



## KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- ❑ Driving is on the left.
- ❑ Driving after dark is not recommended.
- ❑ Nighttime road dangers increase with alcohol use, wildlife on roadways and obscured road hazards including potholes.
- ❑ Drivers are required to carry their national driving license, an International Driving Permit (IDP), passport, registration documents and proof of insurance.
- ❑ National driving license and IDP are good for up to 90 days.
- ❑ Seat belt use is compulsory for drivers and front seat passengers. For personal safety, seat belt use is recommended for all occupants.
- ❑ Blood alcohol limit is below 0.08%; enforcement is low.
- ❑ Vehicle window “smash and grab” crimes frequently occur at traffic lights and intersections.
- ❑ There are 28.2 road deaths per 100,000 people in Zimbabwe, compared to 2.8 in Sweden and 2.9 in the UK.

## DRIVING CULTURE

- **Speeding** is common.
- **Even at** roadways with signals, do not assume drivers approaching from other directions will stop.
- **Be alert** to pedestrians walking on or along unlit roadways; dark clothing is common.
- **Cars may** be in poor condition and lack basic safety features including headlights, tail lights, adequate brakes or turn signals.
- **Drink driving** increases significantly at night and on weekends.
- **Drivers should** be aware of loose animals on roadways.

## ROAD CONDITIONS

- **There are** a total of 97,267 km (60,439 miles) of roads.
- **18,481 km** (11,483 miles) are paved; 78,786 km (48,955 miles) are unpaved.
- **Many roads** are in poor condition with deep potholes or broken surfaces.
- **In some areas**, local residents have filled large potholes with stones or loose rubble, adding to the possibility of skidding.
- **Roads** commonly lack passing lanes, shoulders, breakdown lanes, lighting or reflectors.
- **Road markings** are often faded or nonexistent.
- **On narrow** “strip roads,” approaching vehicles are expected to move away from road center until one car has passed.
- **Long stretches** of highways have been fenced to prevent pedestrians or animals from walking in roadways. The majority of these fences have been cut by pedestrians to allow road access.
- **Main roads** are generally adequately lit, but many streetlights and traffic lights throughout the country do not function.
- **Roadblocks** are common. Comply with police instructions.
- **Large mining** and commercial trucks on narrow and dirt surface roads contribute to road crash risk.
- **On many** roads, visibility is restricted when passing due to abandoned vehicles and other obstructions.
- **Pedestrian infrastructure** is undeveloped.
- **There has been** a significant increase in pedestrian fatalities. Causes include:
  - » Focus on cellphones or other handheld devices.
  - » Jaywalking and crossing against signals.
  - » Inattention to traffic.
  - » Stepping into roadways where market stalls are located.
- **Pedestrian** road-related deaths also increase in December during the holiday season.
- **Some neighborhoods** are marked as “Woonerf”



Source: CIA Factbook

areas where pedestrians and children have priority over vehicles.

- **The following roads** may present particular challenges to motorists:
  - » Though recently resurfaced, the **Plumtree-Bulawayo-Mutare** highway is the most dangerous road in the country. An estimated 44% of all road fatalities in Zimbabwe occur on this road.
  - » There are many crashes on **Beitbridge Road to Harare Highway** from the border of Beitbridge to Masvingo. This section is very narrow. Drivers including bus and large mining truck operators may leave the eroded pavement surface and attempt to pass on soft dirt and sand verges. Herds of wild donkeys and goats frequently wander into the roadway.
  - » The **Bikita Minerals-Chiwara** road is a gravel road that regularly washes away during heavy rains.
  - » In Masvingo, routes with particularly poor surfaces and dangerous potholes include **Chivi-Mhandamabwe, Masvingo-Chaka, Gutu-Chatsworth, Masvingo-Rutenga, Chiredzi-Zaka** and **Stop Over-Bondolfi** roads.
  - » The **Bulawayo-Victoria Falls** highway between Insuza and Mbembesi River, Lupane and Cross Jotsholo, Halfway and Gwayi River, and Hwange to Lubangwe are largely impassable because of potholes.
- **Service stations** may not have fuel or spare parts.
- **There is** no national road safety strategy or funding.
- **Formal audits** are required for new road construction projects.

### REGIONAL AND SEASONAL CONDITIONS

- **Zimbabwe's** climate ranges from hot, arid areas with drought conditions at higher altitudes, to winter frost in the central region and heavy rainfall in the Eastern Highlands.
- **Rainy season** is generally from October to March.
- **Zimbabwe** is subject to seasonal flooding. Surface hazards may be hidden beneath standing water.
- **During heavy rains**, roads and bridges may wash out.
- **Be familiar** with emergency procedures. The Red Cross provides a website and free, downloadable emergency app: <http://www.redcross.org/get-help/prepare-for-emergencies/types-of-emergencies>

### PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

- **Public transportation** is underdeveloped, and is generally regarded as unsafe.
- **"Kombi"** minibuses operate on main routes.
- **Intercity commuter** buses are generally overcrowded and inadequately maintained.
- **Drivers of** intercity commuter buses frequently speed and behave recklessly.
- **Bus drivers** are often fatigued and ignore traffic regulations.
- **Rental cars** and taxis are typically second-hand imports; spare parts may not be available.
- **Rental cars** and taxis may lack basic safety features including seat belts, brakes, windshield wipers, taillights, headlights, adequate tires or turn signals.

### TRAFFIC REGULATIONS

- **Drivers may** not enter box junctions (yellow grids painted on roads at intersections) if traffic conditions will cause area

Maximum Speed Limits

Type of road	Maximum speed
Urban areas	60 kph (37 mph)
Rural roads	120 kph (74 mph)
Motorways	120 kph (74 mph)

Always adjust speed according to signage, hazards and weather conditions.

Signs are generally pictorial and may not follow European Union conventions.

								
Three-way stop	Stop with extra caution	Automobiles only	Woonerf "living street" begins	Stopping is prohibited	Unpaved surface ahead	Reserved for authorized vehicles	Concealed driveways	Switch headlights on

to be blocked before vehicle can safely reach the other side of the intersection.

- **Even at green** traffic lights, drivers are required to yield to pedestrians crossing roadways. Compliance is low.
- **At uncontrolled** intersections, law requires yielding to traffic approaching from the right.
- **Drivers must** be a minimum of 16 years of age to drive.
- **Minimum age** for car rental is 21. Individual agencies may have different requirements.
- **There are no** laws requiring the use of child restraints, or prohibiting children from riding in front seats. For safety, children should ride in back seats with seatbelts or restraints.
- **Child restraints** may not be available. Bring a child restraint appropriate to child's height, weight and age with you.
- **Helmet use** is mandatory for motorcycle drivers. Enforcement is high.
- **Motorcycle** helmets must be fastened.
- **Motorcycle passengers** are not required to wear helmets; for personal safety, use of a helmet is recommended.
- **Roadside parking** is allowed but not suggested. For safety reasons, park in a commercial lot with an attendant.
- **Drivers must** carry two warning triangles, a fire extinguisher, serviceable spare tire, jack and wheel spanner/lug wrench.
- **All vehicles** must be equipped with reflective patches fastened to each corner: White on front and red at rear.

## Harare (Capital)

- » The city is very spread out; private vehicles are the most common form of transportation.
- » Rush hour is generally from 7 to 9 a.m. and 4 to 7 p.m.; traffic jams are common.
- » Roads are in very poor condition.
- » Hazards increase following heavy rains when deep potholes are concealed by standing water.
- » Road crashes are common. The Traffic Safety Council estimates there are 40 to 50 vehicle crashes each night.
- » There are frequent police roadblocks; police or other officials may expect bribes from drivers.
- » Public transportation is undeveloped.
- » Taxis and minibus taxis are typically overcrowded.
- » Cars and minibuses used for taxis may be older vehicles in poor condition without standard safety features.
- » All forms of city taxis are unmetered. Agree on fare prior to entering taxi.
- » Limited passenger train service is available to cities including Bulawayo and Mutare (located on the border of Mozambique).
- » Train schedules are infrequent and change often.
- » Long distance bus service is available to some international destinations including Johannesburg, South Africa; buses depart from Mbare Terminal southwest of city center.
- » Robert Gabriel Mugabe International Airport is located 15 km (9.3 miles) south of city center.
- » Car rental agencies including some international companies are located in the International Arrivals terminal.
- » Taxis are available to city center. Rates are not fixed to all destinations; negotiate fare with driver prior to entering taxi.
- » Some hotels provide private shuttle service to and from the airport.

## Bulawayo

- » Second largest city in Zimbabwe.
- » There is no official public transportation system.
- » Local taxis are light blue.
- » Light blue and white pickup trucks also provide taxi services. Passengers sit or stand in truck beds.
- » Minibuses are unregulated and are often operated by private citizens.
- » Taxis, minibuses and pickup truck taxis are generally older vehicles in poor repair; safety features including seatbelts may be inadequate or nonexistent.
- » Long distance bus service is operated by multiple companies including Greyhound and Intercap on routes between Bulawayo and Johannesburg, South Africa.
- » Seabelo Transport operates a daily bus between Bulawayo and Gaborone, Botswana.
- » Pathfinder luxury coach service between Bulawayo and Harare is available daily; and from Bulawayo and Victoria Falls three times weekly.
- » A passenger train runs between Bulawayo and Victoria Falls. Delays are common.
- » The train does not have onboard electricity.

## EMERGENCY INFORMATION

- **Responders** to emergency numbers in remote areas may not speak English.
  - » Police: 995 or 999
  - » Ambulance: 993 or 999
  - » Fire: 994 or 999
- **Pre-program** emergency numbers into your phone before departure.
- **There is no** national network of roadside emergency services. Responses to emergency situations may be slow or nonexistent in many areas.
- **Organized Road Angels** offer emergency roadside help and may be able to assist in some locations. Call directly at 263-4-334-304 and 263-4-334-418.
- **The Automobile Association (AA)** of Zimbabwe can provide emergency roadside service to non-members for a fee. Call helpline at 263-4-752-779; or 263-4-707-959 for 24-hour emergency assistance.
- **Scams** to lure drivers from their cars are common; this includes causing minor crashes.
- **If involved in a crash:**
  - » Contact police and emergency services.
  - » If vehicle can be moved, drive to a well-lit area or police station before making repairs or exchanging contact details with other driver(s).
  - » Take photographs of scene and collect witness details and contact information from other driver(s).
  - » Obtain a copy of police report for car rental agency.
- **If involved in a crash without injuries:**
  - » Collect witness details and contact information from other driver(s).
  - » Contact car rental agency.

ASIRT is a non-profit humanitarian organization established in memory of Aron Sobel, age 25, who was killed along with 22 other passengers in a Pamukkale Bus Company crash on the roads of Turkey.

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