Zambia - General Information

Zambia General Information

Getting there
Direct flights to Lusaka are available from London - or connecting flights easily arranged through Johannesburg - either to Lusaka or Victoria Falls. Transfers to South Africa, Botswana, Namibia and Mozambique can be easily arranged.

When to go
There are two seasons in Zambia - peak season is from June to October and the Emerald Season runs from November - May. During the Emerald season, rates are much lower, photography can be better as the air is clearer, game is still prolific (cats tend to stick close to the roads as they don't like to get their feet wet!), it is the best time of year for seeing wild dogs, and there are less people in the park. However, the Lower Zambezi and the Kafue are not accessible during the green season. During peak season, there is little or no chance of rain, game concentrates around the water holes as the rivers and lagoons get lower, there are more game viewing loops available and walking safaris are readily available.

Visas
British citizens require a valid passport and a visa to visit Zambia. As of November 2008, the cost for a visa for entry to Zambia is US$50 for single entry; US$80 for double entry for British Nationals. Note that a day trip from Zambia to the Zimbabwean side of Victoria Falls will constitute a double entry. You can buy the visa at the port of entry: be sure to have the correct amount with you in US dollars as they are unlikely to give change.
Note: Passport and visa requirements are liable to change at short notice. Travellers are advised to check their entry requirements with their embassy or consulate.

Health
The World Health Organisation (www.who.int/en/) recommends that all travellers are innoculated against diptheria, tetanus, measles, mumps, rubella and polio as well as for hepatitus B.

Hepatitus A, typhoid and rabies are also recommended by the Centres for Disease Control & Prevention (www.cdc.gov) for travel in Zambia. Depending on the area visited, anti-malarial drugs may also be recommended. All travellers should seek advice from their local GP or travel clinic for uptodate advice on vaccinations and different malarial options.

Electricity supply
220v, 2 & 3pin plugs. Adaptors are required to charge cameras, etc.

Money
The Zambian currency is the Kwacha (ZMK), divided into 100 ngwee, but the coins are now worthless and seldom used. It is best to bring travellers cheques, US Dollars or Pounds Sterling which can be exchanged at the many bureaux de change found in the main towns. Travellers cheques in South African rand or US dollars are recommended.

What to bring
Binoculars, torch, walking shoes, swimming gear, plenty of high factor suncream, sunhat, insect repellent, camera, a day pack. Warm clothing is recommended for evenings, and a waterproof jacket. Lightweight clothing is recommended for the day. Avoid brightly coloured clothing for game viewing