

# EXPLORE!

NEW

**Victoria Falls Extension**  
4 days

Zimbabwe - Trip code VFE



## Victoria Falls Extension

Witness the thundering Victoria Falls on this short break holiday in Zimbabwe. Spend three nights in the town of Victoria Falls, the adventure capital of Africa situated on the border of Botswana, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Aside from exploring the national park around the falls, there is free time to enjoy the many adventure activities in the area or just relax by the banks of the mighty Zambezi River. This short break has been designed as an extension to any Explore trip that finishes in Johannesburg or Cape Town taking advantage of direct flights up to Victoria Falls. However there are good air links around the whole of Southern Africa so please contact us for a flight quote wherever your start or end point.

## Trip highlights

- ★ **Victoria Falls** - Experience the largest waterfall in the world from the Zimbabwean side
- ★ **Adventure activities** - Raise the adrenalin levels with whitewater rafting or one of the many adventure activities in the area.
- ★ **Relax** - Just take it easy in our beautiful hotel located on the bank of the Zambezi River

### ACCOMMODATION GRADE:

#### Standard

Our standard, mid-range accommodation offers a good level of service, often with other amenities such as a restaurant, bar, garden or swimming pool. Generally rooms will be comfortable with en suite facilities.

**TRIP PACE:**

**Relaxed**

You can enjoy easy-going activities and experiences on these Relaxed pace tours, with opportunities to absorb the sights and immerse yourself in the local surroundings, but still come home feeling relaxed and refreshed.

# Itinerary

Itineraries on some departure dates may differ, please select the itinerary that you wish to explore.

## DAY 1 - Join Trip in Victoria Falls

Join trip in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe. Upon arrival a local representative will meet you at the airport and take you to your hotel on a shared transfer. On arrival you'll be provided with a pack specifying timings of your Victoria Falls tour for tomorrow and other useful information. The town, whilst specifically built due to its proximity to the falls has a certain charm and is full of restaurants, bars and shops and is known as the adventure capital of Southern Africa. There are no included activities today so depending on your arrival time you may choose to explore the town, which is easy to navigate on foot, or just have a quiet evening at the hotel to enjoy the peaceful surroundings.



**Accommodation: A'Zambezi River Lodge** (or similar)



Standard Lodge



Swimming pool available



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

## DAY 2 - Guided tour of Victoria Falls

This morning you will be picked up by a local guide and taken on a tour of Victoria Falls. The thundering cascades of Victoria Falls is one of the planet's most spectacular natural wonders. Known by the indigenous people as Mosi-oa-Tunya, this local name translates to 'the smoke that thunders' and it will be easy to see why on arrival. The falls of the Zambezi River plummet over a sheer cliff wall that spans more than 1676m, dropping some 100m into the abyss below. During the tour your guide will talk through the importance of the falls to the local community and the history of David Livingstone 'discovering' the area. This afternoon is free to explore the local markets and a great chance to try the Zimbabwean staple, sadza, a maize based dish often accompanied by a meat, vegetable or peanut stew. You may also wish to visit the office of Wild Horizons in town or their desk in the hotel to book an adventure activity in advance of your free day tomorrow. A full list of activities available is in the optional activities section of your trip notes.



**Accommodation: A'Zambezi River Lodge** (or similar)



Standard Lodge



Swimming pool available



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

## DAY 3 - Free day to explore town or join an adventure activity

Victoria Falls offers a vast array of choice when it comes to choosing an activity to enjoy during this free day. For the more adventurous explorers, white water rafting on the Zambezi River is an adrenaline rush like no other! The 'Flight of Angels' helicopter ride takes you above the spray to see one of the worlds' largest waterfalls from the sky above. More cultural, local experiences are also available and Wild Horizons will be able to offer advice on all listed excursions. Please note, we ask our customers to avoid both elephant back riding experiences. Although often advertised as responsible or good for conservation, there is significant evidence that both of the aforementioned activities contribute to canned hunting, have no conservation benefit and are bad for the animal's welfare.



**Accommodation: A'Zambezi River Lodge** (or similar)



Standard Lodge



Swimming pool available



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

## DAY 4 - Trip ends in Victoria Falls

The trip ends today and you will be collected by a shared transfer returning to Victoria Falls airport to meet your onward flight.



Meals Provided: Breakfast

## Why book this trip

The falls are impressive all year round however views drastically change depending on the time of year. The dry season is October - early December and that is when the volume of water is at its lowest, this means that visibility of the falls is clear (as there is no spray), though some might be disappointed by the lack of falling water. The water levels are at their highest from February - April, whilst this means an incredible amount of water is passing over the falls, it does mean that there is a huge amount of spray, making visibility more difficult (unless you take a flight over the falls). The rest of the year visibility is good which offer fantastic views.

# What's included?



## Included meals

Breakfast: 4



## Transport

Bus



## Trip staff

Local Guide(s)



## Accommodation

3 nights standard lodge

# Trip information

## Country information

### Zimbabwe Holidays & Tours

#### Climate

Zimbabwe has a moderate climate, in the summer months (November to April) you can expect highs of 30 C° and lows of 20 C°. The wet season is from November to May when the days are typically dry and sunny with afternoon/evening thunderstorms. The best time for game viewing is September to October when days are dry and the temperatures are still relatively cool.

#### Time difference to GMT

+2

#### Plugs

2 Pin Round

#### Religion

Christian

#### Language

English

## Budgeting and packing

### Optional activities

Please note: These activities are booked and paid for directly with Wild Horizons and do not form part of your Explore holiday contract. The excursions and/or activities are usually available and may be arranged locally. Estimated costs are provided below for guidance only, are on a per person basis unless shown otherwise, and may depend on the number of participants. Prices quoted are correct as of the date these tour notes were originally issued but may change at any time due to currency fluctuations. Whitewater rafting half day US\$120 pp, (dependent on water levels). Choose between an oar boat (only the guide paddles) or paddle boat (you paddle too) as you raft along the grade 5 rapids of the Zambezi River. Morning departures only, duration 7hrs. Upper Zambezi canoeing half day US\$160 pp. Follow a qualified canoe guide as you paddle approx. 18km downstream on the Zambezi River. Morning departures only, duration 7hrs. Zambezi river cruises sunset US\$53 pp. Experience the river at sunset from a cruise boat, with the possibility of seeing a variety of animals and birds as the sunsets. Daily departures from. 4pm for 2 hrs, snacks are provided. Sunset & dinner US\$ 75 pp. Enjoy a 3 course meal as the sun sets and the wildlife settle in for the evening as you cruise along the Zambezi River. Departs daily from 4pm for 2.5hrs. Helicopter for 25 mins flight US\$290 pp. View the Batoka Gorge and Zambezi River from the skies including flying over Vic Falls and game viewing along the way over Zambezi National Park. Daily departures throughout the day (dependant on weather). Game drives US\$8 5pp (including US\$15 pp park fees) for 3 hours. Join a qualified guide as you explore the Zambezi National Park, looking for wildlife and discovering the bush. Departures are daily, in the morning

pick up 6am and afternoon pick up 3pm. Cultural village tour US\$61 pp (including transfers). Gain an insight into Zimbabwean rural life from home life to farming tasks and meet the village chief. Departures are daily, in the morning and afternoon for duration of 2.5hrs. Please note that all activities are dependent on availability and local prices can change.

## Clothing

Clothing should be lightweight, however a warm fleece and jumper/thick shirts are essential, as nights (and daytime) can be cold, especially from May to September, and game drives tend to take place at dawn and dusk. A waterproof and windproof jacket is recommended during these months. Please note that brightly coloured clothing is not suitable for game viewing. Don't forget your swimming costume!

## Footwear

Lightweight trail boots or robust trainers with a good grip, and sandals.

## Luggage

20kg

## Luggage: On tour

One main piece of baggage (a kitbag or soft holdall) plus daypack.

## Equipment

We advise you bring a water bottle, sunhat, sunglasses and high factor sunscreen. Binoculars are essential for game viewing and a 300mm lens is recommended for photography.

## Tipping

### Local crew

Although entirely voluntary, tipping is a recognised part of life in this region of the world. Some local staff will look to members of the group for personal recognition of particular services provided.

## Country Information

### Zimbabwe Holidays & Tours

#### Food and drink

The costs for meals may vary depending upon location, type of restaurant and number of courses eaten and so the prices given are an average guide. Local restaurants located off the beaten track may be less expensive, whereas an upmarket restaurant located in the centre of a major city may charge more.

##### Lunch price

£6

##### Dinner price

£10

##### Beer price

£1.5

##### Water price

£0.5

#### Foreign Exchange

##### Local currency

Use US dollars or South African rand. The Zimbabwean dollar is no longer used.

##### Recommended Currency For Exchange

USDollars

##### Where To Exchange

There is no need to change from US dollars, Sterling, Euros or rand as you can use these locally.

##### ATM Availability

ATMs are available in the major towns but can be unreliable. Please note that currently cash cannot be withdrawn with international bank cards.

**Credit Card Acceptance**

Not widely accepted, please do not rely on credit or debit cards.

**Travellers Cheques**

We do not recommend use of travellers cheques due to the limited opening hours of banks.

## Transport, Accommodation & Meals

### Transport Information

Bus

## Essential information

### FCO Advice

We strongly recommend that you check your government's travel advisory for up-to-date information and advice about your destination: safety and security, entry requirements, health, local laws and customs. For UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office advice click [here](#).

For more information from Explore about travel advice, click [here](#)

**Under 18 immigration guidance**

Please note that some countries require proof of parental consent when travelling overseas with under 18s. Please check requirements with the relevant embassy or consular office well in advance of travel if this applies to your party.

### Essential Information

Once your booking has been confirmed we guarantee the price will not increase, whatever the circumstances. Before booking please ensure you have read our important tour pricing information. [Booking Conditions](#)

### Visa Information

Zimbabwe: Visas are required by UK, Republic of Ireland, Canadian, US, Australian and New Zealand citizens. These can be arranged on arrival for the current cost of 35GBP. If you are arranging your visa on arrival, please bring small notes with you as immigration officers may not be able to provide change. All passports must have at least 6 months validity remaining on entry and also have three blank pages. Other nationalities should consult the relevant consulate. Travel via South Africa (including transits): From 1st June 2015 South Africa will enforce new immigration regulations affecting all children aged under 18 years that are travelling to, from or via the country. The new laws state that parents and/or guardians may be requested by the airline and/or South Africa immigration officers to provide additional documentation for each child they are travelling with. Please refer to the South African House website for full requirements: [http://outhafricahouseuk.com/visas/vis\\_forcit.html](http://outhafricahouseuk.com/visas/vis_forcit.html) and your airline for up to date requirements. You should confirm all visa related questions with the relevant Embassy prior to departure.

If you do require assistance in obtaining a visa then you may consider applying through Explore's recommended visa service in the UK, Travcour. See [www.travcour.com](http://www.travcour.com) to download the relevant visa application for your trip, if applicable (UK citizens only), along with details of how to apply for your visa through Travcour. The Team at Travcour will be happy to answer specific questions relating to visa applications, please call them directly on 0208 5431846.

### Booking conditions

Before booking your Explore trip, please ensure that you read both our Essential Information and Booking Conditions.

### Transfers

[Find out more about Trip Transfer Terms and Conditions before you book.](#)

**Booking a land only package with Explore**

Customers who have chosen to book on the 'Land Only' arrangements of our tour, please ensure that you have checked your tour specific 'Joining Instructions' prior to booking your own travel arrangements. Your joining instructions can be found below in the dates and prices information.

You may also be eligible for the Free Explore Transfer.

### **Joining Tour Abroad**

Customers booked on the 'Land Only' arrangements will now receive a Free Transfer, provided you arrive and depart on the tour only itinerary start and end dates. The transfers will be from the Explore designated airport or train station to the joining point of your tour, and then back from the ending point to the designated airport or train station. The exception to this rule is customers who are booked on a tour where the joining and ending point is at the designated airport or train station.

Free transfers are not available for Self-Guided, Tailormade or Tours for Churches customers.

If you are not eligible for the Free Transfer then you will need to make your own way through to the joining and ending point. On a majority of our tours Explore will be able to provide a private transfer at an additional cost. Please ask for a quote at the time of booking.

For more information regarding the Explore Free Transfer [click here](#)

## **Insurance**

It is a condition of booking with Explore that you have adequate valid travel insurance. It is your responsibility to arrange appropriate travel insurance and ensure you have read and understood the full terms and conditions of your travel insurance policy to ensure that you are covered for all activities you intend to undertake whilst on the tour, including all optional activities. Your Insurance Policy must fully cover you for medical expenses and emergency repatriation to your home country. Please ensure your policy includes medical emergency helicopter evacuation in the event of illness or injury and covers the entire duration of your holiday. If you are trekking at altitude please ensure that there is no upper altitude limit which may limit or exclude cover for your trip. Medical and repatriation insurance cover is not mandatory for UK residents who are travelling on trips within the United Kingdom.

Read more information about what travel insurance is required.

## **Flight information**

Explore offers a wide range of flexible flying options to make joining and leaving our trips easy. [Read more about them here.](#)

### **Flight Information**

You are able to book this tour on a 'land only' basis or as a 'flight inclusive' package. Your flight inclusive package will be fully protected by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) ATOL protection scheme.

### **Booking a flight inclusive package with Explore**

We have a good selection of flights not only from London but from many regional airports around the UK allowing us to compare fares between scheduled carriers as well as low cost and charter airlines. Our dedicated flights team will match the best flight options to your arrival and departure airport.

On our website we display a UK flight inclusive package guide price which is generally based on a London departure. To avoid paying supplements or to secure your preferred flight option, we recommend booking as early as possible, especially for peak travel dates.

## **Non refundable permits**

## **Zimbabwe Holidays & Tours**

### **Vaccinations**

The above is not an exhaustive list. Further information regarding vaccinations and travel health advice can be found by following the NHS and NaTHNaC links at <http://www.explore.co.uk/Travelhealth/> and from your local healthcare provider. Visa and vaccination requirements are subject to change and should be confirmed before departure.

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