors to Zimbabwe have sufficient USD, particularly in small denominations, available for their stay. Please bear in mind that change may not be available in any currency.

Additional foreign currencies that may be accepted in main tourist areas such as Victoria Falls are the Botswana Pula (BWP), South African Rand (ZAR), UK Pound Sterling (GBP) and Euros (EUR).

FOREIGN EXCHANGE CENTRES, BANKS AND AUTOMATED TELLER MACHINES

Foreign Exchange centres and Banks are in cities, major towns and international airports. However, there is no guarantee that cash may be available for exchange and/or withdrawal. The same applies to Automated Teller Machines.

CREDIT CARDS

Mastercards and Visa Cards are accepted throughout the country, whereas American Express Cards and Diners Club Cards are accepted to a far lesser extent.

LANGUAGE

The official language is English. Other languages spoken in Zimbabwe include Shona and Sindebele.



TIME

Zimbabwe falls into the Central African Time zone (CAT), two hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time (GMT), during the northern hemisphere's winter. During the northern hemisphere's summer, international Daylight-Saving hours change. During this time, CAT is one hour ahead of GMT.

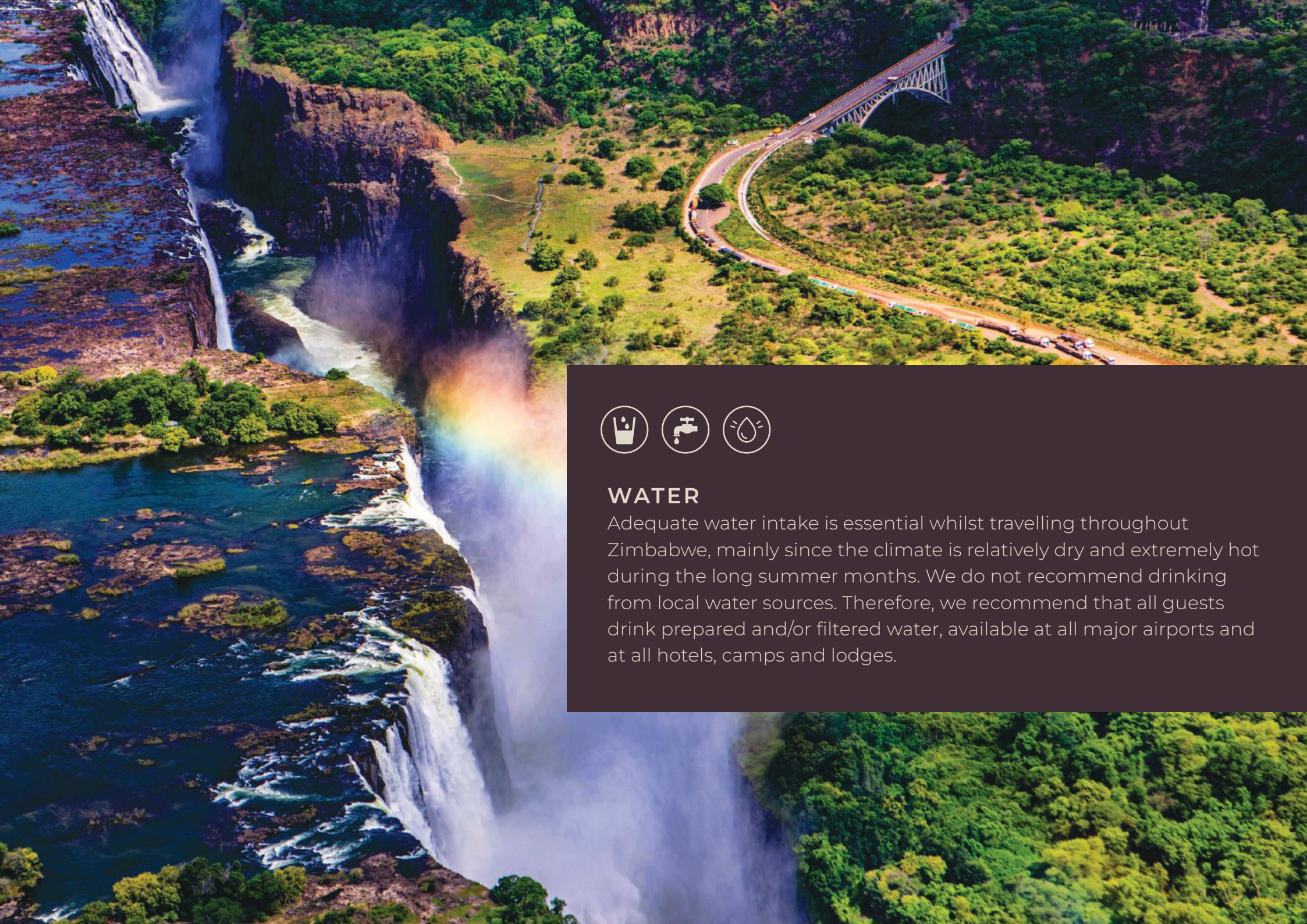


CLIMATE

The weather in Zimbabwe is generally pleasant throughout the year, with warm to hot days and cool to warm nights. November to April are the summer months, during which daytime temperatures can soar. September and October tend to be exceptionally hot, dry months before the rains that most often occur from November to February. Winter, from May to August, usually brings dry weather with warm to mild days, however, nights and early mornings can become extremely cold.

Year-round, it can become cool to very cold at night and in the early morning whilst on safari.

Please refer to our Packing Suggestions in this document for recommended seasonal attire.



WATER

Adequate water intake is essential whilst travelling throughout Zimbabwe, mainly since the climate is relatively dry and extremely hot during the long summer months. We do not recommend drinking from local water sources. Therefore, we recommend that all guests drink prepared and/or filtered water, available at all major airports and at all hotels, camps and lodges.



LUGGAGE LIMITATIONS ON SCHEDULED LIGHT AIRCRAFT TRANSFERS

There are strict luggage weight restrictions for all scheduled light aircraft transfers. These restrictions are as follows:

- Camera & Hand Luggage per person is restricted to 5kgs (11 pounds).
- Only Soft-sided bags will be accepted.
- Suitcases, bags with wheels, frames or hard sides will not be permitted on scheduled light aircraft flights.

Maximum dimensions Soft-sided bags which can be accommodated are as follows:

- 25cm (10 inches) wide x 30cm (12 inches) high and 62cm (24 inches) long.
- Please remember that baggage compartments on light aircraft are only 25cm high (10 inches), so the pilots must be able to manipulate the bag into the compartment.
- A collapsible wheeled luggage frame/trolley (separate from the bag) is allowed as long as the basic dimensions are similar to the bag.

Excess Luggage:

- Requirements and costs for excess luggage on any light aircraft transfers vary depending on the charter company, aircraft used and routing. In most cases, you will have to purchase an extra seat which allows for additional 20kgs (44 pounds) per person.





PASSENGER LIMITATIONS ON SCHEDULED LIGHT AIRCRAFT TRANSFERS

- Besides luggage allowances, light aircraft are designed to carry a specific maximum body weight.
- Many airfields utilised for safari destinations are above 1,000 metres (3,280 feet) above sea level. Many of these airfields are also located in tropical regions, therefore, the permissible aircraft carrying capacity is further reduced.
- Please inform us in advance if guests weigh more than 100kg (220 pounds), as additional weight allowance on the aircraft must be purchased for safety and comfort.
- The costs for this are calculated on request, according to specific region and routing, and provide for a maximum of 70kg (154 pounds) excess weight per passenger.
- These limits apply to guests travelling on a seat rate, scheduled light aircraft transfer basis.
- This requirement may differ if guests have booked sole use of an aircraft or private charter option, in which case the maximum passenger weights will depend on the type of aircraft and the number of passengers booked.

“Africa changes you forever, like nowhere on earth. Once you have been there, you will never be the same.”

B. JACKMAN



TRAVEL INSURANCE

- Fully Comprehensive Travel Insurance Cover, including Comprehensive Medical Cover, is essential and must be purchased before travelling.
- Comprehensive Insurance Cover can be extended to cover loss of luggage, personal items, and trip cancellations.
- Depending on your country of origin, a separate Comprehensive Medical Travel Insurance policy may be required, over and above your Fully Comprehensive Travel Insurance policy.
- Please ensure you have these Insurance Documents with you at all times during your trip.



PASSPORT AND VISA REQUIREMENTS, INCLUDING TRAVELLING WITH CHILDREN

- Zimbabwe does not require visas for entry for visitors from several countries, however, all visitors must get in touch with their local Zimbabwe Embassy, Consulate or other Zimbabwe Representative Office to determine whether a visa is required to enter Zimbabwe.
- Visitors to Zimbabwe must possess a passport valid for at least six months from the date of travel and have at least three blank pages available in their passport.
- It is advisable for visitors who intend to travel to neighbouring Southern Africa and/or other African countries to have sufficient passport pages in place and, where applicable, apply for multiple entry visas.
- Please Note: A Kavango-Zambezi (KAZA) UNIVISA can be applied for covering multiple entries from/to Zimbabwe and Zambia only, valid for a maximum of thirty days. This visa is most useful for visitors travelling to the Victoria Falls area, with major tourist attractions on both sides of the border along the Zambezi River.



TRAVELLING WITH CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 18 YEARS:

- Please get in touch with your local Zimbabwe Embassy, Consulate or other Zimbabwe Representative Office for advice regarding travelling with children, as the following guidelines may change at short notice. Furthermore, requirements for travelling with children may depend on the visitors' countries of origin.
- Parents of children under the age of 18 years may be required to produce the following documentation (certified copies may be accepted, or original documents together with non-certified copies are accepted) when entering or leaving the borders of Zimbabwe:

Both parents travelling with children:

- A certified copy of the unabridged birth certificate of each child must include the full names of both the biological father and mother, the identity numbers, and the place of birth.

One parent travelling with children:

A certified copy of the unabridged birth certificate of each child must include the full names of both the biological father and mother, the identity numbers, and the place of birth.

- An affidavit signed by the parent or who is not travelling authorising the parent who is travelling with each child to do so, together with a certified copy of the non-travelling parent's passport or identity document and contact details.
- If the parent travelling with each child has been granted full parental rights and responsibilities or is the legal guardian of each child, they must provide a certified copy of the court order granting them those rights.
- If one parent or legal guardian is deceased, the parent or legal guardian travelling must provide a certified copy of the death certificate.



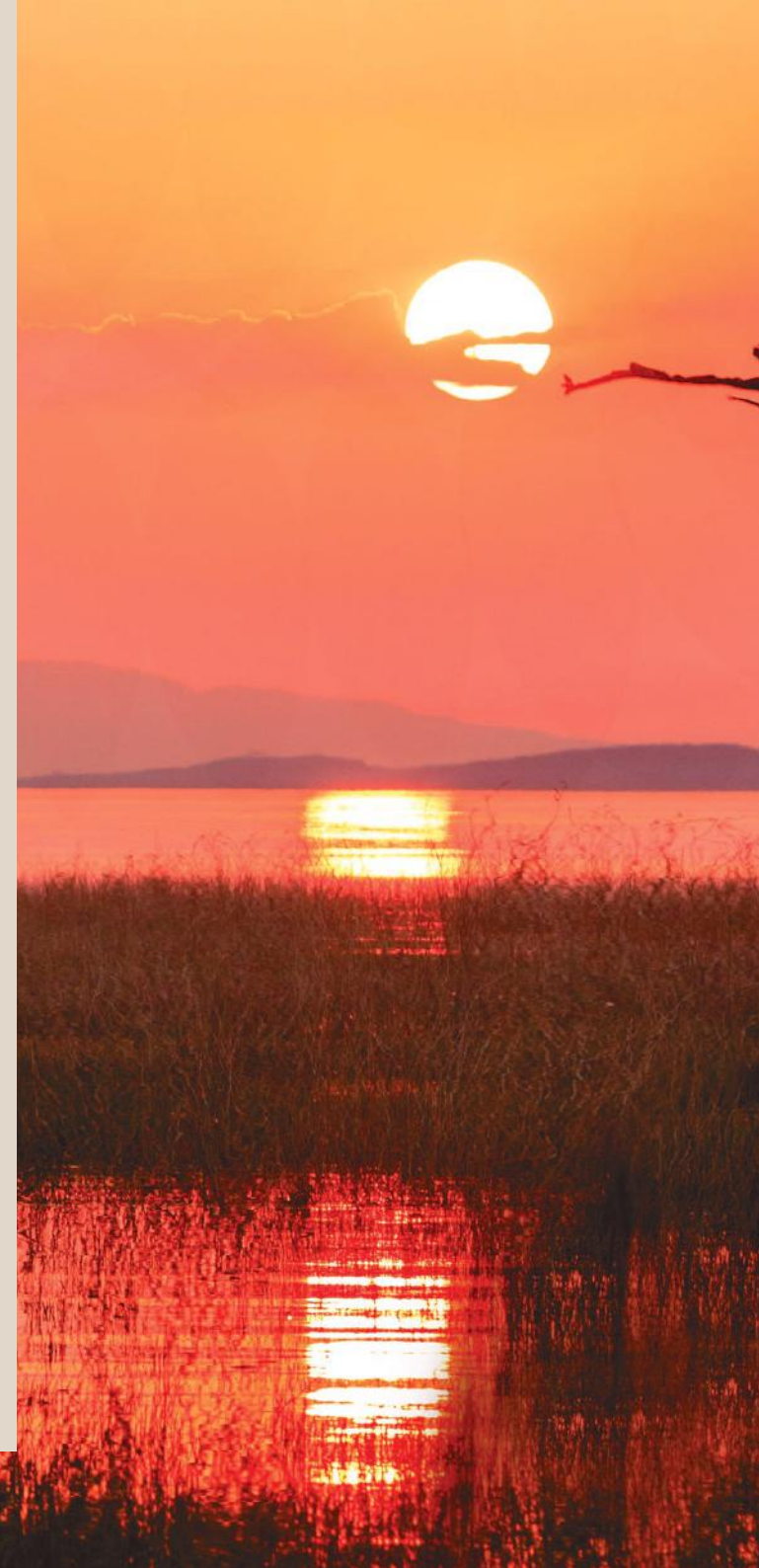


An adult travelling with children who are not their biological children:

- A certified copy of the unabridged birth certificate of each child must include the full names of both the biological father and mother, the identity numbers, and the place of birth.
- An affidavit from each child's parents or legal guardians confirming that they have permission to travel with each child.
- Certified copies of the identity documents or passports of each child's parents or legal guardians.
- Certified proof of the contact details of each child's parents or legal guardians.

Children travelling unaccompanied by an adult:

- A certified copy of the unabridged birth certificate of each child must include the full names of both the biological father and mother, the identity numbers, and the place of birth.
- An affidavit of proof of consent for each child to travel from both parents or legal guardians. If only one parent or legal guardian provides proof of consent, each child must also travel with a certified copy of a court order granting that parent or legal guardian full parental responsibilities.
- A certified copy of a letter/affidavit from the person in authority in Zimbabwe who is to be responsible for each child on arrival. This letter/affidavit must include the said person of authority's contact number, residential address, and all contact details for where each child will be staying in Zimbabwe.
- A certified copy of the identity document, passport, visa or permanent residence permit of the person in authority who is to be responsible for each child on arrival.
- Certified proof of the contact details of each child's parents or legal guardians.





PLEASE NOTE

- As indicated, all supporting documents required should be certified copies.
- Parental consent documents must be issued within six months before the date of travel.
- Families travelling with children under the age of 18 years may be restricted from entering and/or departing from Zimbabwe without the above-mentioned documentation.
- The above-mentioned documentation must be available when visiting neighbouring countries when travelling with minors, where the point of entry and/or exit is Zimbabwe.
- It is recommended that should the documentation not be in English, an English version is obtained.

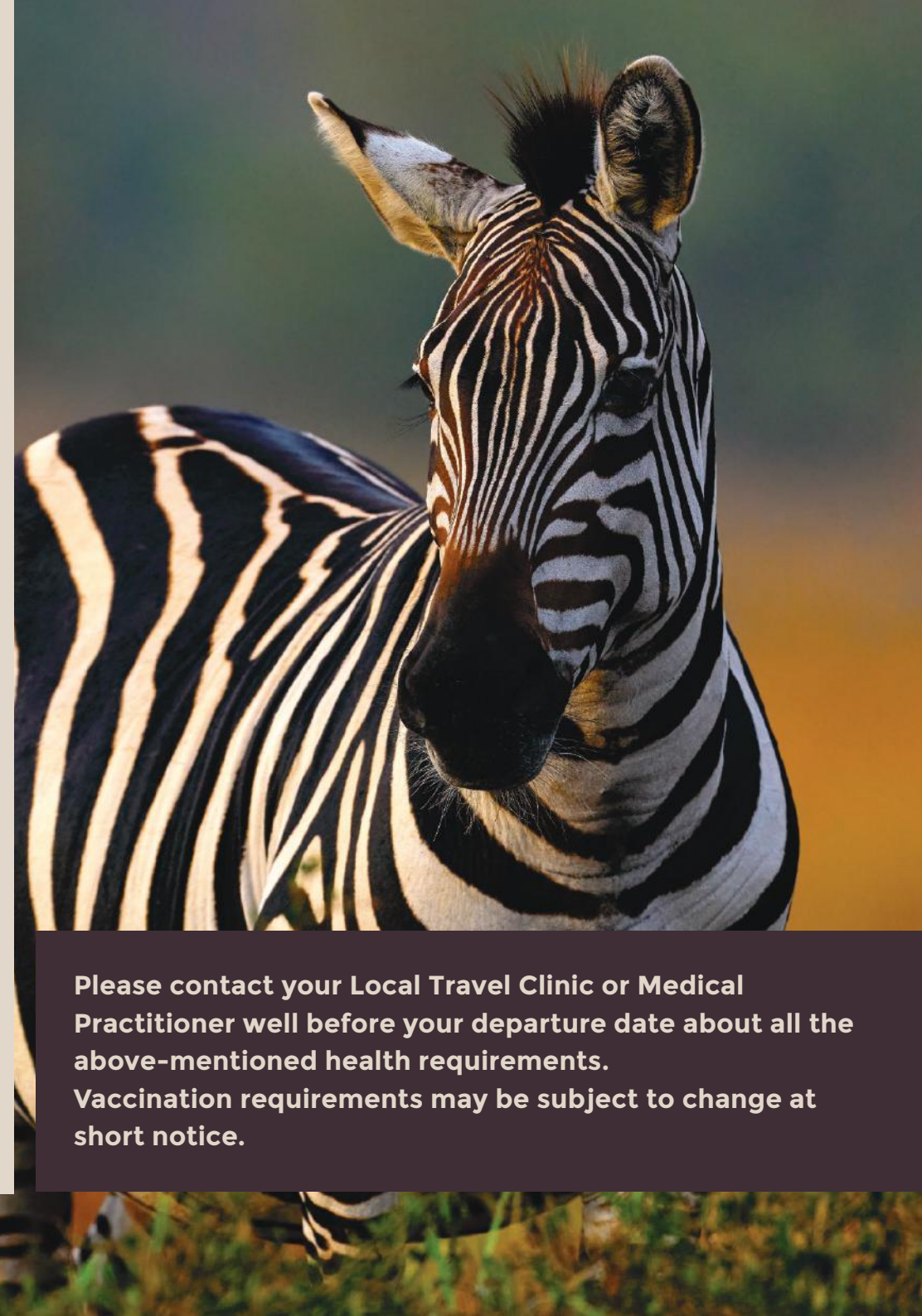
For all VISA requirements, including the whole application process and costs, please contact your local Zimbabwe Embassy, Consulate or other Zimbabwe Representative Office for further details.





HEALTH REQUIREMENTS

- Zimbabwe is an endemic Malaria area, therefore, Malaria prophylactics are strongly recommended. Please contact your Local Travel Clinic or Medical Practitioner before travel to determine the appropriate anti-Malaria measures. The use of additional precautionary measures, such as topical insect repellents and wearing long-sleeved clothing, long trousers and socks when outside at night are recommended, especially when on safari.
- It is inadvisable for pregnant women to visit Malaria areas.
- A Yellow Fever vaccination certificate is only required for travellers arriving from or travelling onwards to countries with a risk of Yellow Fever transmission, i.e., the Yellow Fever belts of Africa and/or South America.
- Although additional vaccinations (such as Hepatitis A and B, Polio, Tetanus and others) are not mandatory, certain vaccinations may be recommended by your Local Travel Clinic or Medical Practitioner.
- Should you be on prescription medication or require any other types of medications, please ensure you have an adequate supply of all your medicines for the duration of your trip.
- For prescription medications, it is recommended that you have a copy of the original prescription and keep all medicines in their original labelled packaging.



Please contact your Local Travel Clinic or Medical Practitioner well before your departure date about all the above-mentioned health requirements. Vaccination requirements may be subject to change at short notice.



PHOTOGRAPHY

Please be mindful of others when taking photographs at all times. Should you wish to photograph local people, particularly children, please be courteous and ask permission before taking pictures. Some local people do not wish to be photographed for cultural reasons. Please note that photography is illegal at specific locations in Zimbabwe, including airports, buildings, and official government residences. Further restrictions may apply at specific museums, art galleries, private houses, etc., these areas are usually clearly marked. If in doubt, please ask, otherwise, camera equipment can be confiscated. Flash photography may be prohibited in certain night-time situations, notably when on safari.

While game viewing, be respectful of animal life and your fellow travellers. Do not startle or disturb animals or birds whilst taking photographs.

SHOPPING

In major cities and towns, your hotel or guesthouse concierge will assist you with locating the best local shops and handicraft markets to visit. Curio shops can be found at numerous game lodges/camps throughout Zimbabwe.





POWER SUPPLY

All electrical appliances run on 230V (AC – alternating current). Special adaptors for charging photographic equipment, mobile phones, laptops, tablets, hairdryers, etc., are required. These can be purchased at major airports and shopping centres.

Some hotels and lodges may be able to supply guests with adaptors – however, we recommend that you carry your adaptors and converters, particularly if you have specific charging devices that operate at different currents/voltages. Some safari camps/lodges may not have 230V (AC – alternating current) and may operate on solar-powered 12V electricity (direct current – DC). Please bring spare batteries that can be charged at the camp/lodge while you are out on safari activities.



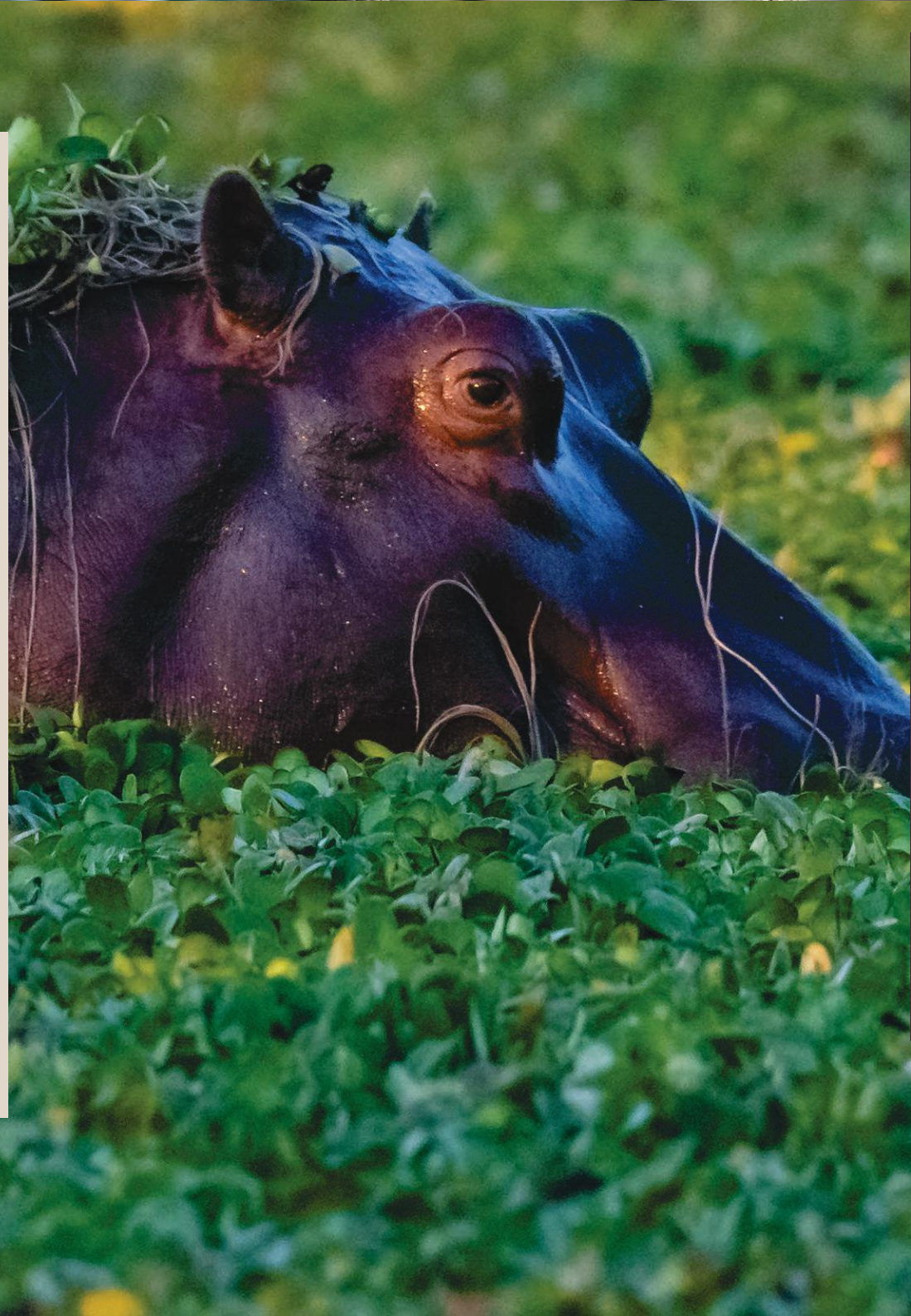


SUGGESTED PACKING LIST

CLOTHING

- Sun hat
- Golf shirts and/or T-shirts – preferably with a sleeve to protect your shoulders from the sun
- Long-sleeved cotton shirts
- Shorts and/or skirts
- Long trousers/slacks
- Comfortable walking shoes such as trainers, tennis shoes or similar sports shoes
- Sandals
- Swimming costume
- Lightweight jersey for summer evenings
- A warm jacket and/or fleece jacket is recommended not only for winter but also year-round whilst on safari
- Light rain gear or waterproof jacket

Please note that most luxury trains have a specific formal dress code for dining.



EQUIPMENT/OTHER

- Good quality sunglasses with UV protection
 - preferably polarised
- Personal toiletries
- Moisturising cream and suntan lotion
 - SPF 30 or higher recommended
- Insect repellent for topical application
- Good quality disposable masks and small containers of hand sanitiser
- Torch
- Zimbabwe wildlife and/or bird guides, especially if you have specific areas of interest
- Binoculars
- Camera equipment, including spare batteries, chargers, film, memory cards, memory sticks, etc.
- Converter plugs to 230V Alternating current, and 12V Direct current, as detailed in the section on power supply above.
- Waterproof/dustproof bag or cover for your camera
- An adequate supply of all prescription medications and/or other medicines required for the duration of your trip
- Visas, tickets, passports, money, credit cards, insurance documents, etc.



PLEASE NOTE: There may be a restriction on luggage limits on your journey – please ensure that you have the details from your agent according to your itinerary. Please ask your agent ahead of time if you would like details on the feasibility and costs of taking excess luggage with you on any of these restricted luggage safaris (as noted above in Luggage and Passenger Limitations on Scheduled Light Aircraft Transfers).



GRATUITIES GUIDELINES

We would like to reiterate that tipping is not compulsory, nor should our guest feel obliged to offer a gratuity at any time. Tipping should be offered only by choice, subject to the service received.

As such, we have enclosed a brief guideline to assist guests. In addition, guests may wish to add a nominal amount for incidentals (subject to personal budget choice), i.e. if additional activities are booked once on their journey, if travel arrangements change for any reason, and in acknowledgement of good service received in any other areas, etc.



USD GRATUITIES GUIDELINE

SERVICE

Meet & Greet

Airport Transfer Driver

Hotel / Airport Porters

Guides for City Sightseeing (Half Day)

Guides for City Sightseeing (Full Day)

Local Safari Guides at camps/lodges

Local Safari Trackers at camps/lodges

Housekeepers

General staff at camps/lodges

- Gratuities are then shared among the general staff

Meals at Restaurant, incl Room Services **10-15% *Unless already included**

OUR RECOMMENDATION

US\$ 5 per person, per Meet & Greet

US\$ 10 per person, per transfer

US\$ 2 per person per bag movement

US\$ 10 per person per Half Day

US\$ 20 per person per Full Day

US\$ 20 per person per day

US\$ 15 per person per day

US\$ 5 per person per night

US\$ 15 per person per day

10-15% *Unless already included



