

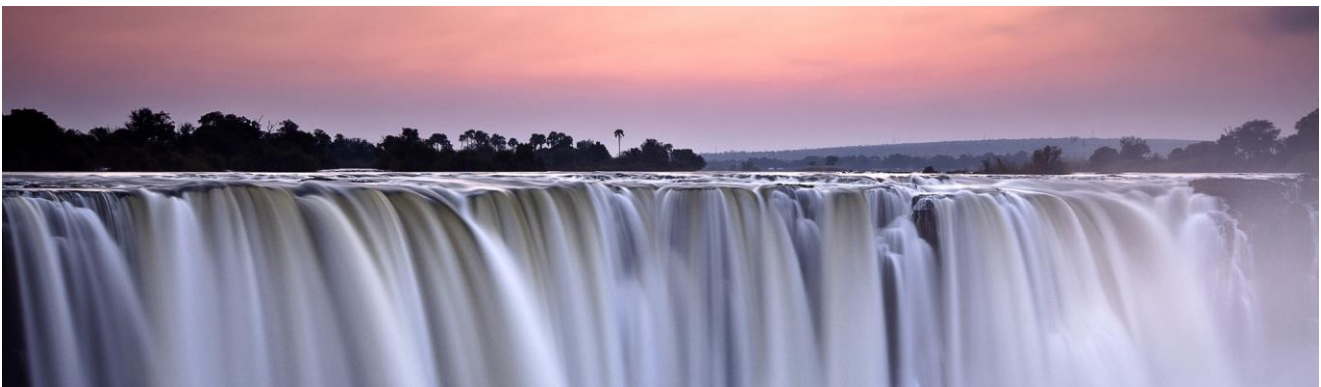
YOUR GUIDE TO VICTORIA FALLS

Victoria Falls is the largest curtain of falling water in the world! Known as 'the smoke that thunders', it is simply a magnificent sight to behold. Because of its shared border between Zimbabwe and Zambia, travellers have a huge range of options to explore on a visit to this incredible destination.



THE SMOKE THAT THUNDERS

Victoria Falls is situated at the crossroads of Zimbabwe and Zambia, spanning a width of nearly 2km along the mighty Zambezi River. The spray from its thundering columns of water is so big it can be seen from up to 50km away. As well as being one of the 'Seven Natural Wonders of the World', the falls were designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in the late 1980s. The locals have dubbed the waterfall 'Mosi-oa-Tunya', which translates to 'The Smoke that Thunders'.



ZIMBABWE AND ZAMBIA



Whether you stay on the Zimbabwe side of Victoria Falls or the Zambian side, you will not be disappointed! Travellers can enjoy everything from scenic helicopter flights right through to sunset river cruises, wildlife game drives and various adrenaline-fueled activities. Both sides of the falls have excellent accommodation choices that we can recommend – read on for some of our favourites!

WHICH SIDE IS THE BEST?

Typically, the Zimbabwe side has the largest part of the falls panorama, cascading over 100m to the river below. However, on the Zambian side, you can feel more like you are ‘among’ the falls, especially during high water season (April through August). There are some very exciting walks over the bridges and precipices that will leave your heart racing and, in peak season, very wet!

OBTAINING YOUR VISA

You can collect a multi country visa on arrival at either the Harry Mwanga Nkumbula (Livingstone) Airport in Zambia, or the Victoria Falls Airport in Zimbabwe. The cost is currently US\$50, with the visa giving you access to both sides of the falls. Either way, you can stay on one side and still visit both the Zimbabwe and Zambian side of the Falls!



WHEN SHOULD YOU VISIT?

The Falls can be visited (and seen) at any time of the year and enjoys an excellent climate year-round with a lot of blue skies. Talk to us about what you would like to do at the Falls, whether your visit is to see them at their peak volume or if your visit is an add-on to a safari, in which case there may be a more favourable month to choose.

APRIL TO MAY

One of the best times to visit is April or May when the water should be in full flood, with roughly 625 million litres per second flowing over the edge of the falls! You can rent or buy plastic parkas at the entrances, but perhaps bring a waterproof bag for the camera.

AUGUST TO OCTOBER

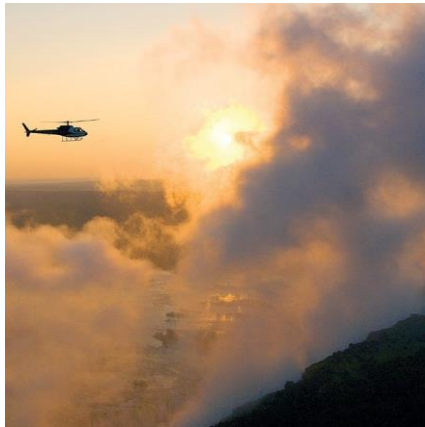
The falls start decreasing in volume by about August and, by October, most of the Zambian side may have dried up. This opens up some very exciting activities, such as white water rafting and perhaps a dip in the Devil’s Pool!

THE DEVIL’S POOL

This natural swimming hole is situated at the very edge of the falls on Livingstone Island. Looking down to the Zambezi River below, it offers an exhilarating view off the face of the cliff. Opening times depend entirely on water levels, but it can generally be visited from August through to December.

All in all, in the natural playground of Victoria Falls, there is definitely something for everyone at any time of the year!

ACTIVITIES



The list of activities is almost endless in and around the falls, but here are a few of our favourite things to get you started!

FLIGHT OF THE ANGELS

The “Flight of Angels” is a thrilling helicopter ride over the 1700m vast curtain of water tumbling off Victoria Falls. Passengers can choose from a 12- or 25-minute flight. This one is definitely a “must do” for breathtaking scenery from above and unrivalled photography opportunities.

CRUISING THE ZAMBEZI

When the sun starts going down, the Zambezi River is by far the very best place to raise a toast! As you cruise downstream, sip champagne and spot hippos, giant crocodiles, elephants and an array of birdlife both in the water and on the surrounding river banks. You won’t want to be anywhere else!

STEAM TRAIN DINNER

Hark back to the glory days and ride the rails in style aboard the Victoria Falls Steam Train. As you indulge in an exquisite dinner, the beautifully restored carriages will transport you to an era of colonial splendour.



CYCLING TOUR

Join a cycling tour! This will give you plenty of interaction with the local town and people. You can bike to the ‘Big Tree’ (a towering African baobab), visit a local village, and wander the markets.

STANLEY’S TERRACE HIGH TEA

Spend an afternoon enjoying tea and treats on the terrace or manicured lawn of the most famous hotel in the area, the Victoria Falls Hotel! You’ll be treated to spectacular views of the Victoria Falls Bridge and the spray from the Falls below, along with traditional High Tea.



ADRENALINE JUNKIE

For the more adventurous traveller, a huge range of adrenaline-packed activities are available at the Falls. Some of our top picks include micro-lighting, bungee-jumping off the Victoria Falls Bridge, kayaking safari, white water rafting, the world’s longest zipline ride, and the gorge swing!

WHAT IS THE ACCOMMODATION LIKE?

Below is a “shortlist” of our favourite properties at Victoria Falls. By no means is it the entire selection and we are more than happy to book your own preferred option!



VICTORIA FALLS HOTEL | Zimbabwe

This ‘grand old lady’ overlooks the Victoria Falls bridge and the gorges below. Steeped in rich history, it is one of the oldest and greatest hotels in Africa. Each day, the famous ‘Stanley Terrace’ offers an exquisite High Tea overlooking its terraced gardens.



ROYAL LIVINGSTONE HOTEL | Zambia

Situated on the banks of the Zambezi River, this gem is only steps away from Victoria Falls, providing guests with direct access. Sweeping views of the Zambezi River and savannah stretch from every veranda while zebra graze on the lush lawns.



ILALA LODGE | Zimbabwe

Surrounded by beautifully landscaped gardens, Ilala Lodge is a mere eight-minute walk from Victoria Falls. The lodge’s award-winning Palm Restaurant is famous for its delicious gourmet cuisine and attracts guests worldwide.



THORNTREE RIVER LODGE | Zambia

Gracing the banks of the mighty Zambezi River, Thorntree River Lodge offers a tranquil setting for a combination of relaxation and adventure. The riverside deck is home to a sunken boma for fireside chats, and an infinity pool.



THE ELEPHANT CAMP | Zimbabwe

Nestled on a ridge between the Masuwe River and the Zambezi gorges, guests have uninterrupted views of the spray that swells above the Victoria Falls rainforest. The luxury suites each boast a private plunge pool and viewing deck.



BATONKA GUEST LODGE | Zimbabwe

A tranquil haven away from the bustle of town, but still within walking distance of the main attractions. The lodge offers both indoor and outdoor dining, a cosy lounge, and a beautiful verandah opening out onto the surrounding gardens.