



Zimbabwe

Includes »

Harare	604
Lake Kariba	613
Mana Pools National Park	615
Mutare	617
Bvumba Mountains	618
Nyanga National Park	619
Chimanimani National Park	621
Masvingo	622
Great Zimbabwe	622
Gonarezhou National Park	624
Bulawayo	625
Matobo National Park (The Matopos)	628
Hwange National Park	629

Best Places to Eat

- » Amanzi (p606)
- » Governors' Restaurant (p627)
- » Garwe (p605)
- » 26 on Park (p627)

Best Places to Stay

- » Camp Amalinda (p629)
- » Jacana Gardens Guest Lodge (p605)
- » National Parks Lodges Mana Pools (p616)
- » Rhino Island Safari Camp (p615)

Why Go?

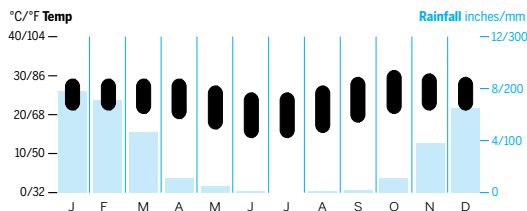
After a decade of political ruin, violence and economic disaster, finally some good news is coming out of Zimbabwe – tourism is back. Visitors are returning in numbers not seen since the turmoil began, to spot the Big Five strut their stuff around spectacular parks, discover World Heritage-listed archaeological sites and stand in awe of the natural wonder of the world, Victoria Falls.

A journey here will take you through an attractive patchwork of landscapes, from central highveld, balancing boulders and flaming *msasa* trees, to laidback towns, lush Eastern Highlands mountains and a network of lifeblood rivers up north. Along the way you'll receive a friendly welcome from locals, famous for their politeness and resilience in the face of hardship.

While there may be a long way to go, sure signs of recovery continue in Zimbabwe, giving hope to this embattled nation that a new dawn will soon rise.

When to Go

Harare



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

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

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



Zimbabwe Highlights

- 1 Exploring the atmospheric 11th-century stone ruins of **Great Zimbabwe** (p622)
- 2 Visiting **Mana Pools National Park** (p615), Africa's only park (with lions) that allows unguided walking safaris
- 3 Shopping for crafts in the capital city and going to HIFA – **Harare's International Festival of the Arts** (p604)
- 4 Exchanging arid highveld for cool, lush mountain air in the **Eastern Highlands** (p617)
- 5 Going on safari in **Hwange** (p629), Zimbabwe's largest national park and home to Africa's biggest elephant population
- 6 Finding the spiritual heart of Zimbabwe, packed with balancing rocks and birdlife in **Matobo National Park** (p628)