

## *Information to Help Prepare You for Your Upcoming Journey To*

# ZAMBIA

## *AFRICA'S LESS DISCOVERED WILDERNESS Including Cape Town, South Africa*

### DOCUMENTATION & ENTRANCE/EXIT REQUIREMENTS

#### **Entrance Requirements**

##### **Passports**

- A passport, valid for 6 months from your scheduled date of departure is required for entry.
- You will need blank pages in the visa section of your passport for entry and exit stamps. Zambia requires a minimum of three blank pages. You will also need two blank pages for each additional country included on your itinerary. A blank page is defined as the front and back of a page.
- If you **need a new passport** to be issued **act now**: It can take up to 6 weeks to receive your new passport. It is no longer possible to purchase additional pages for an existing passport. If you travel frequently, please consider purchasing a 52-page passport. For more information visit <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/passports.html>.

**Important Notice:** Passengers traveling to South Africa with children under the age of 18 are required to present additional documentation such as a copy of a birth certificate reflecting the particulars of both parents.

*All documents issued in a language other than English should be accompanied by a sworn translation issued by a competent authority in the country concerned.*

In the case of one parent traveling with a child, he or she must additionally show consent in the form of an affidavit from the other parent registered on the child's birth certificate, a court order granting full parental responsibilities and rights or legal guardianship in respect of the child, if he or she is the parent or legal guardian of the child or where applicable, a death certificate of the other parent registered as a parent of the child on the birth certificate.

**Advisory:** *When you travel, we recommend that you make two copies of your first passport page; keep one copy at home in the unlikely event that your passport is lost and take one copy along to use as an ID, should you leave your passport behind in the hotel safe deposit box. Alternatively, if you will be traveling with your smartphone, you may consider keeping a copy of your passport on your phone. Air Tickets must be in the same name that appears on your passport so make certain that you are registered on your Classic Escapes program in the same exact way.*

**Please Note:** In 2018, Zambia joined the global movement to eliminate the production and distribution of single-use plastics that create environmental and health hazards. South Africa has instituted a levy on plastic bags while retail outlets throughout the country have initiated their own ban. The bans include carrier bags used by duty-free and general shops; flat bags sometimes used to protect luggage or line trash bins, and dry-cleaning bags.



Consider using TSA-approved leak-proof silicone travel bottles and clear PVC toiletry bags which can be found at stores such as CVS, Rite Aid, and Walgreens or through online stores such as Amazon.com.



## **Visa**

South Africa: Visas are not required for U.S. Citizens for visits of 90 days or less.

Zambia: A visa is required for U.S. citizens to enter Zambia. You may obtain a Zambian visa in advance through the E-Visa portal.

To secure your visa in advance, visit: <https://eservices.zambiaimmigration.gov.zm/#/home> to create an account and apply for your visa. Select the 'Help' key to access the User Guide with step-by-step instructions.

Payment is accepted by Visa, MasterCard, or American Express. A small administrative will be applied for online services, currently, the total cost is US\$50.55 for a 30-day tourist visa.

KAZA Uni-Visa: The participating governments of the Kavango Zambezi Trans-Frontier Conservation Area (KAZA) have created a Uni-Visa. If you will be participating in the extension to Victoria Falls, we recommend that you purchase a KAZA Uni-Visa instead of a Single-Entry Tourist Visa because it allows travelers to make multiple visits to both Zimbabwe and Zambia and the cost is the same as a Single-Entry Tourist visa.

Due to the location of the falls along the border and the position of the cataract, views of the falls when water levels are low (typically, August – November) will be more impressive on the Zimbabwean side.

Your E-visa is valid for entry to Zambia within 3-months of the E-visa approval date. You will need scanned copies of the following documents in .jpeg, .tiff, or .png format for your online application:

- Valid Passport
- Passport Photo
- Air Ticket or flight itinerary

***Advisory:*** You are responsible for obtaining your own valid passport AND the proper visas.

## **Customs Declaration**

This form will be handed out in flight. The following may be imported into Zambia and South Africa by persons over 16 years of age without incurring customs duty: 400 cigarettes and 50 cigars and 8 ounces of tobacco; 2 liters of wine and 1 liter of spirits; 1.76 oz. of perfume and 9 oz. of eau de toilette; and gifts to the value of NAD 50, 000 (including the value of imported duty-free items).

## **Landing Card**

This form will also be handed out in-flight and presented with your Customs Declaration form.

## **Prescription for Medications**

If you are traveling with a prescription drug, it is important that your medications can be identified in the event you are questioned by TSA or customs officials. We recommend traveling with your medications in their original labeled containers. Be sure to check the local regulations to confirm your prescriptions are legal in your desired destination.

## **Exiting Requirements**

### **Departure Tax**

South Africa: All departure taxes for your journey are included in your air tickets. However, this can always change, so please be prepared should this occur.

Zambia: a departure tax of US\$25 on international flights and \$8 for domestic flights is usually included in the cost of your airline ticket. Please check your ticket before leaving home, if this departure tax is not included you will have to pay it in U.S. dollars at the airport. Additionally, there is an Airport Development Infrastructure Fee of approximately U.S. \$7 payable in cash on departure.

### **Customs Declarations**

South Africa: Visitors are prohibited from exporting gold coins and coins and stamp collections; endangered plants and animals including seeds, flowers, fruit, honey, margarine, and vegetable oils.

Zambia: All unauthorized plant and meat products, pets, and animals are prohibited from export without the proper government permit.

### **Returning to the U.S.**

The U.S. forbids the import of any product derived from an endangered species. Importing ivory into the U.S. is illegal.

U.S. customs allows you to bring \$800 worth of goods into the country duty-free, which includes one liter of alcohol maximum.

## **HEALTH & WELLNESS**

You will be visiting a region with a rich and diverse cultural history and unique flora and fauna. As a result, you may be exposed to some pathogens that you would not ordinarily encounter in the U.S. There are some preventative steps that you can take to help ensure that you do not bring back to your home more than your luggage.

### **COVID-19**

The 2019 novel coronavirus or COVID-19 is a virus that can spread from person to person through small droplets from the nose or mouth which are expelled when an infected person sneezes, coughs or speaks.

The most common symptoms are fever or chills, dry cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, and fatigue though some patients may experience muscle ache, headache, nasal congestion, sore throat, loss of taste or smell, nausea, or diarrhea. These symptoms can occur 2-14 days after exposure and range from mild or no symptoms to severe illness.

Safety protocols are changing frequently as conditions fluctuate around the world. We will continue to monitor these changes and provide you with the requirements specific to your journey approximately three weeks prior to your departure.

The Centers for Disease Control notes the best way to prevent illness is to avoid exposure and offers the following advice:

- Wash your hands often. Use soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer that includes at least 60% alcohol. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid Close Contact and observe social distancing.

- Cover your mouth and nose with a mask when around others. Everyone should wear a mask in public settings and when around people who do not live in their household, especially when other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain.
- Cover coughs and sneezes.
- Clean and Disinfect frequently touched surfaces.
- Monitor your health daily. Take your temperature and watch for fever, cough, shortness of breath, or other symptoms of COVID-19.

Please Note: Older adults and people who have certain underlying conditions like heart or lung disease or diabetes are at increased risk of severe illness from COVID-19 and should discuss travel plans with a physician.

More information can be found on the CDC website: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>

### **Touchless Service**

As an enhanced precaution, Classic Escapes along with our local suppliers have endorsed a 'touchless service' system. All documentation including your final itinerary, contact information, and airline tickets will be provided electronically so that you may access your documents on your smartphone or tablet.

In order to participate in one of our tours, travelers must certify that they have not recently been treated for, nor are aware of any physical or other condition or liability that would create a hazard to themselves or other members of the tour and agree to comply with all health protocols as directed by Classic Escapes and their representatives during their journey. Travelers must maintain suitable physical distancing and frequently wash or sanitize hands throughout their journey. Travelers are required to wear masks in vehicles, indoor areas, and any outdoor areas where physical distancing is not possible and in accordance with local regulations. Noncompliance with these procedures will result in the suspension of the journey. **Travelers voluntarily assume all risks and related expenses in the event that they or any member of their traveling party require testing, quarantine, or become infected with COVID-19.** Classic Escapes will endeavor to provide assistance wherever possible.

**A note about changing air tickets:** Classic Escapes is prohibited from making any changes or inquiries on behalf of travelers who have purchased their own air tickets. Airlines will only grant access and permit changes from the traveler or booking agent.

### **Inoculations**

The Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) suggest that you be up to date on routine vaccines listed below. Please consult your physician, local health authority, or the Centers for Disease Control for the most up-to-date information at:

South Africa: <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/none/south-africa>

Zambia: <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/none/zambia>

### **Vaccines currently recommended by the CDC**

- MMR (measles, mumps, rubella)
- DTP (diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis)
- Varicella (chicken pox)
- Polio
- Influenza
- COVID-19

The CDC recommends these vaccines for MOST travelers. They are NOT mandatory:

- Hepatitis A and B

### **Malaria**

Malaria is present in Zambia. Consult your doctor about a prescription for a malaria suppressant at least two weeks prior to departure as some tablets must be taken before you depart, as well as during and after the trip. The best prevention is to avoid mosquito bites. Review the CDC guidelines shown below.

Malaria symptoms can appear as few as 8 days after exposure or a year later. Do not be misled by flu-like symptoms of chills and fever. Since some U.S. doctors are unfamiliar with malaria, insist on a blood test. Delays in treatment can have serious consequences.

### **Yellow Fever**

Inoculation for Yellow Fever is not required for travelers arriving from the United States however if you will be arriving from a country with a risk of Yellow Fever transmission, the governments of these countries will require proof of inoculation before you are permitted entry.

### **CDC Guidelines on How to Avoid Mosquito Bites:**

Bugs (like mosquitoes, ticks, and fleas) can spread diseases including Malaria and Dengue Fever. You can reduce your risk of contracting diseases by taking steps to prevent bug bites. The CDC provides the following advice:

- Use insect repellent that contains at least 20% DEET such as Cutter Backwoods and Off! Deep Woods. If you are using Sunscreen, apply it first, let it dry and then apply repellent. (Do not use products that contain both sunscreen and repellent)
- Cover Exposed Skin as much as possible with long-sleeved shirts, long pants, socks, and a hat.
- Consider using clothing and gear that are treated with permethrin (an insecticide). You can purchase a solution to treat your own clothes or purchase pre-treated clothing available through outdoor outfitters such as REI or Columbia Sportswear.

### **Prescription Medications**

Here are some helpful tips for traveling abroad with prescription, or over-the-counter medications.

- Pack enough to last your entire trip, including some extra in case you are unexpectedly delayed.
- Carry all medications in their original labeled containers and pack them in your carry-on bag for easy access and to facilitate airport security and customs screening.
- Ask your pharmacy or physician for the name of the generic equivalent of your prescription in case you need to purchase additional medication abroad.
- If you are traveling with a prescribed narcotic, we recommend that you bring a letter from your physician in case you are questioned about your medication by customs officials; some countries have strict restrictions on bringing controlled substances into the country without proper medical documentation.

### **Water & Food**

Generally, water throughout Southern Africa is safe, however, we recommend drinking boiled or bottled water. In remote areas, water is usually boiled or bottled. Classic Escapes provides a reusable water bottle and safe drinking water for refills in vehicles and at each meal. Please do not allow yourself to become dehydrated. It is very important that you drink plenty of water, especially during the warmer months.

Food, even in remote tented camps, is carefully prepared, and the local produce is refreshing.

## **Travel Insurance & Medical Evacuation**

Doctors, clinics, and hospitals expect immediate cash payment for health services. We recommend a Trip Cancellation policy that includes Emergency Medical and Evacuation coverage.

## **CLIMATIC CONDITIONS**

### **Altitude**

Altitudes are generally low in Zambia and South Africa with the exception of Johannesburg. It is rare, but at certain heights, the phenomenon known as altitude sickness can occur. There are no specific factors such as age, gender, or physical condition that correlate with susceptibility to altitude sickness. Some people may experience it on one visit and not the next. Symptoms include headache, fatigue, shortness of breath, lack of concentration, nausea, swelling of ankles, and in extreme cases, hallucination. Avoid alcohol, cigarettes, heavy food, and strenuous physical activity. Citrus fruits and bananas may diminish the effects. If you do not feel well, take it easy and drink plenty of clean water, and rest.

### **Altitude Chart: (Feet)**

<b>South Africa</b>	
Cape Town	500
Johannesburg	5,800

<b>Zambia</b>	
Lower Zambezi National Park	1,247
Lusaka	4,190
Victoria Falls, Livingstone	2,904
South Luangwa National Park	1,581 - 5,535

**South Africa:** The climate is affected by the waters surrounding the country on three sides creating variations in the weather patterns. In Cape Town, winters (June-August) are mild and changeable; this is also the time when most of the rainfall occurs. The summer months (January-March) are generally dry. On the high veld, around Johannesburg, there are sharp differences in temperatures between day and night, and it can be quite cold during the winter (April-August) with little rain in most of the country, except for the Cape.

### **Average Temperature (°F) - Average lows and highs**

	<b>Jan</b>	<b>Feb</b>	<b>Mar</b>	<b>Apr</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>Jun</b>
Cape Town	61/79	59/79	57/77	54/73	50/68	46/64
Johannesburg	59/79	57/77	55/75	52/72	46/66	41/61
	<b>Jul</b>	<b>Aug</b>	<b>Sep</b>	<b>Oct</b>	<b>Nov</b>	<b>Dec</b>
Cape Town	45/63	45/64	46/66	50/70	55/75	59/77
Johannesburg	41/61	45/66	48/72	54/75	55/77	57/77

### **Average Rainfall (Inches)**

	<b>Jan</b>	<b>Feb</b>	<b>Mar</b>	<b>Apr</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>Jun</b>
Cape Town	0.6	0.6	.9	1.9	3.6	4.1
Johannesburg	5.9	5.1	4.3	1.9	1.0	0.3
	<b>Jul</b>	<b>Aug</b>	<b>Sep</b>	<b>Oct</b>	<b>Nov</b>	<b>Dec</b>
Cape Town	3.6	3.3	2.1	1.6	1.0	0.8
Johannesburg	0.4	0.4	1.0	2.6	5.0	5.6

**Zambia:** Zambia has a tropical climate with three distinct seasons - cool and dry (May to August), hot and dry (September to November), and warm and wet (December to April). Both temperature and rainfall are closely affected and moderated by its higher elevation. The warmest conditions are in the valleys of the Zambezi, Luangwa, and Kafue rivers and by the shores of Lake Tanganyika, Mweru, and Bangweulu.

#### Average Temperature (°F) - Average lows and highs

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Lower Zambezi National Park	68/84	68/84	66/84	61/84	55/82	50/77
Lusaka	65/82	64/83	63/82	58/81	52/79	48/77
Victoria Falls, Livingstone	63/79	64/79	63/78	59/77	54/77	50/73
South Luangwa National Park	69/84	68/80	67/80	65/80	65/83	60/81
	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Lower Zambezi National Park	50/77	54/82	61/90	68/93	68/91	68/88
Lusaka	47/77	51/82	59/87	63/90	66/88	65/84
Victoria Falls, Livingstone	48/73	54/77	59/84	64/86	64/84	63/81
South Luangwa National Park	59/85	66/91	73/95	78/95	74/89	71/83

#### Average Rainfall (Inches)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Lower Zambezi National Park	7.6	6.7	4.1	1.3	0.2	0.0
Lusaka	8.7	7.3	4.3	1.6	0.1	0.0
Victoria Falls, Livingstone	9.1	7.5	5.6	0.7	0.1	0.0
South Luangwa National Park	10.8	22.9	17.8	2.8	0.1	0.0
	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Lower Zambezi National Park	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.6	4.3	7.9
Lusaka	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.6	3.1	7.5
Victoria Falls, Livingstone	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	3.6	5.9
South Luangwa National Park	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.4	1.2	15.7

## WHAT TO PACK

What to bring on a trip can often be a confounding question, so we have compiled a handy list to help in your evaluation of what you need to take.

### Recommended Packing List

#### Personal Protective Equipment

- Face Masks. Bring at least 3 or 4 masks so that you will have a replacement to use while others are being laundered or if one is lost. Approved masks should include 2 outer layers and an internal or replaceable filter, made of washable, breathable fabric that completely covers your nose and mouth and does not have gaps at the sides of your face or chin.
  - If you wear glasses, wear a mask that fits closely over your nose or one that has a nose wire to limit fogging.
- Hand Sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.

#### Clothing

- Long-sleeved shirts, slacks, and socks to protect you from insect bites and sunburn.
- Good quality sunglasses (preferably polarized).
- Sun hat with a brim.

- Good walking shoes (running/tennis shoes are fine).
- Sandals or rubber flip/flops for poolside.
- Swimsuit with light cover-up garment.
- Lightweight jacket for evenings and cooler mornings.
- Light raingear for travel between December to April.
- A set of smart casual evening wear.

### **Toiletries**

- Personal toiletries (soaps and shampoos are supplied at camps and lodges though, not hair conditioner).
- Moisturizing cream, lip balm, sunscreen, and hand sanitizer.
- Insect repellent e.g., Tabard, Rid, Jungle Juice, OFF, etc.
- Basic medical kit (aspirins, Imodium, antiseptic/antihistamine cream, etc.).
- Toothbrush and toothpaste.
- Packaged wet tissues (“Wash & Dry” or “Wet Ones”).
- If you wear contact lenses, we recommend bringing along a pair of glasses in case you get irritation.

### **Other Things To Pack**

- Air tickets, passports, money, etc.
- Backpack to use during the day as you tour.
- A small flashlight with extra batteries.
- Adapter plugs & converters for electrical appliances.
- Binoculars.

### **Camera Equipment**

- Camera, memory cards, chargers, and extra batteries.
- Lenses, cleaning fluid, lens tissue.
- Waterproof/dustproof bags/cover for your camera.

### **Tips on Clothing**

We recommend a minimum of three changes of clothing which should be lightweight, breathable, and versatile. Pack items that layer well together as the mornings will be cooler and you will want to be able to shed them as the day heats up. Supplex pants and chinos travel better than jeans, which take forever to dry. Additionally, dark colors, such as black, dark brown, navy, and dark gray/charcoal can attract insects and tsetse flies. Camouflage clothes are often illegal. We recommend wearing khaki which can mix and match easily and avoids all issues.

Your primary footwear should be close-toed and comfortable. Open toes can “open” you up to insect bites, stubbed toes, splinters, thorns, etc., which can make walking very uncomfortable. Flip-flops should be limited to poolside or a shower stall. Take care of your feet and they will take care of you.

### **Baggage Allowance**

Your safari includes transfers between camps by small aircraft with a maximum allowance of 44 lbs. plus one personal item weighing no more than 11 lbs. (including camera equipment). Please pay close attention to the following allowances and restrictions for checked and carry-on baggage.

The luggage allowance is a safety requirement due to the sensitive weight and balance checks on small aircraft and must be strictly adhered to. Travelers who require additional luggage must pre-book and pay for this on confirmation of the reservation. We would like to remind you that laundry services are available in all camps and lodges.



**The important guidelines below must be followed for all light plane air transfers:**

- Checked Luggage is **restricted to 44 lbs.** per person.
- Only soft bags will be accepted. Large suitcases and rigid, inflexible luggage cannot be transported in these aircraft. This includes baggage with “pull along” handle frames and wheels as well as bags with soft sides but have a solid or rigid “wheel” frame within the base of the bag. All checked bags must fit through the small opening and be tightly packed into the belly pod of the aircraft.
- The maximum dimension of the soft bags is 61 linear inches (length + width + height).
- These limits are applicable to guests traveling on a seat rate basis so may differ if guests have booked a private charter option, in which case the parameters may vary depending on the type of aircraft and the number of passengers booked.

*\*\*Due to limited space in the aircraft cabin, hand baggage must be placed in the floor space under the seat in front of you (except Exit Rows) and is strictly limited to 5 kilos (11 lbs.). This allowance includes ladies' handbags, laptop bags, etc.*

### **Laundry**

Laundry is available at all hotels, lodges, and tented camps and there may be an additional charge for this service. Typically, you will have time for this service at any locale where you stay for two nights or more.

## **MORE THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW**

### **Power & Connectivity**

Lodges and camps are situated in remote areas and generate their own electricity. Generators will run for about six hours per day (when guests are out on activities). These generators supply power to each room 24 hours a day. Solar-heated water is used for showers in many camps and lodges.

**Note:** If you are traveling with a portable, battery-powered CPAP machine, it is essential that you alert your Classic Escapes Journey Manager. Please remember to bring extra batteries for backup. If your CPAP is not portable and requires electricity to operate, it is especially important that you speak with your Classic Escapes Journey Manager who will advise if any of the camps or lodges included on your journey will be unable to accommodate your equipment.

Additionally, let us know if your CPAP machines require distilled water which may need to be ordered in advance.

### **Adapters & Power Converters:**

You will need a Type D (three round prongs) and a Type G (three flat prongs) plug adapter. Additionally, you will need a power converter for those products for which the higher voltage leads to damage. Many appliances have a dual setting indicated by a rating of “100-240V” marked on the back of the charger. If the rating is “100-240” you will need only the socket adaptor.

Consider investing in a Universal Adapter which offers multiple configurations including USB ports in one compact device. These can be purchased at specialty retail shops such as Sharper Image, and REI, and through online retailers like Amazon.

### **Smartphones**

Many travelers bring along their cell phones, not only for connecting to the internet and making phone calls but for the easy-to-use camera functions for quick snapshots. If you plan on using it as a phone keep in mind North American phones may not work in Southern Africa. Check with your service provider to determine if you can purchase a plan.

**Advisory:** Most people travel to “get away from it all,” some limitations on the use of these phones when on tour need to be set. We suggest the following guidelines on the use of cell phones:

1. Keep the ringtone at a low volume to avoid disturbing other guests.
2. Use your phone in the privacy of your room and not in any of the common areas: dining room, bar/lounge area, or on any of the vehicles.
3. Use your phone for outgoing calls and to check messages only. Incoming calls, and the loud ringing that ensues, should be curtailed.

### **Smoking Policy**

While on safari, there is a no-smoking policy at meals, in vehicles, aircraft, and boats (in fact anywhere where there is a fire hazard). If you wish to smoke, there will be "smoke breaks" on the drives to keep you happy! Please respect this ruling.

### **Drinking Policy**

Each lodge/camp has its own policy on included beverages, ranging from all beverages (even imported alcohol) being included to no beverages included. Your final documents will outline what to expect on your safari. Coffee, tea, and bottled water with meals will be included. Bottled water is also available in vehicles.

### **Language**

**South Africa:** There are eleven official languages; Afrikaans and English are spoken widely along with Xhosa, Zulu, and Sotho.

**Zambia:** There are over 73 dialects spoken in Zambia, but the official language is English. English is also the language used by all media and businesses and most Zambians speak it fairly well. Bemba is the next most commonly understood language, followed by Nyanja Tonga, Luvale, Lozi, Mambwe, and Tumbuka.

### **Cuisine**

**South Africa:** South Africa offers a wide variety of seafood caught from the Atlantic Ocean which is a staple in their diet. Lobster, mussels, octopus, and cod are among the most popular. Meats such as ostrich and chicken are frequently eaten, as might be domesticated game.

**Zambia:** Nshima, a cooked porridge is the staple food of Zambia. For breakfast, it can be prepared with sugar but for lunch and dinner, it is thicker and generally paired with meat or fish. Daily life in Zambia revolves around agriculture, livestock, and fishing which allow them access to fresh meat and seafood. They also cook with green vegetables, bean leaves, squash leaves, cabbage, and pumpkin leaves. A traditional Zambian meal would be Nshima served with meat such as chicken or beef stewed with vegetables.

## **MONEY MATTERS**

There are several options available for payment of goods and services: U.S. Dollars are commonly accepted by camps, lodges, and established shops in major towns in Zambia, but not in South Africa, credit cards and, of course, the local currency is accepted everywhere.

If you will be participating in the optional extension to Cape Town, South Africa, you will need to exchange your U.S. dollars since the Rand is the only accepted currency.

Foreign currency may be exchanged at commercial banks, lodges, and camps during your journey, or at the foreign exchange kiosks operating at international airports and in major towns. Better rates are given on larger denominations such as \$50 and \$100. You may also secure local currency at ATMs which offer the best rates and can be found at airports, major towns, and tourist areas. ATMs will accept Visa cards and sometimes MasterCard.

Please note that U.S. dollars MUST be minted in or after 2009 and must be in good condition, without tears or marks. In preparation for your journey, you may want to calculate the exchange rate from the U.S. dollar to local currencies. There are several websites that offer a conversion engine such as Oanda.com and XE.com. You can also check the Wall Street Journal for currency rate information.

When exchanging currency at camps and lodges on your program, there may be a shortage of cash available. Smaller denominations will be appreciated and more appropriate. When tipping in U.S. dollars, you should use small denominations of currency (\$20 bills for example) as it is easier for your guide to cash or exchange into their local currency.

Be sure to notify your bank and credit card company when and where you will be traveling and ask what fees, if any will apply to your transactions.

### **Currency**

**South Africa:** The standard unit of currency is the Rand (ZAR). South Africa has introduced new coins and notes, but old coins are still common so be observant when paying in cash. The R200 note looks a lot like the R20 note, so take care.

**Zambia:** The Zambian Kwacha (ZMW) is officially divided into 1000 Ngwee, but devaluation has made the ngwee worthless and is seldom used. The Kwacha has denominations of 2, 10, 20, 50, and 100. Coins are minted in denominations of 1, 5, 10, and 50.

***Advisory:*** As there is a potential for fraud anywhere in the world, we highly recommend that you do not use your debit cards overseas and exercise caution when using your credit cards. Do not let the card out of your sight and if a vendor tries to take the card into a back room, ask for your card back immediately and refrain from using it.

### **Credit Cards/ATMs**

Visa and MasterCard are widely accepted in hotels, lodges, camps, and established shops in urban areas. American Express is not as widely accepted and Discover, and Diners Club are basically unknown in Zambia. It is advisable to carry some cash for purchases outside urban areas and tipping. You should not depend on your ATM card outside of the U.S. unless your bank advises otherwise. Local banks will give you notes in local currency.

## **SAFARI LIFE**

While on safari in Zambia, one can expect comfortable beds, fresh linens, superb meals, cold beer, and fine wine, and hot showers. Camps and lodges are situated in areas with spectacular vistas and often have special features to enhance your wildlife viewing such as water holes and hides. Vehicles are comfortable and well-maintained and are driven by expert rangers who will share their knowledge and ensure that you have a safe and exciting adventure.

### **Typical Daily Schedule on Safari**

All times are a guide only for a non-traveling day\*. Times can and do change depending on local conditions.

<u>Time</u>	<u>Activity</u>
5:30 a.m.	Wake-up call. Light continental breakfast
6:30 a.m.	Leave for a morning activity, which can be a game run, boating, canoeing, nature walk or whatever other activity is offered at the camp (approximately 3-4 hours)
11:30 a.m.	Brunch is served at the camp, or sometimes in the bush
3:00 p.m.	Afternoon tea is served with sweet and savory bites at the camp
3:30 p.m.	Leave for afternoon activity (approximately 3 hours)
6:30 p.m.	Return to camp. Depending on the camp, you might be able to stay out longer and watch the sunset.
7:30 p.m.	Dinner is served in the dining area

*\*On travel days, you begin with an activity, brunch, and then a transfer to your next camp, although the flight schedule is not disclosed till the day before the flight takes place and depending on the schedule you might have to miss a morning activity.*

### **Game Drives**

Land game drives are in open 4x4 open Land Cruisers. The camps usually have ten-seated Land Cruisers, each accommodating a maximum of seven guests, allowing all guests an outside seat. Night drives are available (when allowed) with a spotlight. If a camp is located within a national park, night drives are generally not allowed.

### **Water Activities**

Some camps offer water activities in small, motorized boats or canoes and the Victoria Falls extension features a sundowner cruise aboard a motorized boat.

### **Walking Safaris**

Walking safaris can be offered from most camps on a request basis unless the camp has a very large elephant population. Some camps offer a hide within walking distance of the camp.

## **DID YOU KNOW...**

- The Republic of Zambia is slightly larger than the state of Texas and more than 30% of its land is conserved as national parks and reserves.
- The concentration of wildlife in South Luangwa National Park is among the most intense in Africa. The Luangwa River, and its oxbow lagoons, are the lifeblood of the park and host a wide variety of wildlife including 60 animal species and over 400 bird species.
- The mighty Victoria Falls is one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World. More than 140,000 gallons of water per minute rush over the 5,600-foot-wide cataract into the gorge below. Following the summer rains, from February to May, the volume increases to an incredible 1.3 billion gallons of water per minute creating a spray that ascends 100 feet above giving the falls its nickname, Mosi-oa-Tunya or “the smoke that thunders.”
- There are 18,000 indigenous vascular plant species in South Africa of which 80% are uniquely South African. Exceptional examples of this diversity can be found at the Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens in Cape Town and the Grootbos Nature Reserve.