

Guest Information



What to bring

Generally, comfortable casual clothing is suitable throughout the year, but the most practical items to pack for safari are:

- * Khaki, brown, green and beige or neutral colours
- * Light cotton tops and cotton trousers
- * Shirts with long sleeves (even in summer, they will protect you from the sun and from mosquitoes)
- * T-shirts
- * Shorts or a light skirt
- * Jeans or safari trousers for evenings and cooler days
- * Sweater or fleece for game activities (especially during the winter months, when we also recommend a beany hat, scarf and gloves)
- * Socks
- * Comfortable walking shoes/boots
- * Sun block, sunglasses and insect repellent are essential
- * Hat (also essential)
- * Torch (when staying at Tsika Island bush camp)
- * Light, compact raincoat during the rainy months (April and occasionally in November)

Helpful Hints

Layers are most practical for the fluctuating day/night temperatures of the Lower Zambezi Valley.

Dull and/or neutral colours are more suitable for safari; white is definitely not practical, and black and dark blues can attract tsetse flies.

Don't bring too much - laundry is available in the camp - and there is a strict 15kg limit for baggage on light planes.

It is best to pack hardy, durable clothing in a soft bag rather than a suitcase. Soft bags are also essential on light planes.



Don't forget ...

Cameras and binoculars

Plenty of spare film or digital memory, spare camera batteries and recharger. The camp has an inverter, so recharging in the evening from the generator is possible.

Climate

Zambia's elevation on a plateau gives it a moderate to tropical climate with three distinct seasons:

December to April is warm and wet,

May to August (winter): cool and dry,

September to November: hot and dry.

Average summer temperatures range from 25 to 35 deg C and winter from 6 to 24 deg C

Air Travel

There are a number of airlines serving Zambia through Lusaka International Airport. International visitors can make use of the British Airways service from London or the Zambezi Airlines and South African Airways services from Johannesburg. Flight time from Johannesburg is 1 hour 50 minutes.

From Lusaka travel to the Valley (or any of the other areas worth visiting) can be arranged with a Zambian charter company.

Visas and Taxes:

Visas are needed for most visitors to Zambia.

Please visit the Zambian Immigration website on:

www.zambiaimmigration.gov.zm/zims/Visas.aspx for more information and fees.

Current airport departure taxes are:

International (\$25)

Domestic (\$8)

Currency

The official currency of Zambia is the Kwacha. It is fully tradable and there are no currency restrictions. Because the exchange rate varies so much, the US \$ is used extensively in trade and most Government levies are also quoted in US \$. Do not expect to be able to use credit cards extensively, and furthermore we are unable to accept credit cards in our camp or office.

Health Requirements

Visitors should carry an adequate supply of personal medicines and first aid accessories with them, as chemists/pharmacies are few and far between.

The Lower Zambezi Valley is a malaria area and visitors are strongly advised to bring prophylactic medicine, but please seek advice from your doctor first.

Please bring copies of prescriptions for sleeping pills or other controlled substances.

Communications

There is minimal communication in the Lower Zambezi Valley. There is no cell phone coverage, and no fax, but there is access to e-mail.

Chongwe River Camp has both internet access, a satellite phone and radios for communication with the outside world in case of emergency.

Time

Zambia is 2 hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time, 7 hours ahead of Eastern USA time and 10 hours ahead of Pacific and Western time.

Map

