



Zimbabwe

POP 13.1 MILLION / 263

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Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Amanzi (p1011)
- ➔ Portuguese Recreation Club (p1015)
- ➔ 26 on Park (p1021)
- ➔ Bulawayo Club (p1020)
- ➔ 40 Cork Road (p1011)

Best Places to Sleep

- ➔ Camp Amalinda (p1022)
- ➔ Jacana Gardens Guest Lodge (p1008)
- ➔ Rhino Safari Camp (p1014)
- ➔ Chilo Gorge Safari Lodge (p1018)
- ➔ Heaven Lodge (p1016)

Why Go?

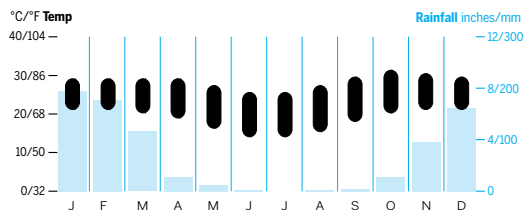
While from afar Zimbabwe's plight doesn't paint a rosy picture, the reality is different on the ground for tourists – most insist it's hands down one of the safest, friendliest and most spectacular countries in Africa.

A journey here will take you through an attractive patchwork of landscapes, from highveld, balancing boulders and flaming msasa trees to laid-back towns, lush mountains and lifeblood rivers up north. Here you can spot the Big Five in its national parks, discover World Heritage-listed archaeological sites and stand in awe of one of the natural wonders of the world, Victoria Falls.

Along the way you'll receive a friendly welcome from locals, who are famous for their politeness and resilience in the face of hardship. After almost two decades of political ruin, violence and economic disaster, Zimbabweans continue to hold on to hope that a new dawn will soon rise upon this embattled nation.

When to Go

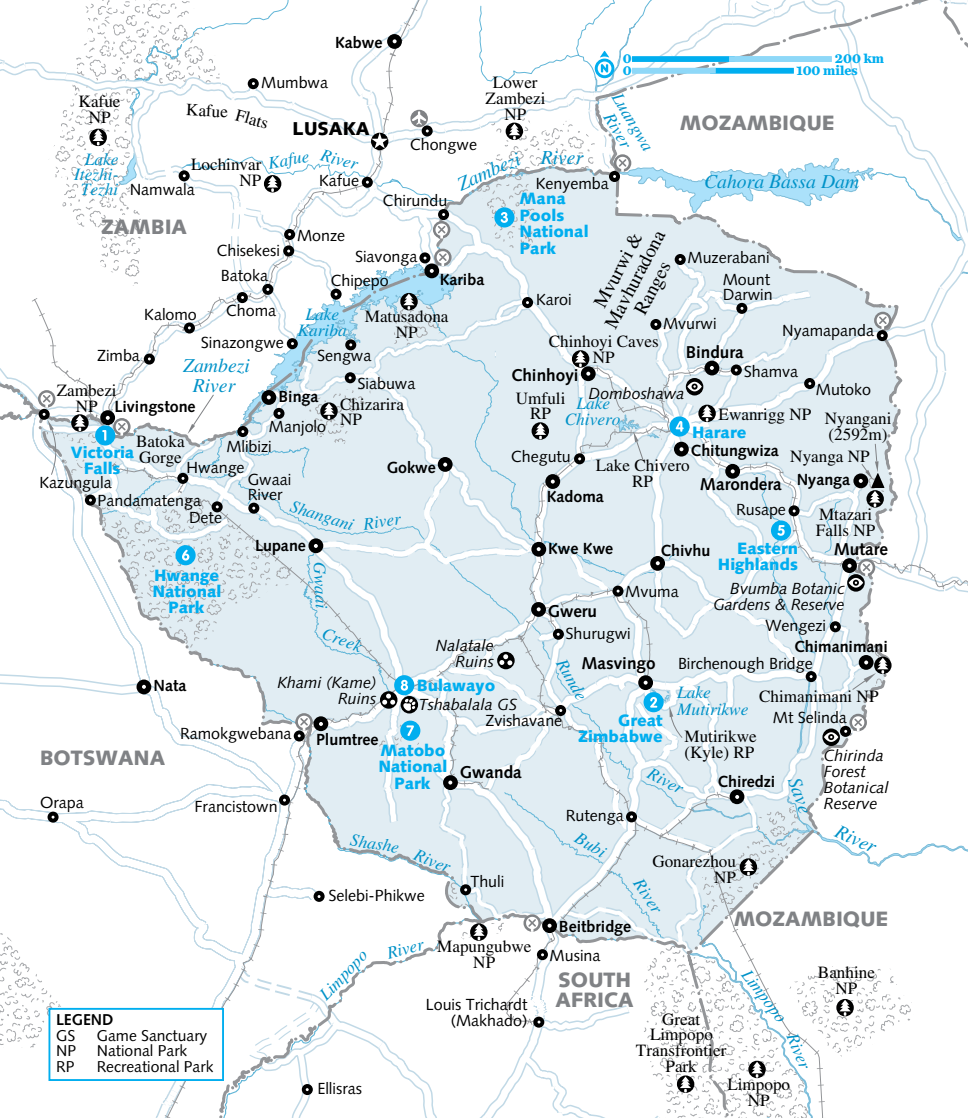
Harare



Apr–Oct Best time seasonally, with sunny days and cold, clear nights.

Nov–Apr The rainy season is beautiful, with generally sporadic rain and dramatic afternoon electrical storms.

Jul–Sep Peak season brings prime wildlife viewing, optimal white-water rafting and canoeing the Zambezi.



Zimbabwe Highlights

- 1 Victoria Falls** (p969) Being floored by the sheer power and force of these World Heritage-listed waterfalls.
- 2 Great Zimbabwe** (p1017) Taking the spiritual pulse of Zimbabwe at these atmospheric stone ruins.
- 3 Mana Pools National Park** (p1014) Walking through Africa's only park that allows

- unguided safaris among big cats and elephants.
- 4 Harare** (p1007) Unwinding in garden restaurants within converted colonial homes.
- 5 Eastern Highlands** (p1015) Breathing in lush pine forests and mountain air.
- 6 Hwange** (p1022) Feeling humbled at Zim's largest

- national park, home to Africa's biggest elephant population.
- 7 Matobo National Park** (p1021) Tracking rhinos and seeing ancient rock art and superb scenery.
- 8 Bulawayo** (p1018) Soaking up the wonderful architecture, art galleries and history.