



Zimbabwe

263 / POP 13.1 MILLION

Includes ➔

Harare	619
Mana Pools National Park	632
Mutare.....	633
Chimanimani	637
Great Zimbabwe	640
Bulawayo.....	643
Hwange National Park.....	647

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Amanzi (p623)
- ➔ Portuguese Recreation Club (p634)
- ➔ 26 on Park (p645)
- ➔ Bulawayo Club (p645)

Best Places to Sleep

- ➔ Camp Amalinda (p647)
- ➔ Jacana Gardens Guest Lodge (p621)
- ➔ Rhino Safari Camp (p631)
- ➔ Chilo Gorge Safari Lodge (p643)
- ➔ Heaven Lodge (p638)

Why Go?

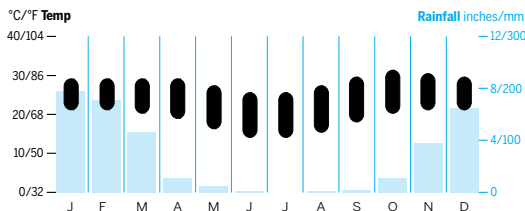
While from afar Zimbabwe's plight doesn't paint a rosy picture, the reality is different on the ground for tourists – most insist it's hands down one of the safest, friendliest and most spectacular countries in Africa.

A journey here will take you through an attractive patchwork of landscapes, from highveld, balancing boulders and flaming msasa trees, to laidback 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, 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

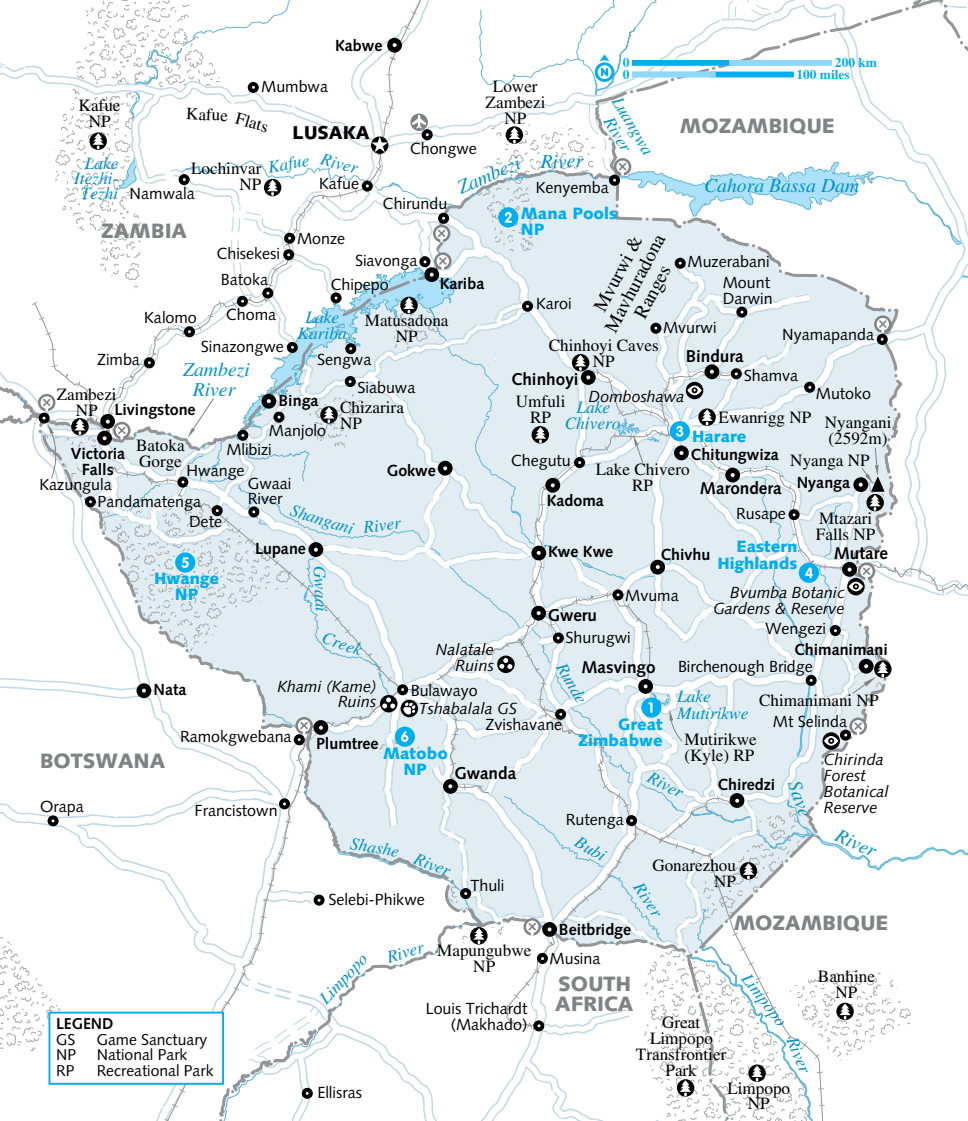
Harare



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

Nov–Apr Rainy season, with generally sporadic rain and dramatic afternoon electrical storms.

Jul–Sep Prime wildlife viewing, optimal white-water rafting and canoeing the Zambezi.



Zimbabwe Highlights

1 Great Zimbabwe (p641)
Exploring the atmospheric 11th-century stone ruins.

2 Mana Pools National Park (p632) Africa's only park (with lions) that allows unguided walking safaris.

3 Harare International Festival of the Arts (p621)

Shopping for crafts in the capital city and going to HIFA.

4 Eastern Highlands (p633) Exchanging arid highveld for cool, lush mountain air.

5 Hwange National Park (p647) Going on safari in Zimbabwe's largest national

park and home to Africa's biggest elephant population.

6 Matobo National Park (p646) Finding the spiritual heart of Zimbabwe, packed with balancing rocks and birdlife.