

PAACLIP Conference 2024 | Zimbabwe Visitor Overview

Zimbabwe is a vibrant and culturally rich country located in the heart of Southern Africa. Known for its breathtaking landscapes, including the awe-inspiring Victoria Falls, expansive wildlife reserves, and the ancient Great Zimbabwe ruins, the country offers an unparalleled blend of natural beauty and historical depth. Zimbabwe's warm and welcoming people add to the charm of this destination, making it a must-visit for travelers seeking both adventure and cultural immersion.



Overview of Harare

Harare, the capital city of Zimbabwe, is a bustling metropolis that serves as the country's political, economic, and cultural hub. Often referred to as the "Sunshine City," Harare is known for its pleasant climate, wide avenues lined with purple-flower Jacaranda trees, and vibrant urban life. The city boasts a mix of modern amenities and traditional markets, offering visitors a glimpse into both the contemporary and cultural facets of Zimbabwean life. Harare is home to several museums, galleries, and parks, making it a great starting point for exploring the country.



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Travel Requirements

Pre-Travel Preparation

Ensure that your passport is valid for **at least six months** beyond your intended stay. It is recommended to confirm your travel insurance, and health cover, and secure necessary vaccinations before traveling.

Visa Requirements:

Zimbabwe has a tiered visa system which is located online ([Link](#)). The tiers are defined as follows:

- **CATEGORY 'A'** – Do not need visas to enter Zimbabwe.
- **CATEGORY 'B'** – Issued with a visa at any port of entry after paying the visa fee. Can alternatively apply online.
- **CATEGORY 'C'** – Required to apply and obtain visas before traveling to Zimbabwe. Visas can be applied online.

Visa Procedures:

If your country requires a visa, the process involves filling out an application form, providing necessary documentation (such as passport photos, passport bio page, an invitation letter, proof of accommodation, and return tickets), and paying the applicable fee. Visa processing times can vary, so it is advisable to start the process early. The conference planning committee is making arrangements for expedited pre-arrival visa processing. For assistance, kindly email visa@nhakainnovation.com by **13 September 2024**.

Vaccinations:

It is advised to have vaccinations for Yellow Fever (if traveling from an endemic area), Hepatitis A, and Malaria prophylaxis. Always consult your doctor or travel clinic for the latest recommendations. Travelers to Zimbabwe are no longer required to present proof of COVID-19 vaccination upon entry.



Transportation

Airport Transfers:

Airport transfer is arranged for all sponsored delegates using conference-branded vehicles. Cresta Msasa (conference venue) can further assist with car rentals for your convenience at a surcharge.

Public Transport:

Zimbabwe has a range of public transportation options, including buses, minibuses (commonly referred to as "kombis"), and taxis. Public transportation is generally affordable, but first-time visitors might find it more convenient to use taxis or ride-hailing services due to safety and comfort concerns.

Indrive and Payment Options:

Indrive is a popular ride-hailing service in Zimbabwe, providing a safe and reliable means of transportation. The mobile application is available on Google Play and Apple Store. Payment options include cash and mobile money platforms like EcoCash, which are widely used across the country. However, visitors should note that the only accepted payment method is cash in United States Dollars (USD). It is advisable to bring smaller bills, as lower denominations are often scarce.

Hotel Recommendations:

Sponsored delegates:

[Cresta Msasa](#) will accommodate 120 sponsored delegates, while [Cresta Oasis](#) will host 80 sponsored delegates. Both hotels offer comfortable accommodations with modern amenities and a Southern African hospitality experience. The sister hotels are conveniently located, providing easy access to conference venues and city attractions. Safety features at this property include fire extinguishers, smoke detectors, a security system, a first aid kit, and window guards.

Self-sponsored delegates:

The conference planning team has negotiated for **50 self-sponsored delegates** to additionally be accommodated at either [Cresta Msasa](#) or [Cresta Oasis](#), with a booking deadline of **31 October 2024**. It is recommended that self-sponsored delegates access the same facilities as sponsored delegates.

Alternatively, [Holiday Inn Harare](#) provides a range of facilities including dining options, conference rooms, and comfortable guest rooms, making it suitable for both business and leisure travelers. The conference planning team has similarly negotiated discounted rates at this hotel, with a booking deadline of **31 October 2024**. Kindly contact lodging@nhakainnovation.com for assistance with bookings at any of these three hotels.

Hotel Pre-Check-in:

Once travel is confirmed, you will receive an email from our team requesting pre-check-in information, **if you are staying at either of the Cresta Hotels**. A pre-check-in service will be arranged to facilitate quick processing and transfer of bags to appointed rooms upon arrival.

Religious, Cultural, and Accessibility Considerations

For any religious needs, such as prayer rooms or food accommodations, or if you require accessible rooms or support for persons with disabilities, please contact lodging@nhakainnovation.com before arrival.





Safety and Security

Country Risks Rating:

Zimbabwe is safe for travelers, but like any destination, it is important to stay informed and take precautions. The country has a moderate risk rating due to economic challenges and localized crime.

Medical Facilities:

Medical facilities in Harare are reasonably equipped. It is advisable to have travel health insurance that covers medical evacuation. Nearby public hospitals include [Parirenyatwa Group of Hospitals](#) and [Sally Mugabe Central Hospital](#). Ambulance services will be available on site in case of medical emergencies.

Recommended facilities for the duration of the conference are as follows:

- 1. Milton Park Medical Centre (9 km from Conference Venue, [Link](#))**
 - A modern hospital offering emergency room services.
 - Equipped with resuscitation and advanced life support equipment, theatre complex, and critical care.
 - Address: 2 Harvey Brown Avenue, Harare, Zimbabwe.
 - Contact: +263 86 771 88522.
- 2. Samuel Leon Family Clinic (8 km from Conference Venue, [Link](#))**
 - The family clinic provides medical care for the local community in a convenient manner.
 - Modern health facility run by qualified and dedicated personnel.
 - Up to date, focused, efficient, ethical, and sustainable acute medical care.
 - Address: 52 Josiah Chinamano Avenue
 - Contact: +263 78 566 3459
- 3. Health Point Hospital (10 km from Conference Venue, [Link](#))**
 - Advanced medical technology and comprehensive healthcare services, including emergency care.
 - Experienced professionals, providing high-quality care to both local and international patients.
 - Easy access for visitors and residents alike.
 - Address: 15 Lanark Road, Harare, Zimbabwe
 - Contact: +263 242 700 666/7/8
- 4. Avenues Clinic (8 km from Conference Venue, [Link](#))**
 - Wide range of medical services, including emergency care and specialized treatments.
 - Skilled medical professionals providing quality care.
 - Prime location in Harare, ensuring easy access for visitors.
 - Address: Corner Mazowe Street /Baines Avenue
 - Contact: +263 8677 006175

Safety Considerations

Hotspots and Crime:

While major tourist attractions are safe, some areas may have higher crime rates. It is advisable to avoid high-density suburbs, especially after dark. Petty crimes such as pickpocketing and bag snatching can occur, particularly in crowded areas and markets. Exercise caution and keep your belongings secure.

Critical points to remember:

- Do not leave strangers in your hotel room unattended.
- Avoid using ATMs in isolated areas or at night, as criminals may target you.





- Avoid carrying or displaying valuables in public, particularly in non-well-lit or isolated areas at any time.
- Do not leave valuables such as laptops in vehicles when disembarking.
- Always be aware of your surroundings.

Police Services:

- Local Police Station: The Rhodesville Police Station is located approximately 3 km from Cresta Msasa.
- Contact: +263 242 49 5753.

Terrorism:

Zimbabwe has a low threat level for terrorism; however, it is always wise to stay vigilant and aware of your surroundings.

Unrest:

Protests and strikes do occur, particularly in urban areas. Visitors should avoid large gatherings and monitor local news for updates on potential unrest.

Hazard:

Zimbabwe experiences occasional natural hazards, including seasonal flooding and drought. Check weather reports and plan accordingly.

Conflicts:

The country is generally peaceful, with no ongoing conflicts.

Societal & Cultural:

Zimbabweans are known for their hospitality. However, it is important to respect local customs and traditions, particularly in rural communities.

LGBTQ Travelers:

Zimbabwe is a conservative country, and LGBTQ rights are limited. LGBTQ travelers should exercise discretion, be aware of local attitudes, and avoid drawing attention.

Attractions near the conference venue

An activity desk is available in the conference venue reception. You are welcome to use this facility to discover leisure and entertainment events happening near the venue outside of the conference proceedings.

Attractions near the venue include:

1. **Honeydew Lifestyle Centre** ([Link](#))

A popular shopping and dining spot under 2 km from the conference venue, Honeydew Centre offers a range of specialty shops, restaurants, pharmacies, and cafés. It's a great place to relax, enjoy a meal, and explore local and international products.

2. **National Botanic Gardens** ([Link](#))

Located a short drive from Cresta Msasa, the National Botanic Gardens offers a serene escape into nature. The gardens feature a wide variety of indigenous plants, providing an opportunity to learn about Zimbabwe's flora while enjoying a peaceful walk.

3. **Mukuvisi Woodlands** ([Link](#))

This nature reserve is another nearby attraction, ideal for wildlife enthusiasts. The woodlands offer guided walks, horseback safaris, and birdwatching opportunities, where visitors can see a variety of animals, including giraffes, zebras, and impalas.





4. **Chapungu Sculpture Park ([Link](#))**
For those interested in art, a visit to Chapungu Sculpture Park is a must. This park showcases Zimbabwean stone sculpture, an art form that has gained international acclaim. The park is home to a variety of sculptures, each telling its own unique story.
5. **Bushman Rock ([Link](#))**
Located 34 km from Harare, Bushman Rock is a vineyard and wildlife estate that offers wine tastings, game drives, and stunning views of the surrounding landscape. It is perfect for a day trip or a relaxing getaway.
6. **Birds at Thirty ([Link](#))**
An aviary and bird sanctuary that is a must-visit for bird lovers. Located in Harare, Birds at 30 offers an opportunity to see a wide variety of bird species in a natural setting, along with educational tours that provide insights into the behavior and conservation of these beautiful creatures.
7. **Kelly Kuttings (Mac's Farm, [Link](#))**
Kelly Kuttings is a unique flower-picking destination in Harare. Visitors can enjoy a peaceful day in the fields, picking their own flowers from a wide variety of blooms. It's an ideal spot for nature lovers looking to take home a bouquet of fresh, hand-picked flowers.
8. **Wild is Life & ZEN ([Link](#))**
Located nearly 20 km from Harare, Wild is Life & ZEN is a sanctuary dedicated to wildlife conservation. Visitors can experience close encounters with rescued elephants, lions, giraffes, and more while learning about the sanctuary's conservation efforts. It is a truly immersive experience that supports a great cause.

For any general inquiries before or during the conference, kindly contact **Audrey Mutanga** (nee Chikurunhe) on a.mutanga@nhakainnovation.com.

