

We Know

ZAMBIA

Zambia is a landlocked country that lies in the watersheds between the Congo and the Zambezi River systems. The country takes its name from the latter, which rises in the northwest corner of the country and forms the southern boundary – a continuum of water that stretches for miles to the Indian Ocean. The course of the river embraces Zambia's most spectacular feature, Victoria Falls.



ZAMBIA

Useful Information



Much of this country lies on a high plateau, ranging from 3,000 to 7,000 feet above sea level. Zambia shares borders with Malawi to the east, Angola to the west, Zaire to the northwest, Tanzania to the northeast, Mozambique to the southeast, and Zimbabwe to the south.

CLIMATE

Zambia has a moderate climate due to its elevation, even though it lies well into the tropics. Between September and November, the hot and dry season occurs, and warm and wet from December to April. November brings rains that continue through March, with the cool and dry season being May through August. Only in the Valleys of the Zambezi and Luangwa is there excessive heat, particularly in October and, in the wet season, a high humidity. The ideal tourist season is generally May through November, although one can count on at least four hours of sunshine per day, throughout the year.

CURRENCY & CREDIT CARDS

The Zambian Kwacha (ZMK) is the currency used in Zambia. While some places will accept foreign currency, services like taxis require payment in Kwachas. Automatic Teller Machines (ATMs) can be found around cities and towns. Some will accept Visa, MasterCard, and Maestro cards, and will dispense Kwachas, and not foreign currency. It is advisable to travel with cash in case the ATMs are not working. Bring notes of varying denominations printed after 2006. Anything older than 2006 will not be accepted. Use services of registered foreign exchange bureaus to change your money into local currency and keep up to date with the most recent exchange rate. NOTE: If carrying cash, take only recently minted U.S. currency.

SHOPPING HOURS

In suburban areas, shops are open 8:00AM to 5:00PM Monday through Friday, and 8:00AM to 1:00PM on Saturday (some will stay open until 5:00PM). Elsewhere, they are generally closed all day Saturday and Sunday. The best souvenir sources are the museums, craft shops and curio sellers. Bartering is acceptable only with street vendors.

LANGUAGE

The official language of Zambia is English, and visitors will have no problem getting around, understanding and being understood in Zambia.

VOLTAGE

The electricity runs on 220/230 volts, 50 cycle, AC.

ELECTRICAL PLUGS



230V 50Hz

PHOTOGRAPHY

Visitors should respect the outlook of the local people towards photography and only use cameras if they have permission from the person or people the picture is being taken. Never try to "steal" a photo against the will of the person concerned. Let your tour guide or escort help you negotiate terms before you start shooting! It is also against the law to take photographs of border posts, persons in uniform, and of course, military installations.