

# Zimbabwe

By Tom Kirvan

## A JEWEL OF AFRICA

Zimbabwe, a landlocked country in Southern Africa, is a destination of remarkable beauty, cultural richness, and historical depth. Known for its diverse wildlife, ancient ruins, and dramatic landscapes, Zimbabwe offers an unforgettable journey into the heart of Africa.

With a population of approximately 16-million people, Zimbabwe is bordered by Mozambique, South Africa, Botswana, and Zambia, and features rolling savannas, granite hills, lush forests, and mighty rivers. Two major rivers, the Zambezi and the Limpopo, form its northern and southern boundaries, respectively.

The capital city, Harare, is the cultural and economic heartbeat of Zimbabwe. Located in the northeast, Harare is a vibrant metropolis of 3.1-million people that is known for its jacaranda-lined streets, bustling markets, and thriving arts scene. Key landmarks like the National Gallery of Zimbabwe and the Chapungu Sculpture Park showcase the nation's rich artistic heritage.

Zimbabwe's highest point is Mount Nyangani, located in the Eastern Highlands. Standing at 8,504 feet, this peak is shrouded in mist and folklore, making it a popular spot for hikers and nature enthusiasts. The mountain offers breathtaking views, cascading waterfalls, and unique flora and fauna, making it a must-visit for adventurers.

The name "Zimbabwe" is derived from Dzimba-dza-mabwe, meaning "houses of stone," a nod to the Great Zimbabwe Ruins. These ruins were the center of a powerful kingdom that controlled trade routes between Africa's interior and coastal cities during the Middle Ages.

During the colonial period, Zimbabwe was known as Southern Rhodesia, a British colony. The struggle for independence culminated in 1980, when the country gained sovereignty under the leadership of Robert Mugabe, becoming one of Africa's most notable liberation stories.

### Top 5 Must-See Tourist Destinations

- **Victoria Falls:** Known locally as Mosi-oa-Tunya or "The Smoke That Thunders," Victoria Falls is one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World. This awe-inspiring waterfall on the Zambezi River straddles the border between Zimbabwe and Zambia. Visitors can marvel at its thunderous roar, explore nearby rainforests, or take part in adrenaline-pumping activities like bungee jumping and white-water rafting.



## Fast Facts

Capital: Harare

Population: 16-million

Economic engines: Mining, tobacco, and tourism

Must-see Attraction: Victoria Falls

**Primerus Member: Mhishi Nkomo Legal Practice**

Mhishi Nkomo Legal Practice, a full-service law firm located in Harare.



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- **Hwange National Park:** Zimbabwe's largest national park, Hwange, is a wildlife lover's paradise. Spanning more than 9,000 square miles, the park is home to a vast array of animals, including elephants, lions, and endangered African wild dogs. Game drives and walking safaris provide an intimate glimpse into the country's rich biodiversity.
- **Great Zimbabwe Ruins:** These ancient stone structures, located near Masvingo, are a UNESCO World Heritage Site and a testament to the ingenuity of the Shona civilization. Built between the 11th and 15th centuries, the ruins include the Great Enclosure, a massive stone wall that showcases advanced masonry techniques. It is one of Africa's most significant archaeological sites.
- **Mana Pools National Park:** Situated along the Zambezi River, Mana Pools is another UNESCO World Heritage Site renowned for its untouched wilderness. The park is a haven for canoeing safaris, where travelers can glide alongside hippos, crocodiles, and elephants. The floodplains attract a variety of wildlife, offering exceptional photographic opportunities.
- **Matobo National Park:** Famous for its dramatic granite formations and ancient San rock art, Matobo is a spiritual and historical treasure. It is also the final resting place of Cecil Rhodes, the founder of Rhodesia, now Zimbabwe. Visitors can hike to the World's View, a scenic vantage point offering panoramic views of the surrounding landscape.

