

## ZIMBABWE

**Country Dialling Code (Tel/Fax): ++263**

**Zimbabwe Tourism Authority (ZTA):** PO Box CY286, Causeway, Harare, Zimbabwe Tel: (4) 758 730 Fax: (4) 758 828 E-mail: [info@africaonline.co.zw](mailto:info@africaonline.co.zw) Website: [www.tourismzimbabwe.co.zw](http://www.tourismzimbabwe.co.zw)

**Capital:** Harare **Time:** GMT + 2

**Background:** The UK annexed Southern Rhodesia from the South Africa Company in 1923. A 1961 constitution was formulated to keep whites in power. In 1965 the government unilaterally declared its independence, but the UK did not recognize the act and demanded voting rights for the black African majority in the country (then called Rhodesia). UN sanctions and a guerrilla uprising finally led to free elections in 1979 and independence (as Zimbabwe) in 1980. Robert MUGABE, the nation's first prime minister, has been the country's only ruler (as president since 1987) and has dominated the country's political system since independence.

**Location:** Southern Africa, between South Africa and Zambia

**Map References:** Africa

**Area:** total: 390,580 sq km, land: 386,670 sq km, water: 3,910 sq km

**Climate:** tropical; moderated by altitude; rainy season (November to March)

**Terrain:** mostly high plateau with higher central plateau (high veld); mountains in east

**Natural Resources:** coal, chromium ore, asbestos, gold, nickel, copper, iron ore, vanadium, lithium, tin, platinum group metals

**Population:** 11,342,521 (July 2000 est.)

**Nationality:** noun: Zimbabwean(s), adjective: Zimbabwean

**Ethnic Groups:** African 98% (Shona 71%, Ndebele 16%, other 11%), white 1%, mixed and Asian 1%

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

**Languages:** English (official), Shona, Sindebele (the language of the Ndebele, sometimes called Ndebele), numerous but minor tribal dialects

**Economy:** The government of Zimbabwe faces a wide variety of difficult economic problems as it struggles to consolidate earlier progress in developing a market-oriented economy. Its involvement in the war in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, for example, has already drained hundreds of millions of dollars from the economy. Badly needed support from the IMF suffers delays in part because of the country's failure to meet budgetary goals. Inflation rose from an annual rate of 32% in 1998 to 59% in 1999. The economy is being steadily weakened by AIDS; Zimbabwe has the highest rate of infection in the world. Per capita GDP, which is twice the average of the poorer sub-Saharan nations, will increase little if any in the near-term, and Zimbabwe will suffer continued frustrations in developing its agricultural and mineral resources.

**Industries:** mining (coal, gold, copper, nickel, tin, clay, numerous metallic and nonmetallic ores), steel, wood products, cement, chemicals, fertilizer, clothing and footwear, foodstuffs, beverages

**Currency:** 1 Zimbabwean dollar (Z\$) = 100 cents

**Railways:** total: 2,759 km (1995), narrow gauge: 2,759 km 1.067-m gauge (313 km electrified; 42 km double track) (1995 est.)

**Highways:** total: 18,338 km, paved: 8,692 km, unpaved: 9,646 km (1996 est.)

**Waterways:** the Mazoe and Zambezi rivers are used for transporting chrome ore from Harare to Mozambique

**Ports and Harbors:** Binga, Kariba

**Airports:** 459 (1999 est.) Airports - with paved runways: total: 18, over 3,047 m: 3, 2,438 to 3,047 m: 2, 1,524 to 2,437 m: 4, 914 to 1,523 m: 9 (1999 est.) Airports - with

unpaved runways: total: 441, 1,524 to 2,437 m: 4, 914 to 1,523 m: 217, under 914 m: 220 (1999 est.)

**Visa:** required by all except the following nationals of: Canada, USA, Australian, UK, other EU and Japanese.

**Duty Free:** goods up to a value of US\$250 per person inclusive of tobacco, perfume and gifts; for persons of 18 years of age or older, 5 litres of alcoholic beverages (up to 2 litres of which may be spirits).

**Health:** a yellow fever vaccination certificate is required from all travellers arriving from infected areas. Malaria risk exists all year throughout the country. All water should be regarded as being potentially contaminated.

## HOTELS•MOTELS•INNS

**HARARE**

**CROWNE PLAZA HOTEL,** HARARE-MONOMOTAPA, 54 PARK LANE, HARARE, 2445, ZIMBABWE, Hotel Front Desk: 263-4-704501, Hotel Fax: 263-4-791920, [sales@crownep.zimsun.co.zw](mailto:sales@crownep.zimsun.co.zw), [www.crowneplaza.co.uk](http://www.crowneplaza.co.uk)

**HOLIDAY INN,** SAMORA MACHEL AVENUE, P.O. BOX 7, HARARE, ZIMBABWE, Hotel Reservations: 0870 400 9092, Hotel Front Desk: 263-4-795611, [www.ichotelsgroup.com](http://www.ichotelsgroup.com)

**IMBA MATOMBO,** 3 Albert Glen Close, Glen Lorne, Harare, PO BOX HG 800, Highlands, Harare, Zimbabwe, Tel: 263-4 499013/4, Fax: 263-4 499071, [imba@zol.co.zw](mailto:imba@zol.co.zw), <http://www.imbahotel.com>

**NEW AMBASSADOR HOTEL HARARE,** 88 Kwame Nkrumah Avenue



The Meikle Hotel  
Corner 3rd Street / Jason Moyo Avenue  
Harare  
Zimbabwe

Tel: (263-4) 707721/251705

Fax: (263-4) 707754 GDS Code: LW

E-Mail: [meikles@meikles.com](mailto:meikles@meikles.com)

<http://www.meikles.com>

Harare, Harare, Zimbabwe, <http://www.hararehotelnwambassador.com>

**VICTORIA FALLS****THE VICTORIA FALLS HOTEL**

Mallet Drive, P.O. Box 10 Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe

Tel: 263 13 44751,

Fax: 263 13 44762

E-mail: [reservations@tvfh.zimsun.co.zw](mailto:reservations@tvfh.zimsun.co.zw)



## AIRLINES &amp; HELIPORTS

**AIR ZIMBABWE,** 401 North Michigan Avenue, Suite 3320, Chicago, IL 60611-4255, Telephone: 800-742-3006, Fax: 312-822-0048, [chi@airzimbabwe.com](mailto:chi@airzimbabwe.com), <http://www.airzimbabwe.com>