



Zimbabwe Overview

Type of Government:	Dominant-party presidential republic
President:	His Excellency Emmerson Mnangagwa
Capital:	Harare
Population:	14.4 million (2018 census)
Area:	390, 757 sq km
Official Language:	Zimbabwe has 16 official languages, but the country's main languages are Shona, spoken by roughly 70% of the population, and Ndebele, spoken by roughly 20%. English is the country's lingua franca, used in government and business and as the main medium of instruction in schools
Time Difference:	GMT + 2
Currency:	Zimbabwe Dollar (linked to USD – United States Dollar)
Main Exports:	Mineral Exports, Gold, Agriculture and Tourism



Zimbabwe officially the Republic of Zimbabwe, is a landlocked country located in Southern Africa, between the Zambezi and Limpopo rivers. It is bordered by South Africa to the south, Botswana to the southwest, Zambia to the northwest and Mozambique to the east. The capital is Harare. Zimbabwe achieved *de jure* sovereignty from the United Kingdom in April 1980, following 14 years as an unrecognised state under the conservative white minority government of Rhodesia, which unilaterally declared independence in 1965. President Robert Mugabe's Zimbabwe African National Union – Patriotic Front (commonly abbreviated ZANU-PF) has been the dominant political party in Zimbabwe since independence although Robert Mugabe is now deceased and in July 2018 was replaced by Emmerson Mnangagwa.

The name "Zimbabwe" is based on a Shona term for Great Zimbabwe, an ancient ruined city in the country's south-east whose remains are now a protected site. Most of the country is elevated in the central plateau (high veld) stretching from the southwest to the northwest at altitudes between 1,200 and 1,600 m. The country's east is mountainous with Mount Nyangani as the highest point at 2,592 m. About 20% of the country consists of the low veld under 900m. Victoria Falls, one of the world's biggest and most spectacular waterfalls, is located in the country's northwest as part of the Zambezi river.

Zimbabwe boasts several major tourist attractions. Victoria Falls on the Zambezi, which are shared with Zambia and eight main national parks, the largest of which is Hwange National Park. Some of Africa's most exclusive wildlife is found in Zimbabwe. Many of the national parks contain 4 out of the Big 5 – Elephant, Lion, Leopard and Buffalo and Rhino are found in the Matobo National Park, Matusadona National Park and Malilangwe Reserve. Many of these parks are also renowned as birding destinations, with Hwange National Park contains some of the highest concentrations of birds on the planet.

There are four different World Heritage Sites declared by UNESCO in Zimbabwe: Mana Pools National Park, Matopos National Park, Victoria Falls and the Great Zimbabwe ruins. The Great Zimbabwe ruins are found in Masvingo. Other ruins include Khami Ruins, Zimbabwe, Dhlo-Dhlo and Naletale, although none of these is as famous as Great Zimbabwe.

