

AEAA Excursion Composition

History of Livingstone Town

Established in 1904, Livingstone is significant to the history of colonial rule in Africa and its eventual independence. Several buildings from this bygone era still exist and a concerted effort is in place to maintain these beautiful structures. In 1935, the capital was moved to the more central Lusaka. The once bustling town of Livingstone fell into disrepair but has, in the last decade, risen again to be the hub of tourism and industry that it once was. Today, Livingstone has seen a new surge of life. With the advent of tourism and its accompanying infrastructure, the town is once again bright and cheerful yet, has been able to keep its laid back, African way of life. Various manufacturing companies from timber mills and textiles to farming and food processing have returned with their associated employment. There is a real sense of community with everyone working together for the better good. Livingstone town is tourist capital of Zambia.

How the Victoria Falls came to be

Think back, way back, now go back in just a little bit further ... to a time before bungee, before dinosaurs and even before Coca-cola had come to Zambia (I know it's hard to imagine!). About 200 million years ago, the super continent that was once the Earth's landmass began to separate. Cracks appeared throughout the Earth's crust which allowed molten lava to flow towards the surface and cool into soft loose-joined basalt. The Batoka Gorge was formed as the Zambezi slowly, slowly, ever so slowly, over millions of years, carved its way through this basalt. Amazing how persistent water can be! Perhaps the most notable point in history was the 'discovery' of the mighty waterfall. As we all know, the falls had been there for millions of years, but David Livingstone was the first white man to view what the locals call 'Mosi-oa-Tunya' (The Smoke That Thunders). The experience moved him so much that he famously quoted in his journal 'on sights as beautiful as this, angels in their flight must have gazed', and named them after his reigning monarch. So today, we all know this great waterfall as The Victoria Falls.

Combo 1	Combo 2	Combo 3
<p>National Park</p> <p>The Mosi-oa-Tunya National Park is situated along the upper Zambezi River. It includes the Victoria Falls and stretches for about 12 kilometres up the Zambezi River above the Falls. It is only 66 square kilometres, but there are plans to extend the Park further up river. Because the Park is small, it affords a wonderfully relaxing drive alongside the river for much of the circular route, and the wide variety of species can be easily seen. The Park provides a home for numerous antelope species, elephants, zebra, giraffe, warthog, and a variety of birds and smaller animals. Elephants cross the Zambezi and freely walk through the Park and the surrounding area.</p>	<p>Victoria Falls</p> <p>Victoria Falls presents a spectacular sight of awe-inspiring beauty and grandeur on the Zambezi River, forming the border between Zambia and Zimbabwe. It was described by the Kololo tribe living in the area in the 1800's as 'Mosi-oa-Tunya' – 'The Smoke that Thunders'. In more modern terms Victoria Falls is known as the greatest curtain of falling water in the world.</p>	<p>Reptile farm</p> <p>This is a must if you are in the Livingstone area, especially for some awesome pictures! The park is stocked with problem crocodiles (ie. have eaten people and/or livestock) and various poisonous and non-poisonous snakes. Saturday and Sunday afternoon is feeding time where it becomes quite obvious why these beasts rule the river! Here, guests can view some of Livingstone's most notorious man-eating crocodiles as well as a fascinating collection of Zambia's most dangerous and venomous snakes</p>
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