

Zambia is a landlocked independent nation in southern Africa, just a little larger than Spain and Italy combined. Zambia is unspoiled by mass tourism, and is rich in wildlife, superb forests, and meandering rivers. Of course, it's also where you can see the world's biggest waterfall, the Victoria Falls, or as we call it Mosi-oa-Tunya - the smoke that thunders, which spans the border to our neighbour, Zimbabwe. It is one of the seven natural wonders of the world!

There are many other treasures in store in Zambia, as it boasts some of the best game parks in Africa, providing an unmatched safari experience. South Luangwa, Lower Zambezi, Liuwa and Kafue are just some of the National Parks one can visit in Zambia, along with more specialist areas like Kasanka and Bangweulu Swamps.

The people of Zambia are warm, friendly, and proud of their heritage.

Visa Information

The following countries do not need a visa when entering Zambia:

United Kingdom, United States of America, European Union, Canada, Norway, Australia, China, Japan, South Korea & The Gulf States.

Other nationals from countries not listed above can obtain their visa at the point of entry into Zambia. Current charges are \$25. If you are not one of the above, please ask about visas before booking. You can also visit the [Zambian Immigration website](#) for full information.

A common tourist visa has been re-introduced for Zambia and Zimbabwe - the Kavango Zambezi Trans-frontier Conservation Area (KAZA) UNIVISA. The US\$50 visa is valid for 30 days and allows the bearer to enter both Zambia and Zimbabwe. Full details including ports of entry issuing the visa, eligible countries and more are available [here](#).

Airport Tax

Most airlines now include airport taxes in the tickets. But for charter flights these may still be payable and where it is applicable you will be notified at the time of booking.

Meet and Greet Service

If you are arriving in Lusaka from an international flight, you will be met and assisted through to your connecting flight by a Tours Africa representative. Should you miss this person please collect your baggage and go to the domestic departure lounge where you will find a representative from Proflight Zambia.

If you have any problem, please ask them to call Robin Pope Safaris on +260 (0) 957 090 441 for further assistance.

Medical

Malaria is protection imperative. Tetanus and the hepatitis vaccinations are recommended.

Please consult your regular doctor or travel clinic in your country for up-to-date information. It is advisable to know your blood group type in case of emergency.

Covid-19 regulations – please refer to separate document for our Covid-19 policy.

Insurance

We ask that full insurance is put in place at point of confirmation. We highly recommend that every guest has insurance that covers the following as a minimum:

- Cancellation and curtailment
- Medical costs (including full hospital costs should it be needed)
- Personal accident or death

- Emergency evacuation from the point of evacuation to the nearest best hospital and then back to the guest's hometown. Family or traveling partner should also be covered for accompanying an evacuation.

We cannot emphasize how important it is to be fully covered. Private hospitals in Africa will not accept a patient until full medical insurance has been established.

Communication

In most major towns you will be able to use your phone – please do check roaming options with your local service providers. However, most camps and lodges are in remote areas with limited or no network coverage at all.

Wi-Fi is not available in most camps and lodges outside of the major towns. When available, it is usually very slow or limited – may not be possible to upload your pictures and videos.

All camps and lodges will however have various modes of communication available to them in cases of emergencies, such as satellite phones.

Money

Travelers' cheques and cash are accepted. Credit cards are becoming more widely accepted but not in remote areas and should not be relied on except in major towns.

US dollars are easier to change than sterling. Please ask the exchange or bank to supply you with only new US dollar bills - i.e. ones with large heads as any with small heads are not accepted in Zambia.

What to Bring

You should always travel with soft bags not hard suitcases (not only for the smaller aircraft but also to fit into vehicles). DO NOT exceed the limit of 15 kg for hold luggage and 5kg for hand luggage.

In the recent years we have had more and more guests arriving without their luggage. Unfortunately, with new security at airports hand luggage is being restricted but where possible we recommend that you travel with anything essential (medication, space glasses), and if possible, a change of clothes.

List of items to bring:

1. A hat, sunglasses, high strength sunscreen, moisturizer, lip salve, strong insect repellent, antihistamine cream and tablets should always be carried.
2. Clothes - all properties have a daily laundry service so do not bring too many. Here is a good guide:
3 sets bush coloured safari outfits (long/shorts/shirts) i.e. green/brown/dark khaki (not white, cream, or bright colours - especially for walking).
A couple of sets of lighter clothes for Livingstone.
2 sets casual evening clothes (long trousers & shirts and socks to reduce insect bites).
1 light weight sweater. Warm jacket in winter (June/July/early Aug).
Light rain gear for the wet months (November - April).
A good pair of covered shoes for walking – should you be on a walking safari; we highly recommend walking boots that support the ankle. Water resistant walking shoes are also handy during the wet season.
Open shoes or sandal type shoes (with firm grip for Victoria Falls Tour) for warmer days.
Note: Out of respect for local culture, undergarments will not be washed even where laundry is available.
3. A few camps do have pools so bring a costume with you.
4. Binoculars – one pair per person is a must.
5. Torch.
6. Glasses - if you wear prescription glasses bring a spare pair. If you wear contact lenses bring a pair of glasses as well since dust can be a problem.
7. Camera equipment: a telephoto lens (200/300mm). Flash for night photography. Camera cleaning equipment and a good dust/waterproof bag. Videos - bring spare batteries.

Some handy tips for Packing

Travel bags: soft bags are preferable - duffel bag, hiking pack or sports bag – as they are more ideal for the air transfers and safari vehicles. Hard suitcases can often be difficult to fit into the safari vehicles and some light aircrafts will not actually take them onboard.

A smaller bag to put your important items such as travel documents, money, camera, medication is highly recommended and suggest you always keep it on you.

We recommend you keep luxury items to the bare minimum – expensive jewellery, bulky toiletries, make up. Some camps and lodges have hair dryers so do check if you need to carry your own.

Separating your money into different pockets and carry-on items is also worth doing in case something happens to one of these items.

Community Support Supplies

Should you have extra space in your luggage, please use it to provide supplies to communities you visit. You can make a big impact on the lives of children in Malawi. Anything from books and stationery to clothes and toys. Cash donations are also accepted. You are welcome to contact us for updated 'wish lists' for the projects we support.

Climate

January-March

The "Emerald Season" is one of regrowth, replenishment, and rebirth. The birds are breeding and its peak birth season of many animals. The rainfall is at its highest during these months, but it mostly falls at night. With the rainfall, the Victoria Falls get to the peak of their flow around March.

Weather: Warm / need waterproofs.

April-May

The rains have gone but there is the odd potential rainstorm around. The grass is now tall and green, the skies are clear and the blue, the new generation of birds have left the nests and the migrants start to leave. Flow of the Victoria Falls is at its peak.

Weather: Warm in the day and not yet cold at night.

June-July

This is now the "dry season" and is also our winter. The grass dries up and dies back, this makes for easier sightings when in the Luangwa Valley.

Weather: warm days but cold at night and in the early mornings. Jackets needed.

August

Bush dry. Lagoons now obviously shrinking in the Luangwa and the flow of the Falls decreasing.

Weather: Varies from cool to hot. Can still have cold spells.

September

Weather: Hot, dry, and hazy. Trees flower and lose leaves.

October

New growth starts - and there are new-borns everywhere towards the end of the month.

Weather: Very dry and hot with cloud build up, could have occasional rain when it can cool down and clear the air. It can be very hot (up to 45 degrees in the shade).

November-December

An extremely beautiful and exciting time of the year. The migrant birds arrive; excellent birdwatching.

The onset of the rains can also bring a deluge of flying ants and other insects (sometimes in big proportions, but normally lasting a few hours). With the insects come the cooler temperatures but also the humidity.

Weather: Hot, slightly humid. Early rains vary from the odd shower to short periods of daily afternoon storms. These can be very dramatic with wind, dark clouds, and shafts of light, sheet lightning.

Safety

Africa's wild animals are unpredictable and potentially dangerous. Photographic safari activities and staying in any safari camp place visitors near wild animals. It is therefore an inherent risk to those persons wishing to undertake these activities. Whilst every care is taken by Robin Pope Safaris and its personnel to minimise exposure to risk, Robin Pope Safaris Ltd bears no responsibility whatsoever for any loss, injury, illness, death, delays, cancellation of flights or change of itinerary and retains the right to alter, amend or cancel any part of a safari with just reason.

Voltage

220-240 A.C with a 3 square prong plug.

Most remote camps and lodges may not be on mains electricity, with most being on solar power or generators - electricity hours may therefore be limited.

Hairdryers cannot be used at camps and lodges with generators, but video battery recharging is fine.

Dietary requirements

Please let us know any food allergies or any other special dietary requirements well in advance so the camp /lodge can accommodate you.

Nut Allergies: While our kitchen is fully capable of catering for most dietary requests, we regrettably are unable to cater for people with severe nut allergies as we cannot guarantee a completely nut free environment.

Photography & Film

Please be sensitive when photographing & filming local people and their villages. Ask the guide or the villagers first. Be careful when photographing and filming public buildings and persons in uniform - again, ask first. Drone flying is not allowed in the national parks.

Tipping

Is not expected but always enthusiastically received if you are happy with the service.

Please always give tips for the camp/lodge staff to the management to be shared out and please tip your guides individually.

When asked 'how much' we say for camp/lodge staff from US\$5 per person per night and for guides the same again.

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

In case you need to get hold of us in an emergency, you can contact us as follows:

Munyama Mudaala, Reservations Manager:

T: +260 95 709 0441 or +260 76 502 3939

E: info@robinpopesafaris.net

The above will have contact with the camps and lodges as well in the case of family needing to reach you.