

INFORMATION ABOUT ZIMBABWE FOR ECLIPSE VISITORS

[This is a supplement to my previous two 2001 eclipse documents – ZIMBABWE-THE PLACE FOR ASTRONOMY AND THE NEXT TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE and – ZIMBABWE-A GREAT PLACE FOR THE NEXT TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE. Shortly I will combine them into one document.]

INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON THE WEB ABOUT ZIMBABWE There is a vast amount – here are some suggested sources to start you off....

<http://www.budgettravel.com/zimbabwe.html> 18 pages of weblinks on (almost) everything you want to know, including weather, maps, accommodation, travel (air, bus, train, car rental), travel agents, health, tourist attractions, etc etc.

<http://www.lonelyplanet.comdest/afr/zim.htm> an informative homepage and lots of links to all aspects of visiting Zimbabwe.

<http://travel.yahoo.com/t/Africa/Zimbabwe/> again a starting point to separate pages on the country, history & culture, attractions, transport, and more.

http://www.sas.upenn.edu/African_Studies/Country_Specific/Zimbabwe.html is another rather eclectic collection of useful and interesting links.

TRAVEL ADVICE The following websites provide fairly up-to-date comprehensive travel information:

<http://travel.state.gov/zimbabwe.html> prepared by the US State Department Bureau of Consular Affairs.

<http://www.fco.gov.uk/travel> and then select ZIMBABWE from the menu of countries. prepared by the UK government Foreign and Commonwealth Office

NEWS ABOUT ZIMBABWE ON THE WEB Again there are a large number of places you could look – here are some starting points.

<http://www.africaonline.co.zw> for news and links to other sources: includes a link to precautions against MALARIA .

<http://www.1freepace.com/beetee/index.html> contains 10 to 20 news items every day about events in Zimbabwe, collected from various sources and updated daily.

<http://www.zimbabwepost.com> for news about Zimbabwe, links to all major Zimbabwe newspapers, CNN, BBC and more

HEALTH ADVICE General advice has been given earlier about avoiding bilharzia, malaria, STD and HIV/AIDS. Although being cool, June is not a high-risk time for malaria, the Zambezi valley is classified as malarial all year round. As well as

prophylactics it is advisable to wear long-sleeved shirts and long trousers in the evenings, and apply an insect repellent.

The *Medical Air Rescue Service* in Harare provides country-wide emergency cover – see <http://www.mars.co.zw>.

WEATHER In addition to weather information given by www.budgettravel.com (see above) the Zimbabwe Department of Meteorological Services has a website at <http://weather.utande.co.zw/Home/index.htm> and can be reached by email at zimmeteo@weather.utande.co.zw or info@weather.utande.co.zw. Various websites around the world post satellite images of the cloud patterns over Zimbabwe.

MAPS www.budgettravel.com has an extensive list. I am trying to find a website and/or email contact for the Department of the Surveyor-General which is the official Zimbabwe mapping agency, although there are also maps produced by a number of commercial publishers, available from book shops.

TOURISM The official agency is the Zimbabwe Tourism Authority and (using www.google.com) there seem to be a number of different websites for ZTA. Try <http://www.icon.co.zw/zta> (which contains a most helpful INFORMATION link, including health) www.tourismzimbabwe.co.zw or www.zimtravel.com (which has a very extensive Tourism Directory link. Send emails to: mktg@ztazim.org

ECLIPSE TOURS In addition to the overseas safari and travel companies offering package tours to eclipse sites in Zimbabwe, the following local companies have advertised **one-day trips** to the zone of totality.

Go2Africa – an African safari company – is offering day-trips from Harare to three different viewing sites: in the Mavuradonha Wilderness, on a private farm in the Muzarabani District and at Nyamapanda. See http://www.go2arica.com/eclipse_2001/eclipse-tour2.asp or email: info@go2africa.com

UTc (United Touring Company) advertises two day-trips from Harare, one to Mavuradonha and one to Nyamapanda. See http://www.utc.co.zw/html/eclipse_2001.html or email: utczim@utc.co.zw

ADDITIONS to the list of tours offered to viewing sites in Zimbabwe

AFRICAN SPECIAL TOURS GmbH <http://www.ast-reisen.de/sofinster.htm> are taking visitors to Matusadonna. The website is in German.

AFRIZIM <http://www.afrizim.com/eclipse.htm> have four options, the fourth (from Cerruti Lodges on the shore of Lake Kariba) takes visitors by bus into the Mana Pools area. Email: afrizim@mweb.co.za

SPOOR ADVENTURES <http://www.spooradv.com/eclipse.html> have a 24 day safari starting from Johannesburg which includes two nights camping in the vicinity of Mount Darwin for the eclipse. Email: spoor@hixnet.co.za

WILD AFRICA SAFARIS http://wildafricasafari.com/special_eclipse.html have two eclipse destinations in Zimbabwe: one tour visits the Carew tented village in the Mavuradonha Wilderness area, while the second goes to a fixed camp in Mana Pools. Email: africa@wildafricasafari.com

ZEGRAHM & ECO EXPEDITIONS <http://www.zeco.com/destinations/zimbabwe.htm> advertize a 12-day tour with an eclipse party “on the banks of the mighty Zambezi river” at Ruckomechi. Email: zoe@zeco.com

ECLIPSE VIEWERS Visitors should bring their own approved eclipse viewers with them (unless they are being supplied by the tour operator). The likely availability from shops in Zimbabwe is completely unknown at the time of writing.

FINALLY If you have any comments or questions about this information sheet, please contact me at: podmore@science.uz.ac.zw

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