

# Zimbabwe

## Information for applicants

### Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe borders South Africa, Botswana, Zambia and Mozambique. As a landlocked state, the country has no direct access to the sea. The Zambezi River forms the northern border with Zambia, and the Limpopo River marks the southern border with South Africa. Zimbabwe has an area of 390,757 km<sup>2</sup>, of which 3,910 km<sup>2</sup> is covered with water. The total area of the country is approximately equal to the combined area of Germany and Belgium. Mount Nyangani is the highest mountain at 2,592 m and is located in Nyanga National Park on the border with Mozambique.

Harare, the capital of Zimbabwe, is the largest city in the country with approximately two million inhabitants and is situated on a high plateau to the northeast. Other large cities include Bulawayo and Chitungwiza.

### Climate and sights

The capital Harare is nicknamed 'The Sunshine City' with an average of nine hours of sunshine a day. The climate is pleasant all year round, with a cooler dry season from May to August (daytime temperatures around 23°C and night-time temperatures up to 5°C in July and August) and a moderate rainy season from November to April (daytime temperatures around 29°C and night-time temperatures around 18°C). It gets hottest in September and October, when temperatures sometimes rise above 30°C.

The land is almost entirely covered by dry savannah. During the dry season the grass is brown and withered, but at the end of the rainy season it reaches a height of up to two metres, providing the basic source of food for numerous animal species, including

the 'Big Five'. Zimbabwe's sights include several UNESCO World Heritage Sites, such as Victoria Falls, which is one of the greatest waterfalls in the world. There, the Zambezi – the fourth-largest river in Africa – plunges up to 108 metres into the depths and stretches 1,700 metres wide.

### Health

Basic health care is available. There are several private clinics where payment can be made in cash in US dollars and which have good doctors and equipment. The German embassy has a list of recommended doctors in Harare. For larger operations the recommendation is to travel to South Africa. Due to the economic situation, a well-stocked first aid kit should be included in your luggage, as not all medicines are always available. Malaria occurs nationwide, but with varying frequency depending on the season and region.

### Accommodation and leisure time

Next to downtown Harare, there are many green and quiet residential areas. You can spend your leisure time exploring a wide range of sports, and visiting galleries and museums, or various restaurants and bars. There are some small theatres and cinemas and a number of art and music festivals.

### Shopping and everyday supplies

Due to the economic crisis, there are frequently shortages of everyday products in Zimbabwe. This mainly affects petrol and diesel. Long queues in front of the petrol stations can be avoided by paying in US dollars. The supermarkets are usually well stocked. However, as this is not always the case, it makes

sense to stock up on important non-perishable food items at home. Due to inflation in the Zimbabwe dollar, prices in supermarkets rise regularly, but prices in US dollars are mostly stable. There is only one cash machine in Zimbabwe where registered foreigners can withdraw US dollars. This is located on the UN campus in Harare and can be used on working days.

## Accompanying partners and children

A good international school (American system) and a French school are available in Harare. There are also very good private local schools that follow the British system. There is a wide range of leisure activities for families and children (fishing, hiking, many outdoor activities) and lots of opportunities to take part in sport. Accompanying partners can apply for a work permit from the Department for Immigration.

## Travel

Harare can be reached by plane with a stopover at various hubs. South African Airlines flies via Johannesburg, Emirates via Dubai, Kenya Airways via Nairobi and Ethiopian Airways via Addis Ababa. There are also direct flights to Kigali, Cape Town and Lusaka and within the country to Bulawayo in the south and Victoria Falls.

## Further links

<https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/de/ReiseUndSicherheit/simbabwesicherheit/208948>

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