

# SEASONS: ZAMBIA

When to Go & What to Pack



PLEASE NOTE: Weather patterns are changing all the time and the below is a general guideline as well as personal comment based on our experience of travelling at these times of the year. It is by no means a weather guarantee.

## January to March

### HOT AND RAINY

This is Zambia's 'Emerald Season' – when most camps close and many roads in Zambia become impassable so there is not much happening in the Luangwa Valley and Lower Zambezi! All lodges around Victoria Falls will be open so do not think all of Zambia is a no-go zone.

The River Club is open. Remote Africa, Chiawa Camp and Old Mondoro are all closed. Most of The Bushcamp Company's camps are closed.

**JANUARY:** The peak of the wet season; it's the wettest month of the year. The Victoria Falls become more intense.

The Bushcamp Company – Kapamba & Zungulila close 6<sup>th</sup> January (extended season to all weather roads).

**FEBRUARY:** The rainfall is still comparatively high. Spray from the Falls rise high up making for incredible aerial photographs.

**MARCH:** The last month of the rainy season and many camps are now well underway with the rebuild for the season ahead. Victoria Falls pumping furiously due to high river levels.

### AVERAGE TEMPERATURE

	Victoria Falls	Lower Zambezi & Luangwa
Average Day	30°C / 86°F	31°C / 88°F
Average Night	18°C / 64°F	20°C / 68°F

### WHAT TO PACK

Our camps are closed. If visiting Kapamba and Zungulila prepare for hot days and rain showers so rain gear is needed. Otherwise we suggest you head to The River Club at the Victoria Falls, or Kenya, Tanzania, South Africa or Mozambique!

## April to June

### SAFARI CAMPS OPENING

As the rains stop and the ground dries out the camps are being rebuilt for the season ahead. Bush is very green and can be quite thick. Wildlife sightings are beginning to be very good. Days are wonderful and warm, and the evenings can be cool and sometimes cold.

**APRIL:** The rain subsides gradually; most camps open again. Water has reached the catchment area and the Vic Falls are at its highest flow. Chiawa Camp and Old Mondoro opens 24th April. | The Bushcamp Company – Kapamba opens 16th April and Zungulila opens 20th April.

**MAY:** Most of the rain has faded away leaving the landscape beautifully green. Water flows strongly at the Vic Falls, despite the start of dry season. The Bushcamp Company – Chindeni opens 5th May and Bilimungwe opens 15th May. Remote Africa Safaris – Tafika Camp opens 1st May and Chikoko Trails opens 25th May.

**JUNE:** The days are clear and warm, this is a lovely time to be on safari as it is extremely comfortable temperature especially for walking safaris and the grass has now also flattened and the bush opens offering better visibility. Water levels are lower at the Falls. Remote Africa Safaris – Mwaleshi Camp opens 15th June.

### AVERAGE TEMPERATURE

	Victoria Falls	Lower Zambezi & Luangwa
Average Day	27°C / 81°F	30°C / 86°F
Average Night	10°C / 50°F	14°C / 57°F

### WHAT TO PACK

Light clothing and layers that can peel on and off with ease. Prepare for warm days and cooler (cold) evenings. We suggest fleece, warm hats and gloves for morning and evening drives.

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## July to September

### PEAK SAFARI SEASON

Superb time for a Zambia, especially for the walking safari enthusiasts, as the temperatures is still moderate to make walking comfortable (especially in July and August). Game viewing is excellent. But as the camps operate such a limited season and this is the peak period spaces fill up well in advance so we suggest planning ahead to ensure the ultimate Zambian safari. It is the start of the peak season for white-water rafting and Devil's Pool activities at the Victoria Falls.

**JULY:** The coolest month of the year so perfect for walking safaris; days are warm but nights can be cold.

**AUGUST:** No rainfall at all whilst the temperature starts to rise and the bush opens up improving visibility. Start of the best time for white-water rafting at the Falls.

**SEPTEMBER:** A lovely and dry month with balmy evenings. At the Falls, Devil's Pool becomes available as the water is low enough.

### AVERAGE TEMPERATURE

	Victoria Falls	Lower Zambezi & Luangwa
Average Day	28°C / 82°F	31°C / 88°F
Average Night	9°C / 48°F	13°C / 55°F

### WHAT TO PACK

Light clothing and layers that can peel on and off with ease. Prepare for warm days and cooler evenings. We suggest fleece, warm hats and gloves for morning and evening drives, especially in July.

## October to December

### IF YOU CAN TAKE THE HEAT

Before the November rains the temperatures start to climb: the lower-lying valleys, Lower Zambezi and Luangwa Valley, can get very hot in October. But the wildlife sightings are superb as animals start to keep close to water sources. This is when the Lower Zambezi and Luangwa come into their own as they both have rivers as the central attractions and this becomes safari mania.

**OCTOBER:** The hottest month of the year with chances in some scattered rain showers. Excellent month for white-water rafting. Remote Africa Safaris – Chikoko Trails and Mwaleshi close 31<sup>st</sup> October.

**NOVEMBER:** An unpredictable month during the transition from dry to rainy season. Victoria Falls at the lowest, with white-water rafting excellent due to exposed rapids. We recommend viewing the Falls from Zimbabwe-side (easy transfer across the bridge) as the Zambian side is mostly dry. The Bushcamp Company – Kuyenda and Chamilandu close 1<sup>st</sup> November. Old Mondoro closes 14<sup>th</sup> November. Chiawa Camp closes 15<sup>th</sup> November.

**DECEMBER:** A wet, humid month as the rainy season has started; most camps close. Levels at the Falls start to rise. Excellent white-water rafting. The Bushcamp Company – Chindeni and Bilimungwe close 1<sup>st</sup> December, both Kapamba and Zungulila are open all December to 6<sup>th</sup> January.

### AVERAGE TEMPERATURE

	Victoria Falls	Lower Zambezi & Luangwa
Average Day	32°C / 90°F	36°C / 97°F
Average Night	18°C / 64°F	21°C / 70°F

### WHAT TO PACK

Light clothing and layers that can peel on and off with ease. October can be blistering hot, kikoi (scarves) that you can wet and drape around your neck are always a good idea. Rain jackets are essential for November and December with spare clothes as you are likely to get wet in a shower or two.