



INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL  
YOUTH EXCHANGE



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# NATIONAL PROFILE ZIMBABWE



# Zimbabwe



**Officially Name:** Republic of Zimbabwe

**Former name, while under colonial British governance:** Southern Rhodesia (1911-1964), Rhodesia (1964-1979), Zimbabwe Rhodesia (1979–1980)

**Head Of State And Government (president):**

Emmerson Mnangagwa (interim)

**Capital:** Harare

**Population:** (2024 est.) 15,706,000

**Form of Government:** Unitary republic with two legislative houses; The Senate and the National Assembly

**Official Languages:** English (official), Shona, Ndebele (Sindebele), numerous minor tribal dialects.

**Currency:** Zimbabwean dollar (ZWL)

Religions: Syncretic (part Christian, part indigenous beliefs) 50%, Christian 25%, indigenous beliefs 24%, Muslim and other 1%



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# ZWA

## Zimbabwe Workcamps Association

Zimbabwe Workcamps Association is ICYE's Partner Committee in Zimbabwe. It is a youth volunteer organization founded in October 1993, registered with the Zimbabwe Youth Council. It is a non-political, non-sectarian, non-religious organization. Its membership is open to anyone above the age of sixteen years irrespective of nationality, gender, race, religion, political view or educational qualification.

Zimbabwe Workcamps Association offers international voluntary services. Our international volunteers contribute to the local communities, but also enhance their own personal and professional skills - most of all intercultural skills, more understanding for different ways of lives and working with people with different backgrounds.



Volunteers accomplish different tasks in their host project. The work ranges from physical demanding jobs to administrative tasks such as data entry, documentation and data analysis. Other tasks are teaching, social work, building, environmental conservation and health promotion, coordinating youth events. Have a look at the Work Profile with detailed descriptions of the host projects!



## **Work Schedule**

Volunteers work around 8 hours a day from Monday to Friday. The lion's share of our volunteer placements does not require volunteers to work on public holidays and weekends, unless highlighted or in the event of the need arising from the project.

**Most volunteer projects take place in very humble places around Zimbabwe.** Our projects rely on the volunteers' flexibility, positive and open-minded attitude as well as openness to a new culture, a different way of working and readiness to learn and grow on the experience. The secret to make the most of your time while volunteering in Zimbabwe is to adapt to the local environment: work and live with the local people, just like they do. It is a chance and experience of a lifetime!



# Geography

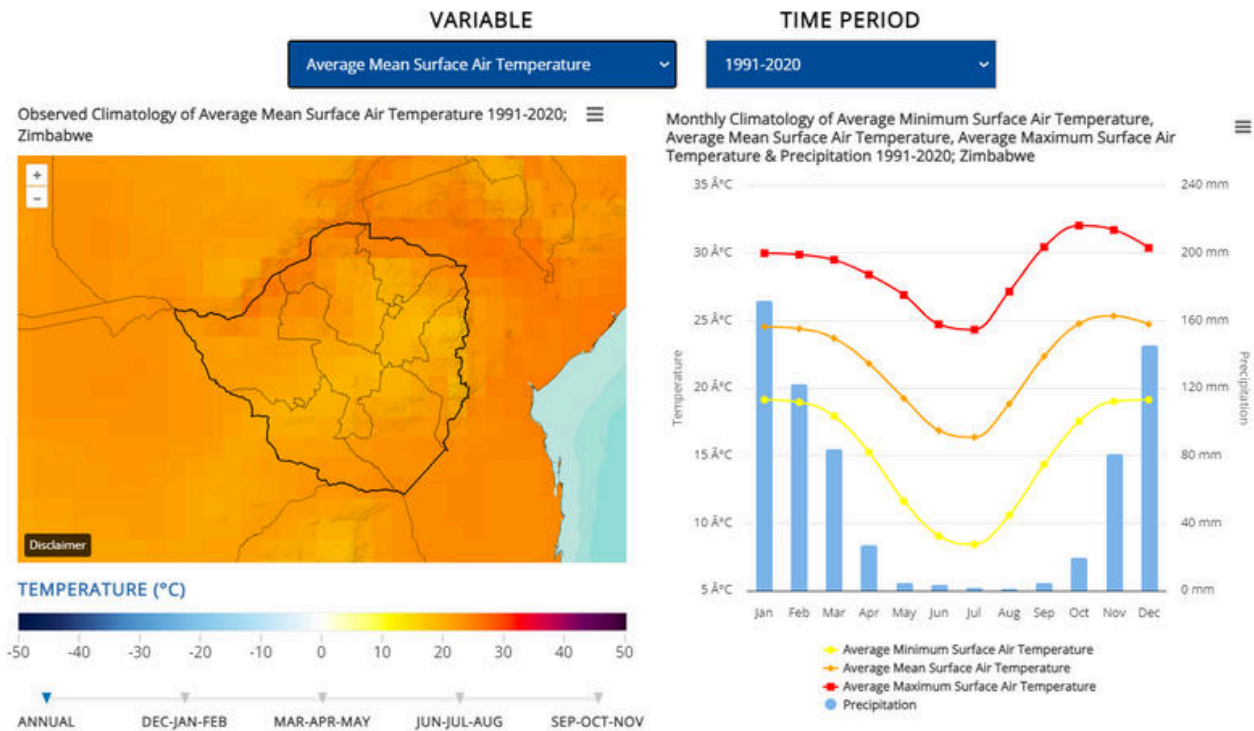
Zimbabwe's total land space is estimated to be 390,757 sq. km. It is a landlocked country wedged between two major rivers: the Limpopo in the south and the Zambezi in the north, which flows into the world renowned Victoria Falls and into the rocky Batoko gorge. The Eastern Highlands, along Zimbabwe's eastern border with Mozambique, is a region of forests and mountain streams rising to elevations of 2 592 metres (Mt. Inyangani is the country's highest point). It shares a 125-mile (200-kilometre) border on the south with the Republic of South Africa and is bounded on the southwest and west by Botswana, on the north by Zambia, and on the northeast and east by Mozambique.



Zimbabwe has an estimated population of 15 million (based on the UN estimates of year 2024). In terms of the age structure, 39.64 percent are between 0 and 14 years (female, 2,222,277; male, 2,274,128), 56.82 percent are between 15 and 64 years (female, 3,192,888; male, 3,251,860), while 3.54 percent are 65 years or older (female, 197,340; male 204,028).



# Climate



The country experiences its rainy season along with relatively high temperatures from October to March; and it encounters dry seasons with low temperatures from June to August. After the dry and cold season, the average temperature of the country ranges between 15°C and 25°C.

During the same time period, the mean monthly precipitation of the country varies from 2mm to 160 mm, which resulted in an annual average rainfall of roughly 670 mm. Zimbabwe tends to receive less than average rainfall during the warm phase of ENSO (or El Niño) during the rainy season from October to March; and it often experiences more than average rainfall during the cool phase of ENSO (or La Nina) also during the rainy season. In addition, the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) plays a vital role in driving rainfall seasonality and inter-annual variability. The country receives more rainfall when ITCZ moves further south, and vice versa. Furthermore, a scientific study has revealed that positive Indian Ocean Dipole/Zonal Mode (IODZM), also known as the anomalous positive Indian Ocean SST gradient, is strongly associated with rainfall deficits (or droughts) in the country.



# Flora & Fauna

Zimbabwe boasts a remarkable collection of protected areas, with a total of 232 sites spread across approximately 27.2% of the country's landmass. These protected areas encompass a diverse range of ecosystems and habitats, safeguarding Zimbabwe's rich biodiversity.

At the forefront of these conservation efforts are the 11 national parks managed and operated by the Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority (ZPWMA). These national parks, including renowned destinations such as Hwange, Mana Pools, and Matobo, hold significant importance in the conservation of Zimbabwe's biodiversity. The ZPWMA ensures the effective management and preservation of these national parks for the benefit of both wildlife and visitors.



Visiting these national parks not only provides exceptional opportunities for wildlife viewing but also contributes to the sustainable development of local communities through ecotourism. These protected areas offer visitors a chance to witness Zimbabwe's diverse flora and fauna in their natural habitats, promoting a deeper understanding and appreciation of the country's unique ecological heritage.



**Victoria Falls**, spectacular waterfall located about midway along the course of the Zambezi River, at the border between Zambia to the north and Zimbabwe to the south. Approximately twice as wide and twice as deep as Niagara Falls, the waterfall spans the entire breadth of the Zambezi River at one of its widest points (more than 5,500 feet [1,700 metres]). At the falls, the river plunges over a sheer precipice to a maximum drop of 355 feet (108 metres). The falls' mean flow is almost 33,000 cubic feet (935 cubic metres) per second.



The British explorer David Livingstone was the first European to see the falls (November 16, 1855). He named them for Queen Victoria of the United Kingdom. In addition to the falls themselves, which now attract tourists from all parts of the world, the surrounding Victoria Falls National Park (Zimbabwe) and Mosi-oa-Tunya National Park (Zambia) abound with large and small game and offer recreational facilities.



# Wild life

Northern Zimbabwe is the country's most popular region for wildlife safaris, as it's home to a number of game-rich wilderness areas. In the northwest, Hwange National Park is the biggest reserve in the country, conserving one of Africa's largest elephant populations (an estimated 40 000 animals), as well as the other four of the Big Five (lion, leopard, rhino and buffalo), one of Africa's biggest wild dog populations, and unusual antelope such as sable and roan. It's also one of the only places in the country where you can see giraffe.



**Pangolin**



**African leopard**



**African lion**



**Vervet monkey**



# History

The remains of Stone Age cultures dating to 500,000 years ago have been found in Zimbabwe, and it is thought that the San, who still survive mostly in the Kalahari desert of Botswana, are the last descendants of these original inhabitants of southern and central Africa. They were driven into the desert by Bantu-speaking groups during the long migrations from the north in the course of which the Bantu-speaking peoples populated much of Africa from Lake Chad to present-day South Africa. The first Bantu are thought to have reached Zimbabwe between the 5th and 10th centuries CE. Zimbabwe is home to many stone ruins, including those known as Great Zimbabwe (designated a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1986). Some ruins date from about the 9th century, although the most elaborate belong to a period after the 15th century and are of Bantu origin.



*PHOTOGRAPH BY CHRISTOPHER SCOTT*

Great Zimbabwe is the name for the stone remains of a medieval city in southeastern Africa. It is composed of three parts, including the Great Enclosure (shown here). It is believed to have been a royal residence or a symbolic grain storage facility.



# Origin of Name



# National Heritage





# Government

Under the 2013 constitution, Zimbabwe is a unitary republic. The head of state and government is the president, who is elected to a five-year term; the president can serve no more than two terms. The president is assisted by two vice presidents. The parliament consists of the National Assembly and the Senate. The National Assembly normally has 210 members, all of whom are directly elected. For the first two parliaments elected after the promulgation of the 2013 constitution, however, the National Assembly has 270 seats, with the 60 additional seats reserved for women—6 from each of the 8 provinces and the 2 cities with provincial status—elected through a system of proportional representation.

From the earliest years, the settlers had demanded representation on the Legislative Council, which in 1903 comprised seven company officials and seven elected representatives of the settlers. In 1907 the settlers were given a majority of seats. In 1914, when the 25-year term of the company's charter was due to expire, the settlers, faced with the alternative of joining the Union of South Africa, asked for the continuation of the charter pending the grant of self-government. The British government therefore extended the charter for 10 years, with the proviso that self-government could be granted earlier if the settlers showed themselves capable of administering the country unaided.

## Local government

For administrative purposes, Zimbabwe is divided into eight provinces and two cities with provincial status—Bulawayo and the capital, Harare—known as metropolitan provinces. The provinces and metropolitan provinces are further divided into districts. Provinces are administered by provincial councils; they are headed by a chairperson, who is elected by the council. Bulawayo and Harare are administered by metropolitan councils; the mayor of each city serves as a council chairperson.



# Economy

Upon independence in 1980, Robert Mugabe's government moved cautiously to alter the pattern of management that it inherited from the white minority regime. The first budget of July 1980 was described by the finance minister as "conservative with a mild and pragmatic application of socialism." But the white minority had passed on government machinery that included many levers of economic power. While the members of the white minority were by inclination wedded to a system of private enterprise, they had evolved a system of government intervention to support infant industries and maintain agricultural prices through marketing boards. The need to cushion the blows dealt by economic sanctions during UDI brought acceptance of the imposition of exchange and import controls.

## Major Economic Drivers

<b>Sector</b>	<b>GDP</b>	<b>Products</b>
<b>Agriculture</b>	<b>20.1%</b>	<b>Corn, Rice, Cotton, Wheat, Tobacco, Peanuts, Meat, etc.</b>
<b>Industry</b>	<b>25.4%</b>	<b>Steel, wood products, chemicals, fertilizer, clothing &amp; footwear, Food &amp; Beverages</b>
<b>Mining</b>	<b>25.4%</b>	<b>Coal, Gold, Diamonds, Platinumm Nickel, Tin, Other ores</b>
<b>Services</b>	<b>54.5%</b>	<b>Tourism, Non formal trade</b>



# Cost of living in Zimbabwe

Food	USD	EUR
<b>Combo Meal in a fast food</b>	\$11	€10
<b>1 Liter of whole milk</b>	\$1.62	€1.48
<b>12 eggs</b>	\$4.19	€3.84
<b>500 gr of local cheese</b>	\$8	€7
<b>1 kg apples</b>	\$4.34	€3.98
<b>1 kg potatoes</b>	\$4	€3.66
<b>0.5 (16 onz) domestic beer in the supermarket</b>	\$2.14	€1.96
<b>Bread for 2 people for 1 day</b>	\$1.25	€1.14



# Cost of living in Zimbabwe

Entertainment	USD	EUR
2 tickets to the movies	\$18	€17
2 tickets o the theater (best available sits)	\$40	€37
1 cocktail drink in downtown club	\$7	€5.97
Cappuccino	\$5	€4.58
1 beer in neighbourhood pub	\$3.52	€3.23
1 Month of gym membership in business district	\$37	€34
1 Package of cigarettes	\$3	€2.75



# Health System

Governed by Ministry of Health & Child Care

Consists of four administrative levels: national, provincial, district and community levels.

Health Delivery system based on the primary Health Care Approach





# Transportation

There are several metered taxi companies which can be contacted whenever transportation is needed for inner city travel.

Minibuses are nifty for regional travel and are quite cheap, but the journey can be stuffy as drivers tend to cram in as many people as possible before departure.

The roads between large cities like Harare, Bulawayo, Masvingo, and Mutare are in good condition.



The National Railways of Zimbabwe manages lines between the major destinations of Bulawayo, Victoria Falls, Labatse, Harare Chiredzi, Mutare, and Plumtree. Fares are very cheap, with first class, second class, and economy class available. Most of the trains are sleepers which travel during the night-time and provide passengers with clean sheets, pillows and blankets; yet facilities are quite rudimentary. In some areas, passengers can expect monkeys to climb on the roof so train travel is an excellent way to see the real Zimbabwe countryside.

There are two main types of buses in the country, namely express and local. Express services are run according to a set timetable and tickets need to be purchased before departure. Local buses have no schedule and generally wait until they're full to leave. These local buses can be found at markets and in the center of major towns.



# Food

Zimbabwean cuisine, like that of many other African nations, is based largely on staple ingredients like maize meal. A popular, hearty dinner is pap (maize meal cooked into a porridge-like consistency) with vegetable gravy and meat. This delicious food can be found all over the country for reasonable prices. Bars and clubs, however, are only common in the large city centers.

All of Zimbabwe's main cities offer a wide range of dining options. Whether you're looking for authentic Southern African cuisine or something more international, Zimbabwe will not disappoint. Most top-quality restaurants are located in the capital of Harare. For a taste of the local fare, try Amanzi's (158 Enterprise Road, Highlands, Chisipite, Harare), a fine-dining establishment in a gorgeous colonial style house has some of the best food in the country and a superb setting.



**SADZA**



**DERERE**



**NHOPI/ PUMPKIN SOUP**



**MUBOORA/ PUMPKIN LEAVES**



**MAHEU**



**MUTUSHWA**



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Thank you





# Credits

- <https://education.nationalgeographic.org/resource/great-zimbabwe/>
- <https://www.zambiatourism.com/destinations/waterfalls/victoria-falls/>
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