

ZIMBABWE COUNTRY INFO AND GUIDELINES



Climate

The climate is tropical, although markedly moderated by altitude. There is a dry season, including a short cool season during the period of May to September when the whole country has very little or no rain. The rainy, hot season is typically a time of heavy rainfall from November to April.

General

Victoria Falls is a town is located in the province of Matabeleland North, Zimbabwe, on the border with Zambia. It lies on the southern bank of the Zambezi River at the western end of the Victoria Falls. While it is neither the highest nor the widest waterfall in the world, Victoria Falls is claimed to be the biggest. This claim is based on a width of 1 708m (5,6ft) and height of 108m (354ft), forming the largest sheet of falling water in the world. Zimbabwe is the 61st largest country in the world – just larger than Japan but smaller than Paraguay, with a total area of 390 580km².

Topography

Most of Zimbabwe is rolling plateau, with over 75% of the country lying between 600 and 1 500m above sea level. The area of high plateau, known as the highveld, is around 650m long and 80km wide, and stretches northeast to southwest at 1 200 to 1 675m. This culminates in the northeast in the Inyanga Mountains, reaching the country's highest point at Mount Inyangani (2 592m). On either side of the highveld is the middleveld – a plateau at about 600 to 1 200m. Below 610m, are areas making up the lowveld – wide and grassy plains in the Zambezi basin. The highveld is a central ridge forming the country's watershed, with streams flowing northwest into the Zambezi. Only the largest of the many rivers have an all year-round water flow.

Demographics

Zimbabwe has an estimated population of 13.12 million people, and nearly 98% of Zimbabwe's populace is of African origin. The Shona ethnic group comprises approximately 82% of the population, and occupies a large part of eastern Zimbabwe. The Ndebele make up about 13% of the population, and primarily live in the southwest of the country. Approximately 5% of the population is made up of other ethnic groups. Zimbabwe has 16 official languages, with the prominent dialects being Shona and Sindebele. English is also an official language, which is widely used in administration, law, media, and schooling. Only 4% of the population lives in urban areas. About 50% of the population has syncretic religious beliefs (part Christian, part indigenous beliefs), while 25% of the population follow Christianity, 24% follow Islam, and 1% follow other religions.