

# Free Guide To Victoria Falls

*One of the Seven Natural Wonders of  
the World*

By Tony and Boo Peel

# About this Quick Guide

This Free Quick Guide to Victoria Falls is jammed full with information and answers to the common questions we get asked over and over every day. When you are setting off or planning on going to a completely new destination you have absolutely no idea where things are or how they work, what's good and what's bad, this guide will hopefully give you a much better understanding of the Victoria Falls area.

If you feel that you are still uncertain about some things, you might want to purchase our [Destination E-guide To Victoria Falls](#) which is much more detailed and includes a whole host of extras like;

- The Activity Fact File - a comprehensive information booklet about ALL the activities on offer by ALL of the different tour operators. It's Not a Sales Brochure from a single company. It's solid, straight forward information
- Important TIPS in every section - these will SAVE YOU money, time and frustration
- Not so well known things To Do and See - a selection of our local recommendations of things you can do, mostly free that you won't find in any travel agency.
- Ndebele Language guide - a quick guide to help you communicate in the local language for basic day to day requirements.
- Up-to-date Area and town centre map – detailing all the important stuff.
- Slide-show of 30 lovely pictures of the Falls to music.
- 30 high quality photographs of Victoria Falls in case yours don't turn out that well.
- Bird and mammal checklist - Includes 56 mammal species and 440 bird species that you can see in the Victoria Falls region. Rare specials endemic to Victoria Falls have been highlighted for easy reference.
- Tour of the Falls (includes a map) – this will enhance your time spent at the actual waterfall. Detailing all the viewpoints and what you are likely to see from each one. We have also included facts and history and some information on the more common flora and fauna which you are likely to see.

[To Find Out More Click Here](#)

The advantage that electronic guides have over hard copy guide books is that this information is being continually updated and improved as changing regulations and circumstances take place in Zimbabwe. The version you have downloaded is current, accurate and we are confident that you can rely on the information as being correct and up to date.

The other advantage is that you can print it as many times as you like, you can scribble on the pages and make notes and highlight the activities that are of particular interest to you.

We have checked and re-checked for spelling and grammatical errors, please excuse us if you find any. We have used British English because that is what Zimbabweans use. Words like Travelling or Colour might look misspelt, but they are nevertheless correct.

The information contained in this guide is for the **Zimbabwean side of Victoria Falls**. The Zambian side would require a whole separate guide, as the two countries are quite different.

Thank you for downloading this guide, we hope that you find this information useful and that you have a great holiday.

Best wishes

Tony and Boo

# How to Use This Book

The Table of Contents on the next page is self explanatory; it's an index of what's contained in this book. While viewing this e book on your computer you can click on any of the headings in the Table of Contents and you will skip to that page. Once printed out those links obviously don't work anymore but just like any other book it is easy enough to find what you are looking for by the page numbers.

While viewing in Adobe I find it easier to click on the little bookmark icon in the left hand column which opens an index that helps you to navigate your way around.

There are also hyper-links throughout the guide (blue text). Clicking on these will take you through to more in-depth information on our site or to relevant information in this guide.

A lot of the information contained here will be useful to you once you are at Victoria Falls. So my suggestion would be to print the whole booklet and take it with you.

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# Zimbabwe vs Zambia

The first big question that confronts many people when considering a visit to Victoria Falls is **“which country should I go to, Zimbabwe or Zambia?”** For those of you who are not familiar with the geography here; the Zambezi River which creates the magnificent Victoria Falls is the border between these two countries. It is therefore possible to see the Falls from either country but deciding on which one can hugely impact your experience and your wallet.

Historically, Zimbabwe was considered the best country to view The Victoria Falls, its infrastructure and the town's locality to the Falls made it more suitable. However in the last decade due to the political turmoil in Zimbabwe, Zambia has established itself firmly as a tourist destination. They have injected a lot of money into their infrastructure and new hotels and tour operators have sprung up everywhere. Today it enjoys a large slice of the market share. However we would just like to highlight a few fundamental differences between the two so you can make your own decision.

## Zimbabwe Pros and Cons

- **75% of the Falls** are seen from the Zimbabwean side, with a variety of 16 viewpoints bisecting the rainforest. A network of paths allows you to thoroughly see the Falls from every angle.
- **A true rainforest**, where it rains 24hrs, 365 days of the year, from the falling spray created by these powerful Falls.
- In Zimbabwe the Falls **never dry up** even at the height of the dry season in October and November, Main Falls and Devils cataract will still have impressive water flow.
- **Prices for accommodation and activities are lower** than Zambia due to lower government taxes and levies.
- Most of the popular activities can be done in either country; however Microlight flights, Devils swim and Livingstone Island tour can only be done in Zambia. Game viewing opportunities are better in Zimbabwe.
- Development on the banks of the Zambezi River upstream of Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe has been carefully controlled. Almost the entire stretch of river from Victoria Falls to Kazangula +/- 80 kms is pristine National Park filled with wildlife.
- The town of Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe is situated less than one kilometre away from the Falls. This means that many of the Hotels and Lodges are within close striking distance of the Falls. Victoria Falls is a much smaller town than Livingstone, Zambia and everything seems to be more convenient and accessible.
- Zimbabwe has had very negative exposure in the last decade which has portrayed it as an unsafe tourist destination. I would like to allay these fears and assure you that it is a totally safe destination. This is corroborated by the millions of tourists who do venture there.

## Zambia Pros and Cons

- **Zambia has only a 25% view of the Falls** - the eastern cataract. There is a reasonable network of paths and several viewpoints covering this small section. One of the advantages is that you can look right down the length of the Falls at Sunset and yet be close enough to the exit gate to get out quickly before they close them.
- **No true rainforest** on this side as there are times of the year when the water flow is very low or has completely stopped.
- At the height of the dry season the Zambian Section the **eastern cataract dries up** completely leaving just a rock face.
- **Prices for accommodation and activities are higher** than Zimbabwe due to higher government taxes and levies.
- Development on the banks of the Zambezi River upstream of Victoria Falls over the years has had less control than Zimbabwe and many farms and developments exist.

- There are only two hotels close to the entrance of Victoria Falls, the Royal Livingstone Hotel and the Avani Victoria Falls Resort. Residents at these two hotels have the advantage of their own entrance gate to the Zambian section of the Falls.
- The town of Livingstone is situated about 10 kms from the entrance to the Falls, if you are staying in a Lodge or Hotel in Livingstone town, you will incur extra costs in getting to the various activities or to see the Falls.
- Livingstone Island tours are only available from the Zambian side, this is a highly recommended activity as you get to see the Falls from a completely different angle, right on the edge exactly where David Livingstone saw it for the first time.
- Most of the popular activities can be done in either country, however Microlight flights, Devils swim and Livingstone Island tour can only be done in Zambia. Game viewing opportunities are better in Zimbabwe.
- Zambia has a hydroelectric station which draws water from the Zambezi River above Victoria Falls. At low water levels when this is switched on the eastern cataract can suddenly dry up.

So there you have it a few of the major differences between the two countries. If you have the opportunity, time and money to see Victoria Falls from both countries, that is obviously first prize, as you get a different perspective from each side, the different viewpoints, angle to the sun etc.

If you are only able to visit one country I would have to recommend Zimbabwe as it has a superior viewing of the Falls, better locality and wildlife opportunities. If you end up going to Zambia at the height of the dry season all you will see is an impressive but dry rock face and I feel you will be slightly disappointed.

In conclusion, if you see the Falls from Zimbabwe only you can be confident that you have seen the best of the Falls, if you see them from Zambia only, I am sorry but the same can't be said.

## Travel Information

### ***Important Contact Numbers***

Victoria Falls International access code: +(263) (83) (followed by the number)

All numbers given below exclude the international and local dialling codes detailed above.

- **The Health Bridge Medical Centre** 2846635 **Email** [vicfalls@thehealthbridge.org](mailto:vicfalls@thehealthbridge.org)
- **Victoria Falls Pharmacy** 2844403
- **Police** Emergency/Enquiries 2842206 C.I.D 2844201
- **Airport** 2841576 or 2844255 or 2844428 or 2844554
- **Zambezi National Park Entrance** 2842294 or 2844566
- **Victoria Falls National Park - Entrance gate to the Victoria Falls** 2842204
- **Customs and Immigration (Victoria Falls Bridge)** 2845876 or 2844235
- **Victoria Falls Guide** Landline +(263) (83) 2846213; Cell +(263) 778 732 841 or SA Cell +27 (0)712 932 982

## ***Requirements upon entry***

- ✓ Some Nationalities require an Entry Visa – for details refer to our website [Zimbabwe Visa](#)
- ✓ Passport valid for at least 6 months from date of entry,
- ✓ Return ticket to your country (or enough money to buy one)
- ✓ Sufficient funds to cover your stay in Zimbabwe.
- ✓ Enough blank pages in your passport to fit the required entry visas (one full page per visa).
- ✓ For the latest COVID-19 requirements for Zimbabwe, please refer to our website – [Zimbabwe Covid-19 Latest Travel News](#)

## **Requirements to bring a vehicle into Zimbabwe for holiday purposes**

- ✓ Original or Police certified copy of vehicle registration book and a **certified** letter of permission to use the vehicle if the registration book is not in the drivers name.
- ✓ Non Zimbabwe vehicles pay a Carbon Tax valid for 30 days. Cost depends on engine size.  
Below 1500cc US\$6  
1501 to 2000cc US\$11  
2001 to 3000cc US\$15  
3001cc and above US\$30
- ✓ 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Insurance - cost approx US\$30 for the 1 month. Purchase at the border.
- ✓ T.I.P - (Temporary Import Permit) No Charge. Issued at the border
- ✓ C.V.G (Commercial Vehicle Guarantee) About \$120 for Hire Vehicles
- ✓ Road Access Fee – US\$10 per light vehicle per entry into the country. Purchase at the border.
- ✓ Zimbabwe law requires that all vehicles have 2 x white round reflective tape on the front bumper and 2 x 6 inch red reflective tape on the rear bumper. You can get fined if you don't have these.
- ✓ New law (effective June 2011) states that vehicles must have two red warning triangles and a fire extinguisher with SAZ ( Standards Association of Zimbabwe) approval. [Full details](#)

## ***Import allocations***

We don't want to stick our necks out here, so these allocation details are only a guideline. This is a bit of a grey area and a lot will depend on the customs official on the day and his mood.

- Beer – reasonable personal consumption
- Wine – 5 litres
- Spirits – reasonable personal consumption
- Meat – 25 kgs
- Cash – US\$ 5000.00

The official [Zimra Website](#) (Zimbabwe Revenue Authority) has very useful up to date information on Zimbabwe customs and immigration, duties and taxes.

## ***Zimbabwe Entry Visa***

There are 3 categories:

**Category A:** Countries whose nationals do NOT require a Visa. No action required, you will be granted easy entry at any border post.

**Category B:** Countries whose nationals are granted a Zimbabwe visa at the port of entry on payment of requisite visa fees. These visas are easiest obtained on your arrival at the Airport or border post, or online using the [Zimbabwe evisa website](#) - payment is made online. If you get them done via an agency in your home country they will often cost you quite a bit more and be a lot more hassle.

**Category C:** Countries whose nationals are required to apply for and obtain a Zimbabwe visa prior to travelling. Unfortunately this is a bit of a pain, but you can apply through an agency or the Zimbabwe High Commission in your home country. **Zimbabwe immigration have launched a website where Category C's can now apply online.** Click on this link [eVisa Zimbabwe](#)

Please refer to our website ([Zimbabwe Visa](#)) to see tables of which countries fall into which categories and how much the visa's cost. Single and Double entry visa's are available.

**Children:** Cannot be included on their parents visas and have to purchase their own if their nationality requires them to do so.

The **KAZA UniVisa** is allows multiple entries into both Zimbabwe and Zambia for those that qualify. For information on this visa, visit our [UniVisa page](#).

## ***Border Post Hours***

**Victoria Falls Bridge border post:** Opens 06h00 - Closes 22h00

**Kazungula border post:** Opens 06h00 - Closes 20h00

## ***National Park Hours***

**Victoria Falls National Park – Entrance to the Falls:**

(Summer 15<sup>th</sup> August to 14<sup>th</sup> May; Opens 06h00 - Closes 18h00)

(Winter 15<sup>th</sup> May to 14<sup>th</sup> August; Opens 06h30 - Closes 18h00)

**Zambezi National Park: Upper Zambezi**

(Summer: Opens 06h00 - Closes 18h00) (Winter: Opens 06h30 - Closes 18h00)



## ***Entrance Fees to Victoria Falls and Zambezi National Park***

Passports are required for proof of nationality. Children Under 12 half price.

### **2021 Entrance Fees to View the Victoria Falls and the rainforest**

- International Tourists US\$30
- Regional Tourist US\$20
- Local Tourists \$7 for citizens and \$10 for residents
- Night time viewing for International/Regional tourists US\$40
- Night time viewing for Local Zimbabweans \$20

### **2021 Entry to Zambezi National park**

- International Tourists US\$15
- Regional Tourist US\$12
- Local Tourists \$5
- Vehicles: International/Regional US\$10 and Local \$5
- Trailers: International/Regional US\$10 and Local \$5

## ***Money***

- The money situation in Zimbabwe is complicated to say the least. Years of mismanagement of the economy necessitated more austerity measures to be implemented in 2019, to once again stabilise the economy, which to a certain extent have worked but if you are a visitor to Zimbabwe it is vitally important to understand some of the complexities to avoid losing money.
- Credit and Debit cards are now accepted by most large establishments but not all, so essential to have some cash on you. (VISA Mainly, but Mastercard as well. Not AMEX or Diners). It is advisable to pay for [accommodation](#) and [activities](#) before you go, to avoid carrying large sums of cash or hefty credit card transaction fees.
- For more up-to-date information on the cash situation in Zimbabwe, please visit this link - <https://www.victoriafalls-guide.net/zimbabwe-currency.html>

## ***Safety***

Victoria Falls is essentially a very safe travel destination. It has a small population and has experienced no serious security incidents for many years. However, petty crime does exist and it is advisable to always be vigilant. This is our advice:

- The Victoria Falls Tourism Police operate seven days a week from 0900 to 1900hrs and are a comforting and friendly presence in town. They patrol the small road network and are there to assist you in any way and to ward off the many Curio traders, who are harmless but who can become very irritating.
- Keep valuables locked away in your hotel room or with the hotel reception.
- Don't carry large sums of cash and certainly don't flash money about.

- Street vendors will hassle you to buy their curios etc; it is best not to get angry with them. They mean no harm and are actually just desperate for a sale. They are not in anyway dangerous. If you show any slight interest in buying something they won't leave you alone.
- If you are staying at one of the smaller establishments in the residential part of town, don't walk around at night, there are wild animals. Rather catch a taxi.
- Do NOT try to make deals on accommodation and activities with dodgy street characters who will swindle you; stick to the larger companies that have a good reputation.
- Please be very careful when you buy curios and ask for them to be shipped home. We have reports about a certain shop in town which is taking payment and promising to ship items, which then never arrive. Read this post on our website <http://www.victoriafalls-guide.net/southern-africa-gallery.html>
- You will read many reviews from recent travellers on all the travel forums who say they feel very safe when in Victoria Falls, the only concern in fact is the street vendors who hassle you.

## **Health**

Victoria Falls Health Bridge (medical centre is open Monday to Friday 8am to 5pm and Saturday 8am to 1pm. However the doctor is on duty outside these hours.

[See our map](#) for the clinic's location and [important numbers](#) for contact details. There is also MARS (Medical Air Rescue Services) for emergency evacuation of any serious cases to one of the larger Hospitals in Zimbabwe or South Africa.

The clinic has a resident doctor. They have an X-ray machine and a mini theatre for minor surgery. They also have three wards for overnight patients.

The pharmacy in town ([see town centre map](#)) is well stocked with medicines and prescriptions. However, if you are on prescription drugs it is always preferable to bring enough with you.

### **There are some serious health threats to visitors**

- **Malaria** – Please read our website <http://www.victoriafalls-guide.net/malaria.html> for full details. Hot and wet summer months (December through till May) are most vulnerable times especially at dawn and dusk. A prophylactic medication is essential and you should consult your local physician prior to departure. However if you have arrived and haven't started a course of prophylactic tablets please visit the clinic or pharmacy asap (see map). Additionally ensure that you use insect repellent and sleep under a mosquito net. Symptoms which are often flu-like occur 10 to 14 days after exposure, so if you feel unwell when you get back home see your doctor immediately and inform him that you have been in a malaria area, specifically mention that the strain Plasmodium falciparum also known as Cerebral Malaria occurs here.
- **Water Borne Disease** - can at times be prevalent. The best advice is to drink bottled water ONLY, then you are completely safe.
- **Sun**- The African sun is extremely powerful, please use wide brimmed hats and plenty of sunscreen. Don't underestimate this as it can ruin your holiday.
- **Bilharzia** – Is a snail borne disease which occurs in very slow moving or stagnant water where there is plenty of human habitation. Bilharzia requires humans to complete its life-cycle. Avoid swimming in locations that fit this description.

## ***Victoria Falls Weather in Brief***

- **Winter** (May to Mid August) is mild and dry. Average high temperatures ranging from 25-27°C (77-81°F) and average lows between 7-10°C (45-50°F). Not a bad winter day!
- **Summer** (Mid August to end April) is generally hot to very hot and wet during the rainy season (Mid November to April). Average highs between 32-34°C (90-93°F) and average lows between 15-19°C (59-66°F)

For detailed information on the weather including the best times of year to visit, please refer to our website [www.victoriafalls-guide.net/victoria-falls-weather](http://www.victoriafalls-guide.net/victoria-falls-weather).

See the [Calender](#) in this guide which gives more details on temperature, sunrise/sunset and rainfall.

## ***Fuel***

There are a few garages in the town centre – Puma, Zuva and Total ([see town centre map](#)). Between these, you should always be able to get fuel both diesel and petrol. If these fail there are a couple of bulk depots in the industrial sites ([see town centre map](#)). **For the latest news on fuel availability, please check our [Newsflash Page](#).**

## ***Electronics***

### **Electricity**

- 220 - 240 volt – Square 3 pin 13 amp plugs - same as the UK.
- The major hotels will either have a variety of plug sockets to fit international plugs or adaptors at reception.

### ***Cell Phones***

- Roaming service is available provided you have activated it through your home cell service provider. The signal is strong around town but can be intermittent due to power cuts and also overloading of the network. Extreme patience is often required as it can take many attempts to make a single call, although this is much improved nowadays.
- There are 3 main networks – Econet, NetOne and Telecel, in our experience Econet has the broadest and most reliable coverage with Telecel having the least. Sim cards with local numbers are available and are cheap and easy to purchase. This is a good option as it is much cheaper than a roaming service, especially if you are here for a few days.
- Econet has a large modern internet café/shop in Sopers arcade on Park Way next door to Shearwater. TeleCel is around the corner in the Phumula Center. NetOne is at Sawanga Mall along the Bulawayo Road.

## ***Internet and Telephones***

Connecting to the internet these days seems to be one of the most important factors for many people, it certainly is for us due to the nature of our business. You can do this several ways.

- There are several internet cafés in the town centre where you can access the internet.
- Most accommodation establishments have internet access, many with Free Wi-Fi internet in the rooms and public areas for their clients ONLY. Check when you book.
- 3G access is available through the Econet and NetOne network providers. This is reasonably fast internet and is reliable most of the time. Simply buy and register a local sim card from one of the shops (detailed above). Get them to setup your mobile data and buy the airtime from them. Convert the airtime to data bundles as these tend to be cheaper. It is quite an expensive way (approx ZWL 1.30 per MB) but at least you have internet access. The larger the bundle, the cheaper they get.
- The telephone system is reasonably reliable and has international dialling capabilities.
- International access code for Victoria Falls + (Country code 263) (Area code 83) followed by the local number.

<http://www.netone.co.zw>

<http://www.econet.co.zw>

<http://www.telecel.co.zw>

## ***Getting Around***

How do I get from A to B is understandably a very common question. You can see several previous [questions and answers here](#).

### **Getting from Victoria Falls Airport to Victoria Falls Town**

- If travelling by air, the first thing you need to think about is getting from the **Victoria Falls airport** to town (a distance of about 22kms). Airport transfers to any of the hotels in town is relatively cheap (U\$14pp) and easily arranged. [Enquire here](#)
- [Car Rental](#) is available and vehicles may be picked up from the airport. There are car hire offices just outside the airport terminal.
- Taxi - There are taxis at the airport for every flight. Expect to pay about US\$35 to get into town, if you are a good negotiator you can get this down to about \$25. The taxi obviously carries at least 4 passengers so if you are in a group it is a good option.
- If you haven't arranged a transfer, don't panic there are buses at the airport for every flight. You just need to approach one of the drivers or their representatives, however the cost will be the same as if you have pre-arranged it so it makes more sense to organise this before hand. Your driver will then be there to greet you with a welcome sign. No hassles.

### **Getting from Livingstone Airport to Victoria Falls town**

- If you are **flying into Livingstone airport, Zambia but staying in Zimbabwe** a transfer can be easily arranged to the Zimbabwe side. The cost is US\$26.50pp and the bus will take you through the border between the two countries, hassle free. [Enquire here](#)

- You can also catch a taxi, but in-fact you will need to catch 3 taxi's, one from the airport to the Zambian Bridge Border post (+/- 18kms US\$25-\$30) one across the bridge which is no man's land between the border posts (+/- 1.5kms US\$5) and then another taxi from the Zimbabwean border post to your accommodation in Zimbabwe (+/- US\$5 to 10). Prices are for the whole taxi not per person, taxis are plentiful so it's quite easy, just a bit of a hassle getting your luggage in and out each time.

## In and Around Victoria Falls Town

- Walking – Within the town itself most things are within walking distance of each other ([see town map](#)). We have heard people worrying about their safety from criminals while walking around but honestly, it really is very safe. However, it does **get extremely hot during the summer months**, which can make walking exhausting. Street vendors will also approach you to sell their wares. Read our section in this guide on "[Safety](#)" for tips on how to deal with these vendors.

Please be aware of the wild life that you might encounter. Victoria Falls town is surrounded by National Parks and wildlife areas. This is what makes it such a unique and wonderful place, man and animal do co-exist here. Warthogs, monkeys and baboons are plentiful in the town; they generally will not harm you unless you corner them or provoke them. However, the monkeys and baboon have become very skilful at stealing anything that they perceive to be worth eating. So if they are around please be vigilant if you have anything remotely edible on or near you.

Frequently, elephants wander into the town centre and the residential area, it is their feeding ground, we are the ones intruding not them ([see stories here](#)). These are totally **wild elephants** and are potentially extremely dangerous, **do NOT** try to get close to them to take photographs.

Other dangerous game such as lion and buffalo are unlikely to be encountered in the town centre but are seen regularly on the roads leading out of town or to hotels such as Victoria Falls Safari Lodge, Elephant Hills Hotel or the A Zambezi River Lodge. Therefore, DO NOT walk to these Hotels or even wander to attractions like the BIG TREE. Rather take a taxi, tour or transfer. It always amazes me to see tourists fresh from abroad, wandering along these roads oblivious to the potential dangers, as if it were Hyde Park, meanwhile a herd of 300 buffalo could be around the next corner. Incidents do happen!

- Shuttle Service – Some hotels and lodges offer a free shuttle service that take guests to the town centre, the other hotels and the Falls themselves. Ask at your reception.
- Victoria Falls Tours - Another idea is to book a guided tour of the town ([enquire here](#)) this will include trips to the local curio shops and markets as well as other sites of interest.
- Taxis are available and most places you are staying at will call them for you or you will find them in and around town. A fare anywhere is generally \$5 to \$10.
- Bicycles are available for hire in the town centre – Landela Centre ([see map](#)). These cost \$5 for one hour, \$10 for half day or \$20 for a full day. There are no designated bike trails as such.

## Getting to the various activities

- Transport to and from all the Hotels, Lodges and B & B's within Victoria Falls town is provided FREE by all the tour operators for activities booked with them. When you make your activity booking you will be asked which Hotel/Lodge you want to be collected from, then just wait at the reception. The exception to this is the Shearwater High Wire/Bungee jumping off the Victoria Falls Bridge where clients have to make their own way down to the bridge. High wire activities with Wild Horizons include Free transfers.
- For the Lodges out of town, like Elephant camp, Stanley and Livingstone, Ursula's Homestead and Gorges Lodge an additional charge will be levied by the tour operator for

collection for an activity from the hotels. However, these establishments themselves normally provide between 1 and 3 Free transfers per day into town, so just a little planning is necessary.

**N.B.** If you have made your activity bookings through us, on the vouchers and itinerary we provide will be full details of your collection and drop off - including times.

## **Shopping**

This is a small town focused primarily as one would expect, on tourists. So there is an array of curios shops, arts and crafts, galleries and little boutiques and tasty restaurants. You will not find any Multi National Chain stores here.

There are plenty of hotels, and in each of these hotels there is normally a couple of curio shops. These shops are invariably quite pricey and you are not able to do any bargaining. So it's a good idea to have a stroll around the town to see what else is on offer.

Please refer to our [Map of the town centre](#) which shows you the various shopping areas. The main shopping centres are Elephants Walk, Landela Centre, Phumula Centre and Sawanga Mall. Each one of these centres is relatively small but has a selection of curio shops, boutiques, café s, restaurants and service providers.

Very close to [Elephants Walk Centre](#) is the large outdoor curio market, where you will be stunned by the sheer volume of wood carvings, stone sculptures and other forms of exceptionally good art from some very talented artists. ([see here](#))

A lot of people ask "**How much do curios cost?**" quite a difficult question to answer for obvious reasons, but to give you an indication; a copper bangle will cost \$1 to \$2 - a small carving of say a hippo will cost between \$5 and \$10, and a good quality hand sized carving will cost between \$20 and \$50. Prices then range into several thousand dollars dependant on the type of wood or stone and the artists renown. Street and market vendors are always open to bargaining and will start at about 4 times their final price. This however is their living and they are highly skilled at it. Our advice is to pay what you think is fair and what you think the item is worth. Don't rip them off but don't let yourself be ripped off as well.

Please be very careful when you buy curios and ask for them to be shipped home. We have reports about a certain shop in town which is taking payment and promising to ship items, which then never arrive. Read this post on our website <http://www.victoriafalls-guide.net/southern-africa-gallery.html>. Rather use the services of DHL or Fedex.

At the entrance gate to the actual Victoria Falls, there are a few curio stalls outside the gate, selling local crafts, then once through the gate there is a well stocked shop selling a variety of items relating to the Falls area including a range of clothing and accessories.

There are three large well stocked supermarkets (OK Supermarket, OK Mart and Pick N Pay) ([see map](#)). Although these are probably not up to international standards, you will certainly be able to get most things you require. These stores normally close at 8pm daily. In the low density area where some of the lodges are located, there is a "7 to 11" store with your basic grocery needs. Meat is best bought from specialist butcheries located in the industrial area, and at Pumula Centre in the centre of town.

The tour operators like Shearwater and Wild Horizons also have a selection of T-shirts and other merchandise related to the various activities you can do like bungee jumping or rafting. They also sell DVD's and photographs of your trip. These are available at their offices in the town centre.

**Here are details of a few unusual shops that stand out and we think are worthwhile visiting.**

**The Larry Norton Art Gallery** - Located in Victoria Falls Hotel (follow the signs boards). [Larry Norton](#) is a world renowned Wildlife artist who now lives in Victoria Falls. Several of his paintings are of Victoria Falls and are displayed in the foyer of the Victoria Falls Hotel. They also sell

prints and giclees, which make great gifts or mementos of your holiday. His art is outstanding and the gallery is well worth a visit.

**Savannah Wood** - Located in Industrial sites make beautiful furniture hand crafted from Rhodesian teak and also old railway sleepers. This company is reputable and will ship worldwide

**Stone Dynamics Gallery** - Situated in the gardens of Victoria Falls Hotel have a wide selection of some the best Stone carvings available. This company is reputable and will ship worldwide.

**Prime Art Gallery** – Situated in the Elephants Walk shopping centre ([see map](#)), this gallery has a fine selection of Stone carvings and paintings from some of the most renowned Zimbabwe artists. This company is reputable and will ship worldwide.

**Victoria Falls Guide Online Gift Shop** - We have created some unique gifts which include T-shirts, sweaters, caps, mugs, mouse pads, bags and posters. You can even create your own. These can all be ordered online and can be shipped worldwide. See them here <http://www.zazzle.com/victoriafallsguide/gifts>

## ***Eating Out***

Since there are so many hotels and lodges in Victoria Falls there are many restaurants to choose from. If you are staying for more than a couple of days you might want to venture further afield than your own hotels restaurants. There are also a few other restaurants dotted around town offering a variety of different foods. More details and reviews can be seen on our website [Victoria Falls Restaurants](#).

Here is a full list:

### **Light meals/ café style**

River Brewing Co – Elephant's Walk Mall – cell: 0773 799 896

Shoestrings Café and Take away – Shoestrings Backpackers – 2840167

In-da-belly Restaurant – Victoria Falls Rest Camp – 2842749

Bridge café – Victoria Falls Bridge - +260 (213) 324231 ([Full details incl menu, specials etc](#))

Rainforest Restaurant – Victoria Falls entrance gate

Shearwater Café – Livingstone Way (temporarily closed)

Lookout Café – The Wild Horizons high wire

### **A la Carte menu – Family restaurants**

Kasibi Restaurant – Elephant Hills Hotel – 2844793-9 / 2844503-5

Makuwa-kuwa Restaurant – Victoria Falls Safari Lodge – 2843202 -11

Mama Africa Restaurant – Landela Centre – 2841725 / cell: 0772 380 430

Nam Took Thai Restaurant – Elephant's Walk Mall – 2846709

3 Monkeys Restaurant – Livingstone Way - 2847326

### **A la Carte Menu – Formal dining**

Palm Restaurant – Ilala Lodge - 2844737-9 / 2844223

The Livingstone Room – Victoria Falls Hotel - 2844490 / 2844593 / 2844883

### **Buffet – Family restaurant**

Amulonga Restaurant – A Zambezi River Lodge – 2844561-3

Jungle Junction – Victoria Falls Hotel – 2844490 / 2844593 / 2844883

Samukele Restaurant – Elephant Hills Hotel - 2844793-9 / 2844503-5

Simujinga Restaurant - Rainbow Hotel – 2844585 / 2845871-4

The Boma Restaurant - Victoria Falls Safari Lodge – 2843202 / 2843211

### **Take aways**

Chicken Inn / Pizza Inn / Creamy Inn – Food court or take away – Town centre – Park Way

Haefeli - Swiss bakery / coffee shop – Food Court or take away - Town Centre - Park Way

Little Monkey – Breakfast, lunch, snacks, sushi – Take away – Town Centre – Park Way

Nandos Chicken– Eat in or take away - Sawanga Mall – Mosi oa Tunya Way

Chicken Hut – Eat in or take away – Sawanga Mall – Mosi oa Tunya Way



## Our Top 5 Dinner Choices

- Zambezi Explorer – This magnificent 3 tier boat docks on the banks of the Zambezi river after completing its sunset cruise. Then from 7pm onwards it servers platters and main courses on the signature deck under the stars. This is a little known experience and one that truly should not be missed, especially on moonlit evenings. Requires a taxi or transfer
- Jungle Junction – Superb buffet dinner at the Victoria Falls Hotel. Huge selection of mouthwatering dishes. Entertainment from local traditional dancers.
- Makuwa-Kuwa Restaurant - Award winning dining in Victoria Falls Safari Lodge over looking their floodlit waterhole.
- Palm Restaurant – Ilala Lodge well known for its delicious food . A la carte menu which includes some local dishes – piano player and rumblings from the mighty Victoria Falls.
- Shearwater Café (temporarily closed) - Central location in town centre on a busy corner serving a delicious dinner menu for the whole family.

## Our Top 5 Lunch Choices

- Rainforest Restaurant – Situated just inside the entrance gates to the Victoria Falls this will be a welcomed stop after having wandered around the Victoria Falls for a couple of hours taking in the spectacle of this natural wonder of the world. Excellent food.
- Lookout Café - Outstanding location overlooking the dramatic gorges and Zambezi river below. This is where Wild horizons conduct their high wire activities – tasty food at a very reasonable price – very good value. Requires a short walk to get to from either the Victoria Falls entrance gate, Kingdom Hotel or Victoria Falls Hotel.
- Shearwater Café (temporarily closed) – Central location in town centre on a busy corner serving a really tasty light food menu.
- Ellie Cafe – Elephants Walk shopping centre. What used to be Africa Café, then Dean's, it is a nice spot for an unforgettable dining experience. They serve breakfast, lunch drinks and coffee, plus you can also do some peaceful curio shopping.
- Bridge café – overlooking the Victoria Falls Bridge enjoy a tasty burger and salad menu whilst watching the bungee jump and hire wire activities take place. Cool spot, good food and great view.

## Entertainment Night Spots

All the hotels and lodges have their own bars, some have their own entertainment laid on. Apart from that there is not a huge amount of night life activity for those of you wanting to have a good party, but listed below are the few local places one can go for a bit of fun.

**Shoestrings** - located close to the town centre ([see map](#)) is a vibrant backpackers lodge, licensed till midnight. This is by far the most popular place for the mostly young or young at heart travellers to go. There is a bar, casual restaurant, pool table and satellite TV. Live entertainment is often available from drummers and musicians to fire jugglers. If you have any special talents they will encourage you to perform. After the bar closes at midnight musicians often gather to jam the night away. Very laid back and good fun.

**Boat Club** – Located close to the Zambezi National Park right on the banks of the Zambezi River approx 6kms from the town centre. This is private club for the residents of Victoria Falls. If you happen to meet and get friendly with someone living in the Falls and then get invited to the Boat Club, it's well worth going. You will have an excellent evening and get a chance to mingle with the residents who are friendly vibrant community with some legendary characters. Good burgers and the cheapest drinks in town.

**Lorries B & B** – Located in the residential part of Victoria Falls ([see map](#)). This is small friendly pub, frequented by many of the characterful residents of Victoria Falls. Lorrie, Clive and George serve behind the bar and know everyone and everything in this interesting little town.

**In-da-belly** – Located at the Victoria Falls Rest Camp ([see map](#)). This is not such a lively scene but is a great place to go if you don't want to miss your favourite sporting event on TV while you are away. Good burgers and cheap drinks.

# Victoria Falls Calendar

Month	Seasonal Shift	What's happening	Sunrise /Sunset	Ave Temp C	River Level Rain
<b>Jan</b>	Height of rainy season; hot and humid with thunderstorms and torrential downpours; Can get several days of continuous rain; Victoria Falls becomes more intense with increased river flow. White water rafting will normally change to the high water run.	Thick vegetation growth; animals disperse widely across the veld, therefore not the best time for game viewing; rainforest very damp; most rainforest flowers in bloom; grass at its most nutritious; lots of bird activity as many nestlings are raised.	05h53 18h58	Min 18 C  Max 30 C	Medium to Low  <b>Ave Days Rain</b> 14
<b>Feb</b>	Hot days and warm nights, plenty of rain; "the smoke that thunders" (spray from the falls) rises high in the sky; most of the rainforest is under constant shower; river level rises significantly. High water white water rafting run.	Dramatic bush growth because of the rains: foliage dense; African ebony trees come into fruit; Waterbuck breeding season; many nursery herds evident in Zambezi national park.	06h10 18h51	Min 18 C  Max 29 C	High Water  <b>Ave Days Rain</b> 10
<b>March</b>	Hot days and warm nights; rainy season coming to an end but river levels very high and Falls are pumping furiously. Rafting often closes due to high water levels.	Migrant birds start to depart; Kudu and buffalo breeding peak; grasslands in full seed; Baobab trees start to bear fruit	06h19 18h31	Min 17 C  Max 30 C	High Water peak  <b>Ave Days Rain</b> 7
<b>April</b>	End of rainy season, but the water from the catchment area upstream in Zambia has arrived; Victoria Falls at its highest flow with an average of 500 million litres of water per minute. Highest ever recorded was 700 million litres in 1958.	Most animals in peak condition at the end of the rainy season, due to the volume of food available; impala, wildebeest and warthog rutting season; final departure of migrant birds	06h26 18h07	Min 14 C  Max 29 C	High Water Peak  <b>Ave Days Rain</b> 2
<b>May</b>	Beginning of Autumn; days are warm to hot with a chill coming into the evening air; Zambezi flowing strongly despite advent of the dry season	Deciduous trees begin to lose their leaves; best month for fishing in the Zambezi; white backed vulture breeding season; wild dogs breed.	06h35 17h51	Min 10 C  Max 27 C	High Water  <b>Ave Days Rain</b> 1
<b>June</b>	Autumn gives way to winter; warm to hot days, dry weather, chilly at night; Zambezi river levels drops. The Falls are still very full with lots of spray.	Raptor courtship displays more evident; game starts to become concentrated near water as the grass cover recedes	06h45 17h49	Min 6 C  Max 25 C	High Water  <b>Ave Days Rain</b> 0

Month	Seasonal Shift	What's happening	Sunrise /Sunset	Ave Temp C	River Level Rain
<b>July</b>	Height of dry season coincides with mid winter: days on the whole are still warm, but you can get a cold spell creeping in for a few days; nights are very chilly; definitely bring something warm; no rain. Zambezi level is dropping, and Falls now have less spray.	Elephants migrate to winter pastures; raptor breeding season; mopane leaves begin taking on their distinctive winter hue of burnt orange.	06h48 17h57	Min 6 C Max 25 C	High to Mid Water  Ave Days Rain 0
<b>Aug</b>	Dry, warm days and cool nights; sometimes windy, signalling a shift in the seasons; Eastern cataract in Zambia often becomes exposed due to low water levels of the Zambezi	Increase in Elephant population on Zambian side of river, which is the winter feeding ground for elephants from northern Zimbabwe and Botswana.	06h36 18h06	Min 8 C Max 28 C	Mid to Low Water  Ave Days Rain 0
<b>Sept</b>	Spring brings noticeable increase in temperatures; hot days, nights becoming warmer; excellent white water rafting as the water levels drop and rapids become exposed. Great time to see the Falls.	First migrant birds arrive from Europe and elsewhere in Africa; weavers begin breeding; knob thorn acacia trees begin flowering indicating a change in season.	06h12 18h12	Min 13 C Max 32 C	Mid to Low Water  Ave Days Rain 1
<b>Oct</b>	Hottest month of the year, often known as suicide month because it is so hot; building up towards the start of the rainy season, with the occasional storm taking the edge off the heat; eastern cataract usually dry. White water rafting still excellent.	Breeding plumage appears in certain birds and heightened courtship displays; marulas in flower; long tail cassias display beautiful yellow flowers; new mopane leaf growth.	05h48 18h17	Min 17 C Max 33 C	Low Water  Ave Days Rain 4
<b>Nov</b>	Usually the start of the rainy season although rains may be late or early; days are very hot and nights are warm; Victoria Falls is at its lowest ahead of the upstream rainy season. White water rafting still excellent	Baobab trees in flower; mopane trees exhibit new growth; blood lilies in flower; white gardenia flowers are out; elephants begin to disperse back to Zimbabwe and Chobe; impala calving season; more migrant birds arrive; dramatic increase in insect activity.	05h33 18h30	Min 18 C Max 32 C	Low Water  Ave Days Rain 8
<b>Dec</b>	Hot and humid as the rainy season works towards its peak; cooler than October because of cloud cover; Can get several days of continuous rain; Falls are still quite low but levels are starting to rise with rains from the localised catchment area. Eastern cataract still exposed. White water rafting still excellent.	The Lwindii ancestral worship ceremony at the Falls; dragonflies at their most active in the rainforest; flame lily and other rainforest flowers in bloom; wildebeest breeding season	05h36 18h48	Min 18 C Max 30 C	Low Water  Ave Days Rain 13

## Accommodation

(Zimbabwean Side Only)

There is a wide variety of accommodation in Victoria Falls (Zimbabwe) to suit most budgets. We have made up this quick reference table below which lists most of your options. We hope you find it useful, when making your decision on where to stay.

Don't forget to have a look at the [Accommodation Page](#) on our website for much more detail. For each establishment we also have a dedicated webpage, which you can see by clicking on the name of the hotel/lodge in the left hand column in tables below.

You can read or write reviews on any of the accommodation by [clicking here](#)

A map of Victoria Falls detailing the locations of hotels and lodges can be found [here](#).

Price given below are standard **2021 Prices**. However, some **hotels do have special offers**. Please contact us via this [enquiry form](#) for the latest specials available or if you would like us to make a hotel reservation for you.

### Hotels and Lodges

Hotel / Lodge	Star Rating	Approx US\$ per person per night/sharing	Distance to Vic Falls entrance	Accommodation in Victoria Falls Brief Description
<a href="#">N1 Hotel &amp; Campsite</a>	Average	TBA	1kms	Close to the town centre and activities; Just over 1 kilometre from Victoria Falls; Clean and comfortable with a few accommodation options; Suitable for singles, couples, friends on a budget and campers
<a href="#">Cresta Sprayview Hotel</a>	2	Low Season Std Double \$133 Exec Suite \$160  High Season Std Double \$165 Exec Suite \$198	2kms	Refurbished in 2013 this hotel has upgraded itself to "middle of the range" family accommodation. Now owned and managed by the Cresta group. Motel Style - ideal for self drive. In the same range as the Rainbow Hotel but now probably a slightly better standard.
<a href="#">Rainbow Hotel</a>	3	Std Double \$161 Deluxe \$210	1.5kms	Affordable family accommodation, situated close to town and only 1.5kms from the Falls entrance. Great pool and bar
<a href="#">Elephant Hills Hotel</a>	4	Std Double \$137 Exec Double \$212 Delux Double \$243	4kms	Magnificent view of Zambezi river and spray of the Falls; own golf course, only one in town; casino on site; lovely pool area; conference facilities. Very well priced for such a posh hotel.
<a href="#">Kingdom Hotel</a>	3	Std Double \$137 Suite Double \$174	<1km	5 minutes walk from Vic Falls entrance; great family hotel; casino on site; food court; great pool area; amazing design.
<a href="#">A Zambezi Hotel</a>	4	River Std \$218 Back Std \$195	5.5kms	Only Hotel to be situated on the banks of the Zambezi River; close to Zambezi national park; out of town feel. Completely refurbished 2011
<a href="#">Ilala Lodge</a>	4	Std Double \$234 Std Suite \$334 Delux Double \$271 Exec Suite \$387	<1km	5 minute walk to Vic Falls entrance; small personalised upmarket hotel; exceptional service; bedrooms all open onto a private balcony or lawn. Expensive but exclusive and you pay for high quality.
<a href="#">Palm River Hotel</a>	4	Del Room \$271 Exec Suite \$387	5km	Only 5 minutes away from the city centre; Luxury rooms and bathrooms are elegantly designed, making for a very comfortable stay; Rooms are well appointed with views of the Zambezi River; Complimentary shuttle taking guests to and from town; Privately owned

<a href="#">Victoria Falls Hotel</a>	5	Low Season Classic Double \$287 Premium Double \$575  High Season Classic Double \$313 Premium Double \$622	1km	Colonial old hotel steeped in history; 10 minute walk to the Vic Falls entrance; only hotel with view of gorges and famous bridge; famous high tea on the Stanley terrace.
<a href="#">Victoria Falls Safari Lodge</a>	4	Green Season Standard Double \$224 Waterhole Facing Double \$255  High Season Standard Double \$245 Waterhole Facing Double \$278	5kms	Stunning views over the National park and game viewing waterhole; Lovely thatched design - rooms have ethnic decor and private balconies which overlook the waterhole; exceptional service. Expensive but this is probably the most popular hotel in Vic falls.
<a href="#">Victoria Falls Safari Club</a>	5	Low Season Double/Single \$298 High Season Double \$332 Single \$415	5kms	Stunning views over the National park and game viewing waterhole; new lodge with the highest standards of luxury and personal service; private and exclusive location on the Victoria Falls Safari Lodge grounds with access to all other resort facilities and services. Modern yet ethnic decor and design. Expensive for what you get.
<a href="#">Victoria Falls Safari Suites</a>	4	Per Lodge  Green Season: 2 b/room \$750, 3 b/room \$995  High Season: 2 b/room \$825, 3 b/room \$1095	4.6km	Lovely setting overlooking the national park; Finished and furnished to a luxury specification; ideal for families and small groups who enjoy staying together in one unit rather than in separate hotel rooms; lovely open plan living area with private balconies to socialise and relax; no cooking facilities but mini kitchen counter with preparation sink and fridge; private and exclusive location on the Victoria Falls Safari Lodge grounds with access to all other resort facilities and services.

## Bed and Breakfast

<b>Bed and Breakfast</b>	<b>Quality</b>	<b>Approx US\$ per person per night/sharing</b>	<b>Distance to Vic Falls entrance</b>	<b>Accommodation in Victoria Falls Brief Description</b>
<a href="#">Lorries B&amp;B</a>	Average	Low Season Double \$73 Triple \$60  High Season Double \$76 Triple \$63	3kms	Good value; managed and run by very friendly and helpful owners; friendly family atmosphere; lively pub and a favourite spot for Vic falls residents.
<a href="#">Amadeus Garden Guest House</a>	Good	Single \$158 Double/Triple \$107	3kms	Good quality accommodation: German speaking staff; very helpful managers; WiFi connection; nice pool and bar area.
<a href="#">Nguni Lodge</a>	Good	Standard Double \$80 Deluxe Double \$105	3.5kms	Located in a quiet part of town; Owner run; Small in size - just 14 rooms; Clean, quality establishment; Price is good
<a href="#">Livingstone Lodge</a>	Good	Standard \$35 Deluxe \$55	4.5kms	Eco-friendly, quiet and peaceful, great for families, self-catering
<a href="#">Bayete Lodge</a>	Good	Green Season \$98 High Season \$115	3.6kms	Quiet and comfortable; great for families, groups and special occasions; good value; friendly owners
<a href="#">Pamusha Lodge</a>	Average	Low Season Double \$60	3.6kms	Small and personal guest lodge; New build so is modern and refreshing; Rooms and bathrooms are

		Single \$100 High Season Double \$75 Single \$120		tastefully designed and decorated, making for a very comfortable stay; Great indoor and outdoor dining; Close to town centre and activities - only 2.5kms from the Victoria Falls entrance; Eco-friendly lodge; Super friendly and helpful staff; Great for groups and couples, as well as business visitors
<a href="#">Phezulu Lodge</a>	Good	Low Season Double \$98 Single \$140  High Season Double \$112 Single \$150	3.5km	In the quiet part of town; Just 3.5kms from Victoria Falls and other activities; Clean and comfortable; Suitable for couples and smaller groups; Family friendly
<a href="#">Pioneers Guest Lodge</a>	Good	Double \$110 Single \$157	3km	Located in the heart of the quiet residential area; Close to town centre and activities - only 3kms from the Victoria Falls entrance; Owner-run, personalised service; Great for all types of visitors
<a href="#">Nkosi Guest Lodge</a>	Good	Double \$130 Single \$170	3.5km	Located in a quiet park of town; Elegant, clean and spacious; Family-friendly; Owner-run; Just 3.5kms from the Victoria Falls
<a href="#">Explorers Village</a>	Good	Double \$75 Single \$95	1.2kms	Very central location, within minutes' walk of most attractions in town; Clean, modern and comfortable; Reasonably priced chalets; Social and friendly atmosphere; Good quality restaurant
<a href="#">Batonka Guest Lodge</a>	Good	B&B \$174 Half Board \$202	2.5kms	Close to town centre and activities; In a nice quiet part of town; Eco-friendly lodge; Very elegant design; Great for groups and couples as well as business visitors
<a href="#">Shongwe Lookout</a>	Good	June to November Studio \$88 Deluxe \$96  December Studio \$110 Deluxe \$120	3kms	Affordable bed and breakfast rates; Beautiful facilities for a relaxing stay; Located in the quiet part of town; Just 3kms from the Victoria Falls; Unique lookout tower offering awesome views
<a href="#">528 Victoria Falls</a>	Good	Low Season Double \$140 Single \$185  High Season Double \$150 Single \$195	2.5kms	Only 7 rooms, therefore small and personal - yet still a proper lodge; Good value for money; Owner run; Clean and Fresh; Great decor and design; Roof-Top honesty bar, with lovely views; Lush gardens and swimming Pool; Whole house can be rented for groups at a discounted rate

### Out of Town Safari Lodges

Safari Lodges	Quality	Approx US\$ per person per night/sharing	Distance to Vic Falls entrance	Accommodation in Victoria Falls Brief Description
<a href="#">Imbabala Safari Lodge</a>	Luxury	Low Season \$344 High Season \$383	80kms	Situated right on the Zambezi river; 4000 acre private concession; 11 kms of Zambezi river frontage; excellent game viewing and outstanding birdlife; good fishing; private camp; personal service; excellent staff: <b>**Good value**</b> .
<a href="#">Stanley and Livingstone</a>	Luxury	Bed & Breakfast  Low Season Double/Single - \$247 High Season Double \$475 Single \$713	15kms	Small luxury hotel; situated in <a href="#">Victoria falls private game reserve</a> yet still close to town; overlooks private waterhole; each suite has unique décor its own lounge and Victorian bathroom. Exclusive and Upmarket; Includes one game viewing activity per day
<a href="#">Ursula's Homestead</a>	Good	Bed & Breakfast  Low Season Double /Single \$114	12kms	Situated on the <a href="#">Victoria Falls private game reserve</a> ; ideal self drive accommodation; whole camp accommodates max 8 people; very nice setting with plenty of game; close enough to town to enjoy activities and shuttle service is available

		High Season Double \$210 Single \$315		
<a href="#">Old Drift Lodge</a>	Luxury	Fully Inclusive  Low Season Double/Single \$470  High Season Double \$586 Single \$880	10kms	Luxury accommodation on the banks of the Zambezi River, and on a private concession in the Zambezi national park; Fully inclusive game viewing activities (Morning and evening game drives; Morning and afternoon boat cruises; Walking safaris), plus also a Guided tour of Victoria Falls; Easy access to Vic Falls town yet far from the hustle and bustle; Highly recommended
<a href="#">Elephant Camp</a>	Luxury	Fully Inclusive  Low Season Double/Single \$470  High Season Double \$586 Single \$880	10kms	Built in 2011 - luxury accommodation; private wildlife concession with stunning views of the Zambezi gorges and Victoria Falls rising spray; personal service; interaction with Wild Horizon's elephant on this concession; courtesy transfers into town.
<a href="#">Matetsi River Lodge</a>	Luxury	Low Season \$850 High Season \$1200	45kms	Easy access and close proximity to Victoria Falls; Beautiful position right on the Zambezi River; Enormous private game concession (only accessible to Matetsi River lodge guests); Exceptional amenities in central areas and the rooms; Top quality game viewing vehicles; Land and water based activities.
<a href="#">Victoria Falls River Lodge</a>	Luxury	River Lodge Low Season \$560 High Season \$688  Island Lodge Low Season \$924 High Season \$1016	14kms	Exclusive Safari Camp, situated right on the boundary of the <a href="#">Hwange National Park</a> , in its own private concession. Phenomenal game viewing and outstanding bird life in a quality camp. A Real Africa Experience!!
<a href="#">The Hide (Hwange)</a>	Luxury	Green \$390 Mid \$495 High \$695	220kms	Exclusive Safari Camp, situated right on the boundary of the <a href="#">Hwange National Park</a> , in its own private concession. Phenomenal game viewing and outstanding bird life in a quality camp. A Real Africa Experience!!
<a href="#">Bomani Tented Lodge (Hwange)</a>	Luxury	Bungalow \$475 SaddleBill \$490 Spurwing \$490	190kms	Bomani Tented Lodge is situated on a 5000 acre private wildlife reserve within the Ngamo Forest Area on the remote and unspoilt south eastern boundary of the Hwange National Park. There are no fences simply a railway line that separates the private reserve from the Hwange National Park, therefore game roams freely between the two. Game drives and walks are conducted on both the private reserve and within the National park. We highly recommend Bomani Tented Lodge for a great African Safari, knowledgeable game guides, a wonderful camp location and a bit of community awareness as well. They have sister lodges in Victoria Falls.
<a href="#">Elephants Eye (Hwange)</a>	Luxury	Green Season \$350  Mid Season \$485  High Season \$610	175kms	Elephants Eye is a beautiful, intimate lodge situated in its own 6000 acre private concession just outside the Hwange National Park, only 13km from the park entrance. It is one of the easiest lodges to access being located only 175km from the Victoria Falls on good tar road.

### **Self Catering**

Self catering units	Quality	Approx US\$ per lodge per night	Distance to Vic Falls entrance	Accommodation in Victoria Falls Brief Description
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<a href="#">Zambezi National Parks</a>	Average	Rates not available	6kms	Close to <a href="#">Zambezi National park</a> ; fantastic setting right on the river; abundant bird and wildlife around cottages. Owned and managed by Zimbabwe national parks.
<a href="#">Victoria Falls Rest Camp</a>	Average/ Good	Chalet \$92 - sleeps 4 Lodge \$161 - sleeps 4	1km	Very central location; good value; clean and functional, lovely large grounds, good value restaurant and lovely pool area. Variety of different unit sizes. Some units refurbished 2010 and 2011
<a href="#">Lokuthula Lodges</a>	Very Good	Low Season 2 Bed \$185 (sleeps 6) 3 Bed \$330 (Sleeps 8)  High Season 2 Bed \$250 (sleeps 6) 3 Bed \$435 (Sleeps 8)	6kms	Gold Crown Timeshare Status; Fantastic setting; good quality self catering family accommodation; For a group much cheaper than even a cheap hotel; good restaurant and lovely pool area; 6 & 8 sleeper fully equipped lodges.
<a href="#">Homestay Properties</a>	Good	\$300 to \$500		Good value; private; quiet and peaceful atmosphere; great for families or close group of friends.

## Camping and Backpackers

Camping and Backpackers	Quality	Approx US\$ per person per night/sharing	Distance to Vic Falls entrance	Accommodation in Victoria Falls Brief Description
<a href="#">Shoestrings Backpackers Lodge</a>	Good for the price	Double \$30 Dorms \$15 Camping \$8	1km	Very central location; best nightlife in Vic Falls, this place rocks; lots of musicians, drummers etc; ideal for young at heart, budget travellers who want to meet the locals and rave; small camping area only.
<a href="#">Victoria Falls Rest Camp</a>	Good for the price	Camping \$11 Dorms \$20 Luxury Tent \$58	1km	Very central location; good value; big clean ablution blocks; well maintained lovely large grounds; good value restaurant and lovely pool area. Can't go wrong.
<a href="#">N1 Hotel &amp; Campsite</a>	Average	TBA	1kms	Close to the town centre, just over 1km from the Victoria Falls entrance; Clean with a few accommodation options; Suitable for singles, couples, friends on a budget and campers

## Activities

Some people quite understandably think they would rather wait till they get to Victoria Falls before deciding what to do, they possibly feel that they will get a better understanding of what is available once their feet are on the ground.

However if you can try to figure out what you want to do before leaving home, it's best to pre-book and pay online before you go, this has some distinct advantages:-

- It will save you enormous time and frustration. Once you are at the Falls you will find that there are innumerable booking agents all scrambling for your booking. You will be approached on the street by vendors asking you to come to their booking office. This is where it gets confusing because you don't know who operates what, who you are going with or comparative prices. You really don't want to be spending your valuable holiday time planning your itinerary or traipsing around the various booking agencies trying to get the best deal. When you can do the research from the comfort of your own home.
- Many people think it will be cheaper when you get there. It's NOT, the operators have set prices and packages and they just don't discount to walk-in customers. Most online agents offer exactly the same prices as agents/operators in Victoria Falls itself. In some



cases even cheaper. Generally prices are pretty consistent across all the operators, on the whole they do not undercut each other.

- Some activities do get fully booked. So if you leave it to the last moment you might NOT be able to get onto your chosen activity at your preferred time or day.
- Some activities and transfers will only run with a minimum of 2 or 4 people. Therefore if you arrive on the day hoping to book, you might be disappointed that they can't run the trip for you. By booking in advance this problem is often alleviated.
- If you are planning on doing several activities your online agent **should** also be able to advise you on the best package price for combined activities which can save you a lot of money.
- It saves you having to worry about payment when you are there. Not all companies accept credit cards so you either have to draw cash from the ATM or take money with you, it's much **easier and cheaper** to pay before you go and all you have to do is carry the vouchers.



**Tip 1:** Booking several activities together in a package will save you considerable money. See [package prices](#)



**Tip 2:** Activities in Zambia are quite a lot more expensive than doing the same activity in Zimbabwe.



**Tip 3:** Pre-book your activities, by doing so you will not be disappointed with activities being full or time slots not available. It can take us days sometimes to get an itinerary exactly right for someone, you don't want to be wasting your holiday doing this, you want to be relaxing knowing that everything is organised.



**Tip 4:** Find an online agent who knows **Vic Falls well** and who will offer you activities from **ALL the operators**, so they don't just sell their product but rather make sure that you get what's best for you.



**Tip 5:** Get your online agent to organize an itinerary for you, Thereby maximizing your time. With their local knowledge of each activity they can package it together nicely so you are not rushed off your feet trying to get from one activity to the next.



**Tip 6: Very important** – on many of the morning activities the pick up time is before breakfast is served at your hotel. So it is advisable to tell your hotel the night before that you will be leaving early and they will do a packed breakfast for you. Some activities will include a breakfast or light snacks a little later, some nothing at all (like rafting).

Listed below are all the major activities which are available from the various tour companies that we are **confident to recommend**. Please refer to the separate **"Activities Fact File"** included in your download files for in-depth information on each activity. There is so much on offer and what appears to be so many companies that it really can get quite confusing.

So in order to simplify it for you we have broken these down into the four sections so you can clearly see what's on offer.

- 1) **Adrenaline and Adventure.**
- 2) **Wildlife and Safari.**
- 3) **Guided and Scenic Tours.**
- 4) **Cultural Activities.**
- 5) **Specialised Safaris.**

It goes without saying that the main activity here is to see and experience The Victoria Falls. This Waterfall is awe inspiring and is justifiably considered a Natural Wonder of the World. Words are inadequate to describe its beauty.

Clicking on the [blue links](#) below will take you through to our website for more details. If you would like our help with an itinerary or to pre-book any activity simply go to this web page [Booking/Enquiry Form](#).

Once you have made your booking, you will be issued with a voucher. Your tour operator will pick you up from your Hotel or Lodge at the specified time for your booking. Simply wait at the reception with vouchers in hand and you will be collected and then returned at the end of your trip.

### **Prices shown are valid for 2021**

All activities include collection and drop off from your hotel in Victoria Falls unless otherwise stated.

### **Adrenaline and Adventure Activities**

[Low Water White Water Rafting](#) – US\$120 per person + US\$10 National Parks fee. This grade 5 river is regarded as the best one day rafting trip in the world. Low Water rafting covers rapids #1 to #19 (07h00 to 14h30).

[High Water White Water Rafting](#) - US\$120 per person + US\$10 National Parks fee. Although this is a grade 5 river, during the high water season the Zambezi River is not as exciting as it is in the Low water season. The trip is shorter, missing out some of the good rapids and the rapids on the whole are not as big. High Water rafting covers rapids #11 to #24 (07h00 to 14h30).

### **Victoria Falls Bridge High Wire**

[Bungee Jump](#) – US\$160 per person - Daily from 09h00 to 17h00 - Jump 111 meters off the Vic Falls Bridge - total adrenalin rush. Described as one of the most spectacular bungee jumps in the world. I haven't personally done this but my son says it is awesome! Does Not include transfers.

[Bridge Swing](#) – US\$160 or tandem US\$250 – You are harnessed in a seated position (unlike bungee where you are attached at the ankles) and jump off a platform, free falling approx 70 m before the rope becomes taught swinging you in a long pendulum arc. Does Not include transfers.

[Bridge Slide](#) - US\$45 or tandem US\$65 – Your harness is attached by pulley to a cable spanning the gorge. Run and jump, then fly across the gorge, 125m above the valley floor. Much more sedate than bungee or the gorge swing but still very exhilarating. Does not include transfers.

**Big Air Experience** - A combo of Bridge Swing, Bridge Slide and Bungee Jump - \$220 (save \$145)

**Gruesome Twosome** - Rafting & Bungee Combo \$260 (save \$20)

### **Wild horizons High Wire**

*\*A US\$3 Park fee will be added to your highwire booking.*

[Gorge Swing](#) – US\$100 or tandem US\$150 + US\$3 park fees – You are harnessed in a seated position (unlike bungee where you are attached at the ankles) and jump off a platform, free falling approx 70 m before the rope becomes taught swinging you in a long pendulum arc.

[Flying Fox](#) - US\$50 per person + US\$3 park fees – Your harness is attached by pulley to a cable spanning the gorge. Run and jump, then fly across the gorge, 125m above the valley floor. Much more sedate than bungee or the gorge swing but still very exhilarating.

[Zip Line](#) – US\$80 or tandem US\$121 + US\$3 park fees - You are harnessed in a seated position, attached to a pulley and cable above you. The cable is set across the gorge at a very steep angle, so as you let go you accelerate at a tremendous speed, reaching 160 km/h and travelling 425m across the gorge. It's wicked!

[Canopy Tours](#) – US\$61 per person + US\$3 park fees - The network of slides, trails and rope bridge walkways within the canopy of the hardwood forest of the [Zambezi gorges](#) offers amazing views of the turbulent rapids, the [Victoria Falls Bridge](#) and spray of the Falls. This unique experience is suitable for adventure seekers of all ages including families and groups. Moonlight canopy tours are available. [Contact us](#) to learn more about them.

**Half Day High Wire** – A combo of Gorge swing, Flying fox and Zip line – US\$155 (save \$75) + US\$3 park fees

**Highwire & Canopy Tour Pass** – Gorge swing, Zipline, Flying fox and Canopy tour – US\$ 195 (save \$96) + US\$3 park fees

[Livingstone Island Tour and Devil Swim](#) – US\$ 110 per person – 07h30, 09h00, 10hh30/ Lunch Trip 12h30 – US\$ 175 per person / High Tea Trip 15h30 – US\$ 150 per person (High season surcharge applies July to November) – This activity operates on the Zambian side of the Victoria Falls and is very seasonal (for obvious safety reasons) according to the water levels of the Zambezi River, which fluctuate dramatically from year to year.

The activity is broken into two sections. The Livingstone Island tour (which includes a meal or high tea) and a swim in one of the pools.

The Livingstone island tour normally opens in June and closes late March.

The Angel's Pool opens mid to late July, and then again in January till March, this is also on the edge and a similar experience as the Devils Pool.

The Devils Pool opens mid to late August and closes late December/early January. Please check with us which pools are open on your dates of travel.

Five trips are offered throughout the day each trip lasting about 1.5 to 2 hrs. A five-minute boat ride speeds you through the current of the Zambezi River to the island, this in itself is an exhilarating experience as you head towards the rising column of spray from the Victoria Falls.

The guides then take you on a tour of this small island, which has unique and magnificent views of the falls. If it's a sunny day, the rainbows are just incredible. You then have an opportunity to swim in the Devils Pool or Angel's Pool if you wish, this is not compulsory.

Does not include transfers but there is a shuttle that goes from the Kingdom Hotel 4 times a day which costs \$15 per person and is paid directly to the driver.

[The Batoka Gorge Hike and Ndebele Village Tour \(All year\)](#) – US\$ 85 + US\$ 10 national parks fees

- This activity can be enjoyed all year round.
- Pick Up from Hotels/Lodges in Victoria Falls between 06h00 – 06h30; Back around 1h00-11h30.
- Total time 4½ hours; Hike time 2 ½ hours.

A 40-minute off-road drive through the Zimbabwean countryside to the starting point of the hike offers a glimpse into timeless African rural life. The Hike begins about 20km downstream of the Victoria Falls. After a safety talk and procedural briefing, you will hike the steep descent down to the Zambezi River. An hour's walk from Rapid 23 and to rapid 25 is followed by a swim in the Zambezi and a breather before the demanding climb out.

Once back at the top of the gorge, a short trail through the bush takes you to an authentic Ndebele homestead where you will get a chance to interact with the local headman and his family while having brunch under the thatched shade of their decorated mud huts. Your gracious hosts will explain their traditional culture and customs which have remained largely unchanged since humanity's first footsteps.

### **Wildlife and Safari Adventures**

[Upper Zambezi Canoeing](#) – US\$150 per person full day / + US\$10 National Parks fee. This is definitely one of my personal favourites. Paddle and drift down the Zambezi River – the game and bird watching is fantastic as is the wonderful scenery. There are a couple of grade 2 white water rapids to negotiate which are great fun and gets the heart racing.

Overnight [Upper Zambezi Canoeing](#) – US\$231 per person one night / US\$384 per person 1 night 2 days + National Parks fee. Experience the magic of the Zambezi as you paddle and drift down the River – the game and bird watching is fantastic as is the wonderful scenery. There are a

couple of grade 2 white water rapids to negotiate which are great fun and gets the heart racing. Overnight in a tented camp on the banks of the river, it's a truly African experience.

[Game viewing safari in the Zambezi National Park](#) - AM or PM (+/-3hrs) – US\$ 70 per person. Full Day - US\$140 + US\$15 National Parks fee. Game drives are in an open four wheel drive vehicle, this is no ordinary coke and buns tour, the guides are very knowledgeable and will ensure that you have a great bush experience. The Zambezi National Park bordering the Zambezi River covers an area of 56000 hectares and is home to a large variety of game including, elephant, buffalo, lion and leopard.

[Walking safari in the Zambezi National Park](#) – Half day – US\$ 75 per person + US\$15 National Parks fee. Morning or afternoon game walks are available combining a game drive and a walk. The professional guide will share his intimate knowledge of the bush with you. Walking enables you to access parts of the park not accessible by vehicle, especially the springs lines, where good game congregates. The Zambezi National Park bordering the Zambezi river covers an area of 56000 hectares and is home to a large variety of game including, elephant, buffalo, lion and leopard.

[Birding Safaris](#) – Half day – US\$ 75 per person + US\$15 National Parks fee. Catering for the keen bird watcher, safaris are tailor made dependant on which species need to be found. Either by safari vehicle, on foot or by boat your guide will search for that rare species in a variety of habitats. There are many endemic species to Victoria Falls, it is a paradise to the avid bird watcher.

[Siduli Hide](#) – US\$ 60 per person – Two times a day 06h15 and 16h15. Please note that due to seasonal changes and the fact that this is an authentic wild experience, we cannot guarantee wildlife sightings. Saying this, the drier it gets, the more chance there is of having some very good close up encounters! Time spent in the hide will vary, but we sell it as a minimum of a two hour sit. Further points to consider: Guests must be able to sit quietly for long periods of time and should not suffer from claustrophobia! This activity is ideal for photographers and wildlife enthusiasts, who are after a 'non-touristy' experience.

[Short Bush Walk](#) – US\$ 50 per person – 2 hours. Setting off either in the early morning or late afternoon, this shorter walk offers guests a chance to explore the bush surrounding the Victoria Falls Safari Lodge. An armed Professional Guide leads the walk and offers an educational experience looking at nature and all of its intricacies. Focusing on all things small or large, this walk allows guests a chance to study animal's tracks, learn new bird species or even track Cape Buffalo!

[Night Drive and Bush Dinner](#) – US\$150 per person - 16h00 to 21h00. This safari is conducted on the Victoria Falls Private Game reserve. You are transferred by vehicle (takes about 30mins) and then enjoy a +/- 2 hour game drive in the late afternoon. After a sundowner and snacks the spotlight is switched on and the safari continues into the night in search of the nocturnal residents of the reserve. Once the drive is done you are treated to a bush dinner under the stars of the great African sky.

[Chobe Day Trip](#) – US\$170 per person. After transferring to Botswana the rest of the morning will be spent game viewing on a Chobe River cruise. After the cruise at about 12.30 you will be taken to a hotel on the river bank for lunch. After lunch you will board safari vehicles for an afternoon game drive in the Chobe National Park where there is an abundance of wildlife. After the game drive you will be transferred back to your hotel in Zimbabwe. Includes all transfers, park fees and lunch.

\* All minors under the age of 18 years will be required to produce certified copies of unabridged birth certificates in addition to their valid passports to enter Botswana. In the event of one parent not travelling with the child the other parent's affidavit consent should be available.

[Chobe Overnight Trip](#) – US\$ 250 (Low Season) or US\$ 267 (High Season) per person. After transferring to Botswana the rest of the morning will be spent game viewing on a Chobe River cruise. After the cruise at about 12.30 you will be taken to a hotel on the river bank for lunch. After lunch you will board safari vehicles for an afternoon game drive in the Chobe National Park where there is an abundance of wildlife. Shortly after sunset return to camp for drinks and dinner. You are woken at dawn and after a quick cup of tea embark on another game drive in the National park. Mornings are often the best time for game viewing. Return to the border at about 9am to catch your transfer to your hotel in Zimbabwe. Include park fees and meals. Excludes transfers.

[Lion Encounter](#) – US\$ 80 per person. The first part of the activity is a truly one-of-a-kind lion feeding experience that we have affectionately named, "The Feast of Beasts" encounter. We all

know the reputation lions have when it comes to feeding, and this is no different with our lions. What started as an enrichment exercise has now become an incredibly unique opportunity to see a side of lions not commonly seen, and from an eye level perspective.

The second part of the activity is an opportunity to be immersed into the life of a lion pride. A drive through experience, known as our "Into the Pride" encounter. Take a scenic drive through a 25 acre enclosure strategically placed within our teak forest housing a pride of 5 lions.

[Elephant Encounter](#) - US\$ 120 + US\$10 park fees per person (Duration 2.5 to 3 hrs). The elephant encounter is an inspiring and educational activity which will let you witness the special relationship between the Elephant Sanctuary elephants and their handlers. Learn the story of the elephants and how they came to be in the sanctuary, and spend the day out in the bush with these gentle giants.

[Horse Back Safari](#) - Morning or Afternoon – US\$95 excludes US\$20 National Parks fee – Duration +/- 2.5 hrs. Novice or experienced you will be split into different groups. It's a truly exhilarating experience to ride through the African bush. Quiet and peaceful, you feel at one with nature. In a vehicle, you are remote from the excitement around you; on horseback your senses come alive.

[Horse Back Safari](#) – Tailor made long ride – US\$ 160 excludes US\$20 National Parks fee – Duration +/- 4 hrs. Experienced riders only. It's a truly exhilarating experience to ride through the African bush. Quiet and peaceful, you feel at one with nature. In a vehicle, you are remote from the excitement around you; on horseback your senses come alive.

[Zambezi River Fishing](#) – US\$ 138 per person (3 hours) or US\$ 264 per person (full day) - Excludes National Park fees US\$10 per person. Includes drinks, snacks, fuel, fishing equipment. The Zambezi river is renowned for the fighting tiger fish, but this area is also home to over 75 species of fish. This awesome section of the river offers some great fishing opportunities amongst the many channels that wind their way through the sandy, palm fringed islands. A great day out.

### **Guided and Scenic Tours**

[Guided Tour of Vic Falls](#) – US\$20 excluding entrance fee \$30 international and \$20 regional – Includes guided tour by an experienced and knowledgeable guide plus collection and drop off from your hotel. Tour normally lasts about 2.5 to 3hrs

[Photographic Tour of the Falls](#) – Sunrise/Rainbow tour – US\$ 50 (excludes the park entrance fee of \$30, SADC \$20). This is a guided photographic tour of the falls at set times, with a local professional photographer who has years of experience in scenic and wildlife photography. The "Sunrise" and "Rainbow" tours are on the Zimbabwe side of the Victoria Falls. Tours normally last about 1 to 2hrs. \*Transfers are not included.

[Lunar Rainbow Tour](#) – US\$20 excludes entrance fee \$40 – Only available during Full moon and one day either side. Rainbows are formed by the light of the moon - unique and spectacular experience. Includes tour (unguided) and collection and drop off from your hotel. Tour normally lasts about 1 hrs.

[Helicopter Flights](#)- Flight of The Angels - 12-13mins – US\$150 + US\$15 National Parks fee. Highly recommended way to see the Falls. Totally different perspective to viewing them from ground level. You circle the falls several times in both directions

[Helicopter Flights](#)- Zambezi Spectacular -25 mins – US\$284 + US\$15 National Parks fee. Highly recommended way to see the Falls. Same as the 12-13min flight except add on a spectacular 12min flight up the Zambezi river affording you the opportunity of seeing plenty of game from the air.

[MicroLight Flight](#) – 15 mins US\$179 + US\$6 ZAA fees - One person and an experienced pilot take a 15-minute microlight flight over the Victoria Falls and the Zambezi River. Microlight flights begin at 06h30 and end at 09h30 am in the morning and start again at 15h00 and end at last light. \*Personal cameras are not permitted due to safety factors\*. Excludes transfers Livingstone lodges.

[MicroLight Flight](#) – 30mins US\$360 + US\$6 ZAA fees - One person and an experienced pilot take a 30-minute microlight flight over the Victoria Falls, the Batoka Gorge, the Zambezi River and the Mosi-oa-Tunya National Park. Microlight flights begin at 06h30 and end at 09h30 am in the

morning and start again at 15h00 and end at last light. \*Personal cameras are not permitted due to safety factors\* Excludes transfers Livingstone lodges.

Personalised Shopping Tour - US\$ 30 per person. A shopping guide picks you up from your hotel, and takes you around the shopping areas in town, including the craft and curio markets. Having a guide means that you get good prices and not hiked up street prices, as your guide will help you with the bargaining as well. After your shopping tour, you will be dropped off at your lodging.

Breakfast Cruise – US\$65 per person + US\$10 National Parks fee (6am to 8:30am) – Watch the mist rise off the water as the new sun rays warm your face as you soak up the abundant birdlife and capture this precious time of day in all it's glory. Choose from a delectable array of pastries, cereals and fresh fruit as well a freshly made tea and coffee, just the way you like it. The Breakfast Cruise is the ultimate way to welcome a new day as you celebrate the sunrise on The Mighty Zambezi River.

Lunch Cruise – US\$ 65 per person + US\$10 National Parks fee (12pm to 2:30pm) - Cruise the tranquil scenery of the unspoilt Zambezi River upstream. With frequent sightings of gigantic crocodiles, pods of hippo and herds of elephants bathing in the river, the lunch cruise is a luxury safari on water. Enjoy a gourmet lunch prepared onboard by our executive chef using the finest fresh ingredients. With a bar onboard, guests can choose from a selection of premium beverages. All that's left to do is sit back, relax and enjoy Zambezi style gourmet cuisine, excellent service and the spectacular scenery.

Evening Sunset Cruise – US\$40 per person + US\$10 National Parks fee - (4pm to 7pm) – This is a really great way to experience the magnificent Zambezi River, very relaxing and as much as you can drink. You will definitely see hippos, crocs and many species of birdlife, but there is also the chance of spotting lots of other game including Elephant which cross the river to feed on the islands. This is definitely a favorite of mine.

Evening Sunset and Dinner cruise – US\$ 75 per person + US\$10 National Parks fee. This cruise starts off by watching the sunset on the Zambezi River with snacks and drinks. Once the sun has set you will be served a three-course dinner on the boat and complimentary drinks – romantically light with candles – gently floating down river. Dinner often consists of locally caught fish. It's a magnificent experience on the Zambezi.

Classic River Safari – US\$ 60 per person + US\$10 National Parks fee. A smaller more personal sunset cruise – being a jet boat they are able to go where the bigger boat cannot so this cruise gets to within viewing distance of the spray of the Falls. Zambezi jet boat safaris go "Where others want to go" meandering between the islands taking in the flora and fauna on the Zambezi River above Victoria Falls, away from the other cruise boats. A Sunrise cruise is also available.

The Victoria River Safari - US\$85 per person + US\$10 National Parks fee. Take an upmarket river safari downstream towards the edge of the river, whilst lounging in comfort. The Victoria takes you into the body of islands that form the entrance to the Falls. Indulge in ultimate comfort aboard The Victoria, designed to mirror the style and sophistication of Old English safari, and relax while a Victoria Falls Hotel chef prepares sushi and other gourmet canapés.

Birding Safari – US\$ 110 per person + US\$ 10 National Parks fees. This is a great activity for birding and wildlife enthusiasts – an early morning cruise to capture the beauty of the wonderful bird (and animal) species on the mighty Zambezi River. It is done via a small jet boat, exploring the smaller channels and islands on the river.

Photographic Safari – US\$110 per person + US\$10 National Parks fee – Both professional photographers and amateurs can enjoy this scenic photographic safari while cruising on the Zambezi River. Capture the Zambezi's flora and fauna with the assistance of a local professional photographer, while on a small jet boat which goes where no other cruise boats go. Morning and afternoon trips are available.

Ra-Ikane Sunset Cruise – US\$75 per person. A very unique and special boat called the Ra-Ikane, she takes a maximum of 12 pax only, small exclusive not a big booze cruise. Canapes and premium brand drinks are served on her. River park fees included.

Ra-Ikane Birding Cruise - US\$75 per person. If you're a keen bird-watcher, don't miss out on this cruise. Enjoy tea and pastries whilst the great Zambezi awakens Expert guides will supply you with reference books and all the pertinent information. Includes a continental breakfast, tea & coffee, soft drinks, transfers and river usage fees.

[Zambezi Explorer Signature Deck](#) – US\$ 85 per person + US\$ 10 National Parks fees – Luxury Deck – US\$ 55 + US\$ 10 national parks fees. This is an upmarket sunset cruise done on the wonderful Zambezi Explorer – you will be served snacks and drinks included in the price. The signature deck is the top of this three storey boat – giving you a bird’s eye view of the river and sunset.

[Steam Train](#) – Bushtracks Express Dinner Run – US\$ 195 per person – Bushtracks offers guests an opportunity of a picture perfect experience on the steam train from Victoria Falls Station onto the magnificent Victoria Falls Bridge. This luxurious steam train will travel to the Victoria Falls Bridge and out to Jafuta Siding, serving light snacks, followed by a gourmet meal and drinks. Courtesy of the prestigious Victoria Falls Hotel. \*Runs every Tuesday, Friday and Sunday.

[The Royal Livingstone Express Steam Train](#) – US\$ 195 per person – The Victoria Falls & Livingstone Steam Train Company offers guests an opportunity of a picture perfect experience on the steam train from Livingstone onto the magnificent Victoria Falls Bridge. After tickets are collected, guests board the train and a welcoming drink will be served. The Dinner trip will incorporate a classic steam expedition with fine dining. \*Runs every Wednesday and Saturday.

[Guided Bike Tours](#) – US\$45 per person - This is a unique way to get around Victoria Falls, see sights and experience the area in a way that not many visitors do. The morning, mid-morning or afternoon tour lasts a maximum of 2 hours. Starts and ends at the Lookout Cafe, and takes you to the Victoria Falls Bridge, then through interesting spots around the town, then out on Zambezi drive to the Big Tree and along the Zambezi River.

[Historical Bridge tour](#) – US\$65 per person – The historical Victoria Falls Bridge completed in 1905 is the areas second most visited landmark. This unique tour begins with a +/- 45 min entertaining and fascinating presentation by and actor impersonating Mr George Imbault who was the chief engineer during the bridge’s construction. Followed by a tour of the interpretive centre and an optional under the bridge walk, where you get the chance to get up close and marvel at this real wonder of Victoria Engineering. Duration +/- 2.5 hrs

### **Cultural Activities**

[The Boma](#) – Place of Eating – US\$ 59 per person - an unforgettable African experience infused with Zimbabwean cuisine. Ndebele performances, African drumming and traditional storytelling. This restaurant has firmly established itself as a “Must Do” activity for visitors to Victoria Falls. Specializing in a superb selection of Traditional Zimbabwean dishes served on cast iron plats. The Boma’s four course meal combines a choice of starters with a barbeque buffet.

[Meet the People Tour](#) – Traditional Village – US\$ 30 per person – Unique opportunity to visit an authentic rural african village, which is +/- 20 km from Victoria Falls. Watch and interact with the villagers as they go about their daily chores. You will get a chance to see rural life first hand. Duration +/- 2.5 hrs

[Art of Africa Workshops](#) -

- Breakfast River Cruise US\$95 + US\$10 national park fees per person (includes breakfast & beverages)
- Sunrise Cultural Village tour US\$95 per person (includes traditional meal and drinks)
- Sunset Cultural Village tour US\$115 per person (includes traditional meal and drinks)
- Art & Elephant Encounter US\$150 + US\$10 park fees per person (includes lunch and drinks)
- Riverside Picnic & Safari US\$155 + US\$15 national park fees per person (includes snacks and drinks)
- Painting in the Rainforest US\$85 + US\$30 national park fees per person (includes lunch at the Lookout Café)

Includes transfers, materials and meals. Choose from a serene river cruise, an authentic Ndebele cultural experience, a wildlife encounter with the largest land mammal in the world, a Zambezi riverside picnic and game drive or the mighty Victoria Falls, while you diarise and capture your unique souvenir on your canvas or wood block.

## **Package Prices**

**Tick It To Adventure 1 – US\$320 + National Parks fees per person** – A sunset cruise plus your choice of any TWO activities – listed below

**Tick It To Adventure 2 – US\$385 + National Parks fees per person** – Your choice of any THREE activities – listed below

Rafting / Bunji Jump / Bridge Swing / Bridge Swing / 12 min Helicopter Flight / Game Walk / Night Drive + Bush Dinner

**Gruesome Twosome \$260 + US\$ 10 national parks fees** - Rafting & Bungee Combo (save \$20)

**Full Monty \$250 + US\$55 national parks fees** – Sunset cruise, Heli Flight, Guided Falls tour, Historical Bridge tour

**No Fly Zone – US\$115 + US\$ 40 national parks fees** – Sunset cruise, Guided Falls Tour, Historic Bridge Tour

**Basic – US\$ 62 + US\$ 40 national parks fees** – Sunset Cruise, Guided Tour of the Falls

**Adventure pass – US\$302 + National Park fees** - Sunset cruise plus your choice of any TWO activities – from the following list: White water rafting, Canoeing, ½ day High Wire, Lion encounter, 12min helicopter flight.

**Cultural Pass – US\$ 81** - Home hosted lunch + Traditional Village Tour

**Victoria Falls Classic – US\$ 48 + US\$ 30 National parks fees** – Tour of the Falls + Lunch at the Lookout Café

**Zambezi Classic – US\$ 120 + US\$ 10 National parks fees** - Sunset cruise, Tour of the Falls + Lunch at the Lookout Café

**Golden Favourites – US\$ 255 + US\$25 National Parks fees** – Sunset and Dinner cruise, Tour of the Falls, 12-min Helicopter Flight

**Adventure Activities – US\$ 415 (\$410 low season) + US\$10 National Parks fees** - Livingstone Island & Devils Pool, Whitewater rafting, Bungee jump, Tour of the Falls

**Photographic Package – US\$ 325 + US\$ 85 National Parks fee** - Photographic sunset cruise, Zambezi National Park game drive, Rainbow Photographic tour of the Falls, Siduli Hide, Sunrise Photographic tour of the Falls

**Simply the Best – US\$ 667 (\$662 low season) + US\$ 25 National Parks fees** – The Victoria luxury sunset cruise, 12-min Helicopter Flight, Tour of the Falls, Rhino game drive & bush dinner, Chobe Day trip, Livingstone Island & Devils Pool

**Wildlife Activity – US\$ 465 + US\$ 50 National Parks fees** - 12min Helicopter Flight, Classic River Safari, Zambezi National Park game drive or walk, Tour of the Falls, Siduli hide, Boma Experience, Elephant Encounter

**Ultimate Thrill – US\$ 302 + National parks fees** - Sunset cruise plus your choice of any TWO activities – listed below  
White water rafting / Canoeing / ½ day High Wire / Lion encounter / 12min helicopter flight

**Family Adventure – US\$ 280 + US\$ 23 National Parks fees** - Elephant Encounter, Canopy Tour, Boma Experience, Classic River Safari

**Safari Adventure – US\$ 304 + National Parks Fees** - Combine a Full Day Chobe Day trip with ONE other activity below:  
White water rafting / Canoeing / ½ day High Wire (gorge swing, zipline and flying fox) / 12-min Helicopter flight / Game drive & bush dinner

**Braveheart – US\$ 260 + US\$ 10 or US\$ 13 National Parks fees** - Whitewater rafting, Bungee jump OR Half day Highwire



**Kings of the Wild – US\$ 155 + US\$ 10 Conservation fees** – Elephant Encounter + Lion Encounter

**Terrific Two – US\$ 240 + US\$15 National Parks fees** – Helicopter Flight + Rhino Game drive and bush dinner

**Adrenalin Pass – US\$ 155 + US\$ 3 National Parks fees** – Gorge swing, zip line, flying fox

**Romantic Gold – US\$ 325 + US\$ 10 National Parks fees** - Bushtracks Express Steam Train, Sunset & Dinner Cruise, Tour of the Falls, Lunch at Lookout Café

**Classic Day Out – US\$ 352 (\$347 low season) + US\$ 25 National Parks fees** - Livingstone Island & Devils Pool, 12-min Helicopter Flight, Classic River Safari, Tour of the Falls

**Dining Out – US\$ 274+ US\$10 National Parks fees** - Sunset & Dinner Cruise, Boma Experience, Night Drive & Bush Dinner

**Nice & Easy – US\$ 158 + US\$ 10 National Parks fees** - Zambezi Explorer Signature deck cruise, Lunch at Lookout Café, Tour of the Falls

**Bronze Favourites \$230 + US\$25 national parks fees** – Sunset cruise, Heli flight, Guided Falls tour

## ***Fast Facts***

- ➔ Falls width 1708 meters
- ➔ Maximum height 108 meters (Rainbow falls)
- ➔ Lowest height 62 meters (Devil's cataract)
- ➔ Highest water flow (March /April) approximately 500 million litres per minute
- ➔ Lowest water flow (Late November/ early December) Approximately 10 million litres per minute
- ➔ Greatest ever flow recorded March 1958 – 700 million litres per minute

## **The Formation of the Victoria Falls**

About 150 to 200 million years ago large amounts of volcanic magma were extruded in the Victoria Falls area. This magma (Basalt Rock) cooled quickly developing enormous cracks or faults as it met with the cooler air and water. Then due to shifts of the earth's plates and much higher rainfall, the whole area became submerged under a huge freshwater lake.

During this period these large fault lines were filled with mainly sand deposits, time and pressure hardened the sand to form sandstone. Later Tectonic movements (earthquakes) caused the lake to drain and the Zambezi River changed its course and found its present day route to the Indian Ocean.

The strong erosive action of the river found the first of these sandstone fault lines some 150 000 years ago. The water eroded through the softer sandstone quicker than through the hard basalt rock therefore forming the first waterfall.

Over the next 150 000 years the river slowly eroded 7 of these fault lines and each one would have been a different waterfall from the one we know today. The current day waterfall is on the 8<sup>th</sup> fault line.

The ninth waterfall has already started cutting back through the next fault line. This can be seen to the side of the Devil's Cataract through Cataract Island. This large east-north-east fault line across the river is where the next full width falls will form.

What's amazing is that archaeological diggings have shown that early man lived in this region some 200 000 years ago, meaning that they would have seen the very first set of Falls that were formed. Therefore man has witnessed over time this extraordinary change in the landscape.

## Size and flow rate chart of Victoria Falls compared to Niagara and Iguazu

Parameters	Victoria Falls		Niagara Falls		Iguazu Falls	
	metres	feet	metres	feet	metres	feet
Height	108m	360ft	51m	167ft	64-82m	210-269ft
Width	1708m	5603ft	1203m	3947ft	2700m	8858ft
Flow rate units (vol/sec)	m <sup>3</sup> /s	cu ft/s	m <sup>3</sup> /s	cu ft/s	m <sup>3</sup> /s	cu ft/s
Mean annual flow rate	1088	38422	2406	85000	1745	61659
Highest recorded flow	12600	444965	8264	292000	12792	452000

## Victoria Falls Bridge

Cecil John Rhodes had a vision of a railway line stretching from Cape Town to Cairo. The Zambezi River was just one of the huge obstacles that would have to be overcome to accomplish this feat. He initiated plans for the first bridge across the mighty Zambezi River at Victoria Falls and was insistent that the bridge should be built in a place that the spray from the Falls would be felt by passengers on the passing trains.

The Victoria Falls bridge was completed in April 1905, and although this was the brainchild of [Cecil John Rhodes](#) he died in 1902 before its completion.

The main credit for designing the Victoria Falls Bridge must go to **George Andrew Hobson** of London based consultants **Sir Douglas Fox and Partners**, not as is often stated, **Sir Ralph Freeman**, who designed the famous Sydney Harbour Bridge. At the time of the design of the Victoria Falls Bridge, Freeman was still only an assistant in the firm, although he was involved in calculating the preliminary stresses involved with the steelwork design and was credited by Hobson for his involvement. Sir Douglas Fox and Partners later became Freeman, Fox and Partners.

This magnificent bridge 650ft long, spans the batoka gorge. The height from low water level to the rails on the bridge is 420ft. The famous view of the Bridge with the Falls behind it is best seen from the view point just below Victoria Falls Hotel. Today you may well see tourists bungee jumping from the bridge.

We highly recommend the [Historical Bridge Tour](#) (see the activity fact file for details) which gives an in depth perspective of this historic bridge allowing you the opportunity to become immersed in the fascinating history of this area and the incredible engineering feat of this construction at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. A trip to Victoria Falls without it is incomplete.

The name given to the steam trains puffing along the tracks in Africa were "shongololos" In the local language this means centipede. This was apt given their unusual appearance to anything witnessed by the local people before.

## Tour Of The Falls

### Introduction to the Falls

It always amazes us somewhat to see the number of visitors that travel half way around the world and then spend only an hour or so at the Waterfall, rushing along, mostly in a

photographic trance, trying to get the best photograph, not really taking in this spectacle which is a Natural Wonder of the World.

There is also so much more here than just a waterfall; the rainforest which has constant rain 24/7 from the never ending spray of the Falls, has become its own ecosystem. It is a botanist's dream and bird lovers' paradise. There are species here that don't occur anywhere else, and our recommendation is to look just a little beyond the pathway and the numerous viewpoints.

We have tried to write this guide putting our minds into someone visiting here for the very first time, aware that they have very little idea of what they are about to witness.

The object is to make it as interesting as possible, our suggestion would be to print this chapter and place it in a plastic cover that you can take with you into the rainforest. It will get ruined from the incessant rain, but the beauty is you can just print out another one, unlike an expensive book.

Before starting it is worth remembering a few facts. Most importantly is that Victoria Falls is part of a Protected Nature Reserve and therefore care must be taken to treat it with respect adhering to the rules and the pathways provided so as not to damage the finely balanced ecosystem. As the old saying goes take nothing but photographs and leave nothing but foot prints.

One of the beauties is that the area has not become over commercialized. In fact, once you are standing by the Falls your view will not be much different to that of David Livingstone's who first saw the Falls in 1855. There are a few buildings on the Zambian side, but if you get your angles right you can blot these out.

Make your way to the entrance gate where you pay to get in. Here there are toilets and information boards about the Falls and Zimbabwe. There is a new restaurant and curio shop plus a couple of drink vending machines; this is the only place that you are able to purchase drinks, so if you haven't brought your own and you plan on spending a few hours here it's a good idea to stock up. The walk is a couple of kilometres and it does get very hot. There are two drinking water taps on route, one is close by this entrance and the other is at Livingstone's Statue.

The pathway system has been well designed to take you to the best viewing points. There is no need to go off the pathway; in fact it is illegal to do so. Some viewpoints have only a few thorny branches acting as a barrier between you and the gorge, 100m below. In other places there is absolutely no barrier at all! So the onus is on you to be careful and diligent, your life depends on it. In this regard it is unique and wonderful; if these Falls were anywhere in the first world there would be metal and concrete barriers to protect you from falling, but these in turn would spoil the natural aesthetics.

Do Not Forget that there is spray 24/7 so the rocks are very slippery. Extreme caution and appropriate footwear should be worn. On New Years Eve 2005 a South African tourist fell to his death by Rainbow Falls. He was taking photographs and accidentally dropped his spectacles. As he bent down to recover them he slipped on the rocks, lost his footing and fell into the gorge.

It is worthwhile noting here that the Falls vary considerably throughout the year depending on the levels of the Zambezi river. See our [Victoria Falls Calender](#)

In mid December the river starts to rise with the onset of the rainy season and this high water continues right through until about June. During this time the volume of water plummeting over the Falls is enormous, there will be lots of spray and you will get very wet, camera equipment etc. needs to be protected. If you don't want to get wet take a raincoat. However it is somewhat of a cleansing experience to get soaked to the skin by these magnificent Falls. Generally the weather is hot to very hot and the cool spray is very welcoming. On overcast cold days it would be a different story.

In June the flood waters start to recede and by September the Falls are quite dry and by November many parts of the Falls have actually dried up completely. Main Falls and Devils Cataract are the only sections still flowing.

## Helpful Links

### **Newsletter**

Sign up for our newsletter [here](#).

### **Accommodation**

Find Accommodation in [Victoria Falls](#), [Hwange](#), [Kariba](#), [Mana Pools](#), [Matopos](#), [Livingstone](#) (Zambia) or [Chobe](#) (Botswana).

### **Activities & Events**

You will find Victoria Falls activities [here](#). For annual events, [click here](#).

### **Maps**

Get detailed locations of [Victoria Falls](#), [Livingstone](#), [Hwange](#) and [Chobe](#) (Botswana).