

# Zambia

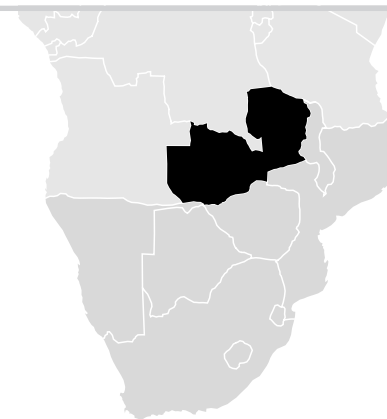
Zambia is that diamond in the rough: the country boasts some of the continent's best wildlife parks and is bordered by the Zambezi River, along which are three of the region's major highlights: Victoria Falls, Lake Kariba and Lower Zambezi National Park. (For further details on Victoria Falls and Livingstone, see p618.) Zambia's South Luangwa National Park is one of the best wildlife parks in the world, while the monstrous Kafue National Park (it's larger than Switzerland) boasts plenty of animals beyond the Big Five. Zambia is also an angler's dream, as fishermen hail from all over the world to try their luck on the mighty Zambezi River with the hopes of landing a toothy tigerfish or the rare, giant vundu. Avid birders also flock to Zambia to glimpse its fabulous diversity of birds, most notably Chaplin's barbets. Unfortunately, however, diamonds don't come cheap (even if they are mined in Zambia), but the sparkle is mesmerising.

For independent travellers, Zambia can be a challenge: distances between major towns and attractions are long, and getting around by car or public transport takes time and patience. But for many, this challenge is part of Zambia's appeal; this is the 'real' Africa – which is becoming rare among the increasingly developed parts of the region – and 'safe' Africa, as Zambia is devoid of the harsh ethnic tensions that abound in its western, northern and eastern neighbours.

And although it sounds cheesy, Zambians really do have the market cornered on 'friendly' and 'welcoming'. If you enjoy a raw edge, few tourists, gorgeous scenery and warm people, Zambia is the place you're looking for.

## FAST FACTS

- **Area:** 752,614 sq km
- **Capital:** Lusaka
- **Country code:** ☎ 260
- **Famous for:** National parks with the Big Five, fishing for tigerfish along the Lower Zambezi and Victoria Falls
- **Languages:** English, Bemba, Lozi, Nyanja and Tonga
- **Money:** Zambian kwacha
- **Phrases:** *muli shani* (hello; Bemba), *muli bwanji* (hello; Nyanja), *natotela* (thanks; Bemba), *zikomo* (thanks; Nyanja)
- **Population:** 11.5 million



**HOW MUCH?**

- **Small wood carving** US\$15
- **Soapstone ashtray** US\$12
- **Wastebasket made of beer caps** US\$8
- **Box of three Maximum condoms** US\$0.10
- **Batik** US\$11

**LONELY PLANET INDEX**

- **1L of petrol/diesel** US\$1.80/1.50
- **1L of bottled water** US\$3
- **Bottle of Mosi lager** US\$1.80
- **Souvenir T-shirt** US\$15
- **Street snack** US\$2

**HIGHLIGHTS**

- **South Luangwa National Park** (p658) Soak up the wildlife in one of the most majestic parks in Africa.
- **Lower Zambezi National Park** (p655) Watch in awe as elephants stroll along the bank, hippos teem in the river, and fish eagles soar overhead.
- **Kafue National Park** (p666) Explore vast, classic wildlife country in Zambia's largest national park.
- **Northern Zambia** (p650) Gaze in wonder at the hills, lakes, wetlands and waterfalls, with rarely another tourist in sight.
- **Lake Kariba** (p663) Boating, fishing or just sunbathing at a resort along one of the world's largest artificial lakes.

**ITINERARIES**

One consideration is your method of travel; travellers without transport cannot reach the remote places that are easily accessible by private vehicle or organised tour. Also, the bizarre shape of Zambia can frustrate your travel plans.

- **One Week** With only one week, hit one of the attractions of Southern Africa: **Victoria Falls** (p618) or **South Luangwa National Park** (p658).
- **Two Weeks** With two weeks, you'll have time for the great Victoria Falls as well as one or two of the national parks – probably South Luangwa, **Lower Zambezi** (p655) or **Kafue** (p666).
- **Three Weeks** With extra time and money, go to Victoria Falls, South Luangwa Na-

tional Park, a lodge on the Lower Zambezi, the **Copperbelt Province** (p649) and **Kasanka National Park** (p651). If you are travelling to or from Tanzania or Malawi, or are able to set aside even more time, explore the Northern Province, including the **Bangweulu Wetlands** (p651) and the dramatic southern tip of Lake Tanganyika.

**CLIMATE & WHEN TO GO**

Zambia's altitude creates a temperate climate. There are three distinct seasons: the dry season (mid-April to August), when temperatures drop at night and the landscape is green and lush; the hot season (September to mid-November), which is the best time to see wildlife as flora is sparse; and the wet season (mid-November to mid-April), which is ideal for bird-watching, though some camps and lodges in the national parks close due to flooded roads. Rainfall is higher in the north of the country.

Refer to the Victoria Falls chapter (p618) for details about the best time to visit, and see p742 for climate charts.

**HISTORY**

The precolonial history of the area that became Zambia, along with the rest of Southern Africa, is covered on p37.

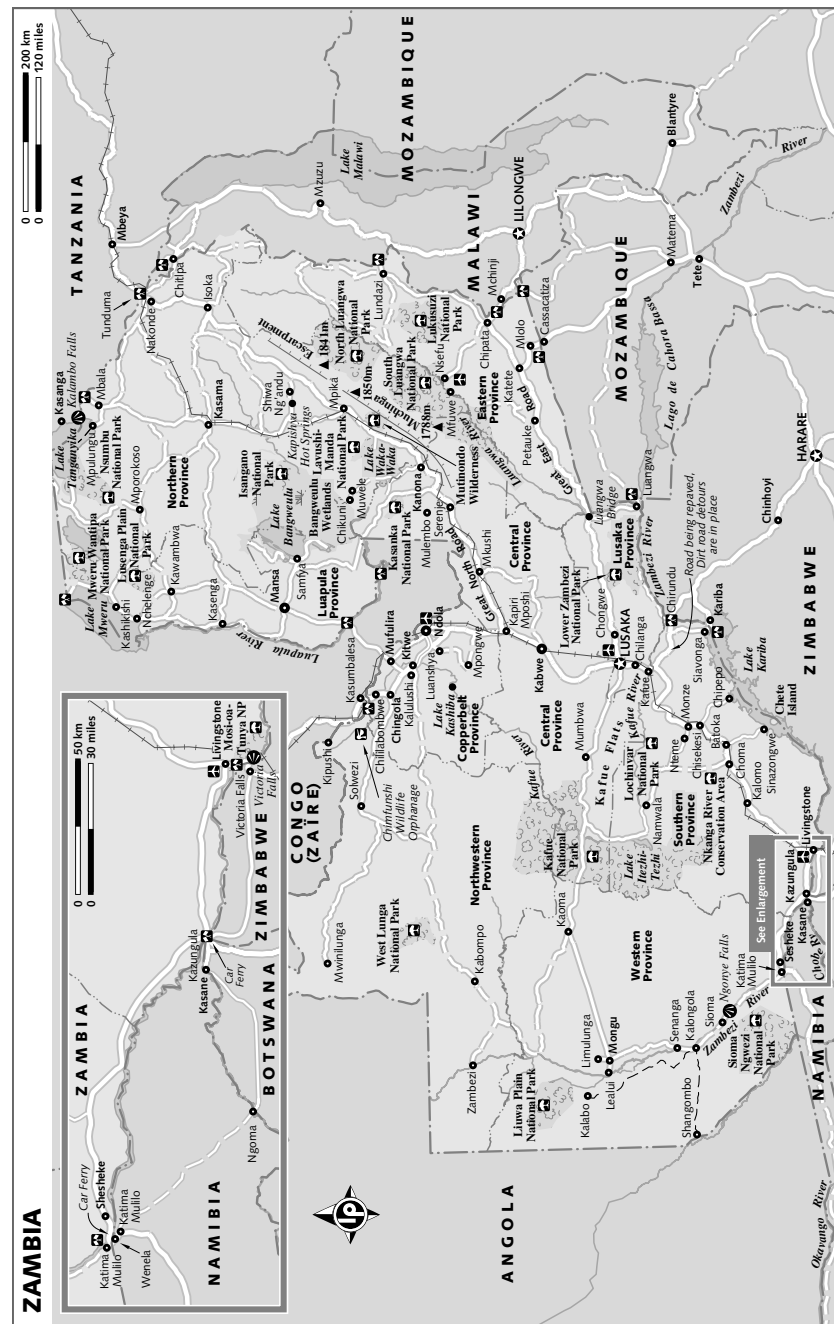
**The Slave Trade & Early Europeans**

The first Europeans to enter what is now Zambia were Portuguese explorers. In the 1790s, several of them travelled from Angola as far as the headwaters of the Zambezi River. Around the same time, another group of Portuguese pushed inland from Mozambique to Lakes Mweru and Bangweulu.

The Portuguese generally followed routes established many centuries earlier by Swahili-Arab slave-traders, who had penetrated the

**TRAVEL TIPS**

Zambia is a gargantuan country, many of the roads are crap, and transport is frustratingly slow. The Tazara railway from Tanzania will save considerable time across northern and eastern Tanzania, though in Zambia, snails move faster than the train. And don't ignore the Copperbelt Province just because it's a little out of the way.



region from their city-states on the east coast of Africa. Often in collaboration with the chiefs of powerful tribes, the slave-traders captured many people from Zambia and took them across Lake Malawi and through Mozambique or Tanzania to be sold in the slave markets of Zanzibar.

In the 1820s, the effects of the *difaqane* (forced migration in Southern Africa; see p41) rippled through to Zambia. Matabele migrants entered western Zimbabwe and threatened the Makololo, who moved into southern Zambia, displacing the Tonga people and threatening the Lozi people on the upper Zambezi.

The celebrated British explorer David Livingstone travelled up the Zambezi in the early 1850s in search of a route to the interior of Africa and hoped to introduce Christianity and the principles of European civilisation to combat the horrors of the slave trade. In 1855, he reached the awesome waterfall that he coined Victoria Falls.

Livingstone's work and writings inspired missionaries to come to the area north of the Zambezi; close on their heels came explorers, hunters and prospectors searching for whatever riches the country had to offer. The 'new' territory did not escape the notice of entrepreneur Cecil John Rhodes, who was already establishing mines and a vast business empire in South Africa. Rhodes' British South Africa Company (BSAC) laid claim to the area in the early 1890s and was backed by the British Government in 1895 to help combat slavery and prevent further Portuguese expansion in the region.

### The Colonial Era

Like many parts of Southern Africa, Zambia's history was largely influenced by the BSAC during the next few decades. Two separate territories were initially created – Northwestern Rhodesia and Northeastern Rhodesia – but these were combined in 1911 to become Northern Rhodesia. In 1907, Livingstone became the capital.

At around the same time, vast deposits of copper were discovered in the area now called the Copperbelt. The indigenous people had mined there for centuries, but now large European-style opencast pits were dug. The main source of labour was Africans, who had to earn money to pay the new 'hut tax'; in any case, most were driven from their land by European settlers.

In 1924 the colony was put under direct British control and in 1935 the capital was moved to Lusaka. To make them less dependent on colonial rule, settlers soon pushed for closer ties with Southern Rhodesia and Nyasaland (Malawi), but various interruptions – including WWII – meant the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland did not come about until 1953.

### Nationalist Resistance

Meanwhile, African nationalism was becoming a more dominant force in the region. The United National Independence Party (UNIP) was founded in the late 1950s by Dr Kenneth Kaunda, who spoke out against the federation on the grounds that it promoted the rights of white settlers to the detriment of the indigenous African population.

Through the 1960s, as many other African countries gained independence, Zambian nationalists opposed the colonial forces. This resulted in a massive campaign of civil disobedience and a small but decisive conflict called the Chachacha Rebellion.

The federation was dissolved in 1963 and Northern Rhodesia became independent a year later, and changed its name to Zambia. While the British government had profited enormously from Northern Rhodesia, the colonialists chose to spend a large portion of this wealth on the development of Southern Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe). Zambia still suffers from the effects of this staggering loss of capital and the difference between the development of the two countries during and since colonial times is obvious.

### Independence

After gaining independence, Zambia inherited a British-style multiparty political system. Kaunda, as leader of the majority UNIP, became the new republic's first president. The other main party was the African National Congress (ANC), led by Harry Nkumbula. But Kaunda disliked opposition. In one swift move during 1972, he disbanded the Zambian ANC, created the 'second republic', declared UNIP the sole legal party and made himself the only presidential candidate.

Consequently, Kaunda remained in power for the next 27 years. His rule was based upon 'humanism' – his own mix of Marxism and traditional African values. The civil service was increased, and nearly all private businesses

(including the copper mines) were nationalised. But corruption and mismanagement, exacerbated by a fall in world copper prices, doomed Zambia to become one of the poorest countries in the world by the end of the 1970s. The economy continued to flounder while Zambia's trade routes to the coast through neighbouring countries (eg Zimbabwe and Mozambique) were closed in retaliation for Kaunda's support for several liberation movements in the region.

### The 1980s

By the early 1980s two important events occurred that had the potential to significantly improve Zambia's economy: Rhodesia gained independence (and had become Zimbabwe), which allowed Kaunda to take his country off a war footing; and the Tazara railway to Dar es Salaam (Tanzania) was completed, giving Zambia unencumbered access to the coast. Yet the economy remained on the brink of collapse: foreign exchange reserves were almost exhausted, serious shortages of food, fuel and other basic commodities were common, and unemployment and crime rates rose sharply.

In 1986, an attempt was made to diversify the economy and improve the country's balance of payments. Zambia received economic aid from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) but the IMF conditions were severe and included cutting basic food subsidies. Subsequent price rises led to country-wide riots in which many people lost their lives. Kaunda was forced to restore subsidies.

### Turning Point

The winds of change blowing through Africa during the late 1980s, coupled with Zambia's disastrous domestic situation, meant something had to give. Following another round of violent street protests against increased food prices in 1990, which quickly transformed into a general demand for the return of multiparty politics, Kaunda was forced to accede to public opinion.

He announced a snap referendum in late 1990 but, as protests grew more vocal, he was forced to legalise opposition parties and announce full presidential and parliamentary elections for October 1991. Not surprisingly, UNIP (and Kaunda) were resoundingly defeated by the Movement for Multiparty Democracy (MMD), led by Frederick Chiluba,

a former trade union leader. Kaunda admirably stepped down without complaint, which may have saved Zambia from descending into anarchy.

President Chiluba moved quickly to encourage loans and investments from the IMF and World Bank. Exchange controls were liberalised to attract investors, particularly from South Africa, but tough austerity measures were also introduced. Once again, food prices soared. The civil service was rationalised, state industries privatised or simply closed, and thousands of people lost their jobs.

By the mid-1990s, the lack of visible change in Zambia allowed Kaunda to confidently re-enter the political arena. He attracted strong support and soon became the UNIP leader. Leading up to the 1996 elections, the MMD panicked and passed a law forbidding anyone with foreign parents to enter politics (Kaunda's parents were from Malawi). Despite intercessions from Western aid donors and world leaders like Nelson Mandela – not to mention accusations that Chiluba's parents were from Congo (Zaire) – the law was not repealed. The UNIP withdrew all its candidates in protest and many voters boycotted the election. Consequently, Chiluba and the MMD easily won, and the result was grudgingly accepted by most Zambians.

In October 1997 a bungled coup attempt allowed Chiluba to announce a state of emergency, and many opposition figures were arrested. Kaunda, who claimed the coup was a setup, was placed under house arrest until March 1998. This endeared him further to UNIP supporters and MMD opponents.

### Zambia in the 21st Century

The political shenanigans continued unabated at the start of the new millennium: in mid-2001, Vice-President Christon Tembo was expelled from parliament by Chiluba, so he formed an opposition party: the Forum for Democratic Development (FDD). Later, Paul Tembo, a former MMD national secretary, joined the FDD, but was assassinated the day before he was due to front a tribunal about alleged MMD corruption.

Chiluba was unable to run for a third presidential term in December 2001 (though he badly wanted to change the constitution so he could). He anointed his former vice-president, Levy Mwanawasa, as his successor, but Mwanawasa only just beat a coalition of

opposition parties known as the United Party for National Development (UPND). Again, allegations from international observers about the MMD rigging the results and buying votes fell on deaf ears. Because he ran on a platform of anticorruption, Mwanawasa has been trying to get the government to charge Chiluba with massive embezzlement while in office. The Supreme Court in Lusaka is currently deciding whether to lift Chiluba's immunity from prosecution (as a former president).

Because Zambia was deemed to be a Heavily Indebted Poor Country, most of its US\$7 billion international debt was eliminated in 2005. Though Zambia is still a poor country, recent years have shown the emergence of a middle class. The minerals (copper and cobalt) that knocked Zambia off its feet in the early '70s are the very same ones that are bringing it back up today. World copper prices jumped by 82% of their original value within the first five months of 2006, quickly appreciating the value of the kwacha, which is now one of the most volatile currencies in the world. Coupled with foreign investment in the mines, South African-owned businesses are exploding in towns across the country, as there is finally a local demand

for their businesses. That said, the newly appreciated kwacha is hurting the tourism industry as it has become far more expensive to enjoy Zambia.

The next presidential election will take place in October or November of 2006.

## THE CULTURE

### The National Psyche

At the time of writing, the hottest topic was the coming presidential elections. Because of allegations regarding Chiluba embezzling huge sums of money from the treasury, a lot of people have fully forgiven Kenneth Kaunda and are calling for another leader like him; others think the current president is similar to the father of their country.

HIV is, unfortunately, a big topic as the urban prevalence of the disease might be as high as a whopping 35%, far higher than the reported number a few years ago. People are finally starting to get tested, though not in the droves that aid agencies have been hoping for.

A social issue that is seemingly always discussed on the radio is cohabitation rather than marriage. Many Zambians feel that cohabitation will rock the foundations of their

traditional values and will, hence, be the beginning of the end of society.

Finally, soccer (football) is always a topic on the minds of Zambians, whether it be domestic, within Africa, or the premiership or World Cup.

## Daily Life

HIV/AIDS has had a huge effect on the daily lives of Zambian people. A new population of 'street kids' has emerged, who live in roadside sewers and on middle-of-the-road dividers in urban centres. It's become a national problem, and you'll find them begging at most sets of traffic lights in Lusaka, Kitwe and Livingstone. There are also funeral processions on a daily basis, as the disease has claimed enough lives to lower the average life expectancy to under 33 years.

Life is difficult for many Zambians. Almost 45% of Zambians live in urban centres; Compounds designed for 50,000 now house more than 150,000. Cholera has become a problem in overpopulated Kapiri Mposhi and Lusaka during the wet season. And most unskilled labourers work six to seven days per week, making around US\$60 per month, therefore forcing families to live on less than US\$1 per day.

In rural Zambia, life has not changed much. Traditional religions melded with Christian beliefs, subsistence agriculture and village hierarchies are the mainstays of rural life.

## Population

The population density is about 15 people per sq km, making Zambia one of the most thinly populated countries in Africa. The concentration of people in urban centres (mostly Lusaka and the cities of the Copperbelt) is a high percentage for a developing country. This is noticeable as you travel through rural areas; you can go for hours without seeing more than a couple of small villages.

Intermarriage among the 73 officially recognised ethnic groups (tribes) is common, and Zambia is justifiably proud of its almost complete lack of tribal problems. The groups are (in order of size) the Bemba, originally from the Congo (Zaire) and now settled in northern Zambia, the Copperbelt and Lusaka; the Tonga, who are linked to other groups in Zimbabwe and live in southern Zambia; the Nyanja, a collective term for about 1.5 million people living in eastern Zambia and Lusaka;

the Ngoni, descendants of Zulus from South Africa now settled in the east around Chipata; and the Lozi in western Zambia.

## Immigration & Emigration

Zambia has an interesting immigration history – both recent and historical – of demographic change. While most descendants of the original white settlers have since moved away, one can still find a fair number of those of English and Eastern European descent, mostly farmers and business types respectively. Indians and Pakistanis have long been a part of the mix, so don't be surprised to hear them proudly call themselves Zambians.

Newcomers to the country are South African businesspeople and Zimbabwean farmers who lost their land thanks to Robert Mugabe. Zimbabwean farmers mostly live in rural areas and farm tobacco and flowers.

## SPORT

Football (soccer) is by far the country's biggest sport. No matter what the season, it's the talk of the town. Though Lusaka is dotted with soccer stadiums, the two main places to catch a game are Independence Stadium in Matero and the stadiums in the Showgrounds. Other sports played in Lusaka include golf (there are more than a few courses), polo and polo-cross – a mixture of polo and lacrosse. Polo games can be seen at the Showgrounds at around 11.30am on weekends between May and August.

## RELIGION

The majority of Zambians are Christians (75%), though other religions include Muslims and Hindus (24%) or animists (1%). Most Christians follow either Jehovah's Witness, Catholic or Evangelical sects, though beliefs in sorcery are still strong.

Churches have been playing a major role in trying to mitigate the spread of HIV, while also providing a strong support system for those living with AIDS.

## ARTS & CRAFTS

Zambia has a thriving contemporary art scene. One of the country's most famous and respected painters is the late Henry Tayali. His works – described by critics as 'crowded social realism' – have inspired many other Zambian painters and enjoyed a popular following among ordinary folk. If you want to

### MOVERS & SHAKERS: KENNETH KAUNDA

Revered as the father of Zambia, Kenneth Kaunda – also known as KK – was instrumental in bringing independence to Zambia in 1964, and served as president until 1991. Born in 1924, in 1949 he served as interpreter and adviser on African affairs to liberal white settler Sir Stewart Gore-Brown, of the legislative council. He then went on to join the anticolonial African National Congress (ANC), of which he became secretary-general in the early 1950s. When members of the ANC started to quarrel over its direction in 1958–59, he started the breakaway Zambia African National Congress, which he used to rally against the British plan for a federation of the three colonies: Nysaland, Northern Rhodesia and Southern Rhodesia. He managed to dissuade the British from forming the federation and was also jailed, making a martyr of himself and elevating him to hero status among the Zambian people.

After being released in early 1960, KK was elected president of the United National Independence Party (UNIP). He was invited by the British to discuss decolonisation, which began in 1962 and was completed in 1964. After general elections, the UNIP won by a small margin over the ANC, and Kaunda became the first Zambian president.

In the 1970s, KK imposed sanctions on Southern Rhodesia and allowed black guerrillas to use Zambia as a base to attack its southern neighbour to dissuade white rule. In 1976, he assumed emergency powers and was re-elected president in 1978 and 1983 in one-candidate elections. The plummet in copper prices during the 1970s and KK's continued grip on the presidency led to public dissatisfaction, which 'forced' him to legalise multiparty elections in 1990. In 1991, KK stepped down as president.

In 1986, KK's son died of AIDS, and since then Kaunda has become a champion in the nation's fight against the disease. He also has his own political column in the independently-owned *Post* newspaper.

know more about the local art scene, the studio and exhibition centre named after him in Lusaka is worth a visit (see p644).

Other internationally recognised artists include Agnes Yombwe, who works with purely natural materials and uses traditional ceramics and textile designs in her striking sculptures; Shadreck Simukanga, arguably the finest painter working in Zambia; and the country's best-known artist, Stephen Kapata. Prominent sculptors include Eddie Mumba and the prolific Friday Tembo.

Zambian artistry includes skilfully woven baskets from Barotseland (Western Province) and Siavonga; malachite jewellery from the north; and woodcarvings and soapstone sculptures from Mukuni village, near Livingstone. Most of these crafts are sold in markets around the country, along the roadsides of intercity highways and in souvenir shops in touristy areas.

## Dance

The most notable traditional dance is the *makishi*, which features male dancers wearing masks of stylised human faces with grass skirts and anklets. It probably originated in the Congo (Zaire) region and was brought to northwestern Zambia by the Luvale or Luchasi people, before being adopted by other ethnic groups. *Makishi* is now found in many parts of Zambia, mainly at boys' initiation ceremonies. But any local celebration seems to be a good excuse for the men to boogie down.

## Music

All of Zambia's ethnic groups have their own musical traditions. The Lozi are famous for the large drums played during the remarkable Kuomboka ceremony (see the boxed text, p666), while the Bemba are also renowned drummers. Other traditional musical instruments used by most groups include large wooden xylophones, often with gourds underneath the blocks for resonance, and tiny thumb pianos with keys made from flattened metal.

Contemporary Zambian musicians who have achieved some international fame include Larry Maluma and Ricki Ilonga, both exponents of a traditional style called *kalin-dula* (a rumba-inspired sound). Other popular musicians who play traditional styles include the Sakala Brothers from the Eastern Province and Mpunda Mutale from the Northern

Province. Younger Zambians prefer reggae – both the old-school Jamaican style and the softer version popular in Southern Africa – and contemporary Zambian bands such as Exile and JK. Most Zambians love Congolese *soukous* (termed *rumba* in Zambia), which is always blasted at deafening levels at local bars and nightclubs.

## Theatre

Once thriving, Lusaka's theatre scene has taken a turn for the worse, though many Zambian writers still produce plays and other works, from slapstick comedy through to hard political comment. From time to time, the Lusaka Playhouse has a show worth seeing (see p646).

## ENVIRONMENT

### The Land

Landlocked Zambia is one of Africa's most eccentric legacies of colonialism. Shaped like a contorted figure of eight, its borders do not correspond to any tribal or linguistic area. And Zambia is monstrous, about the size of France, England and the Republic of Ireland combined.

Zambia sits on an undulating plateau, sloping to the south. To the north, the plateau drops steeply to Lake Tanganyika, one of the Rift Valley lakes that Zambia shares with Tanzania, Burundi and Congo (Zaire).

Zambia's main river is the Zambezi, which flows in the west of the country. It forms the border between Zambia, Namibia, Botswana and Zimbabwe, and flows into the Victoria Falls and Lake Kariba. Other major rivers include the Kafue, which starts in the highlands between Zambia and Congo (Zaire) and flows into the Zambezi southeast of Lusaka; and the Luangwa, which rises near the Tanzanian border and also flows into the Zambezi.

## Wildlife

### ANIMALS

Because of Zambia's diverse landscape, plentiful water supplies, and position between Eastern, Southern and Central Africa, the diversity of animal species is huge. The rivers, of course, support large populations of hippos and crocs, and the associated grasslands provide plenty of fodder for herds of zebras, impalas and pukus (antelopes common in Zambia, but not elsewhere). Other

antelopes found in Zambia include waterbuck and lechwe; in fact, vast herds of rare black lechwe live near Lake Bangweulu, and endemic Kafue lechwe settle in the area around the Kafue River. Kasanka National Park is one of the best places on the continent to see rare water-loving antelopes called sitatungas. Two more endemic species are Thornicroft giraffes and Cookson's wildebeests, both found in South Luangwa National Park.

These antelopes naturally attract predators, so most parks contain lions, leopards, hyenas (which you'll probably see) and cheetahs (which you probably won't). The other two big drawcards – buffaloes and elephants – are also found in huge herds in the main national parks.

Bird lovers can go crazy in Zambia, where about 750 species have been recorded. Twitchers used to the 'traditional' Southern African species listed in the *Roberts* and *Newman's* field guides will spend a lot of time identifying unusual species – especially in the north and west. Most notable are the endangered shoebill storks (found in the Bangweulu Wetlands); fish eagles (Zambia's national bird); and endemic Chaplin's barbets (mostly around Monze).

### PLANTS

The country's main vegetation zones are miombo woodland, which covers the plateau areas (about 65% of Zambia); mopane woodland in the hotter, lower parts of the country, such as the Zambezi and Luangwa Valleys; and acacia woodland and semi-evergreen forest in the south and west.

## National Parks

Zambia boasts 19 national parks and reserves, but after decades of poaching, clearing and general bad management, many are just lines on the map that no longer protect (or even contain) much wildlife. However, four national parks do accommodate healthy stocks of wildlife, and are among the best in Southern Africa: South Luangwa (p658), Lower Zambezi (p655), Kafue (p666) and Mosi-oa-Tunya (p625).

In a scheme unique in Zambia (and unusual in Southern Africa), Kasanka National Park has been leased to a private operator since 1990. This park is now fully funded by donations and tourism, and functions very well. Another example of successful coopera-

tion between an ecofriendly tour operator, an international conservation group (the World Wildlife Fund) and the Zambian park authorities is the renovation of the previously neglected Lochinvar National Park (p664).

Zambia also has 34 vaguely defined game management areas (GMAs). These mainly act as buffer zones around the major national parks, and are mostly used for commercial hunting. All the GMAs and national parks/reserves (except Kasanka) are administered by the semi-autonomous Zambia Wildlife Authority (ZAWA) – see p641 for contact details.

Admission fees to the parks vary, so they're listed in the appropriate sections later in this chapter. Each ticket is valid for 24 hours from the time you enter the park, but if you're staying inside the park at official accommodation this admission fee is valid for seven days. Taking a vehicle inside the park costs between US\$15 and US\$30 per day, depending on the size and weight. Landing a plane costs US\$30 per aircraft, and using a private boat is US\$20 a day.

## Environmental Issues

Although the population is growing rapidly, it is still relatively sparse, so Zambia doesn't suffer many of the environmental problems encountered by its neighbours. However, around Lusaka, Livingstone and the cities of the Copperbelt, denudation of local vegetation is apparent. And unsustainable deforestation (and associated soil erosion) in the countryside is a pressing environmental problem.

During the 1970s and 1980s, many Zambian parks were effectively abandoned and poaching became a major problem. Then, under pressure from international conservation organisations, the government slowly realised that tourism was a major source of foreign currency for the government (and local people) – and that this depended on healthy national parks. Despite successes in some parks, notably South Luangwa, Lower Zambezi and Mosi-oa-Tunya National Parks, poaching and poor management remain major problems. And the detrimental impact of tourism is obvious along the Zambezi River (particularly near Victoria Falls), where lodges continue to be built unabated and dozens of cruise boats shuttle along every day looking for the diminishing wildlife.

See p26 for information on how you can do your part to contribute to responsible travel.

## FOOD & DRINK

### Food

The national dish is unquestionably *nshima*, a bland but filling maize porridge-like substance. It's eaten with your hands and always accompanied by a relish, such as beans or vegetables (in inexpensive eateries), or chicken or fish (in slightly better restaurants). Most other cheap meals are an unimaginative and unhealthy choice of fried eggs, fried sausages, fried chicken and burgers – all laden with chips (French fries).

In the cities and larger towns, many restaurants – especially those in the hotels – offer Western meals such as steak and grilled chicken. Prices start from US\$5, depending on the surroundings as much as the food itself, and whether you eat in or take away. More elaborate French and Italian cuisine is also available from better hotels, while several restaurants in Lusaka serve Chinese and Indian food. At most top-end establishments, main courses start from about US\$12.

Most cheaper restaurants serve meals without meat, because locals can't afford anything but *nshima*, rice and vegetables anyway. In the cities and larger towns, it's not hard to find an Indian- or Chinese-owned restaurant offering one or two meatless dishes.

In better restaurants a 10% service charge is often added (which technically means tipping is not required), as well as the normal 17.5% value-added tax (VAT). All prices in this chapter, and the Zambian section of the Victoria Falls chapter, include all charges and taxes, though most restaurants list prices *without* service charge and VAT.

### SELF-CATERING

Markets and stalls on the roadside sell fresh vegetables and fruit, while supermarkets in the cities and larger towns are well stocked.

### Drinks

Tea, coffee, bottled mineral water and soft drinks are widely available and inexpensive; for a refreshing drink on a hot day, try a Malawi or rock shandy. If you like lagers, the local beer is good: Mosi is arguably tastier than Castle, Windhoek and the Ndola-brewed Rhino Lager. Traditional 'opaque' beer made

from maize is sold commercially in cardboard cartons, but make sure you shake the carton before drinking.

## LUSAKA

☎ 01 / pop 1.2 million

The capital of Zambia is a small city, part modern and part traditional African, where the dusty markets sit alongside very Soviet-looking high-rise blocks. Although Zambia is a fascinating country, Lusaka will never be a highlight for tourists. There are few notable buildings, monuments or other sights, but it does boast a lively ambience and genuine African feel. The markets are good, there's a decent arts scene and the nightclubs throb at weekends. If you have to be in Lusaka for a few days (eg while waiting for yet another visa), you'll have no trouble passing the time pleasantly enough.

### ORIENTATION

The main street, Cairo Rd, is lined with shops, cafés, supermarkets, travel agencies, banks and bureaux de change. To the north is a major traffic circle and landmark, the North End Roundabout; to the south is the creatively named South End Roundabout. East of Cairo Rd are the wide jacaranda-lined streets of the smarter residential suburbs and the area officially called Embassy Triangle (not surprisingly, home to many embassies and high commissions). West of Cairo Rd are 'compounds' (read 'townships').

See p648 for more information on getting around Lusaka.

### Maps

The dusty government-run **Map Sales office** (☎ 8.30am-3.30pm Mon-Fri) is beneath the Ministry of Lands & Natural Resources building, southwest of the junction of Independence Ave and Nationalist Rd, though most maps are no newer than 1986. Modern commercial maps (k20,000 to k35,000) are available at bookshops and supermarkets at the **Manda Hill Shopping Centre** (Great East Rd) and **Arcades Shopping Centre** (Great East Rd).

### INFORMATION

#### Bookshops

**Book Cellar** (Manda Hill Shopping Centre, Great East Rd) The best bookshop in Zambia, it sells novels, coffee-table

books about Zambia and regional guidebooks – including those published by Lonely Planet.

### Emergency

**Ambulance** (☎ 992)

**Police** (☎ 991; Church Rd)

**Specialty Emergency Services** (☎ 273303) For evacuations.

### Internet Access

**I-Zone** (Arcades Shopping Centre, Great East Rd) This café has the highest speed connection in Lusaka, and you can even bring a laptop.

**TheCafé@la.com** (Cairo Rd; Longacres Roundabout)

With two branches, this place is incredibly popular and modern.

### Media

The *Lowdown* monthly magazine (k3000) is available at bookshops and supermarkets at the **Manda Hill Shopping Centre** (Great East Rd) and **Arcades Shopping Centre** (Great East Rd). At Arcades, the brand-new **NewspaperDirect** (☎ 8am-7pm Mon-Sat, 8am-5pm Sun) offers 328 newspaper titles from around the world on a daily basis.

### Medical Services

Though cheap, conditions and medical supplies are less than ideal at **University Teaching Hospital** (☎ 251200; Nationalist Rd).

Far better are the private clinics **Care for Business** (☎ 254396; Addis Ababa Rd) and **Corpmed** (☎ 222612; Cairo Rd), behind Barclays Bank. Both clinics work with **Specialty Emergency Services** (☎ 273303).

### Money

Along Cairo Rd, Barclays, Indo-Zambian Bank, Stanbic Bank and Standard Chartered Bank have branches with ATMs. These banks also have ATM branches elsewhere in Lusaka, such as on Haile Selassie Ave, and at the **Manda Hill Shopping Centre** (Great East Rd) and **Arcades Shopping Centre** (Great East Rd). Keep in mind that the only debit and credit cards ATMs accept are those bearing the Visa logo.

To change cash, try the **Zampost Bureau de Change** (cnr Cairo & Church Rds) inside the main post office, **Fx Bureau de Change** (Cairo Rd) or **Stero Bureau de Change** (Findeco House, South End Roundabout, Cairo Rd), which also offers reasonable rates for AmEx travellers cheques. The only bureau de change open on Saturday afternoon and Sunday is **Mo Money Bureau de Change** (Fairview Hotel, Church Rd).

### Post

**Main post office** (cnr Cairo & Church Rds; ☎ 8am-5pm Mon-Fri, 8am-12.30pm Sat) Contains Zambia's only reliable poste restante.

### Telephone & Fax

International calls and faxes can be made at the **Zamtel** (cnr Cairo & Church Rds) telephone office upstairs from the main post office, while a dozen telephone booths (using tokens and phonecards) can be found outside the post office. Other 'phone shops' and 'fax bureaux' are dotted along Cairo Rd.

### Tourist Information

**Zambia National Tourist Board** (☎ 229087; www.zambiatourism.com; Century House, Cairo Rd; ☎ 8am-1pm & 2-5pm Mon-Fri, 8am-12pm Sat) The head office has friendly enough staff, but information is limited to Lusaka and its environs.

**Zambia Wildlife Authority** (ZAWA; ☎ 278524; zawaorg@zamnet.zm; Kafue Rd; ☎ 8am-5pm Mon-Fri) In Chilanga, about 16km south of the city centre, facing Munda Wanga. Paradoxically, staff seem more interested in issuing hunting licences than helping foreigners visit national parks. The ZAWA office is accessible on the minibus to Chilanga or Kafue town from the City Bus Station or South End Roundabout.

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### Travel Agencies

**Airmasters Travel** (☎ 250000; www.zambiatourism.com/airmasters; 34 Omelo Mumba Rd) This Rhodes Park agency books flights and hires cars and 4WDs.

**Bimm Travel Agency** (☎ 234372; www.bimm.co.zm; Luangwa House, Cairo Rd) Just south of the post office, it's reliable and locally run. It can also arrange car hire.

**Bush Buzz** (☎ 256992; www.bush-buzz.com; Manda Hill Shopping Centre, Great East Rd) At the back of Kilimanjaro, this agency is especially popular for trips to Kafue and Lower Zambezi National Parks.

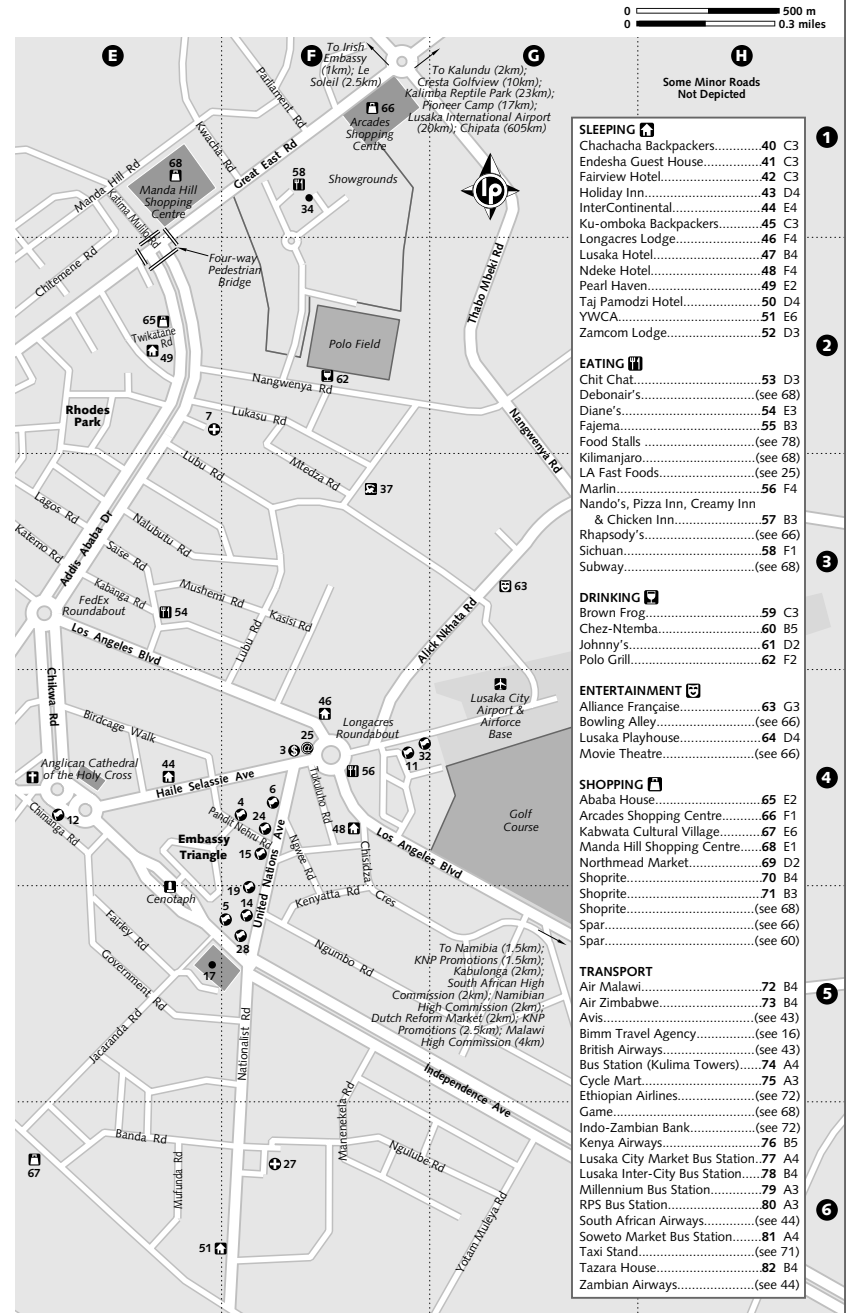
**KNP Promotions** (☎ 266276; www.knp-promotions.com; 13 Chindo Rd Ext) This agency, located in the Woodlands neighbourhood, arranges for every lodge and camp in and around Kafue National Park.

**Steve Blagus Travel** (☎ 227739; www.steveblagus.com; 24 Nkwazi Rd) This is the agency for AmEx and a dozen upmarket lodges/camps.

**Travel Shop** (☎ 255559; www.travelshopzambia.com; Arcades Shopping Centre, Great East Rd) Another agency for lodges/camps and safari companies, and it sells discounted airline tickets.

**Voyagers** (☎ 253048; www.zambiatourism.com/voyagers; Suez Rd) Perhaps the most popular agency in Zambia, it arranges flights, hotel reservations and car hire.

LUSAKA



ZAMBIA

ZAMBIA

**Zambian Safari Company** (☎ 213450; www.zambian-safari.com; Central Park, Cairo Rd) Also a booking agency for upmarket lodges/camps throughout Zambia.

## DANGERS & ANNOYANCES

Like most African cities, pickpockets take advantage of crowds, so be alert in the markets and bus stations and along the busy streets immediately west of Cairo Rd. At night, most streets are dark and often empty, so even if you're on a tight budget, take a taxi. If you have your own wheels, be aware that the incidence of armed carjacking is on the rise in Lusaka – especially around Christmas and Easter.

## SIGHTS & ACTIVITIES

Though there's not much to see, the downstairs galleries in the **National Museum** (Nasser Rd; US\$2; ☎ 9am-4.30pm) offer a perfect snapshot of Zambia, both past and present. Highlights are the displays of contemporary Zambian paintings and sculpture. Upstairs are exhibits of cultural, ethnographical and archaeological interest; don't miss the display about witchcraft.

Also check out **Henry Tayali Visual Arts Centre** (Showgrounds; ☎ 9am-5pm Mon-Fri, 10am-2.30pm Sat & Sun) if you're in a buying mood for local contemporary art.

The **Town Centre Market** (Chachacha Rd; ☎ 7am-7pm) is chaotic and, frankly, malodorous, but fascinating. Zambians get their bargains here, whether it's fruit or veggies, new or second-hand hardware, tapes or clothes. The market is relaxed and tourists don't get hassled.

The **Lusaka City Market** (Lumumba Rd; ☎ 7am-5pm) is large and lively, but not as atmospheric (or smelly) as the Town Centre Market. The nearby **Soweto Market** (Los Angeles Rd; ☎ 7am-7pm) is the largest market in Lusaka, but is more functional and lacks the traditional ambience of the other two. This is one place where you are most likely to be relieved of your valuables – so be careful. The **Dutch Reform Market** (Kabalunga Rd; k2000; ☎ 8am-1pm last Saturday of each month) and the **Sunday market** (Great East Rd; ☎ 10am-6pm Sun) at the Arcades Shopping Centre feature artisanal goodies that are a step up in quality from markets elsewhere.

**Munda Wanga Environmental Park** (☎ 278456; www.mundawanga.com; Kafue Rd, Chilanga; adult/child k12,000/6000; ☎ 8am-5pm) rehabilitates all sorts of animals for re-entry into the wild, unless they are too injured. The park features plenty

of regional flora and fauna, including two cheetahs and seven lions, though the American black bear (a gift from Kenneth Kaunda) looks a little out of place. For visitors, the pool, bar and braai (barbecue) grills are welcome additions. It's about 16km south of central Lusaka and accessible by any minibus heading towards Chilanga or Kafue from the City Bus Station or South End Roundabout.

A bit of a schlep northeast from town, **Kalimba Reptile Park** (☎ 213272; off District Rd; adult/child k18,000/9000) is not only a crocodile and snake zoo (not for petting!), but is also a pleasant place to grab a beer and a crocodile sandwich, though you'll need a 4WD to get there. Go east on the Great East Rd 13km from Arcades. Then make a left at the Caltex filling station, take the road to the end (11km) and the park is on the right.

The spotlessly clean Olympic-sized **public swimming pool** (off Mangwenya Rd; admission US\$1; ☎ 9am-5pm Tue-Sun) is surrounded by a pleasant shaded area and is a great place to relax and unwind. Horse riding among wildlife can be arranged at Lilayi Lodge (see opposite) for US\$25 per person (two hours).

If you're in need of a massage, try **Le Soleil** (☎ 212437; off Zambezi Rd; ☎ 8am-5pm Tue-Sun) in Roma. Lastly, if you want to blow a few hours bowling or seeing a Hollywood movie, there is a bowling alley and a movie theatre at **Arcades Shopping Centre** (Great East Rd).

## SLEEPING Budget

**Chachacha Backpackers** (☎ 222257; www.chachacha-safaris.com; 161 Mulombwa Cl; camping per person US\$5, dm US\$10, d with shared bathroom US\$25; ☎ ☎) Traditionally popular with young backpackers, when we visited it was being renovated. The courtyard, pool and bar are inviting, and other facilities include a restaurant (serving basic meals), laundry service, a communal kitchen and baggage store. Like many hostels in Southern Africa, however, it can be noisy, crowded and scruffy. On the other hand, it's a mine of information and a great spot to organise budget-priced tours. Singles/doubles should be reserved in advance.

**Pioneer Camp** (☎ 096-432700; www.pioneercampzambia.com; Palabana Rd, off Great East Rd; camping per person US\$5, double chalets incl breakfast US\$30-50) Signposted 5km south of Great East Rd and 17km east of the Manda Hill Shopping Centre. If you don't want to self-cater, there's a bar and restaurant.

The friendly owners offer free transfers to/from the city on weekdays; otherwise, contact them beforehand for current advice about how to reach the camp by minibus.

**Eureka Camping Park** (☎ 272351; eureka@zamnet.zm; camping per person k19,000, chalets with shared showers k93,000-110,000, chalets k130,000-185,000) About 12km south of the city centre. The camp site is grassy and the security is good, while the swimming pool and bar (which sells snacks) are nice touches. Also, firewood is for sale and there is an abutting walkable safari area with animals that don't want to eat you. Minibuses from the City Bus Station or South End Roundabout go past the gate.

**Ku-omboka Backpackers** (☎ 222450; kvkirkley@zamtel.zm; Makanta Close; dm k30,000, d with shared bathroom k100,000) A fairly new kid on the block, this is the best value for a backpacker passing through Lusaka as it's clean, safe and cheap.

**YWCA** (☎ 252726; Nationalist Rd; d with shared bathroom k80,000) Offers budget accommodation with a local feel for men and women. It's basic but very clean and friendly – and often full. The restaurant serves basic meals and is open to the public.

## Midrange

All rooms in the hotels listed below contain a private bathroom, fan and TV, and all rates include breakfast.

**Endesha Guest House** (☎ 225780; Parirenyetwa Rd; d without bathroom k160,000, d k200,000) A cosy *pen-sion* (guesthouse) with eight rooms (so book ahead). The 'standard' rooms have unattached but private bathrooms, while the more expensive rooms have a private bathroom inside. The bar is chill and a great place to meet some interesting characters.

**Zamcos Lodge** (☎ 251811; Church Rd; d k200,000-300,000) This is not well known yet – even by taxi drivers. The rooms in this motel-style complex are devoid of charm, but they also have no dirt or mosquitoes. Importantly, it offers the best value for a midrange hotel in central Lusaka.

**Longacres Lodge** (☎ 254847; off Los Angeles Blvd; s/d k230,000/280,000, ste US\$53) A revamped government hostel with functional rooms. Though friendly and spotless, it's not the most interesting place to stay.

**Pearl Haven** (☎ 252455; Twikatanne Rd; s/d k250,000/300,000; ☎) In the shady Rhodes Park suburbs. With an interesting second-storey bar

on stilts, this place is a good option for a quick walk to Manda Hill Shopping Centre.

**Lusaka Hotel** (☎ 229049; lushotel@zamnet.zm; cnr Cairo & Katondo Rds; s/d k264,000/288,000, d with air-con k336,000; ☎ ☎) Remarkably, this is the *only* hotel in the city centre. It's the longest-standing hotel in Lusaka and has almost top-end facilities for a midrange price. But the rooms are small and some are noisy.

**Ndeke Hotel** (☎ 251734; cnr Chisidya Cres & Los Angeles Blvd; d/ste k290,000/380,000; ☎) An overpriced but clean hotel. Adorned with modern sculpture that is welcome, but out-of-place, it has small but spotless rooms. Just watch out for the prostitutes lingering outside who may want business.

**Fairview Hotel** (☎ 222604; www.fairview.co.zm; Church Rd; s/d k316,000/344,000) Offers small, comfortable and well-furnished rooms – if you like 70s furniture – within walking distance of the city centre. The attached restaurant is only just adequate, but the terrace bar is inviting.

## Top End

All rooms in the hotels listed here have a bathroom, air-con and TV, and all rates include breakfast. The three hotels in the city also offer a business centre, swimming pool and travel desk.

**Lilayi Lodge** (☎ 279022; www.lilayi.com; s/d incl breakfast from US\$90/100, incl all meals & activities approx US\$250/290; ☎ ☎) This is one of Lusaka's finest options. The bungalows in this private wildlife reserve are very comfortable, and the gardens and pool are lovely. It offers horse riding and the chance to learn to play (horse) polo. The lodge is about 8km off Kafue Rd and about 12km south of the city centre, and only accessible by taxi or private/rented car.

**Cresta Golfview** (☎ 290718; www.cresta-hospitality.com/zambia.htm; Great East Rd; s/d k380,000/520,000; ☎ ☎) This newcomer and outsider is just as good as its more expensive cousins, though it is on the outskirts of town.

**Taj Pamodzi Hotel** (☎ 254455; pamodzi@zamnet.zm; Church Rd; s/d from US\$165/190; ☎ ☎) By far the fanciest – and strangely the cheapest of the fancy-shmancy hotels in Lusaka. It's a large multistorey complex with comfortable rooms offering views and all the mod cons.

**Holiday Inn** (☎ 251666; admin@holidayinn.co.zm; cnr Church Rd & Independence Ave; s/d US\$240/260; ☎ ☎) This is convenient and popular, and features several Western-style restaurants and bars.



Discounted rates of about US\$105/130 are possible with little prompting.

**InterContinental** (☎ 250000; lusaka@interconti.com; Haile Selassie Ave; s/d from US\$250/275; 🍷 🍷) Offers the sort of bling-bling amenities and rooms found in most of the hotels run by this chain throughout the world.

## EATING

**Fajema** (Cairo Rd; meals about US\$2) Just back from the main road, this is a far better place than the food stalls to try some tasty Zambian food while sitting inside a restaurant.

**Kilimanjaro** (Manda Hill Shopping Centre, Great East Rd; snacks k9000-18,000) With a travel agency and an internet café, it serves tasty coffee and pastries, which can be enjoyed at the tables or on couches.

**LA Fast Foods** (Longacres Roundabout, Haile Selassie Ave; meals US\$2-3) An ideal place to grab a meal if you have to wait a while for your visa from any of the nearby embassies. Allow some time to plough through the confusing array of menus on the counter offering Chinese food, burgers, steaks and a hundred variations of 'chicken and chips'.

**Premuni** (☎ 224209; 61 Great East Rd; mains k25,000-55,000; 🍷 lunch & dinner) A cheap and decent upstairs Indian restaurant with terrace seating and an attached Indian foods shop, featuring homemade sweets. The array of meatless options will delight frustrated and hungry vegetarians.

**Sichuan** (☎ 253842; Showgrounds, off Nangwenya Rd; mains k35,000-50,000; 🍷 lunch & dinner Mon-Sat, dinner Sun) The best Chinese restaurant in Lusaka, which is bizarrely situated in a warehouse at the Showgrounds. However, the prices are reasonable and the ambience relaxing.

**Diane's** (☎ 097-847157; 5018 Saise Rd; mains k20,000-30,000; 🍷 lunch & dinner Mon-Fri, 11.30am-10.30pm Sat & Sun) Popular with Japanese expats, this place has superb cook-it-at-the-table Korean barbecue, as well as vegetarian dishes.

**Marlin** (☎ 252206; Longacres Roundabout, Los Angeles Blvd; mains k45,000-60,000; 🍷 lunch & dinner Tue-Sat, dinner Mon) Housed in the colonial-era Lusaka Club, this perennial, wood-panelled favourite is the best steakhouse in Zambia. While it does serve gargantuan portions of every cut of meat under the sun, most guests come for the aged fillet with mushroom or pepper sauce. Reservations are strongly recommended.

**Chit Chat** (☎ 097-774481; 5A Omelo Mumba Rd; mains k45,000-60,000; 🍷 10am-midnight Tue-Sat, 10am-8pm

Sun) A popular place for lunch or dinner in a relaxed, open-air atmosphere, it has the most eclectic menu in Lusaka and features a rotating exhibition of purchasable modern art from local artists.

Several food stalls at the **Town Centre Market** (Chachacha Rd) serve cheap local food, but the scavenging dogs roaming the increasing piles of garbage around the market may affect your appetite. Cleaner food stalls are at the **Lusaka Inter-City Bus Station** (Dedan Kimathi Rd).

Junk-food junkies can flock to the corner of Cairo and Nkwazi Rds, where Pizza Inn, Nando's, Chicken Inn and Creamy Inn all share the same premises.

Alternatively, jump on a minibus to one of the two modern shopping centres: **Manda Hill** (Great East Rd) and **Arcades** (Great East Rd). At Manda Hill, you'll find **Debonairs** (small/large pizzas k15,000/18,000); the incredibly popular Subway; and Irish-themed pub **O'Hagans** (☎ 255555; mains k25,000-60,000; 🍷 9am-midnight), popular with South Africans. Arcades has a cluster of up-market restaurants, the most popular being the wine bar-restaurant **Rhapsody's** (☎ 256705/6; mains k50,000-80,000; 🍷 noon-11pm), which is a gathering points for nongovernmental organisation (NGO) types and well-to-do Zambians at weekends.

## DRINKING & ENTERTAINMENT

**Johnny's** (9 Lagos Rd; 🍷 lunch & dinner Mon-Thu, 7pm-late Fri & Sat; 🍷) An extremely popular nightclub with a tiki feel, Johnny's is the only disco in Zambia with an indoor pool, into which the occasional drunken dancer jumps. At weekends, it costs k45,000 to enter.

**Brown Frog** (Kabelenga Rd; 🍷 10am-8pm Mon-Thu, 10am-3am Fri & Sat) Popular with NGO workers who come to dance at weekends, this British-style pub is a bit of an institution. At weekends you'll have to shell out k5000 to enter.

**Chez-Ntemba** (Kafue Rd; admission k30,000; 🍷 9pm-6am Wed & Fri & Sat) This is the best nightclub in the downtown area, but only blasts loud rhumba. It warms up at midnight and rocks until dawn.

**Polo Grill** (2374 Nangwenya Rd; 🍷 8am-midnight) Overlooking the polo field, where you can catch a live match around 11.30am at weekends between May and August, they also occasionally get big local acts like Exile. If there's a band, admission is k25,000.

**Lusaka Playhouse** (cnr Church & Nasser Rds; tickets k10,000-30,000) From time to time, local perform-

ers put on a good show. Check signs outside to see what's playing.

**Alliance Française** (☎ 253467; Alick Nkhata Rd; tickets free-k5000) The Alliance brings in performers and films from Europe and from Francophone Africa. The programmes are advertised on posters around town and mentioned in the *Lowdown* magazine.

## SHOPPING

**Northmead Market** (Chozi Rd; 🍷 9am-5pm) The best place for kitschy souvenirs. The choice is limited, but the carvings, fabrics and pottery on offer are reasonably priced.

**Kabwata Cultural Village** (Burma Rd; 🍷 9am-5pm) You'll find a scruffy collection of huts and stalls at this place southeast of the city centre. Prices are cheap, however, because you can buy directly from the workers who live here. The specialities are carvings, baskets, masks, drums, jewellery and fabrics.

**Ababa House** (cnr Addis Ababa Dr & Twikatane Rd; 🍷 9am-5.30pm Tue-Sat) A smart boutique full of imaginative creations from Zambian and Zimbabwean artists, furniture-makers and weavers. Most items are made for Western tastes and are not the sort of things you'll see in the markets.

The swish **Manda Hill Shopping Centre** (Great East Rd) and **Arcades Shopping Centre** (Great East Rd) are easy to reach by minibus from along Cairo Rd or from the Millennium Bus Station, or by taxi (k12,000). As well as banks, bookshops, internet cafés, furniture stores, restaurants and fast-food outlets, the two shopping centres boast huge Shoprite and Spar supermarkets, respectively. Another Shoprite is located along Cairo Rd.

For the rest of Lusaka's markets, see p644.

## GETTING THERE & AWAY

### Air

For details about international and domestic flights to/from Lusaka, see p675 and p677.

### Bus & Minibus

To avoid some inevitable confusion and frustration, take a taxi to whichever station your bus/minibus leaves from.

### DOMESTIC

From in front of the massive and chaotic **Lusaka City Market Bus Station** (Lumumba Rd) buses and minibuses leave for nearby towns such as Chirundu (k40,000) and Kapiri Mposhi

(k35,000, 2½ hours), and destinations are more or less signposted. Public transport to other places, including Siavonga (k50,000, three hours), leave from the **Soweto Market Bus Station** (Los Angeles Rd), where *nothing* is signposted, so you'll have to ask again and again for the bus/minibus you want.

To add to the confusion, minibuses to places not far south of Lusaka, such as Kafue town (k7000), via Chilanga, leave from the **City Bus Station** (off Chachacha Rd), also called the Kulima Towers Station. And minibuses heading to the north (eg the Manda Hill Shopping Centre) depart from the **Millennium Bus Station** (Malasha Rd).

All long-distance public buses (and a few private ones) use the **Lusaka Inter-City Bus Station** (Dedan Kimathi Rd), where there is a left-luggage office and inquiries counter. From this terminal, buses and minibuses go several times a day to Ndola (k40,000, four hours), Kitwe (k45,000, five hours), Livingstone (k60,000, six hours) and Chipata (k65,000, eight hours); buses operated by CR Holdings and Marks Motorways go to Mongu (k50,000, seven hours) daily. It's certainly worth double-checking the schedules and booking your tickets one or two days before you leave. The bright-yellow buses operated by Marks Motorways have buses every day to Kitwe via Ndola; one travels (at 8am) to Livingstone, and two leave (at 6am and 2pm) for Chipata. Fares are about the same as those charged by other private bus companies. Buses operated by CR Holdings, the best bus company in Zambia, also depart from here. Every day, several comfortable buses leave for Kitwe, via Ndola, as well as Livingstone; and one goes to Mongu and Chipata. Fares are more expensive than those charged by other companies, but CR Holdings is well worth it, as it runs a two-storey, 1st-class bus with reclining seats.

The RPS bus company uses a chaotic lay-by along Freedom Way, and is worth avoiding because most buses leave at about 5am (or even earlier). It operates buses to Kasama (k80,000, 14 hours) most days; to Solwezi (k70,000, eight hours) and Mpulungu (k100,000, 18 hours) three times a week; to Chipata (k65,000) and Mongu (k50,000) every day. There are also buses to Livingstone (k45,000) at 7am and 1.30pm every day.

Another option worth considering is the post bus, which carries mail (and passengers) to Kasama (k40,000) from outside the

**main post office** (nr Cairo & Church Rds) at 7am on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Tickets are available in advance at the post bus counter inside the post office, between 7am and noon Monday to Friday, and between 7am and 11am on weekends.

## INTERNATIONAL

All buses mentioned here (unless stated otherwise) leave from the **Lusaka Inter-City Bus Station** (Dedan Kimathi Rd).

To Botswana, Seabelo Express has buses to Gaborone (k220,000, 22 hours), via Kasane and Francistown on Saturday and Tuesday.

For South Africa, City to City has buses leaving every day for Johannesburg (k250,000, 26 hours). Chat Boeing travels to Jo'burg four days per week, but its buses are not as comfortable as those offered by City to City, though tickets are slightly cheaper. In addition, the reliable CR Holdings has buses to Johannesburg (k280,000) every day except Thursday and Friday. All buses between Lusaka and Jo'burg travel via Harare, Masvingo and Pretoria.

To Zimbabwe, take any bus going to South Africa, or a Zupco bus goes directly to Harare (US\$12, nine hours) on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday.

The bizarrely named Scandinavian Express runs buses to Dar es Salaam (k325,000, 27 hours) every day at 5pm, but services are less reliable these days (so take the train).

## Hitching

Although we don't recommend hitching, many locals do it. There are several recognised places to wait for lifts: for eastern Zambia, including Chipata, wait just beyond the airport turn-off; for places to the south, go to the Chirundu-Livingstone junction 10km past Kafue town; and to the north, try at the junction north of Kapiri Mposhi.

## Train

The *Zambezi Express* travelling to Livingstone (economy/standard/1st class/sleeper k18,500/23,000/32,000/39,500, 18 hours), via Choma, leaves Lusaka at 7pm on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Tickets are available from the reservations office inside the **train station** (btwn Cairo & Dedan Kimathi Rds) from 3pm to 5pm on the day of departure. Get there early and be prepared to hustle and bustle. Slow, 'ordinary' trains to Ndola (standard class k16,500, eight

hours), via Kapiri Mposhi, depart Monday, Wednesday and Friday at about 10pm.

For information about the Tazara train between Kapiri Mposhi and Dar es Salaam (Tanzania), see p676.

## GETTING AROUND To/From the Airport

The international airport is about 20km northeast of the city centre. Taxis to and from the airport to central Lusaka cost k100,000. There's no airport bus, but the upmarket hotels send courtesy minibuses to meet international flights, so you may be able to arrange a ride into town with the minibus driver (for a negotiable fee).

## Bus & Minibus

Local minibuses run along Lusaka's main roads, but there are no route numbers or destination signs, so the system is difficult to work out. See p647 for explanations about the confusing array of bus and minibus stations.

Otherwise, it is possible to flag down a minibus along a route. For instance, from the South End Roundabout, the 'Kabulonga' minibus goes along Independence Ave to Longacres Roundabout and then heads back towards the city along Los Angeles Blvd and Church Rd; the 'Chakunkula' or 'Chelston' minibus shuttles down Kafue Rd to Kafue town; and the 'Chilanga' minibus heads to Chilanga, via Kafue Rd. The standard fare is k1500 to k2000.

## Car & Motorcycle

Several international car-rental companies have counters at the airport, such as **Avis** (Airport ☎ 271303; Lusaka ☎ 251652; Holiday Inn, nr Church Rd & Independence Ave) – who also have an office at the Holiday Inn – and **Imperial** (☎ 271221).

**Bimm Travel Agency** (☎ 234372; www.bimm.co.zm; Luangwa House, Cairo Rd) offers the cheapest rates. Vehicles cost from US\$45 per day and US\$0.30 per kilometre, plus US\$10 per day for insurance, but the company inexplicably charges extra for keeping the car outside of Lusaka overnight.

## Taxi

Official taxis can be identified by the numbers painted on the doors, but hundreds of unofficial taxis also cruise the streets. Taxis can be hailed along the street or found at ranks near

the main hotels and markets, and outside the Shoprite supermarket on Cairo Rd. Fares are negotiable, but, as a guide, k15,000 to k20,000 will get you from the train station to Manda Hill Shopping Centre.

## THE COPPERBELT

The Copperbelt Province is the industrial heartland of Zambia and the main population centre outside of Lusaka. The world copper market slumped during the 1970s, so vast opencast mines cut back production, thereby creating high unemployment in the area. The cost of copper and cobalt went through the roof in early 2006, possibly bringing the region back on its feet. Experts say that copper mining will be done for in Kitwe in the next 10 years; however, Solwezi, to the west, is quickly becoming the hot mining spot for copper. Over the coming years, Kitwe will become the refining centre for copper mined in Solwezi. The region is rarely visited by tourists, but it does boast a few off-the-beaten-path attractions that are definitely worth the trip.

## KAPIRI MPOSHI

This dismal town, about 200km north of Lusaka, is at the southern end of the Tazara railway from Dar es Salaam (Tanzania) and at the fork in the roads to Lusaka, the Copperbelt and the Northern Province. If you get stuck at Kapiri Mposhi, there are some local resthouses along the main street, but the best option is the dingy **Harvest Inn Guesthouse** (☎ 097-571580; s/d/k75,000-85,000); avoid staying in Kapiri Mposhi if possible.

If you're coming from Tanzania, there's a passport check before you can get out of the station, then from outside the station there's a mad rush for buses to Lusaka and elsewhere. Thieves and pickpockets thrive in the crowds and confusion, so take great care.

Buses and minibuses from Lusaka leave regularly (see p647) and are a quicker and more convenient option than the local train from the capital. Note that the train station for the daily Lusaka-Kitwe service, which stops at Kapiri Mposhi, is 2km from New Kapiri Mposhi station, the official name of the Tazara station. Refer to p676 for details about the trains from Kapiri Mposhi to Dar es Salaam.

## NDOLA

☎ 02 / pop 500,000

About 325km north of Lusaka, Ndola, a sleepy town, is the capital of the Copperbelt Province. So, it makes sense to visit the city's only real attraction: the **Copperbelt Museum** (Buteko Ave; admission US\$3; ☎ 9am-4.30pm) at the north-eastern end of the main road (Buteko Ave). It showcases the local industry and, surprisingly, includes one of the best butterfly collections in Southern Africa.

If you are looking for somewhere to stay, the **Royal Hotel** (☎ 610331; royalhotel@zamnet.zm; Vitanda St; s/d incl breakfast k100,000/185,000), though slightly dilapidated, is the best value in town. All rooms come with TV and bathroom. It's 1km north of the public bus station and 200m southwest of the train station.

The **New Savoy Hotel** (☎ 611103-9; savoy@zamnet.zm; Buteko Ave; s/d incl breakfast & bathroom k300,000/380,000) is a bit snazzier and pricier than the Royal, and features a funky terrace bar and pool. It practically faces the museum and is 600m north of the public bus station.

If you're hungry, **Michelangelo** (☎ 620325; Broadway; mains k35,000-55,000; 🍷), 1km west of the museum, is an upscale guesthouse (rooms including breakfast are k450,000) resembling the Parthenon and is the best place in the region for Italian food, including 'real' coffee and wood-fired pizzas. The restaurant is closed on Sunday.

Every day, **Zambian Airways** (code Q3; ☎ 621466; www.zambianairways.com) flies between Lusaka and Ndola (US\$95 to US\$130 one way), while **South African Airlink** (code 4Z; ☎ 612206; www.saaairlink.co.za) has daily flights to Johannesburg. Zambian Airways also flies from Ndola to Lumumbashi (US\$135 one way). The airport is 3.5km south of the public bus station.

See p647 for information about buses and trains between Lusaka and Ndola. From the **public bus station** (nr Broadway & Maina Soko Rd), three blocks south of Buteko Ave, minibuses also run every few minutes to Kitwe. The **train station** (☎ 617641; off President Ave Nth) is 700m north of the museum. **Avis** (☎ 620741) and **Voyagers/Imperial Car Rental** (☎ 620604) both have offices at the airport.

## KITWE

☎ 02 / pop 700,000

About 60km northwest of Ndola is Zambia's second-largest city and the centre of the country's mining industry. Kitwe feels far more

urban than quiet Ndola and has an extensive **market** (Chisokone Ave; ☎ 7am-7pm) one block west of the main street (Independence Ave).

The **YMCA** (☎ /fax 218108; Independence Ave; d incl breakfast k90,000, with shared bathroom k60,000) is spotless and has cool blue bathin blankets on every bed. It's 1.5km north of the city centre.

**Lothian House** (☎ /fax 222889; Chandamali Ave; s/d incl breakfast from k100,000/150,000) is a former government hostel with clean but boring rooms. The more expensive rooms contain a private bathroom. It's 1km northeast of the city centre.

**Mukwa Lodge** (☎ 224266; Mpezeni Ave; r incl breakfast k310,000; 🍷 🍷) has 11 gorgeous rooms and a modern courtyard with an aviary full of parrots and parakeets. It also has a top-notch restaurant.

The finest restaurant in the Copperbelt hands down is **Arabian Nights** (☎ 221097; dcole@zamnet.zm; Mushita Dr; mains US\$7-12), with a constantly changing menu and a reputation for rich desserts. The fancy adjoining **Africaza Guesthouse** (d incl breakfast k300,000-350,000) has eight rooms, each with its own theme.

Refer to p647 for details about buses and trains to Kitwe.

The public bus station is situated 500m west of Independence Ave, and the **train station** (☎ 223078) is at the southern end of Independence Ave. **Voyagers/Imperial Car Rental** (☎ 227169; 17 Enos Chomba Ave) is just to the east of Independence Ave.

## CHIMFUNSHI WILDLIFE ORPHANAGE

On a farm approximately 70km northwest of Chingola is this magnificent **chimpanzee sanctuary** (☎ 311293; www.chimfunshi.org.za; admission US\$15; 🕒 10am-5pm), home to 84 adult and young chimps that have been confiscated from poachers and traders in neighbouring Congo (Zaire) or other parts of Africa, and apparently the largest of its kind in the world. This is not a natural wildlife experience, but it's still fascinating to observe the chimps as they feed, play and socialise.

The sanctuary is *not* interested in mass tourism, so only small numbers of visitors are allowed. And *please* do not come if you're sick in any way; the chimps can easily die of a simple disease like the flu. Visitors can stay at the **camp site** (US\$5 per person) or **dormitory** (US\$20) at the education centre, which has self-catering facilities. Bookings are essential through accommodation manager, Sylvia Jones – email her on 2sylvia@bushmail.net.

By car, take the Solwezi Rd for about 50km northwest from Chingola, then turn right at the signposted junction and follow it for 19km. Buses between Chingola and Solwezi can drop you off at the junction, from where you'll have to hike to the sanctuary.

## LAKE KASHIBA

West of Mpongwe is this sunken lake, which was created millions of years ago when surface rock collapsed into underlying limestone caves beneath it. Popular with private divers and swimmers, the lake is strangely rectangular and is more than 100m deep *on the sides* (no one is really sure how deep it is in the centre), giving the water a strange aquamarine colour. **Kafue Lodge** (vojchin@zamnet.zm; self-serving chalets per person US\$100), located along the bank of the Kafue River, arranges trips to the lake for US\$25 per person.

# NORTHERN ZAMBIA

Northern Zambia starts once you've passed the 'Pedicle' – the great tongue of Congo (Zaire) territory that almost splits Zambia into two parts. Travel in the north can be arduous – distances between towns are great and many of its attractions are way off the beaten track, so it's easier to get around in a private/hired vehicle. On the flipside, the rewards of travel in this region are many. The north is a beautiful and sparsely populated area of hills, valleys, lakes, rivers, wetlands and waterfalls, where you will rarely meet another tourist.

## SERENJE

☎ 05

Serenje is a lively and friendly little place and if heading up to the north you might end up refuelling here. There are two main hubs in the town: the turn-off at the junction, which has a petrol station, a couple of shops and a few basic restaurants; and the town centre, 3km north of the Great North Rd, which has a bank, a market and a couple of accommodation choices.

## Sleeping

**Mapontela Inn & Restaurant** (☎ 382026; d & tw US\$65) The nicest option. It has cool, cleans rooms with fans, TVs, large swanky bathrooms and verandas that look out onto a green courtyard

and the resident Village Inn Pub – a great place to mingle with the locals.

**Siga-Siga Motel** (☎ 382362; d with shared bathroom US\$8) A cheaper option, at the junction along the main road. It offers basic but clean rooms and a friendly manager who can advise on local transport.

## Getting There & Away

All buses between Lusaka and the Northern Province pass through Serenje. The Tazara train also stops at the Serenje train station, 3km north of the town centre.

## KASANKA NATIONAL PARK

Zambia's only privately managed **national park** (www.kasanka.com; admission US\$10; 🕒 6am-6pm) is highly recommended. It's one of the best places in Africa to see sitatungas, which are shy, swamp-loving antelope; and during the months of November and December, this 450-sq-km park is home to five *million* migratory fruit bats, which can blanket the sky for several minutes at dusk.

Activities such as **boat rides**, **bush walks** and **canoeing** trips can be arranged at both camps (see below). All profits from the park help fund projects that benefit the community and local environment.

## Sleeping

The only places to stay are **Wasa Camp** (☎ 873-762067957; www.kasanka.com), which also acts as the park headquarters, and **Luwombwa Camp** (www.kasanka.com). Both offer simple self-catering rondavels for US\$30 per person, or US\$200 per person with full board, transfers (from the nearest airstrip) and several activities. Wasa is open all year, while Luwombwa is more likely to be closed in the wet season. Camping may be possible at the **Musande Camp Site** (per person US\$10), but check first.

## Getting There & Away

From Lusaka, take a bus towards Mansa, or take any bus heading north and change at Serenje for a minibus to Mansa. After turning off the Great North Rd, ask the driver to drop you off at the gate to Kasanka National Park near Mulembo village – not at Kasanka village. From the gate it's a pleasant 12km hike to Wasa Camp or radio for a lift from the gate (US\$10 per vehicle).

With your own wheels, continue north along the Great North Rd from Serenje for

36km, turn left towards Mansa, and then drive 55km to the gate.

## BANGWEULU WETLANDS

South and east of **Lake Bangweulu** is a vast seasonally flooded area known as the Bangweulu Wetlands (or Bangweulu Swamps). This fascinating, rarely visited part of Zambia supports vast herds of black lechwes (antelopes with long, curved antlers). About 400 species of birds have been noted, including the strange and rare shoebill storks. The ideal time for bird-watching is April to June, though July and August are still good. May to July is best to see the lechwes.

## Sleeping

**Shoebill Camp** (www.kasanka.com; camping per person US\$10, self-catering chalets with shared bathroom per person US\$30, incl meals, transfers from the nearest airstrip & several activities per person US\$200; 🕒 Apr-Nov) In the heart of the wetlands and splendidly positioned, with only birds, hippos, lechwes and the occasional passing fishermen for company. Bookings are essential, especially if you want meals and need to be taken to the camp by boat.

## Getting There & Away

The only way into the wetlands is by vehicle (2WD is normally OK) and chartered planes. From the Kasanka park gate (where you can get help with directions), dirt roads lead via Lake Waka-Waka and Muwele to the Chikuni ranger post, from where you can drive to Shoebill Camp if it's dry. In the wet, you'll have to travel the last 2km by boat.

## SAMFYA

Perched on the western shore of Lake Bangweulu, about 10km east of the main road between Mansa and Serenje, is Samfya. This small trading centre and lake transport hub is small enough to get to know people and large enough to have resthouses, restaurants and bars. Just outside town is the majestic, sandy **Cabana Beach**. But stay away from the water; it may look inviting but it's full of crocs.

**Transport Hotel** (s/d with shared bathroom US\$3/4, d with bathroom US\$10), at the port, has basic rooms. A bar and restaurant is next door.

**Bangweulu Lodge** (camping per person US\$5, s/d with shared bathroom US\$15/25) offers comfortable accommodation along Cabana Beach. Staff can arrange boat trips for any anglers who want to fight tigerfish. Look for the signs about 2km from town.

Samfya is regularly served by minibuses from Serenje. Buses from Lusaka may drop you into town or at the junction 10km away, from where local pick-ups shuttle passengers to and fro. Ask around about jumping on a passenger boat around the lake.

## MUTINONDO WILDERNESS

This is a beautiful 10,000-hectare wilderness area and the perfect place to escape into the bush for a few days. The landscape is dominated by whaleback hills – huge, sweeping domes of granite in varying shades of black, purple, green and brown – that frame the woodland, rivers and endless valleys below.

**our pick** **Mutinondo Wilderness Lodge** ([www.mutinondozambia.com](http://www.mutinondozambia.com); camping US\$15, s/d inc meals & activities from US\$90/150) is an eco-friendly paradise that makes a trip here even more worthwhile. Individually designed chalets are built into the hillside and blend in seamlessly with their natural environment. They are far enough apart from each other to give a real sense of privacy, have stunning views, and the majority are open to the elements so it feels as if you're sleeping out in the middle of the wild. There is also a great camp site here with plenty of thoughtful touches – the sinks have framed pieces of information to read while you brush your teeth, the large open-air (hot) showers have plenty of room for hanging clothes and changing, and best of all, the toilets have reading material and strategically placed viewing windows, so you can stargaze while you pee!

The friendly and energetic owners are keen to protect the environment and the lodge uses a number of alternative sources of energy such as solar panels, a wind generator and stoves.

## Activities

Other than hiking and taking in the views you can canoe and swim in the river, ride horses and, during the mushroom-friendly rainy season, go in search of the largest edible mushroom in the world! The area also contains newly found rock paintings and Iron Age workings.

## Getting There & Away

The turn-off to Mutinondo is 164km past Serenje heading north on the Great North Rd. Signposted to the right, Mutinondo is 25km down a 2WD-friendly track.

Road transfers for a maximum of five people can be arranged from Mpika (US\$100), Lusaka (US\$500) or nearby Kalonje railway station (US\$25). An airstrip has recently been built and should be in operation soon.

## SHIWA NG'ANDU

The vast estate of **Shiwa Ng'andu** ([www.shiwangandu.com](http://www.shiwangandu.com); tours US\$20; ☎ 9-11am Mon-Sat, 10-11am Sun) was established in the 1920s by Stewart Gore-Brown, a paternalistic British aristocrat. At its heart is **Shiwa House**, a splendid English-style mansion as described in *The Africa House* by Christina Lamb (p669). Tours take about two hours and include the house, a visit to Sir Stewart's grave and the lake.

**Kapishya Hot Springs** is about 20km west of Shiwa House, but still on the Shiwa Ng'andu estate. The setting is marvellous – a blue-green steaming lagoon surrounded by palms and the springs are bath-water hot. If staying at Kapishya Lodge (below), then you can use the springs for free; otherwise the cost for day visitors is US\$5. From the lodge, **walking, fishing** and **canoeing** trips are also offered, as well as trips to Buffalo Lodge in North Luangwa National Park (p662).

## Sleeping

**Kapishya Lodge** (☎ 01-229261; [www.shiwasafaris.com](http://www.shiwasafaris.com); camping per person US\$10, self-catering chalets per person US\$60, with meals & activities per person US\$130) This is a beautiful spot. The chalets are light and spacious, with wide wooden decks complete with inbuilt fireplaces. The chalets look down over the river and the tree-, flower- and sculpture-filled garden. Bring your own food for the staff to prepare, or meals (and very good ones at that) can be provided with enough notice.

**Shiwa House** (bookings through Kapishya Lodge; full board from US\$350) Rooms here are all suitably attired for a grand old English manor, with fireplaces, paintings and big old roll-top baths. There's also a glorious guest sitting room looking out onto the front lawn and tasty dinners are taken in the rather grand dining room. The hosts (the grandchildren of Sir Stewart Gore-Brown) are happy to chat and to give you personal tours of the house.

## Getting There and Away

To reach Shiwa House, head along the highway by bus (or car) from Mpika for about 90km towards Chisoso. Look for the signpost

## STEWART GORE-BROWN

Shiwa Ng'andu was the brainchild of Stewart Gore-Brown, an eccentric Englishman, who first came to Northern Rhodesia in 1914 when working for the Anglo-Belgian border commission. He decided to look for somewhere to settle in the area, came across the lake of Shiwa Ng'andu (the 'Lake of the Royal Crocodiles' in the local language) and negotiated with the local chief to buy the land surrounding it. He then went back home, but returned to Africa after the end of WWI to build his little piece of England in Africa. What was built was an English-style manor, made entirely from materials found locally, or transported on foot by porters from the nearest town of Ndola – an eye-watering 110km and three weeks' walk away. It sprung up on a hill overlooking the lake, complete with manicured lawns and servants clad in white gloves and pillbox hats. Around the manor grew an estate, which included workers' houses, schools and a post office.

Gore-Brown became a well-known figure in Northern Rhodesia and in England. He was knighted by George VI and served as an adviser to Kenneth Kaunda, Zambia's first president. When he died in 1967 he was, unusually for a foreigner, given a full state funeral and is buried on the hill overlooking the lake at Shiwa.

to the west, from where a 13km dirt road leads to the house. Kapishya Hot Springs and the Lodge are a further 20km along this track. There is no public transport along this last section but vehicle transfers are available from the Great North Rd turn-off for US\$45 per vehicle (maximum four people). Transfers can also be arranged from Mpika (US\$200 per vehicle) or from Kasama (US\$325 per vehicle). Transfers are also available between Kapishya and Shiwa House for US\$40 per vehicle.

## KASAMA

☎ 04

Kasama is the capital of the Northern Province and the cultural centre for the Bemba people. You might find yourself stuck there overnight if you're travelling between Lusaka and Mpulungu, or getting off the Tazara train before exploring the north.

**Thorn Tree Guesthouse** (☎ 221615; [www.thorn-treesafaris.com](http://www.thorn-treesafaris.com); 612 Zambia Rd; s US\$20, d US\$30) offers very comfortable rooms (all with breakfast) in lush and colourful gardens. The restaurant is recommended. As you reach Kasama from Lusaka, turn left at the first crossroads, keep right at the forks and continue past the Heritage Centre for 1km.

Also recommended are the **Elizabeth Guesthouse** (s/d with shared bathroom US\$6/12) near the Tazara station and the **Kapongolo Resthouse** (d with bathroom & breakfast US\$12), which offers small but clean rooms.

Most days, buses and minibuses leave for Lusaka (US\$10/13 ordinary/express, 14 hours), via Serenje. From Kasama, minibuses also run to Mpulungu, via Mbala.

The Tazara train station is 5km south of the town centre.

## MBALA

Mbala is perched on the edge of the Great Rift Valley. From this small town, the road north drops over 1000m in less than 40km down to Mpulungu and Lake Tanganyika. All buses/minibuses travelling between Mpulungu and Kasama stop in Mbala.

The main reason to come is the **Moto Moto Museum** (admission US\$8; ☎ 9am-4.45pm), about 3km from the town centre. This huge and fascinating collection of artefacts centres on the cultural life of the Bemba people, with sections on prehistory and ethnography, including a replica of a young girl's initiation hut, and there's also an art gallery with an excellent exhibition of musical instruments.

**Grasshopper Inn** (☎ 04-450589; s/d US\$11/15) is about 750m off the main street. The rooms are simple, but clean, and the bar and restaurant are appealing. **Old Soldier's Restaurant** (meals about US\$1.50), along the main street, offers good company and helpful information about local attractions.

## KALAMBO FALLS

About 40km northwest of Mbala, and along the border between Zambia and Tanzania, is the 221m-high **Kalambo Falls** (admission free; ☎ 24hr). Twice as high (but nowhere near as expansive) as Victoria Falls, Kalambo is the second-highest single-drop waterfall in Africa (after Tugela Falls in South Africa). From spectacular viewpoints near the top of the falls, you can see the Kalambo River

plummeting off a steep V-shaped cliff cut into the Rift Valley escarpment into a deep valley, which then winds down towards Lake Tanganyika.

There is nowhere to stay, so you'll have to visit on a day trip from Mbala. If you don't have a vehicle, ask around the Old Soldier's Restaurant in Mbala, where someone will take you for a negotiable US\$20 to US\$30 per person return.

Alternatively, the falls are accessible from Mpulungu. It takes about two hours on foot from Mpulungu to Nyamba village, from where you can walk to the falls (two to three hours one way). A local guide (about US\$2) is essential and can be arranged in Nyamba. This part of Zambia is always hot, so start early and be prepared.

A daily taxi boat serves villages along the lakeshore east of Mpulungu, but just getting to Nyamba village can take all day. However, it's possible to hire a private boat from Mpulungu harbour, which will cost around US\$40 a day including fuel. The lodges around Mpulungu (see below) also arrange trips to the falls but they will charge about double this.

## MPULUNGU

📍 04

Zambia's only international port is the terminal for the ferry across Lake Tanganyika to Tanzania. Mpulungu is also a lively crossroads between Eastern, Central and Southern Africa. Although it's always very hot, don't be tempted to swim in the lake in this area because there are a few crocs.

### Sleeping

**Tanganyika Lodge** (📞 455130; camping per person US\$5, chalets with shared bathroom per person US\$12-15) In a superb spot about 6km west along the lake. A bar and restaurant are attached, and staff can help arrange fishing boats to Kalambo Falls. Look for the signpost along the main road about 5km before town. Otherwise, jump in any taxi boat going towards Kasakalbe village from near the Mpulungu market.

**Isanga Bay Lodge** (📞 096-646991/992; www.isangabay.com; chalets per person from US\$40) A beautiful Robinson Crusoe-esque lodge, perfect for a few days of snorkelling, water-skiing, beach volleyball or just plain lazing. Road access is possible with a 4WD and boat transfers from Mpulungu are possible for \$80 per round trip.

### Getting There & Away

Most buses/minibuses tie in with the Lake Tanganyika ferry. To/from Lusaka, RPS buses (US\$20, 18 hours) travel three times a week via Kasama and Mbala. Alternatively, take the Tazara train to Kasama, from where minibuses leave when bursting. Minibuses also depart from near the BP petrol station in Mpulungu for Mbala. See p676 for information on getting the ferry to Tanzania.

## NSUMBU (Sumbu) NATIONAL PARK

This frequently overlooked **park** (admission US\$10; 🕒 6am-6pm) covers a beautiful area of hilly grassland and escarpment, bisected by rivers and wetland zones, on the southern shore of Lake Tanganyika. Like other remote parks in Zambia, Nsumbu was virtually abandoned in the 1980s and wildlife was decimated by poaching. Conditions have improved, and herds of elephants and buffaloes are now seen regularly and the number of leopards and lions, the park's main predators, is increasing. Other animals include bushbucks, waterbucks and pukus.

Most visitors come for the seriously good **fishing**, especially to catch large and feisty Goliath tigerfish. Bring your own fishing gear, though you can charter a boat through the lodges listed here.

### Sleeping

**Ndole Bay Lodge** (📞 02-711150; ndolebay@coppernet.zm; camping per person US\$15, 4-bed chalets with full board per person from US\$125) Spectacularly located on the lakeshore just outside the northwestern boundary of the park. This is probably the best place to arrange activities, including boat hire for wildlife viewing or angling, bird walks (free for guests), wildlife drives and various water sports. Campers can also eat at the lodge.

**Kasaba Bay Lodge** (📞 book via Kachelo Travel 01-263973; ind all meals per person US\$220) This place is at the northern tip and has an airstrip. It caters mainly for anglers, so if you don't like fishing you'll have nothing to talk about to anyone else staying here.

### Getting There & Away

Each lodge will arrange transfers for guests from the airstrip at Kasaba Bay, or across the lake from Mpulungu. The only way to fly to Kasaba Bay is by charter. **Proflight Commuter Services** (📞 01-271035; www.proflight-zambia.com) arranges flights from Mfuwe to Kasaba for up to five people for US\$1165 return. Hardy

overlanders can drive, but come from the southwest, via Mporokoso, where the roads are not so treacherous. If travelling independently, charter a boat from Mpulungu.

## EASTERN ZAMBIA

This section covers the area to the east of Lusaka, including the border towns of Chirundu and Chipata, and the Lower Zambezi and South Luangwa National Parks. Eastern Zambia contains some of the country's key attractions and has decent transport options. There are several buses a day up to Chipata and through to Malawi and frequent flights between Lusaka and South Luangwa National Park/Lower Zambezi National Park.

## CHIRUNDU

📍 01

This border town is on the main road between Lusaka and Harare. The only reason to stay here is if you're going on to Zimbabwe or planning to explore the Lower Zambezi National Park. The town isn't up to much – there are a few shops and bars, as well as a bank and a number of moneychangers, but that's about it. What's more, the roads are permanently clogged with snaking queues of heavy-duty trucks, all heading for or coming from the Zimbabwe border.

There is no petrol station in town. Gwabi Lodge has a couple of fuel pumps but there is a limited supply, so it's safer to stock up

in Lusaka or Kafue. If all else fails, there are always a few people selling black-market fuel in the street.

### Sleeping

**Gwabi Lodge** (📞 01-515062; camping per person US\$8, chalets with bathroom incl breakfast per person from US\$60; 🕒) Located 11km from Chirundu towards the Lower Zambezi National Park. Head north through the truck park just before the border, then along the dirt road. Unless you've got your own wheels, you'll have to hitch or walk. The lodge is spacious with a large grassy and well-equipped camping ground, chalets, a swimming pool and a terrace with good views over the river. Boat rides are also available.

**Nyambadwe Motel** (d with shared bathroom US\$12, d US\$15) Right on the border in Chirundu, this motel is noisy and unappealing, but certainly convenient. The dearer rooms with a bathroom are worth paying extra for.

### Getting There & Away

Minibuses leave regularly for Chirundu from Lusaka (US\$3, 3½ hours). To reach Siavonga (on Lake Kariba) from Chirundu, catch a minibus towards Lusaka, get off at the obvious turn-off to Siavonga and wait for something else to come along. See p677 for more on getting to Zimbabwe from Chirundu.

## LOWER ZAMBEZI NATIONAL PARK

Zambia's newest **national park** (admission US\$20; 🕒 6am-6pm) covers 4092 sq km along the northwestern bank of the Zambezi River opposite



the Mana Pools National Park in Zimbabwe. Overlooked for many years, this is now one of Zambia's premier parks, with a beautiful flood plain alongside the river, dotted with acacias and other large trees, and flanked by a steep escarpment on the northern side, covered with thick miombo woodland.

The best wildlife viewing is on the flood plain and along the river itself, so **boat rides** are a major feature of all camps and lodges. Seeing groups of elephants swim across the river could be the highlight of your trip. The best time to visit is March to December.

The main entrance is at **Chongwe Gate** along the southwestern boundary, though there are gates along the northern and eastern boundaries for hardy travellers.

## Sleeping

We can only mention a few of the numerous places to stay in and outside of the park. The rates listed here are per person during the high season (April to October) staying in twins/doubles unless mentioned otherwise; single supplements are usually 30% extra. (The rates for camping are also per person.) Also, add on transfers – eg about US\$100 per person return by road from Lusaka. None of the lodges described in this section are fenced and all offer wildlife-viewing activities by boat or by safari vehicle.

**Community Camp site** (camping US\$5; ☑ all year) A basic place a few kilometres before Chongwe Gate. It's mainly set up for travellers with their own vehicles. Run by local people, the modest profits are put back into the community.

**Kiambi Lower Zambezi** (☎ 097-876003, in South Africa 031-5639774; www.kiambi.co.za; camping US\$12, per person sharing, full board US\$98, tw full board per person US\$98; ☑ Mar–mid-Jan; 📍) Follow the signs from the Chirundu border for 23km. Offers tented rooms on raised wooden platforms overlooking the river. It's a very sociable place with a lively bar, and guests congregate around the fire pit at night to swap stories of their safari adventures. Kiambi is extremely popular with South African and Zimbabwean anglers (tigerfish) because of the cheap camping rates. There's a self-catering kitchen for campers and if you have brought your own food, there's even a cook to prepare it for you.

**Mvuul Lodge** (www.mvuulodge.com; ☎ in South Africa 27-16-9871837; safari tents d & tw US\$100) Has comfortable tented rooms overlooking the Zambezi River, with balconies and sandy outdoor

fireplaces that are lit outside your tent every night. The food is good and the hosts super friendly. There are plans to upgrade it into a luxury lodge over the next couple of years, however.

**our pick Kanyemba Lodge** (☎ 097-755720, 096-784516; www.kanyemba.com; s/d incl 2 activities & all meals US\$220; 📍) This lodge has phenomenal river views and proximity to big wildlife, as well as authentic, homemade Italian food and a cappuccino machine that's ready to roll 24 hours a day. Though the dining area makes you feel like you're on the set of *Survivor*, Kanyemba offers smart chalets facing a river full of hippos and elephants. Make sure you take a guided canoeing safari or try your luck at tigerfishing. You're sure to see more wildlife here than in many of the big parks. If you don't have your own wheels, take a bus to Chirundu and someone will collect you there. Transfers from Lusaka cost US\$100.

**our pick Kayila Lodge** (☎ Bookings through Safaris Par Excellence 332 0606; www.safpar.com; full board US\$250; ☑ all year; 📍) A beautiful lodge with chalets smack bang on the river. The chalets have mosquito screen walls so you have a fantastic feeling of space all around you – at night it's as if you're sleeping under the stars – but there are curtains to draw if you feel you need more privacy. The ordinary chalets are nice enough but the best is the tree-house suite – a chalet accessed by ladder, high up in a sausage tree, with a massive shower room constructed around its base.

The dining and bar area also has one of the funkietoilets around, built inside the hollow of a baobab tree – great fun, and you'll also have the odd bat for company.

**Sausage Tree Camp** (☎ 01-212597; www.sausagetree.com; incl meals & activities US\$465; ☑ May–mid-Nov) Further downstream from Chiawa Camp. Unlike the usual green canvas and thatch, the six tented chalets come cool white Bedouin-style, each in its own private clearing, with minimal furniture and open-air bathrooms. You can dine with your hosts and other guests, or if you need privacy, your own table, bar and fire can be set up in front of your tent.

**Chiawa Camp** (☎ 01-261588; www.chiawa.com; incl meals & activities US\$500; ☑ Apr–Oct) A luxurious lodge inside the park at the junction of the Chiawa and Zambezi Rivers. The large walk-in tents feature pine-clad private bathrooms, while the food is always top quality. The bar-lounge has an upstairs deck with majestic

views over the river and there's a viewing platform high up in the trees. The food is top quality and for the romantics among you, candlelit private tables can be set up in the bush, on a boat, or, when the full moon is out, on a sand bar in the middle of the river.

## Getting There & Away

There's no public transport to Chongwe Gate, nor anything to the eastern and northern boundaries, and hitching is very difficult. Most people visit the park on an organised tour, and/or stay at a lodge that offers wildlife drives and boat rides as part of the deal.

For budget travellers, the Chachacha Backpackers (p644) operates popular five-day safaris from Lusaka. These are great value: US\$495 per person includes transport from Lusaka, river cruises, canoe trips, bush walks, wildlife drives and fishing trips.

## Getting Around

Drivers can reach the park independently and use the track from Chongwe Gate that runs alongside the Zambezi, but if you're going anywhere east of Jecki Airstrip you'll need a 4WD vehicle. There are several loops inside the park for wildlife viewing, but these change from year to year, so pick up a guide at any of the gates.

One adventurous way to visit the park is by canoe along the Zambezi. Most of the lodges listed previously offer two- or three-day **canoe trips**, with stops at seasonal camps along the river or makeshift camps on mid-stream islands.

## LUANGWA BRIDGE

The Great East Rd crosses the Luangwa River on a large suspension bridge about halfway between Lusaka and Chipata. The nearby settlement of Luangwa Bridge is about 80km north of Luangwa village, which is near the eastern end of the Lower Zambezi National Park, and far from the South and North Luangwa National Parks. It serves as an ideal place to break up a journey. There's no petrol station but there's a lively little market, which seems to specialise in dried fish.

**Luangwa Bridge Camp** (☎ 873-763 981 315; bridge camp@amosconnect.com; camping per person US\$5, s/d chalets with shared bathroom US\$15/25; 📍) is on the western side of the river, about 3km south of the main road. This is an excellent place to base yourself for a couple of days of rest and relaxation. It

features clean ablution blocks, cooking facilities and shady lawns, as well as a bar, restaurant and plunge pool. The chalets are built on a hill with river views, while the camp site is shady and clean. Short and long hikes and canoe trips can be arranged at the camp.

Get off any bus between Lusaka and Chipata at the place called 'Luangwa station', from where it's a 3km walk to the camp.

## CHIPATA

☎ 062

Chipata is the primary town near the Zambian side of the border with Malawi, and a base from which to venture into the South Luangwa National Park. Many travellers rush through, but it's worth staying overnight, if only to recover from the arduous bus trip from Lusaka. Chipata is lively and friendly, and boasts a large **market** (500m north of the town centre), as well as several bars, cafés, petrol stations and banks. There's an internet café on Pererenyatwa Rd opposite the Finance Bank.

## Sleeping

**Chachacha Backpackers** (☎ 01-222257, 097-805483; www.chachachabackpackers.com; camping US\$5, dm/d US\$10/25) This place has tidy dorms, space for camping in the small front garden, a backpackers' kitchen and a bar-lounge. It's the only place in town with dorms but unfortunately it's not the friendliest of places, and the staff make you feel as if you're in their way. It does run excellent budget safaris though, and five days in South Luangwa National Park costs US\$495.

**Dean's Hill View Lodge** (☎ 221673; deanmitch@zamel.zm; camping US\$5, tw US\$20) Take the first right after the welcome arch, just before the petrol station. It's a great little place run by an affable British chap who has lived in the area for several years. It features twin rooms and camping, a nice big sloping garden, spacious and spotless shared ablutions and grand views over Chipata and the hills. Good, simple meals can be provided with prior notice. An internet café is planned.

**Kapata Resthouse** (☎ 222498; Umodzi Hwy; d with shared bathroom US\$6) About 150m north of the bus station and 1km north of the town centre. It's cheap, safe and fairly clean, and food is available.

**Mama Rula** (mamarula@iwayafrica.com; camping US\$8; B&B s/d US\$80/100) Located 4km out of Chipata

## CROSSING THE BORDER

From Chipata regular minibuses and shared taxis go to the Malawi border crossing, 30km east of the town (US\$2). Once you've passed through Zambian customs, it's a few minutes' walk to the Malawian entry post. Visas are free for most nationalities. From the border post you can catch a shared taxi to Mchinji (US\$1.50) before getting a minibus all the way to Lilongwe. See p676 for more information about crossing the border to into Malawi.

along the Mfuwe Rd. Huge grassy garden camp site with a large bar that's very popular with the overland crowd. Next door is the bed and breakfast, which has a swimming pool, a good restaurant, an internet café, cosy rooms and a resident parrot.

## Eating

**Food Garden Restaurant** (Umodzi Hwy; meals about US\$3) About 100m east of the traffic lights next to the Konica Photo Studio, bang on the main road. It serves decent Zambian food and there's a good area outside to watch the world go by. The only downside is there's no beer.

## Getting There & Away

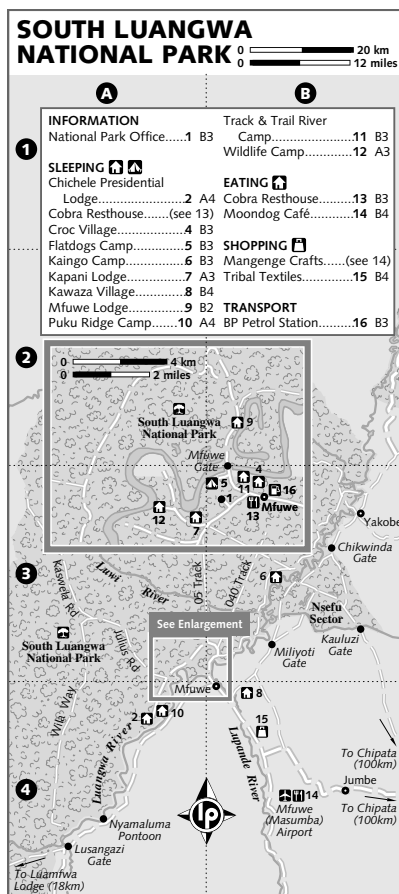
Several bus companies in Lusaka offer services to Chipata – refer to p647 for details. See below for details about travelling between Chipata and South Luangwa National Park.

## SOUTH LUANGWA NATIONAL PARK

☎ 062

For scenery, variety of animals, accessibility and choice of accommodation, **South Luangwa** (admission per person/vehicle US\$25/15; ⏰ 6am–6pm) is the best park in Zambia and one of the most majestic in Africa. Impalas, pukas and buffaloes wander on the wide-open plains; leopards, of which there are many in the park, hunt in the dense woodlands; herds of elephants wade through the marshes; and hippos munch serenely on Nile cabbage in the Luangwa River. The bird life is also tremendous: about 400 species have been recorded. But the insect life is also plentiful, so take precautions against malarial mosquitoes and tsetse flies.

The wide Luangwa River is the lifeblood of the park. It flows all year, but gets very shallow in the dry season (May to October).



At this time, the vast sandbanks are exposed, but usually covered by groups of hippos and/or crocs basking in the sun. Steep exposed banks mean animals often have to drink at the park's numerous oxbow lagoons, formed as the river continually changes its course.

The focal point is Mfuwe, a village with shops, as well as a petrol station and market. Around 1.8km further along is **Mfuwe Gate**, the main entrance to the park, where a bridge crosses Luangwa River and several cheaper lodges/camps and camp sites are set up. This part of the park can get quite busy with vehicles in the high season, but only because it's the best wildlife-viewing area. But in Zambia everything is relative: compared to the rush-hour-rally-style safaris in South

Africa's Kruger National Park, for example, it's positively peaceful around Mfuwe. (Note that lots of wild animals in this area makes walking around at night *very dangerous*.)

Although South Luangwa is hard to visit on the cheap, there are more options for the budget-conscious here than at most other parks in Zambia. But remember: one night's budget accommodation, park fees, meals and a wildlife drive will give you little change from US\$100. If this is out of your range, it's probably not worth coming.

Most of the park is inaccessible between November and April (especially February and March), so many lodges close at this time.

## Activities

Unlike other parks in Zambia, boat trips are not available in South Luangwa, but all lodges/camps run excellent day or night **wildlife drives** (all year) and **walking safaris** (June to November). These activities are included in the rates charged by the upmarket places, while the cheaper lodges/camps can organise things with little notice. A two-hour morning or evening wildlife drive normally costs around US\$35, while a night drive (US\$40) offers the chance to spot an elusive leopard.

## Sleeping

We can only list a few of the numerous camp sites and lodges/camps in and around the park. Most lodges/camps in South Luangwa are along the banks of the river or at

an oxbow lagoon. Several lodges/camps also have smaller 'bush camps' deep in the park, where they operate walks or drives away from the busier areas. Despite the rustic title, most 'bush camps' are very comfortable, with large tents, private bathrooms and excellent food. Joining a walking safari for a few days from one bush camp to the next is a popular and wonderful way to really experience the sights, sounds and smells of the bush.

Several budget places are just outside the park boundary, so you don't pay admission fees until you actually enter the park. Note that some lodges/camps open only in the high season (April to November), but those in and around Mfuwe are open all year. Places that open in the low (or 'green') season offer substantial discounts – often up to 40%. However, at this time of year, the grass is high, walking safaris are for the most part unavailable and many tracks are impassable, so while it's cheaper you mightn't actually see that much wildlife.

The rates listed here are per person during the high season for double/twin rooms; single supplements usually cost 30% more. The camping rates are also per person. None of the lodges or camps described here are fenced.

## BUDGET & MIDRANGE

All places mentioned here are outside the park and open all year.

**Cobra Resthouse** (s/d with shared bathroom US\$5/7) This is particularly useful if you arrive after

## NORMAN CARR & SOUTH LUANGWA

The history of South Luangwa National Park is inextricably linked with the story of Norman Carr, a leading wildlife figure whose influence and contribution to conservation has been felt throughout Africa.

One year after the North and South Luangwa Game Reserves were created in 1938 to protect and control wildlife populations, Carr became a ranger there. With the full backing of the area's traditional leader, Carr created Chief Nsefu's Private Game Reserve in 1950 and opened it to the public (until this time reserves had been for animals only). All visitor fees were paid directly to the chief, thus benefiting the wildlife and the local community.

Carr was years ahead of his time in other fields too: he built Nsefu Camp, the first tourist camp in Zambia, and developed walking safaris. In the following decades, other game reserves were created, more tourists came to Luangwa parks and more camps were built along the river.

In 1972 Nsefu and several game reserves were combined to form the South Luangwa National Park, but poaching of elephants and rhinos soon became an increasing problem. So, in 1980 Carr and several others formed the Save the Rhino Trust, which helped the government parks department to deter poachers.

In 1986 Carr opened yet another camp, Kapani Lodge, and continued operating safaris from this base. He retired from 'active service' in the early 1990s, and died in 1997, aged 84.

dark or need to catch a crack-of-dawn minibus out. For this price, however, amenities are fairly basic.

**our pick Flatdogs Camp** (☎ 45068; www.flatdogscamp.com; camping US\$5, self-catering chalets per person US\$35; 📶) Has excellent facilities and is a great place to base yourself for a few days. The chalets are surprisingly luxurious, with large, mosaic-tiled bathrooms and self-catering facilities. The camping pitches in the riverside camp site all have barbecues, washstands and wastebins and, even better, there are several platforms high up in the trees, where the dextrous among you can pitch your tent. They're perfect for spying on the wildlife below and a night sleeping among the branches and the swinging monkeys should not be missed. There's also an internet café, a pool, a bar and a restaurant with some of the best food in the valley. Wildlife drives and walking safaris can be organised at affordable rates.

**Croc Village** (☎ 246074; mfucroc@super-hub.com; camping US\$5, chalets US\$35; 📶) It's an appealing location along the river, with a pool and bar-restaurant. There are plenty of hammocks and shaded chill-out spots and the chalets, made of grass and bamboo with sunken bathrooms, are great value. Wildlife drives and walking safaris can be arranged, and in the dry season you can play beach volleyball on the river bed.

**Wildlife Camp** (☎ www.wildlifecamp-zambia.com; camping US\$7.50, safari tents US\$25; chalets per person US\$30; 📶) A spacious, secluded place, about 5km west of Mfuwe village. The chalets sleep up to three people and there's a shared kitchen, but they don't have great views and could do with a little maintenance. The safari tents and camp site are much better situated, with their own bar and pool and perfect sundowner views.

**Kawaza Village** (www.kawazavillage.co.uk; full board US\$70; day visits US\$20) This enterprise is run by the local Kunda people and gives tourists the opportunity to visit a real rural Zambian village while helping the local community. The village has four rondavel huts (each sleeps two) reserved for visitors and there are open-air reed showers and long-drop toilets. Visitors are encouraged to take part in all aspects of village life, such as learning how to cook *nshima* and other traditional food, attending local church services, visiting local schools and perhaps participating in a lesson. Other activities include visits to the local healer or to the chief's palace, and bushwalking. Tra-

ditional meals are eaten in the *chitenge* – a thatched, open-sided shelter with traditional wooden chairs and reed mats; and evenings are filled with dancing, drumming, and storytelling around the fire. Many visitors describe a visit here as the highlight of their trip to South Luangwa.

## TOP END

### South of Mfuwe Gate

**Track & Trail River Camp** (☎ 246020; www.trackandtrailrivercamp.com; full board US\$250; 📶) About 400m east of Mfuwe Gate. Split-level chalets sleep up to four people and there's a shady camp site. The food here is excellent and they cater to vegetarians, as well as to gluten-free and diabetes diets. The bar and restaurant are built around a lime tree, so unsurprisingly, lime cocktails is its speciality! There's also a 'wellness area' where you can indulge in an aromatherapy massage and other such treats. Camping is also available (US\$10).

**Luamfwa Lodge** (☎ 01-261683/732; www.luamfwacom; full board US\$335; 📶 May-Dec; 📶) In the far south of the park, about 65km southwest of Mfuwe village. It has a pool and bar-restaurant, and offers wildlife drives and walks. Special weekend packages are often advertised in the *Lowdown*. The price includes transfers from Mfuwe airport.

**Kapani Lodge** (☎ 45015; www.normancarrsafaris.com; cottages per person full board US\$350; 📶 all year) About 4km southwest of Mfuwe Gate. The most famous of the top-end lodges is this classic Luangwa camp built by Norman Carr (see the boxed text, p659) with thatched cottages overlooking a lagoon frequented by weed-chewing hippos. Communal areas include a large wooden deck with inbuilt fireplace that hangs over the river and a cosy sitting area for those chilly evenings. The staff here are incredibly friendly and the lodge runs highly rated walking safaris.

**our pick Puku Ridge Camp** (☎ 01-271366; www.starofafrica.com; full board US\$440; 📶) Drop-dead luxurious. The voluminous safari tents, of which there are only six, are a travel agent's dream – they have massive mahogany beds, separate seating areas, sunken corner baths, indoor and outdoor showers (complete with puku skull towel rails) and expansive balconies. There's a small, sumptuous open lounge and bar area with a curved infinity pool below and a deck for wildlife watching. And the views are incredible – the plains stretch on for miles and

there's so much wildlife on display that you hardly need to go on a safari drive. You can just have a relaxing drink in the pool while watching the elephants prance around in front of you. It doesn't get better than that.

**Chichele Presidential Lodge** (☎ 01-271366; www.starofafrica.com; full board US\$500) In the south of the park, near Puku Ridge. This used to belong to Kenneth Kaunda back in the day, and, with its white-brick chalets and green-tiled roof, provides a breath of fresh air if you're sick of all the canvas and thatch. It has solid hotel-like rooms decked out in white and mahogany with four-poster beds and large roll-top baths. The large lounge with its wraparound veranda, grand piano, old gramophone and fireplace gives the place the feel of a colonial hunting lodge.

### North of Mfuwe Gate

North of the main gate are several other options; each is inside the park. Again, rates are per person and inclusive of meals and activities – but not transfers.

**Mfuwe Lodge** (☎ 254041; www.mfuwelodge.com; r US\$295; 📶 all year; 📶) This lodge was rebuilt in 1998 and the results are impressive: there's a central restaurant and bar area with a gigantic thatched roof and open sides, leading out onto a deck with swimming pool and splendid views over a lagoon. The hotel-standard rooms in the cottages (each cater for two or three people) have private verandas and fab bathrooms with floor-to-ceiling windows and baths with views of the river.

**Kaingo Camp** (☎ 45064; www.kaingo.com; r US\$325; 📶 mid-May-Oct) On the western bank of the Luangwa, this is small, exclusive, relaxed and friendly, with five delightful cottages surrounded by bush overlooking the river. Skilled guides operate walks and wildlife drives, and there's also a bush camp that can be reached on a walking safari from the main camp.

## Eating

All the lodges/camps and camping grounds provide meals – from simple snacks to haute cuisine at the top-end lodges/camps. There are also a couple of basic eateries in Mfuwe village.

**Cobra Resthouse** (meals US\$2.50-4) Offers cheap Zambian stews, burgers and breakfasts.

**Moondog Café** (meals US\$6-12) Next to the airport, Moondog has a small menu of standard café food such as burgers, samosas and fish

cakes but the small portions are not particularly good value. Still, it has a nice outdoor seating area and a book corner selling a variety of maps and volumes on wildlife, including gems such as *Frogs and Frogging*.

## Shopping

Most of the lodges/camps have souvenir shops selling the usual array of carvings. Other locally made mementos include ceramics and elephant-dung paper (mostly made in Malawi, however). Splendidly decorative fabrics, jewellery and carvings are available from next to the Moondog Café.

**Tribal Textiles** (www.africantribalcrafts.com; 📶 7am-4.30pm Mon-Fri, 7am-3pm Sat & Sun) Along the road between Mfuwe village and the airport is a large enterprise that employs a team of local artists to produce, among other things, wall hangings, bed linens and sarongs, much of which is sold abroad. Short (free) tours around the factory are good fun.

Mangenge Crafts, next to the Moondog Café, sells decorative fabrics, jewellery, carvings and a surprising variety of chilli-sauce products.

## Getting There & Away

Most people reach South Luangwa by air. Mfuwe (Masumba) airport is about 20km southeast of Mfuwe Gate and served by chartered flights from Lusaka and, occasionally, from Lilongwe (Malawi). **Zambian Airways** (code Q3; ☎ 01-256586/7, 01-271142) offers regular flights between Lusaka and Mfuwe every day except Monday, for US\$200 one way. Most lodges will meet clients who have made reservations. The airfare may seem steep (it is), but it beats the hell out of two days of torture on buses and minibuses from Lusaka which may cost you about US\$60 anyway (with bus fares, food and accommodation). Some travellers who endured the torturous trip from Lusaka bit the bullet, found the credit card and bought a flight out of Mfuwe back to Lusaka.

To get to Mfuwe Gate from Chipata and the surrounding camps you can use a 2WD but you're better off in a 4WD vehicle. In the dry season the dirt road is usually poor and the drive takes about three hours. In the wet season, however, the drive can take all day (or be impassable), so seek advice before setting off. Hitching may be possible, but make sure your lift goes all the way to Mfuwe village or the gate.



Minibuses leave when *really* full one or two times a day between Chipata and Mfuwe village. Fares are squarely priced for foreigners (about US\$8). From Mfuwe village, it's easy to walk (about 1km) to Flatdogs and Croc Village, or hitch to the Wildlife Camp – but, we repeat, do *not* walk at night. Otherwise, offer some extra kwacha to the minibus driver to take you to one of these three camp sites or to Mfuwe Gate.

Some travellers have hitched all the way from Chipata – but start at dawn. The junction by the Chipata Motel is the best place to wait for a lift; in Mfuwe, wait outside the BP petrol station.

If you're in a group, consider chartering your own minibus from Chipata for a negotiable US\$70 to US\$80 one way. Or just take the easy way out and fly.

## NORTH LUANGWA NATIONAL PARK

This **park** (admission US\$20, vehicle US\$15; ☞ 6am–6pm) is large, wild and spectacular, but nowhere *near* as developed or set up for tourism as its southern counterpart. The big draw of North Luangwa is its walking safaris, where you can get up close to the wildlife in a truly remote wilderness.

**Natangwe Community Camp Site** (camping US\$5) is run by the Mukungule Community and is set in woodland by the northern park entrance gate. The camp sites are very pleasant with spotless hot showers, toilets and barbecue spots (you need to be fully self-sufficient) and you can sometimes arrange to visit one of the villages in the area.

**Buffalo Camp** (☎ 01-229261; www.shiwasaferis.com; self-catering chalets per person US\$90, chalets incl meals & activities per person US\$220, game drives US\$25, game walks US\$10; ☞ May–Oct) is a quiet, secluded place run by knowledgeable and helpful staff. Book ahead for the 'self-catering rates', because these are normally only available when there's a paucity of big-spending guests on the all-inclusive package. Transfers for those without vehicles are possible from Kapishya Lodge (see p652) or Mpika for US\$300 per vehicle (maximum four people).

**Mwaleshi Camp** (☎ 061-240561; www.remoteafrica.com; incl meals & activities per person US\$300; ☞ Jun–Oct) is relaxed and luxurious. Most guests on organised tours fly in and out on chartered planes.

Despite the proximity of the two parks, road access between North and South Luangwa is not easy. It is possible to reach the main gate

to North Luangwa from the highway, about 65km north of Mpika. But this is no doddle – the track is rough and rarely used, and plunges steeply down the Muchinga Escarpment into the Luangwa Valley. High clearance in a 4WD is essential.

## SOUTHERN ZAMBIA

This section covers the area between Livingstone and Kafue National Park. See the Victoria Falls chapter (p618) for detailed information about Livingstone, the Zambezi waterfront and the magnificent falls.

Anyone who's into birding will tell you that Southern Zambia is where it's at. The rare Chaplin's barbet is endemic to the area, along with several other colourful and rare birds. The area is also home to the remote Lochinvar National Park, a World Heritage Wetland site, as well as the massive Lake Kariba, with Siavonga's sandy beaches and Chinkanka Island (smack in the middle of the lake) providing fascinating views of the night sky and a glimpse of the 60 elephants that make their way between the islands.

## CHOMA

☎ 03

This busy market town 188km northeast of Livingstone is the capital of the Southern Province. Most visitors zip through on their way to Lusaka or Livingstone, but Choma is a pleasant stopover and staging post for trips to Lake Kariba and Kafue National Park.

For anyone interested in regional history, the excellent **Choma Museum** (admission free; ☞ 9am–4pm) is well worth a visit. Based in a former school dating from the 1920s (one of the oldest preserved colonial buildings in Zambia), the exhibits concentrate on the Tonga people, most of whom were forcibly displaced when the Kariba Dam was built. It also houses contemporary art exhibitions and a craft shop. The museum is about 1.5km east of the town centre along the road to Lusaka.

**Gwembe Safari Lodge** (☎ 220169; www.gwembe-safaris.com; camping per person k20,000, s/d incl breakfast with shared bathroom k160,000/240,000) is signposted 1km southwest of town and is a further 2km north off the tar road. The camping ground is grassy and shady, and the shared bathrooms are spotless. Breakfast costs an extra k30,000 and dinner k58,000.

**Masuku Lodge** (☎ 220225; www.masukulodgezambia.com; incl all meals per person US\$95) is signposted 3km northeast of town and is a further 20km northwest of the tar road. Nestled in the Nkanga River Conservation Area, a birder's paradise (the lesser-spotted Chaplin's barbet is endemic to this area), this comfortable lodge has six spacious rondavels in an attractive, remote area.

All daily buses and trains between Livingstone and Lusaka stop at Choma.

## LAKE KARIBA

The Zambian side of Lake Kariba is not *nearly* as developed or as popular as the southern and eastern shores in Zimbabwe. The Zambian side is more relaxed and authentic, but a bit rough around the edges.

Refer to p703 for information about this huge artificial lake.

## Chikanka Island

This beautiful private island, 8km from Sinazongwe, has five excellent self-catering chalets (d k270,000), and **camping** (per person US\$10) on a separate site. Meals are hard to arrange, so bring your own food and the staff in the kitchen will cook it for you. **Fishing boats** can be hired for trips around the lake. Return-trip boat transfers are from Sinazongwe (k200,000 per person). Reservations are essential and can be made through Gwembe Safari Lodge (see opposite).

## Siavonga

☎ 01

Siavonga is the main town and resort along the Zambian side of Lake Kariba. Just a few kilometres from the massive Kariba Dam, Siavonga is a quiet and low-key village in contrast to Kariba town (in Zimbabwe) across the lake.

The tiny bank at the end of the laneway east of the petrol station changes money, and

so do the moneychangers at the turn-off to Siavonga along the road between Lusaka and the border.

**Tours** (free, but donations welcome) of Kariba Dam are run by the dam authorities. These tours can be arranged through your hotel/lodge. If you visit the dam, make sure you tell the Zambian immigration officers if you're not going on to Zimbabwe.

Leisure Bay Lodge also rents out canoes (k25,000 per person per hour) and **Vundu Adventure** (☎ 097 485208), also based there, runs one- to six-day camping canoe tours of the lake and river (US\$75 to US\$530 per person).

## SLEEPING & EATING

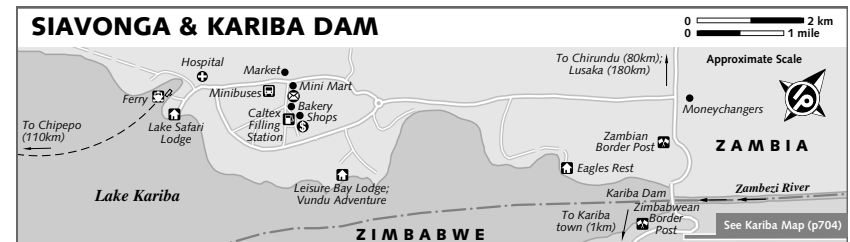
**Lake Safari Lodge** (☎ 511148; info@lake-safari.com; camping k18,000, s/d incl breakfast 200,000/270,000; ☞ ☎) Slightly upscale and with a lot of boating options. Nicely situated on the shore, it's the longest-standing lodge in town and has more of a resort feel. Inquire about activities such as fishing and sundowner cruises.

**Eagles Rest** (☎ 511168; www.eaglesrestresort.com; camping per person k35,000, chalets k150,000; ☞ ☎) Popular with families. Twelve chalets overlook the lake, with meals available in the restaurant. The camp site is secluded and shady. There's a nice sandy beach; just don't go in the lake, as the crocs would love to eat you.

**Leisure Bay Lodge** (☎ /fax 511136; s/d incl breakfast k180,000/250,000; ☞ ☎) Faces a beach along the lakeshore. By far the best value in Siavonga, though the food is nothing to write home about. Guests can pre-order meals (k35,000). Note that the beach is sometimes commandeered by resident hippos!

## GETTING THERE & AWAY

Minibuses from Lusaka (k30,000, three hours) leave when bursting to capacity for Siavonga and the nearby border. From the makeshift bus stop in Siavonga, you can easily walk to Leisure Bay Lodge or Lake Safari Lodge. There

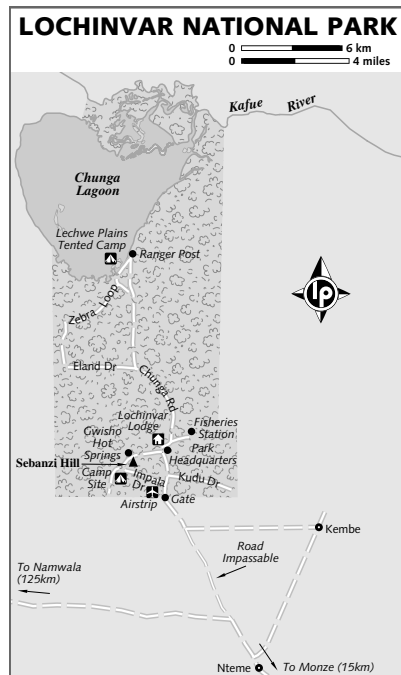


are no taxis in Siavonga, but your hotel may be able to arrange a private car to the border; otherwise, take the Lusaka minibus, which detours to the border.

For the adventurous, a local ferry runs Tuesday between Siavonga and Chipepo (k33,500 one way, 12 hours). There's no official accommodation in Chipepo, so ask about for a room in a private home. Check at the ferry jetty in Siavonga about the current timetable (if there is one).

## LOCHINVAR NATIONAL PARK

This small (410-sq-km) park (admission US\$15; ☎ 6am-6pm), northwest of Monze, consists of grassland, low wooded hills, and the seasonally flooded Chunga Lagoon – all part of a huge World Heritage Wetland Site called the Kafue Flats. You may see buffaloes, wildebeests, zebras, kudus and some of the 30,000 Kafue lechwes residing in the park. Lochinvar is also a haven for bird life, with more than 400 species recorded. An excellent selection of wetland birds (including wattled cranes) occur near the ranger post along the edge of Chunga Lagoon.



Lochinvar was virtually abandoned in the 1980s. Plans to rehabilitate the park and the lodge were announced in 1999, but almost immediately stalled through a lack of funds and a dearth of tourists. By late 2001, however, a tour operator, **Star of Africa** (www.star-of-africa.com), had started to redevelop the park. It also built the superb **Lechwe Plains Tented Camp** (with meals & activities per person US\$450), under a clump of acacia trees along the shores of the Chunga Lagoon. Otherwise, provided you bring all your own gear, you can stay at the **camp site** (☎ 062-254226; wcz@zamnet.zm; camping per person US\$10), run by the Wildlife Society of Zambia, about 2km west of the park gate. Facilities are poor, and don't forget to bring your own food.

The network of tracks around the park is still mostly overgrown, with only the track from the gate to Chunga Lagoon reliably open. By car from Monze, take the dirt road towards Namwala. After 15km, just past Nteme village, turn right and continue north along the narrow dirt road for 13km. Near Kembe village, turn left (west) and grind along the road for another 13km to the park gate. A 4WD is necessary anywhere *inside* the park, though you may get stuck if you don't also have a winch. For those without wheels, minibuses go to Namwala, but after the first junction at Nteme you'll have to walk or hitch. Star of Africa have opened an airstrip in the park for guests of the Lechwe Plains Tented Camp.

## WESTERN ZAMBIA

This section covers most of the Western Province, including Barotseland, plus various other places along the Upper Zambezi. Most of this area is ideal for travellers with plenty of time, patience and endurance.

Make sure you read the information on p675 if you intend to cross the border into Namibia or Botswana.

### SESHEKE

Sesheke is on the northeastern bank of the Zambezi River, 200km upstream from Livingstone and virtually opposite the Namibian town of Katima Mulilo.

**Council Resthouse** (d with shared bathroom US\$6, d US\$8), just off the main street and opposite the hospital, offers basic rooms. Meals are available and the bar sells cold beers to accompany wonderful views at sunset.

### A GOOD CAUSE

Located 11km north of Monze on an old farm, **Moorings Campsite** (☎ 03-250049; www.mooringscampsite.com; camping per person US\$5, chalets per person US\$20) is perhaps the most beautifully landscaped camp site in Zambia. Run by Zambian farmer Tom Savory and his Dutch wife, Dr Thea Savory, proceeds are used to support an on-site clinic and the Malambo Women's Craft Centre, a women's textile collective run by AIDS widows, who themselves look after orphans. The collective is walking distance from the camp site, and for sale is a colourful myriad of bedspreads and other knitted and sewn arts. Though the camp site is self-catering, the Savorys sell meat, as well as vegetarian fare, that you can cook. There is also a well-stocked kitchen on the premises.

**Brenda's Best & Baobab Bar** (camping per person US\$5) is a newish place almost next door to the resthouse. It offers a relaxing but basic camp site with a popular bar built around a massive baobab. Canoes can be hired for leisurely floats along the river.

At least one bus a day and several minibuses link Sesheke with Livingstone (US\$10, six hours), but this trip is laborious and arduous. Occasional minibuses also link Sesheke with Katima Mulilo.

See p676 for more information on crossing the border to Namibia from Sesheke.

### NGONYE FALLS

These **falls** (admission free; ☎ 24hr), also called Sioma Falls, are an impressive 1km-wide chain of waterfalls, rapids and rocky islands cutting across the Zambezi. It would be a major attraction if it wasn't so difficult to reach; imagine something almost as majestic as the Victoria Falls, but with almost no other person (local or foreign) in sight.

The falls are less than 1km east of the main dirt road between Sesheke and Senanga. For drivers, access is not difficult from Sesheke, but far more problematic from Senanga (see below). Otherwise, hitch a ride and ask to be dropped by the turn-off (look for the 'Wildlife Department' sign).

### SENANGA

If you're coming from Lusaka, Senanga has a real 'end of the line' feel. It is the best place to break up a journey between Mongu and Ngonye Falls or Sesheke.

The rooms at the **Council Resthouse** (per person from US\$8) are basic, so a better option is **Senanga Safaris** (camping per person US\$10, d incl breakfast US\$50). It offers comfortable rondavels with splendid views over the Zambezi plains – spoilt only by the giant satellite TV dish in the garden. The bar sells cold beer and the restaurant serves

expensive meals. Several cheaper restaurants are dotted along the main street nearby.

Minibuses and pick-ups run between Senanga and Mongu (US\$4, two to three hours) several times a day. About 30km south of Senanga (and accessible by minibus), a pontoon carries passengers (normally free) and vehicles (US\$20/30 for 2/4WD) across the Zambezi to Kalongola. Often the ferry doesn't operate between February and June, so passengers take a small boat, but car drivers may have to charter a larger, different pontoon.

### MONGU

☎ 07

The largest town in Barotseland, and the capital of the Western Province, is on high ground overlooking the flat and seemingly endless Liuwa Plain. The town itself is spread out, but boasts a pleasant, lively feel, so a walk along the main street is always interesting. From a harbour on the southwestern outskirts of town, an 8km canal runs westwards to meet a tributary of the Zambezi. Around the harbour is a fascinating settlement of reed and thatch buildings, where local fishermen sell their catch and passenger boats take people to outlying villages.

Mongu really comes alive once a year, when thousands of people flock there for the annual **Kuomboka ceremony** (see the boxed text, p666). Not surprisingly, the prices for rooms (if you can find one) skyrocket at this time.

### Sleeping & Eating

**Lyamba Hotel** (☎ 21138; Lusaka Rd; d incl breakfast US\$15) This is a bit run-down, but good value, and guests can enjoy fine views from the garden. It's 1.2km west of the public bus station and past the post office.

**Mongu Lodge** (☎ 221501; Mwanawina St; d with shared bathroom US\$30, d with air-con US\$60; ☎) Just south of the Lyamba Hotel. It's worth paying

## KUOMBOKA CEREMONY

The Kuomboka (literally, 'to move to dry ground') is probably one of the last great Southern African ceremonies. It celebrates the move of the *litunga* (the Lozi king) from his dry-season palace at Lealui, near Mongu, to his wet-season palace on higher ground at Limulunga. It usually takes place in late March or early April, and sometimes ties in with Easter. The dates are not fixed, however; they're dependent on the rains. In fact the Kuomboka does not happen every year: in 1994, 1995 and 1996 the floods were not extensive enough to require the *litunga* to leave Lealui.

Central to the ceremony is the *nalikwanda*, a huge wooden canoe, painted with black-and-white stripes, that carries the *litunga*. It is considered a great honour to be one of the hundred or so paddlers on the *nalikwanda*, and each paddler wears a head-dress of a scarlet beret with a piece of a lion's mane and a knee-length skirt of animal skins. Drums also play a leading role in the ceremony.

The journey from Lealui to Limulunga takes about six hours. The *litunga* begins the day in traditional dress, but during the journey changes into the full uniform of a British admiral, complete with all regalia and ostrich plumed hat. The uniform was presented to the *litunga* in 1902 by the British King Edward VII, in recognition of the treaties signed between the Lozi and Queen Victoria.

## Visiting the Palaces

**Limulunga** Because the *litunga's* palace is not open to the public, visit the **Nayuma Museum** (admission US\$1; ☎ 8am-5pm Mon-Fri, erratic hours weekends), which contains exhibits about the Lozi, *litunga* and Kuomboka. Minibuses run between Mongu and Limulunga throughout the day.

**Lealui** The *litunga's* Main Palace is on the plain about 15km northwest of Mongu. It's not easy to reach, but the journey by boat (along a canal from Mongu to a branch of the Zambezi, then upstream to Lealui) is spectacular, passing local villages and plenty of bird life. Avoid visiting at weekends, when *litunga's* *kotu* (court) is closed, because you need permission from his *indunas* (advisors) to get a close look at the palace and even to take photos – and the *kotu* is only open from Monday to Friday.

Public longboats between Mongu harbour and Lealui (US\$2, one hour) leave once or twice a day. Alternatively, charter a longboat to Lealui for about US\$80 return or a smaller, slower boat for about US\$30 return. Prices include fuel and are negotiable. Buses do the trip in the late months of the dry season (March to April).

extra for the renovated rooms with a bathroom and air-con. All room prices include breakfast.

## Getting There & Away

The public bus station is on the southeastern edge of town, behind the Catholic church. Several companies offer buses between Lusaka and Mongu (US\$10, 12 hours) at least every day. Those run by RPS and JR Investments leave from stands along Senanga Rd in Mongu at about 4am. Book your ticket at least the day before and sleep on the bus before departure.

A bus operates between Livingstone and Mongu (US\$10, 10 hours) twice a week via Sesheke, Kalongola and Senanga, but you're advised to break up this horror journey in Senanga. Better still, go to Lusaka from Liv-

ingstone and take the bus along the tarred road from Lusaka.

Minibuses and pick-ups leave on a fill-up-and-go basis from near the Caltex filling station in Mongu for Senanga (US\$4, three hours), from where minibuses head to Sesheke.

## KAFUE NATIONAL PARK

This **park** (admission per person/vehicle US\$15/5; ☎ 6am-6pm) is about 200km west of Lusaka. Covering more than 22,500 sq km (nearly the size of Belgium), it's the largest park in Zambia and one of the biggest in the world. This is classic wildlife country and the foremost park for spotting the Big Five. Elephants and buffaloes are often seen in wooded areas, and carnivores include lions and hyenas. Antelope species include impalas, roans, kudus, sables, red

lechwes and sitatungas, and the rivers contain huge numbers of crocs and hippos. Bird life is also prolific, with more than 400 species recorded.

The vegetation in Kafue National Park is diverse and includes riverine forest around Lake Itezhi-Tezhi and Kafue River and its main tributaries (the Lunga and Lufupa); areas of open mixed woodland in the north as well as the Busanga Plains, which become infested with hippos during the floods (March to May); and the vast open grasslands in the south, where it is easier to spot groups of antelopes or predators.

The main road between Lusaka and Mongu runs through the park, dividing it into northern and southern sectors. (You don't pay park fees if you're in transit.) There are several gates, but three main ones: **Nalusanga Gate** along the eastern boundary, for the northern sector; **Musa Gate**, near the New Kalala Camp, for the southern sector; and **Tatayoyo Gate**, for either sector if you're coming from the west. Rangers are also stationed at the two park headquarters: at Chunga Camp and another 8km south of Musa Gate.

Some lodges/camps arrange **walking safaris**, but visitors are not allowed to walk in the park without an armed ranger. Most guests feel safer exploring the park in a 4WD, during a day or night wildlife drive, or by boat.

## Sleeping

We can only list a few of the numerous camp sites and lodges/camps offered in and around the park. Several lodges/camps are just outside the park boundaries, which means that you don't have to pay admission fees until you actually visit the park. The inexpensive 'bed levy' (US\$10) charged to tourists is usually included in the rates charged by the upmarket lodges, but elsewhere the levy is added to your accommodation bill (unless you're just camping).

## SOUTHERN SECTOR

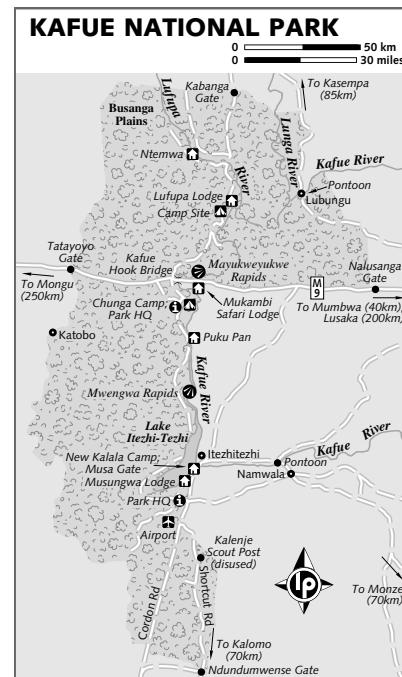
The places listed here are outside the park (except for Chunga Camp) and south of the main road between Lusaka and Mongu. All rates are per person.

**Puku Pan** (☎ 01-266927; www.pukupan.com; camping US\$7, chalets with full board US\$120; ☎ all year) A low-key spot that has eight cottages with verandas overlooking the hippo- and croc-filled river. There's a comfortable viewing area overlooking the swamps at the back of the lodge. Walking safaris, boat trips and visits to local villages are available as well as the usual wildlife drives.

**Musungwa Lodge** (☎ 01-273493; zamker@zamnet.zm; camping US\$10, s/d with half-board US\$75/130; ☎ Jun-Oct; 📍) A large place near New Kalala Camp. Originally built as a lakeside resort, it features comparatively lush gardens with a big swimming pool and tennis court. The comfortable rooms contain verandas overlooking the lake. The lodge offers wildlife drives and boat trips.

**Chunga Camp** (☎ 01-272307; fax 01-272308; camping US\$8, rondavels US\$35; ☎ all year) In a gorgeous spot overlooking a bend in the river. If you bring your own food, staff will prepare it in the kitchen. The accommodation is basic, but the advantages are the number of animals in and around the camp (so be careful at all times), and the proximity to the park headquarters for arranging walking safaris and wildlife drives.

**Mukambi Safari Lodge** (☎ 01-293848; www.mu-kambi.com; d full board US\$160; ☎ all year) Easy to reach, along the northeastern bank of the



Kafue River. It offers stylish, well-designed chalets and friendly staff. Discounts are offered through travel agents in Lusaka.

### NORTHERN SECTOR

Several lodges/camps are inside the northern section of the park, north of the main road from Lusaka. Again, all rates listed are per person.

**Lufupa Lodge** (☎ 01-227739; www.busangatrails.com/lufupa; camping US\$15, chalets with all meals US\$120; 📅 Jun-Oct; 🚰) At the confluence of the Lufupa and Kafue Rivers. It's a large place in a lovely position, with comfortable rondavels and an inviting swimming pool. The lodge offers boat rides, walking safaris and wildlife drives, and the guides are reportedly adept at spotting elusive leopards. Campers can hire a tent if arranged with plenty of notice for an extra US\$10 per night, and eat in the restaurant.

**Ntemwa** (☎ 01-265814; incl meals & activities US\$275; 📅 Jun-Oct) A superluxurious camp with enormous tents and excellent meals. Guests have raved about the quality of the activities, particularly the walks and drives.

### Getting There & Away

Most guests of the top-end lodges/camps fly in on chartered planes. Transfers from the airstrip to the lodges/camps are often included in the rates.

For drivers, the main road into Kafue National Park is along the road between Lusaka and Mongu. About 35km west of Nalusanga Gate, a road leads southwest towards Lake Itzhi-Tezhi. The road is shockingly potholed and only accessible by a 4WD with high clearance. Just past Itzhithezhi village is Musa Gate, from where the road crosses Lake Itzhi-Tezhi to the New Kalala Camp and Musungwa Lodge.

If you're staying at Mukambi Safari Lodge, continue west along the main road from Lusaka until about 10km before Kafue Hook Bridge and look for the signposted turn-off to the south. On the western side of the bridge, a main track leads into the northern sector of the park, and a dirt road leads southeast to Chunga Camp.

There's no public transport in the park, but you could get off the bus between Lusaka and Mongu and reach Mukambi Safari Lodge on foot, or get off at the Chunga junction and wait for a lift to Chunga Camp. Alternatively,

take the slow daily bus, or one of the more regular minibuses, from Lusaka to Itzhithezhi village (US\$11, six hours). From the village bus stop wait around for a lift (because of the number of wild animals it may not be safe to hike).

The easiest way to reach the park – and get around it – is on an organised tour, but surprisingly few are offered by agencies in Lusaka or Livingstone. Chachacha Backpackers (p644) promises to recommence tours if/when the roads to and around the park improve. Otherwise, contact Jolly Boys Backpackers (p623) about what it might have on offer.

## ZAMBIA DIRECTORY

### ACCOMMODATION

Prices for all accommodation listed in this chapter, and in the Zambian section of the Victoria Falls chapter, are for the high (dry) season – ie April/May to October/November – and are based on the 'international rates'. Often, lodges offer resident rates that are at an unfairly and far reduced rate, sometimes cut by as much as half.

It's worth noting that prices for rooms with private bathrooms are about 50% higher than rooms without, and that all accommodation in Lusaka is about 50% higher than anywhere else in Zambia. Most midrange and top-end hotels include breakfast in their rates.

### Budget

Most cities and larger towns have camp sites where you can pitch your tent, but most are way out in the suburbs. Camping is also possible at privately run camp sites at the national parks, though most are located just outside the park boundaries to avoid admission fees (until you actually want to visit the park). Unlike in Zimbabwe, no camp sites are run by the national wildlife authority. There's little to stop you pitching your tent in the wild – except the chance of being interrupted by a hungry lion or rhino, of course.

The few youth hostels around Zambia are not part of any international organisation, so hostel cards are useless. But many hostels in Lusaka and the major tourist areas are well set up with swimming pools, bars, restaurants and travel agencies offering organised tours.

Some of the cheapest hotels in the cities are actually brothels. The better budget hotels

charge by the room, so two, three or even four people travelling together can get some real (if crowded) bargains. Single travellers may find some prices steep, though negotiation is always possible.

### Midrange to Top End

All national parks are dotted with expensive privately operated lodges and 'camps' (a confusing term often used to describe expensive lodges). They offer the same sort of luxury and exclusivity as other lodges and camps in Southern and East Africa – all at US\$200 or more per person per night (twin share). Foreigners usually pay 'international rates' for lodges/camps, while tourists from Southern Africa get a 'regional rate' of 25% less, and Zambians pay about half the 'international rates'. These rates usually include all meals, drinks and activities, such as wildlife drives, but not transfers by road, air and/or boat. Lodges/camps should be booked in advance, either directly by phone, fax or email, or through an agent in Lusaka or abroad. Some lodges/camps close in the wet season (November to April); if they're open, discounts of up to 50% are common.

### ACTIVITIES

More information about the various activities mentioned here is included under the relevant sections throughout this chapter and in the Victoria Falls chapter.

Companies in Livingstone (and Victoria Falls town in Zimbabwe) offer a bewildering array of activities, such as whitewater rafting in the gorge below the falls or river boarding and canoeing on the quieter waters above the falls. Those with plenty of nerve and money can try bungee jumping or abseiling, or take a ride in a microlight or helicopter. The less adventurous may want to try hiking and horse riding.

Canoeing is also a great way to explore the Zambezi River and can be arranged in Siavonga (or Kariba in Zimbabwe). Fishing along the Zambezi, and at several lakes in northern Zambia, is also popular; the tigerfish are almost inedible, but provides a tough contest for anglers. Fishing and boating are also possible on Lakes Kariba, Bangweulu and Tanganyika. Kasanka, Lower Zambezi and South Luangwa National Parks have activities for visitors.

Many tour companies in Livingstone offer short wildlife drives in Mosi-oa-Tunya National Park near Victoria Falls, while companies in Lusaka and Livingstone can also arrange longer wildlife safaris to more remote national parks. In some parks (eg Kasanka and South Luangwa), you can turn up and arrange wildlife drives or walking safaris on the spot.

### BOOKS

The following titles are books specific to Zambia. For titles on the Southern Africa region, see p24.

### PRACTICALITIES

- The *Daily Times* and *Daily Mail* are dull, government-controlled rags. The independent *Post* (www.postzambia.com), featuring a column by Kenneth Kaunda, continually needles the government. Published in the UK but printed in South Africa, the *Weekly Telegraph*, the *Guardian Weekly* and the *Economist* are available in Lusaka and Livingstone.
- The monthly *Lowdown* magazine (www.lowdown.co.zm; k3000), aimed at well-off residents in Lusaka, has useful information for visitors such as restaurant reviews and lists of upcoming events in the capital, as well as handy adverts for package deals for lodges around Zambia. The semi-annual *Kapaso* magazine (k5000) is the Copperbelt's answer to the *Lowdown*.
- Both of the Zambian National Broadcasting Corporation (ZNBC) radio stations can be heard nationwide; they play Western and African music, as well as news and chat shows in English. ZNBC also runs the solitary government-controlled TV station every evening, but anyone who can afford it will subscribe to South African satellite TV. *BBC World Service* can be heard in Lusaka (88.2FM) and Kitwe (89.1FM); *Radio France Internationale* (RFI) can also be heard in Lusaka.
- Televisions use the PAL system.
- Electricity supply is 220V to 240V/50Hz and plugs are of the British three-prong variety.
- The metric system is used in Zambia.

*The Africa House*, by Christina Lamb, relates the story of Stewart Gore-Brown and his grand plans for a utopian fiefdom in a remote part of Zambia during the 1920s. His country mansion at Shiwa Ng'andu still stands (see p652).

Although a personalised selection of observations on wildlife and humans, *Kakuli* by Norman Carr also raises deeper issues and suggests some practical solutions to current conservation problems. The author spent a lifetime working with animals and people in the South Luangwa National Park (see p658).

Alexandra Fuller's *Don't Let's Go to the Dogs Tonight* tells her own riveting story about growing up as the daughter of white farmers in Zimbabwe, Zambia and Malawi during the Rhodesian civil war.

*Spirit of the Zambezi*, by Jeff and Fiona Sutchbury, is a personal and knowledgeable account of three decades living and working in, on and around the great river between Zambia and Zimbabwe. It's illustrated with beautiful photos.

Mark and Delia Owens (authors of the famous *Cry of the Kalahari*) based *Survivor's Song* in the North Luangwa National Park. They launch themselves single-mindedly into the hard fight against elephant poachers, putting their lives and relationship seriously on the line.

*Zambia*, by Richard Vaughan, is a highly recommended coffee-table book with superb photographs. It not only covers the magnificent landscape and wildlife, but also the less 'touristy' aspects such as city life and mining.

## BUSINESS HOURS

Government offices are open from 8am to 9am to 4pm or 5pm Monday to Friday, with an hour for lunch sometime between noon and 2pm. Shops keep the same hours, but also open on Saturday. Supermarkets are normally open from 8am to 8pm Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm Saturday and 9am to 1pm Sunday. Banks operate weekdays from 8am to 2.30pm, and from 8am to 11am on the first and last Saturday of each month. Post offices open from 8am or 9am to 4pm or 4.30pm weekdays. Restaurants are normally open for lunch between 11.30am and 2.30pm and dinner between 6pm and 10.30pm, though bars/restaurants in Lusaka are often open until 11pm on Friday and Saturday. Reviews in this

chapter won't list business hours unless they deviate from these standards.

See p742 for more information on business hours throughout Southern Africa.

## CHILDREN

While most people do not travel with children in Zambia, lodges will accommodate them and perhaps even offer lower rates for them.

## CUSTOMS

There are no restrictions on the amount of foreign currency tourists can bring in or take out of Zambia. Import or export of Zambian kwacha, however, is technically forbidden, but if you bring in/out a small amount (say, US\$25 worth), it's unlikely to be a problem.

## DANGERS & ANNOYANCES

Generally, Zambia is very safe, though in the cities and tourist areas there is always a chance of being targeted by muggers or con artists. As always, you can reduce the risk considerably by being sensible.

For as long as the seemingly endless civil strife continues in Congo (Zaire), avoid any areas along the Zambia-Congo (Zaire) border, especially around Lake Mweru. Foreign embassies in Zambia warn of landmines (left over from the Rhodesian civil war) in the Sinazongwe area on the shores of Lake Kariba. Avoid trekking off the beaten track in this area.

The possession, use and trade of recreational drugs is illegal in Zambia and penalties are harsh: in 1999, two New Zealand travellers received six months in jail with hard labour after being caught with a relatively small amount.

It's also worth noting that some travellers, who have an Asian background, have reported annoying glares and racial slurs from Zambians.

## DISCOUNT CARDS

Hostel cards and senior cards are useless, though student or youth cards may be useful for buying tickets on major international airlines and the Tazara railway between Zambia and Tanzania.

## EMBASSIES & CONSULATES

### Zambian Embassies & Consulates

Zambia has high commissions in Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa

and Zimbabwe – see the relevant chapters in this book for contact details. Elsewhere in Africa, Zambian embassies and high commissions are located in Angola, Kenya and Tanzania, as well as in the following countries:

**Belgium** (☎ 02-343 5649; embassyofzambia@skynet.be; 469 Ave Moliere, 1060 Brussels)

**Germany** (☎ 030-2062940; www.sambia-botschaft.de; Axel-Springer-Strasse 154A, 10117 Berlin)

**Sweden** (☎ 08-6799040; www.zambiaembassy.se; Engelbrektskatan 7, Stockholm)

**UK** (☎ 020-7589 6655; www.zhcl.org.uk; 2 Palace Gate, London W8 5NG)

**USA** (☎ 202-265 9717; www.zambiaembassy.org; 2419 Massachusetts NW, Washington, DC 20008)

## Embassies & Consulates in Zambia

The following countries have embassies or high commissions in Lusaka (Map pp642-3; area code ☎ 01). The British high commission looks after the interests of Aussies and Kiwis because the nearest diplomatic missions for Australia and New Zealand are in Harare. Most consulates are open from 8.30am to 5pm Monday to Thursday and from 8.30am to 12.30pm Friday, though visas are usually only dealt with in the mornings. (See p727 for contact details for the consulates and embassies in Zimbabwe.)

**Botswana** (☎ 250555; fax 253895; 5201 Pandit Nehru Rd)

**Canada** (☎ 250833; fax 254176; 5119 United Nations Ave)

**Congo** (Zaire; ☎ 235679; fax 229045; 1124 Parirenyetwa Rd)

**Finland** (☎ 251988; fax 253783; Haile Selassie Ave)

**France** (☎ 251322; fax 254475; 74 Independence Ave, Cathedral Hill)

**Germany** (☎ 250644; 5209 United Nations Ave)

**Ireland** (☎ 290650; 6663 Katima Mulilo Rd)

**Kenya** (☎ 250722; kenhigh@zamnet.zm; 5207 United Nations Ave)

**Malawi** (☎ 096 437573; fax 260225; 31 Bishops Rd, Kabulonga)

**Mozambique** (☎ 220333; fax 220345; 9592 Kacha Rd, off Paseli Rd)

**Namibia** (☎ 260407/8; fax 263858; 30B Mutende Rd, Woodlands)

**Netherlands** (☎ 253819; fax 253733; 5208 United Nations Ave)

**South Africa** (☎ 260349; 26D Cheetah Rd, Kabulonga)

**Sweden** (☎ 251711; fax 254049; Haile Selassie Ave)

**Tanzania** (☎ 253223/4; fax 254861; 5200 United Nations Ave)

**UK** (☎ 251133; fax 251923; 5210 Independence Ave)

**USA** (☎ 250955; cnr Independence & United Nations Aves)

**Zimbabwe** (☎ 254006; fax 254046; 11058 Haile Selassie Ave)

## FESTIVALS & EVENTS

One remarkable festival to look out for is **Ukusefya pa Ng'wena**, practised by the Bemba people of northern Zambia. This programme of music, drama and dance, which is held near Kasama over four days in August, commemorates the victory of the Bemba over the marauding Ngoni in the 1830s.

**N'cwala** is a Ngoni festival held near Chipata in eastern Zambia on 24 February. At this time, food, dance and music are all enjoyed by participants who celebrate the end of the rainy season and pray for a successful harvest.

Refer to the boxed text for details about the remarkable **Kuomboka Ceremony** (p666).

Information about these and other festivals are on the official Zambian tourism website: [www.zambiatourism.com](http://www.zambiatourism.com).

## HOLIDAYS

During the following public holidays, most businesses and government offices are closed:

**New Year's Day** 1 January

**Youth Day** Second Monday in March

**Easter March/April**

**Labour/Workers' Day** 1 May

**Africa (Freedom) Day** 25 May

**Heroes' Day** First Monday in July

**Unity Day** First Tuesday in July

**Farmers' Day** First Monday in August

**Independence Day** 24 October

**Christmas Day** 25 December

**Boxing Day** 26 December

## INTERNET ACCESS

Zamnet is the country's largest internet service provider. Internet centres are in Lusaka (p641) and Livingstone (p621), and a few upmarket lodges allow guests (only) to use their internet facilities for a small charge. Access at internet centres is cheap – about US\$1.50 for 30 minutes – but irritatingly slow at times.

## INTERNET RESOURCES

Your first 'cyber-stop' should be the outstanding website run by the **Zambia National Tourist Board** ([www.zambiatourism.com](http://www.zambiatourism.com)). Other websites worth checking out include the following: **Zambia Online** ([www.zambia.co.zm](http://www.zambia.co.zm)) Has excellent links, and offers chat rooms with Zambians.

**Zambiz** ([www.zambiz.co.zm](http://www.zambiz.co.zm)) Ideal for all business, including booking lodges and tours.

**Zamnet** ([www.zamnet.zm](http://www.zamnet.zm)) Provides links to all major national newspapers and several other useful sites.

Other useful addresses are given throughout this chapter. For a more comprehensive listing, see also p25.

## LANGUAGE

Of the 70 languages and dialects spoken in Zambia, seven are recognised by the government as official 'special languages'. These include Bemba (mainly spoken in the north); Tonga (in the south); Nyanja (in the east), which is similar to Chichewa, spoken in Malawi; and Lozi (in the west).

As a lingua franca, and the official national language, English is widely spoken across Zambia. The Language chapter (p772) contains some useful words and phrases in Chichewa and Lozi.

## MAPS

Macmillan's *Traveller's Map* (1:2.2 million) is the best map of Zambia, and includes detailed – but slightly dated – maps of several cities, national parks and tourist areas. Also worthwhile are the *Zambia Map Pac*, published by Directory Publishers, which includes maps of Zambia, Kitwe, Ndola, Livingstone and Lusaka, and *Street Guide Lusaka and Livingstone* (k35,000), which is a book-form collection of blow-ups of the two cities. All are available at bookshops in Lusaka. If you're trekking or driving into more remote regions, detailed survey maps at various scales from 1986 (for k20,000 to k30,000) are available from the government-run Map Sales office in Lusaka (p640).

## MONEY

Zambia's unit of currency is the kwacha (k), sometimes listed as 'ZMK' (Zambian kwacha) or 'kw'. Bank notes come in denominations of k50,000, k20,000, k10,000, k5000, k1000, k500, k100, k50 and k20 notes, the last of which are extremely rare and virtually worthless. One hundred ngwee equals one kwacha, so, not surprisingly, ngwee coins have become souvenirs.

Inflation is high in Zambia, and, due to elections in late 2006 and the skyrocketing price of copper, some prices in this chapter are quoted in kwacha and others in US dollars

(US\$), as different businesses base their rates on the different currencies.

Most tourist-oriented places in Zambia quote prices in US dollars, but you must by law pay in kwacha – except for international airfares, top-end hotels/lodges, visas and most organised tours. In reality however, US dollars are commonly (and gratefully) accepted by most hotels, budget camp sites, tour operators and national park rangers.

## Cash & ATMs

You can obtain cash (kwacha only) over the counter at Barclays and Standard Chartered banks in the cities and larger towns with a Visa card. But it can take most of the day and you may be slugged a fee of about US\$10. Larger branches of both banks have ATMs that accept Visa, but only kwacha can be withdrawn, and ATMs have a habit of malfunctioning. Traveler reports say that Indo-Zambian Bank ATMs are the most reliable insofar as not eating your card. ATM cards bearing the MasterCard mark are fairly useless.

## Credit Cards

Some shops, restaurants and better hotels/lodges accept major credit cards, though Visa is the most readily recognised. A surcharge of 4% to 7% may be added to your bill if you pay with a credit card, so you're probably better off using it to draw cash and paying with that.

## Moneychangers

The best currencies to take to Zambia (in order of preference) are US dollars, UK pounds and South African rands. Euros have yet to take off and the currencies of most neighbouring countries are worthless in Zambia, except at the relevant borders. The exception is Botswana pula, which can also be exchanged in Lusaka.

In the cities and larger towns, you can change cash and travellers cheques (see opposite) at branches of Barclays Bank and Standard Chartered Bank. In smaller towns, try the Zambia National Commercial Bank.

Foreign-exchange offices – almost always called bureaux de change – are easy to find in all cities and larger towns. Their rates for cash and travellers cheques (if accepted) are around 5% better than the banks' rates; the service is also faster and there are no additional fees.

There is no black market. You might get a few kwacha more by changing money on the street, but it's illegal and there is a chance that you'll be ripped off, robbed or set up for some sort of scam. However, moneychangers at the borders are more or less legitimate, but may take (slight) advantage of your ignorance about the current exchange rates. If you can't change cash at a bank or bureau de change, try a hotel or a shop that sells imported items.

## Tipping

While most restaurants add a 10% service charge, rarely does it actually get into the pockets of waitstaff. Therefore, you may choose to tip the waitstaff directly.

## Travellers Cheques

It's worth avoiding travellers cheques for several reasons: they are not accepted at all bureaux de change, and they attract high charges and lower exchange rates (5% to 8% lower than for cash). Commission rates vary, so it's always worth shopping around. The standard commission charged by Barclays and Standard Chartered banks is about 1%, but often with a minimum of US\$15. If you're likely to be charged a ridiculous commission – eg US\$15 (!) on a US\$20 travellers cheque – try negotiating a lower commission. One reader did so and paid only US\$2 commission at a bank for a US\$20 travellers cheque.

You can pay for some items (such as tours, activities, hotels and lodges) directly with travellers cheques, but a few hotel and tour operators have a nasty habit of adding a surcharge (up to US\$20) for this.

When you change travellers cheques at a bank, and at some bureaux de change, staff may check your original purchase receipt. Barclays, AmEx, Thomas Cook and Visa are by far the most accepted brands.

## PHOTOGRAPHY & VIDEO

In Lusaka and Livingstone, it costs k18,000/24,000 for a roll of 24-/36-exposure print film, while a roll of 36 exposure slide film is about k35,000 (without processing). Developing and printing 24/36-exposure print film costs about k16,000/20,000, but developing slide film is almost impossible. Bring everything you need for video cameras.

Zambian officials do not like foreigners photographing any public buildings, bridges, dams, airports or anything else that could be

considered strategic. If in doubt, ask; better still, save your camera for the national parks.

## POST

Postcards and normal letters (under 20g) cost k2700 to send to Europe and k3300 to the USA, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. Sending international letters from Lusaka is surprisingly quick (three or four days to Europe), but from elsewhere in the country it's less reliable and much slower. Parcels up to 1kg to Europe cost k5,500 by airmail and k60,600 to the USA, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. The cost is about half this for surface mail.

Poste-restante service is available at the main post office in Lusaka (p641) for a negligible fee.

## TELEPHONE

Almost all telecommunication services are provided by the government monopoly, Zamtel. Public phones operated by Zamtel use a token, which are available from post offices (k500) or local boys (k1000) hanging around phone booths. These tokens last three minutes but are only good for calls within Zambia. Phone booths operated by Tele2Africa use phone cards (from k20,000), available from post offices and grocery shops; these phone cards can be used for international calls. But it's often easier to find a 'phone shop' or 'fax bureau', from where all international calls cost about k12,000 per minute.

International services are generally good, but reverse-charge (collect) calls are not possible. The international access code for dialling outside of Zambia is 00, followed by the relevant country code. If you're calling Zambia from another country, the country code is 260, but drop the initial zero of the area code.

## Mobile Phones

MTN, Celtel and Zamcell all offer mobile (cell) phone networks. It's almost impossible to rent mobile phones in Zambia, though if you own a GSM phone, you can buy a SIM card for k15,000 without a problem. Scratch cards come in denominations of k5000, k10,000, k20,000, k50,000, k100,000 and k500,000 denominations. Numbers starting with 095, 096, 097 and 099 are mobile phone numbers.

Mobile phone reception is pretty good within the cities, though ☎097 numbers get poor reception in the Southern Province. And in rural areas, you can forget it. However, companies are erecting mobile radio signal towers all over the place, so this may well change.

### Phone Codes

Every landline in Zambia uses the area code system; you only have to dial it if you are calling outside of your area code. Remember to drop the zero if you are dialling from outside of Zambia.

### Area Code Province(s)

☎ 01	Lusaka
☎ 02	Copperbelt & Luapula
☎ 03	Southern
☎ 04	Northern
☎ 05	Central
☎ 06	Eastern
☎ 07	Western
☎ 08	Northwestern

### TOURIST INFORMATION

The regional tourist offices in Lusaka and Livingstone are worth visiting for specific inquiries, but provide limited information about Zambia in general. Refer to the relevant sections for contact details.

The **Zambia National Tourist Board** (ZNTB; www.zambiatourism.com; UK ☎ 020-7589 6343; zntb@aol.com; 2 Palace Gate, Kensington, London W8 5NG; South Africa ☎ 012-326 1847; zahpta@mweb.co.za; 589 Ziervogel St, Arcadia, Pretoria) is worth contacting for some guidance with your planning. The official website is outstanding, and provides links to dozens of lodges, hotels and tour agencies.

The **Tourism Council of Zambia** (tc@zamnet.zm) is an umbrella group of private companies throughout the country involved in the promotion of tourism.

### VISAS

All foreigners visiting Zambia need visas, but for most nationalities tourist visas are available at major borders, airports and ports. But it's important to note that you should have a *Zambian visa before* arrival if travelling by train or boat from Tanzania.

Citizens of South Africa and Zimbabwe can obtain visas on arrival for free. For all other nationalities, tourist visas are issued

on arrival, but cost about US\$25 for a transit visa (which is valid for seven days), US\$25/40 for a single/double-entry visa (valid for three months) and US\$100 for a multiple-entry visa (valid for three years). Brits, however, are slugged US\$60/60/80/80 for transit/single/double/multiple-entry visas. Note that the multiple-entry visas are useful, for example if you plan to travel to/from Zimbabwe several times. Payment can be made in US dollars, UK pounds, euros, South African rand, Botswana pula or Namibian dollars, regardless of which border you use.

Tourist and business visas can also be obtained from *Zambian diplomatic missions* abroad, and application forms can be downloaded from the websites run by the **Zambian high commission** (London www.zhcl.org.uk; Stockholm www.zambiaembassy.se; USA www.zambiaembassy.org).

If you arrive in Zambia on an organised tour, tourist visas are normally issued free for all nationalities on arrival – in any case, your tour operator should be aware of the regulations and arrange everything for you. The boxed text (p629 explains how to obtain a free seven-day (extendable) transit visa when travelling from Zimbabwe. But if you come to Zambia from Zimbabwe on a free-visa transfer from Victoria Falls, make sure you keep all your paperwork, because you may be asked later why there is no indication on your passport that you have paid for a *Zambian visa*, and then be forced to buy one. This has happened to unlucky readers travelling to Tanzania from Kapiri Mposhi by train.

### Visa Extensions

Extensions for all types of tourist visas are possible at any Department of Immigration office in any main town in Zambia, though you're likely to be more successful in Lusaka (Memaco House, Cairo Rd) and Livingstone (Mosi-oa-Tunya Rd). Normally, a three-month extension can cost up to US\$100 (depending on your nationality).

If the paperwork seems overwhelming, and the fees exorbitant, simply cross into Zimbabwe, Mozambique or Malawi (the easiest options) and pay for a new visa when you return to Zambia.

### Visas for Onward Travel

It's always best to visit any embassy or high commission in Lusaka between 9am and noon

from Monday to Friday. You will probably need two passport-sized photos.

Your chances of obtaining a visa for Congo (Zaire) or Angola are extremely remote in Lusaka, so get it before you arrive in Zambia.

Visas for Zimbabwe, Malawi, Tanzania and Botswana are easy to obtain on arrival at the border of these countries for most visitors. Because of this, the high commissions in Lusaka for these countries will only issue visas to the few nationalities that need them before arrival. However, if you're travelling by train or boat to Tanzania, check with the Tanzanian high commission in Lusaka about whether you need a visa beforehand. If so, three-month visas cost from US\$30 to US\$50 (depending on your nationality). The visa is usually ready later the same day if you apply before noon. You cannot obtain a visa for Namibia at the border; tourist visas are either free or cost US\$30, depending on your nationality, in Lusaka.

For Mozambique transit visas (valid for seven days) cost US\$11, single-entry visas (for one month) cost US\$20, and multiple-entry visas (for three months) cost US\$40. Visas are ready in two days, but for an extra fee you can get same-day service.

## TRANSPORT IN ZAMBIA

### GETTING THERE & AWAY

Information about travelling to Southern Africa, including Zambia, from elsewhere in the continent, and from some Western countries, is included in the Transport in Southern Africa chapter (p752).

### Entering Zambia

See opposite for full information on visa requirements for entering Zambia.

A yellow fever certificate is not required before entering Zambia, but it is often requested by *Zambian immigration officials* if you have come from a country with yellow fever. And it is certainly required if you're travelling from Zambia to South Africa (and, possibly, Zimbabwe). For all sorts of reasons, it pays to get a job before you come to Southern Africa and carry a certificate to prove it.

### Air

Zambia's main international airport is in Lusaka, though some international airlines fly to the airport at Livingstone (for Victoria

### DEPARTURE TAX

The departure tax for all international flights is US\$20. This tax is *not* included in the price of your airline ticket and must be paid at the airport (in US dollars only).

Falls), Mfuwe (for the South Luangwa National Park) and Ndola. The major domestic and international carrier is **Zambian Airways** (code Q3; www.zambianairways.com).

Zambia is well connected with Southern Africa. *Zambian Airways* flies daily between Lusaka and Harare (US\$155/305 one way/return), while **Air Zimbabwe** (code UM; www.airzim.co.zw) also flies to Lusaka (US\$150/295) from Harare on the way to Nairobi each Thursday.

**Air Malawi** (code QM; www.airmalawi.net) connects Lusaka with Lilongwe three times a week (US\$150/200) and with Blantyre (US\$185/299) twice a week. Comair, a subsidiary of **British Airways** (code BA; www.britishairways.com), and **South African Airways** (code SA; ww4.flysaa.com) both fly daily between Lusaka and Johannesburg for about US\$200/295.

Refer to p624 for information about international flights to/from Livingstone.

Airlines flying to and from Zambia:  
**Air Malawi** (code QM; ☎ 0-228120; www.airmalawi.net) Hub: Lilongwe  
**Air Zimbabwe** (code UM; ☎ 0-225431; www.airzim.babwe.com) Hub: Harare  
**British Airways** (code BA; ☎ 0-254444; www.britishairways.com) Hub: London  
**Ethiopian Airlines** (code ET; ☎ 0-236402/3; www.flyethiopian.com) Hub: Addis Ababa  
**Kenya Airways/KLM** (code KQ; ☎ 0-228886; www.kenya-airways.com) Hub: Nairobi/Amsterdam  
**South African Airways** (code SA; ☎ 0-254350; www.flysaa.com) Hub: Johannesburg  
**Zambian Airways** (code Q3; ☎ 0-256586; www.zambianairways.com) Hub: Lusaka

### Border Crossings

Zambia shares borders with eight countries, so there's a huge number of crossing points. All are open daily from 6am to 6pm, though the border closes at 8pm at Victoria Falls and at 7pm at Chirundu. The following borders issue visas to foreigners on arrival:  
**Botswana** Zambia and Botswana share what is probably the world's shortest international boundary: 750m across the Zambezi River at Kazungula. The pontoon (car ferry) across the Zambezi is 65km west of Livingstone and 11km

south of the main road between Livingstone and Sesheke. You can buy the Botswana visa at the border, when you get off the ferry there.

**Congo (Zaire)** The main border is between Chililabombwe (Zambia) and Kasumbalesa (Congo). Visas are issued to tourists in Lusaka, but can be difficult to obtain.

**Malawi** Most foreigners use the border at Mchinji, 30km southeast of Chipata, because it's along the road between Lusaka and Lilongwe.

**Mozambique** The main border is between Mlolo (Zambia) and Cassacatiza (Mozambique), but most travellers choose to reach Mozambique through Malawi.

**Namibia** The only border is at Katima Mulilo (Zambia), on the northern bank of the Zambezi, while the Namibian border is near the Namibian town with the same name.

**Tanzania** The main border by road, and the only crossing by train, is between Nakonde (Zambia) and Tunduma (Tanzania).

**Zimbabwe** There are three easy crossings: at Chirundu, along the road between Lusaka and Harare; between Siavonga (Zambia) and Kariba (Zimbabwe), about 50km upstream from Chirundu; and between Livingstone (Zambia) and Victoria Falls town (Zimbabwe). Tourist visas for Zimbabwe are not currently offered at the embassy in Lusaka. If you're a tourist, you can only get a visa when crossing the border.

## BOTSWANA

Several very crowded minibuses (US\$4, 12 hours) leave Livingstone every day for the terminal used by the pontoon ferry to Kazungula. The pontoon carries motorbikes/cars/4WDs for US\$5/15/20; foot passengers are free. Payment is also possible in kwacha, Botswana pula or South African rand. From the Botswana border, minibuses regularly leave for Kasane.

A quicker and more comfortable (but more expensive) way to reach Botswana from Zambia is to cross from Livingstone to Victoria Falls (in Zimbabwe), from where shuttle buses head to Kasane – refer to the Victoria Falls chapter for details.

Buses to Gaborone, via Kasane and Francistown, leave several days a week from Lusaka (see p647).

## MALAWI

Direct buses between Lusaka and Lilongwe are infrequent and slow, so it makes sense to do this trip in stages. From the BP petrol station on the main street in Chipata, regular minibuses (US\$2) run the 30km to the Zambian border. The two border crossings are 12km apart, connected by shared taxis and pick-ups (US\$2), which continue to Mchinji, from where minibuses run to Lilongwe.

## MOZAMBIQUE

There is no public transport between Zambia and Mozambique and the only common border leads to a remote part of Mozambique. Most travellers, therefore, choose to visit Mozambique from Lilongwe in Malawi.

## NAMIBIA

Wednesday, Friday and Saturday at 6am, Mazhanda Family Bus runs trips from Lusaka to Sesheke (k75,000, 12 hours). From Livingstone, at least one bus per day and several minibuses leave for Sesheke (US\$7, six hours). The trip can take longer, because the road between the pontoon ferry terminal across to Kazungula and Sesheke is a shocker. The bus may terminate in Sesheke or continue another 5km to the pontoon (car ferry). The pontoon carries motorbikes/cars/4WDs for US\$10/20/30, while foot passengers travel for free; payment is also possible in Botswana pula, Namibian dollars and South African rands. If the pontoon isn't operating, foot passengers pay about US\$1.50 to cross by dugout canoe and vehicles are stuck at the border.

From the Namibian side, it's a 5km walk to Katima Mulilo, from where minibuses depart for other parts of Namibia.

Alternatively, cross from Livingstone to Victoria Falls (in Zimbabwe) and catch a shuttle bus to Windhoek – see p625 for details.

## SOUTH AFRICA

There is no border between Zambia and South Africa, but several buses travel daily between Jo'burg and Lusaka (see p647 for details), via Harare and Masvingo in Zimbabwe. But make sure you have a Zimbabwean visa (if you need one before arrival) and a yellow fever certificate for entering South Africa (and, possibly, Zimbabwe).

## TANZANIA

Although travelling by bus to the border is quicker, the train is a better alternative.

### GETTING TO TANZANIA

The MV *Liemba* leaves from Mpulungu harbour every Friday, arriving in Kigoma, Tanzania on Sunday. Fares for 1st, 2nd and economy class are US\$60/45/35 respectively. Visas can be issued on the ferry and cost US\$50.

Comfortable, but frighteningly fast, buses leave Lusaka for Dar es Salaam once or twice a week, but services are less reliable these days. Alternatively, walk across the border from Nakonde, and take a minibus from Tunduma to Mbeya in Tanzania.

The Tazara railway company usually runs two international trains per week in each direction between Kapiri Mposhi (207km north of Lusaka) and Dar es Salaam. The 'express train' (42 to 45 hours) leaves Kapiri Mposhi at 4pm on Tuesday and Friday, while the 'interstate train' (50 to 52 hours) leaves Kapiri Mposhi at noon on Friday. The fares on both trains are k180,000/150,000/110,000 in 1st/2nd/3rd class (1st and 2nd class are sleeping compartments). A discount of 50% is possible with a student card.

Tickets are available on the spot at the New Kapiri Mposhi (Tazara) train station in Kapiri Mposhi and up to three days in advance from **Tazara House** (☎ 01-222280; Independence Ave, Lusaka). If there are no more seats left at the Lusaka office, don't despair because we've heard from travellers who easily bought tickets at Kapiri Mposhi, and upgraded from one class to another while on board.

It's prudent to get a Tanzanian visa in Lusaka (or elsewhere) before you board the train; at least, contact the Tanzanian high commission in Lusaka about getting a Tanzanian visa on the train or at the border. You can change money on the train but take care because these guys are sharks. The buffet car on the train uses the currency of the country it's passing through at the time.

## ZIMBABWE

Plenty of buses travel every day between Lusaka and Harare, via Chirundu – see p647 for details. If you're travelling from Siavonga, take a minibus or charter a car to the border, and walk (or take a shared taxi) across the impressive Kariba Dam to Kariba, from where buses leave daily to Harare. Most travellers cross at Livingstone – see p625 for details.

Along the road on the Zambia side, you'll find young men waving tons of Zimbabwean currency for black market exchange. Do it at your own risk.

## GETTING AROUND

### Air

The main domestic airports are at Lusaka, Livingstone, Ndola, Kitwe, Mfuwe, Kasama

### DOMESTIC DEPARTURE TAX

The departure tax for domestic flights is US\$5. It is *not* included in the price of airline tickets bought in or outside of Zambia, and must be paid at the airport in US dollars.

and Kasaba Bay, though dozens of minor air strips cater for chartered planes.

## AIRLINES IN ZAMBIA

The only scheduled internal flights are offered by **Zambian Airways** (code Q3; ☎ 0-256586-8; www.zambianairways.com) and, occasionally, **South African Airlink** (code 4Z; www.saairlink.co.za). Tickets can be booked through any travel agent in Zambia.

The schedule for Zambian Airways is as follows:

Between	Schedule (one way)	Fare (US\$)
Lusaka & Ndola	daily	130
Lusaka & Mfuwe	daily	200
Lusaka & Livingstone	daily	180

Charter-flight companies cater for guests staying at upmarket lodges/camps in national parks. Charter flights only leave with a minimum number of prebooked passengers and fares are always high, but it's sometimes worth looking around for a last-minute stand-by flight. Check for special deals advertised in *Lowdown* magazine in Lusaka, or contact **Prof-flight Air Services** (☎ 0-271139; www.proflight-zambia.com), based at the airport in Lusaka.

## Bicycle

If you plan on cycling around Zambia, do realise that Zambian drivers tend not to give you any room, even if there is no vehicle in the oncoming lane. Save being hit by a car, it is safe to cycle Zambia. Mountain biking is rapidly becoming popular in and around Lusaka.

The two best places to purchase mountain bikes are in Lusaka: **CycleMart** (☎ 0-222062; nr Chachacha & Malasha Rds) and **Game** (Manda Hill Shopping Centre, Great East Rd). Road cyclists will have to bring their own bikes and gear.

## Bus & Minibus

Distances are long, buses are often slow and many roads are badly potholed, so travelling



around Zambia by bus and minibus can exhaust even the hardiest of travellers, even if they *do* like a good butt massage.

All main routes are served by ordinary public buses, which either run on a fill-up-and-go basis or have fixed departures (these are called 'time buses'). 'Express buses' are faster – often terrifyingly so – and stop less, but cost about 15% more. In addition, several private companies run comfortable European-style express buses along the major routes, eg between Lusaka and Livingstone, Lusaka and Chipata, and Lusaka and the Copperbelt region. These fares cost about 25% more than the ordinary bus fares and are well worth the extra kwacha. First-class double-decker CR Holdings buses are especially comfortable, with reclining seats on the lower level. It's better not to look at how fast the driver is going, anyway. Tickets for these buses can often be bought the day before.

Many routes are also served by minibuses, which only leave when full – so full that you might lose all feeling in one butt cheek. Their fares can be more or less the same as ordinary buses. In remote areas the only public transport is often a truck or pick-up.

## Car & Motorcycle

### BRING YOUR OWN VEHICLE

If you're driving into Zambia in a rented or privately owned car or motorcycle, you will need a carnet; if you don't have one, a free Customs Importation Permit will be issued to you at major borders instead.

While it is certainly possible to get around Zambia by car or motorbike, many sealed roads are in bad condition and the dirt roads can range from shocking to impassable, particularly after the rains. If you haven't driven in Africa before, this is no place to start. Wearing a seat belt in the front seat is compulsory.

### DRIVING LICENCE

Foreign licences are fine as long as they are in English, and it doesn't hurt to carry an international driver's licence (also in English).

### FUEL & SPARE PARTS

Diesel costs k4400 per litre and petrol k5100. Shortages do occur from time to time. Distances between towns with filling stations are great and fuel is not always available, so fill the tank at every opportunity.

It is advisable to carry at least one spare wheel, as well as a filled jerry can, though petrol is far more volatile than diesel. If you need spare parts, the easiest (and cheapest) vehicle parts to find are those of Toyota and Nissan.

### HIRE

Cars can be hired from international and Zambian-owned companies in Lusaka, Livingstone, Kitwe and Ndola, but renting is expensive, so consider hiring a car in Zimbabwe and taking it across to Zambia (see p730).

For example, **Voyagers/Imperial Car Rental** ([www.voyagerszambia.com/imperialrates.htm](http://www.voyagerszambia.com/imperialrates.htm)) charges from US\$51 per day for the smallest vehicle, plus US\$0.38 per kilometre (less per day for longer rental periods). Add to this insurance (from US\$36 per day), VAT and petrol. Other companies, such as **4x4 Hire Africa** ([www.4x4hireafrica.com](http://www.4x4hireafrica.com)), rent old-school Land Rover Discovery vehicles, which are fully decked out with everything you would need for trip to the bush, with prices starting at \$120 per day, though hiring a private driver will cost US\$100 extra per day.

Most companies insist that drivers are at least 23 years old and have held a licence for at least five years. Vehicles can be taken to Zimbabwe, Botswana, Tanzania, Malawi and Mozambique if you give the car-hire company enough notice.

### INSURANCE

Compulsory third-party insurance for Zambia is available at major borders (or the nearest large towns) and costs about US\$8 per month. However, it is strongly advised to carry insurance from your own country on top of your Zambian policy.

### ROAD CONDITIONS

While most main stretches of sealed road are excellent, beware of the occasional pothole. Most gravel roads are pretty good, though they also suffer from potholes. It is best to travel by 4WD if using a private vehicle.

### ROAD RULES

Speed limits in and around cities are enforced, though on the open road buses and Land Cruisers fly at speeds of 140kph to 160kph. Beware of vehicles in front of you that signal; if they signal right, it could mean that they are turning, or that there is another vehicle in the

oncoming lane. If the vehicle signals left, they are turning or the oncoming lane is clear and you can pass. Or else, it's possible that their signal lights are simply broken.

If you break down, you must place an orange triangle about 6m in front of and behind the vehicle.

## Hitching

Despite the general warning (see p764), hitching is a common way to get around Zambia. Some drivers, particularly expats, may offer you free lifts, but you should expect to pay for rides with local drivers (normally about the same as the bus fare, depending on the comfort of the vehicle). In such cases, agree on a price beforehand.

## Local Transport

The minibuses that zip around main roads in all cities and larger towns are quick and plentiful. For more comfort, however, taxis are also very good value. They have no meters, so rates are negotiable.

## TRAIN

The Tazara trains between Kapiri Mposhi and Dar es Salaam in Tanzania (see p676) can also be used for travel to/from northern Zambia. While the Lusaka–Kitwe service does stop at Kapiri Mposhi, the Lusaka–Kitwe and Tazara trains are not timed to connect with each other, and the domestic and international train terminals are 2km apart.

Zambia's only other railway services are the 'ordinary trains' between Lusaka and Kitwe, via Kapiri Mposhi and Ndola, and the 'express trains' between Lusaka and Livingstone. Refer to the relevant sections for schedules and costs.

Domestic trains are unreliable and slow, so buses are always better. Conditions on domestic trains generally range from slightly dilapidated to ready-for-scrap. Most compartments have no lights or locks, so take a torch and something to secure the door at night.

Tickets for all classes on domestic trains (but not the Tazara service) can be bought up to 30 days in advance.

## Classes

On the 'express train' between Lusaka and Livingstone, a 'sleeper' is a compartment for two people; 1st class is a sleeper for four; 2nd (or 'standard') class is a sleeper for six; and 'economy' (or 3rd) class is a seat only. On the 'ordinary train' between Lusaka and Kitwe, 'standard' class – the only class – is also just a seat.

## Tours

Tours and safaris around Zambia invariably focus on the national parks. Since many of these parks are hard to visit without a vehicle, joining a tour might be your only option anyway. Budget-priced operators run scheduled trips, or arrange things on the spot (with enough passengers), and can often be booked through a hostel or camp site. Upmarket companies prefer to take bookings in advance, directly, or through an agent in Zambia, South Africa or your home country.

For companies running tours around Zambia as part of wider trips around Southern Africa, see p757. Most Zambian tour operators are based in Lusaka and Siavonga, as well as Livingstone. Several companies in Lilongwe, Malawi may also offer tours to South Luangwa National Park.

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