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Welcome to Victoria Falls

Locally known as 'Mosi-oa-Tunya', translating to the 'The Smoke That Thunders', Victoria Falls are deservedly one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World. Forming a natural border between Zambia and Zimbabwe, fed by the mighty Zambezi River, the Falls are a sight to behold!

The 100m vertical chasm spanning the full one and a half kilometre width of the river, creates the biggest curtain of falling water in the world and one of the most extraordinary displays of nature's might and magnificence. Despite the beauty of the Falls themselves, this region warrants the reputation as an adventure centre, offering a plethora of adrenaline-inducing activities both in and around the Falls. The best time for viewing the Falls is from July to October when the water levels are high but the mist has subsided, offering clearer views.

▪ LANGUAGE

The indigenous languages are Ndebele and Shona but English is the official language and is widely spoken and understood.

▪ CULTURE

One arrival in Victoria Falls you will be greeted by some of the friendliest people in the world. The religion is Christianity, with traditional beliefs in rural areas, and some Hindu, Muslim and Jewish minorities.

▪ CLIMATE

September through to April: Generally very hot summers with temperatures averaging between 32-34°C. Wet during the rainy season, from mid-November to April.

May through to August: Mild and dry winters with temperatures ranging from 25-27°C. The rafting season generally closes completely around April/May - due to the excessive high water level of the Zambezi River and reopens around July, with July to December offering the best conditions.

March/April brings huge volumes of spray which can make it difficult to view the Falls from the ground, but aerial viewing is spectacular.

From November/early December to January, low water levels mean that parts of the Falls dry up, particularly on the Zambian side, but this is when Devil's Pool is accessible or one can witness the Falls from a different vantage point on Livingstone Island.

▪ CURRENCY

The Zimbabwean dollar is no longer a valid currency and almost all transactions are conducted in US dollars. The currencies presently used in Zimbabwe include US Dollars and South African Rand. Make sure you have a sufficient amount of foreign currency in your possession, prior to entering the country due to a cash shortage and the fact that many ATMs will not accept international cards. Do not change foreign exchange with moneychangers on the street, as this is illegal. It is best to travel with small denominations of foreign currency. Credit cards, especially American Express and Diners, are rarely accepted.



▪ ELECTRICITY

240 V. square pin adapter (same plugs as UK).

▪ MALARIA

As Victoria Falls is situated in a malaria zone, it is recommended that you consult your physician on the correct preventative medication required before you travel.

▪ WHAT TO PACK

Sunglasses, suntan lotion and insect repellent are a must. Casual, comfortable clothing is suitable throughout the year. Jeans or trousers for evenings and cooler days. In more upmarket hotels and establishments, elegant casual outfits are recommended for dinner and/or cocktails. Please note that camouflage clothing is banned in Zimbabwe. Throw in a few warmer items between between April and August, especially for early mornings and late evenings.

Rafting: Swimsuit and shorts/cycling shorts (nothing that water will suck away), a way to secure glasses, shirt and sunscreen/lip balm for sun protection, shoes must be securely fitted to your feet, a peak cap that will fit comfortably under a helmet.

Flying Fox: Comfortable clothes that provide sun protection, sunscreen, insect repellent, hiking/running shoes and longer hair must be tied up.

▪ TIPPING

Bring small denominations for tipping purposes as small change is very rarely available locally. Whilst not compulsory, it is enormously appreciated and often contributes a substantial amount toward ensuring that those working in the service industry earn a living wage. Just make sure that a service charge hasn't already been added to your bill.

▪ VISA

South African Passport holders do not require a visa.

