

LUSAKA

Some visitors pass rapidly through central Zambia, bypassing Lusaka's chaotic traffic and sprawling suburbs; others overnight here. It is not an unpleasant city, and many are surprised when they enjoy its tree-lined boulevards and vibrant street life.

In one of Lusaka's suburbs and a relatively short 30-minute drive from the airport, the small, owner-run **Eight Reedbeck Hotel** makes a good overnight stop. Each of the ten eclectically and individually furnished suites has a TV, fridge, safe, air con, free WiFi and an en-suite bathroom with a shower and a bath.

About 45 minutes' drive from the airport, the **Taj Pamodzi** is the best of the larger hotels. With 200 rooms, it has all the facilities that you'd expect, including two restaurants, one serving excellent curries. Guests have access to a fitness centre, spa, a gym and a swimming pool.

For a complete contrast, **Pioneer Camp** stands in its own small area of miombo woodland, about 20 minutes' from the airport. It's a very rustic option, catering for a range of travellers, including campers, who mix in the bustling bar and restaurant. Only some of the rooms here have an en-suite bathroom, and these are the ones that we recommend.

AROUND LUSAKA

For somewhere out of town, stay at **Chaminuka**, a bush lodge about 30 minutes' drive from the airport. This was the private home of one of Lusaka's most affluent citizens; now it's a spacious and stylish lodge. Its walls are adorned with an excellent collection of contemporary Zambian art (and a few hunting trophies). Chaminuka's stunning main lounge is atop a hill, with sliding glass doors giving a 360° view. Each of its 30 suites has a telephone, air con and doors opening onto lawns or a private balcony.

Inside the lodge you'll find a sunken TV lounge, dining room, sauna, small library and a snooker room. Outside there is a swimming pool with an adjacent terrace, a tennis court, sauna and Jacuzzi. Surrounding it all is a private nature reserve stretching 100km², within which 4WD game drives, walks, fishing sorties and horse riding are all available.



Many of Lusaka's roads are lined by jacaranda trees, which flower in September

Zambia: the Facts

- Currency:** The Zambian currency is the Zambian kwacha and at time of writing £1 = Kw7,965. Camps usually charge in UK£ or US\$; credit cards are accepted by most, although usually with a surcharge.
- Visas:** At the time of writing, most nationalities can buy a visa for Zambia on arrival, using UK pounds or US dollars cash. Ask us or check with your nearest embassy for the latest details.
- Health:** Zambia is a tropical country and several vaccines are sensible (typhoid, polio, hepatitis, tetanus and possibly meningitis C). Malaria is common: you must take anti-malarials. Always check the latest recommendations with your doctor or travel clinic.
- Language:** English is the official language and is spoken by most people.
- Food:** The standard of food at safari camps is usually very high. The local 'Mosi' beer is good, as are imported South African beers and wines.
- Climate:** For details of Zambia's climate, and the best times to visit, see the section on 'When to go' on pages 23-25.
- Children:** Many camps are unsuitable for children, who will always need full-time supervision when on safari. However, one or two now offer excellent family holidays, so please ask us for details.
- Luggage:** Most transfers between parks use light aircraft which results in a luggage restriction of 15kg per person, packed in squashable bags. Travellers require only comfortable, casual clothes and camps have efficient laundry services. If you have a lot more luggage, then discuss this with us before you book.



The Taj Pamodzi Hotel, in Lusaka, has an extensive gym with good masseurs, as well as a large swimming pool