



# Gauteng to Zimbabwe

## Including the Eastern Highlands

Self-Drive Guided Road Trips hosted by Platteland Tours  
Travel in your own vehicle

**Duration:** 13 Days/12 Nights      **Dates:** 11<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2027      Zim # 1  
Sunday to Friday

**Depart:** Total Petroport Panorama West      **Arrive:** Total Petroport Panorama East  
On N1 North of Pretoria      On N1 North of Pretoria

**Departure time:** 08:00 (Route briefing and welcome at **07:30**)

**Price:** R26500 per person      **Distance:** 2900+ km  
R3000 pp Single supplement      About 350 km on gravel roads

**Last Updated:** 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2026

### Tour Details:

Go and visit our beautiful northern neighbouring country (with the focus on the spectacular Eastern Highlands) and discover interesting tourist spots, breath taking landscapes, beautiful nature, many rivers, excellent accommodation (some 'old Rhodesian' style!), friendly people, good food, stunning fauna and flora, hidden gems and interesting back roads.

You'll travel in your own vehicle mainly on tar roads, some gravel roads (**NO** 4x4 needed) & good jeep tracks.

We'll stop en route for sightseeing, snacks, road stalls, photographic opportunities, toilets, coffee/tea, tourist destinations and less familiar places. Enjoy the drive and ride in your own vehicle. Learn about the history, agriculture, tribes and challenges of Zimbabwe. Drink Mazoe Orange Crush! This is the ideal opportunity to experience Zimbabwe at a negotiated price **not** to be repeated. (Unfortunately, Zimbabwe is an expensive country for tourists).

It is a safe-to-drive & holiday country, with friendly and welcoming people. We'll take you to many places you did not know exist. Come and discover beautiful Zimbabwe.

Come and enjoy and experience it with us at an affordable price, staying at good, beautiful, historic and interesting venues and go home with lots of pictures and many good memories. Visit our Facebook Page and see many pictures of previous tours: <https://www.facebook.com/plattelandtours>

At night and en route you'll have the opportunity to mix, mingle and have fun with the other people on the trip. It is an informal and casual tour, though thoroughly planned and organised.

**Departure & Return Location:** Depart from Total Petroport Panorama West, on the N1, just North of Pretoria. (There is a restaurant built over the highway). The Road Trip will end at the same venue, late afternoon on the last day, or **you can join or leave** the group at a suitable place en route closer for you to home. Just inform us accordingly on the Booking Form.

**Tour price includes:** Accommodation for 12 nights (B&B), three dinners (first & last evening plus one more), a tour leader with his own vehicle, all administration and leading of the tour (including booking of accommodation, meals & excursions, etc.), high frequency two-way radio per vehicle to use during the tour, LOTS of relevant info, lots of photos to take home, daily briefings of the tour, limited vehicle breakdown support, group safety, peace of mind, new friends and new routes.

**Tour price note\*:** All business transactions in Zimbabwe are done in USA dollars. The tour price was calculated when the exchange rate was R18.36 to the US\$.

We reserve the right to increase the tour price in the case where the exchange rate becomes too high. You will be informed accordingly and have the choice to continue with the tour or cancel.

**Tour price excludes:** Other meals on tour, fuel for vehicle, Comprehensive Travel Insurance, gratuities, entry fees to venues or places, drinks, breakdown recovery costs and personal expenses.

**Accommodation:** We stay overnight in good lodges and hotels. Only two persons per room – all with en suite bathroom facilities. Some of the venues where we stay will mesmerize you!

**Dinner:** Four dinners are included in the tour package. All other meals are **optional**, but budget for about R400+ pp/dinner. (Zimbabwe is expensive...)

**Lunch:** Enjoy your own snacks en route. We don't stop for official lunch breaks.

**Bookings:** Bookings have opened and will close once all the available places are booked. A completed Booking Form, with the Proof of Payment (PoP) for the deposit, must be send to us at [info@plattelandtours.co.za](mailto:info@plattelandtours.co.za) and it will secure your place on this Road Trip. Your booking will be confirmed in writing.

**Deposit:** At least 25% of the tour price with the booking, another 25% three (3) months before departure date and the outstanding balance by latest 6 weeks before departure date. Book **NOW**.

If booked within the 3 months period prior to departure of the Road Trip, 50% deposit is required. If booked within the 6 weeks period prior to departure of the Road Trip, full payment is needed.

**Take on tour (suggested):** Your vehicle, your family & friends, pocket money (cash in US Dollars), a smile and goodwill. Some other extras should include: Sneakers (walking shoes), a hat, binoculars, toilet paper, wet wipes and eateries in your car, drinking water, camera, torch, binoculars and sunglasses.

**Vehicle:** Any 4 x 2 or SUV or 4 x 4 or Sedan vehicle **with high ground clearance**, for when traveling on the gravel roads, is suitable for the tour. Low profile tyres are not recommended. We do not speed whilst on tour, but we expect all vehicles to travel at the pace set by the tour leader. No trailers allowed.

Invite friends and family to travel with you in your vehicle and share the travel costs. We all know that fuel has become very expensive.

**Who should go on this tour:** People who love travelling, enjoy back roads, singles, couples, those who have never been to Zimbabwe and those who'd like to go again; **Bird watchers**, people who would like to enjoy the natural beauty and friendliness of the local people, people who are unfamiliar with driving at foreign places, people who'd prefer to travel with other people in a safe environment; people who don't like getting lost; those who'd like to be well informed as they drive along; those who like driving their own cars; people who like sharing their lives, interest, knowledge, fun and care with others. People who enjoy life at an easy pace.

**Who should NOT go on this tour:** Moaners, groaners, whiners, speedsters, hooligans, boozers, people who can't drive on a gravel road, etc. and people talking about their illnesses, medicines and operations they've had!

**VHF Radio:** We provide each vehicle with a high-quality two-way radio for the duration of the tour in order to communicate with everyone. It charges on the vehicle's cigarette lighter. (Please make sure your vehicle's cigarette lighter is working **before** the tour starts).

**Money:** A credit or debit card, plus some cash, will be needed. You can use only US Dollars notes in Zimbabwe. Their currency is a Zig but it is not much used.

**Cell phones:** You can purchase a temporary Zimbabwe SIM card as we enter the country. Though Wi-Fi is available at all the places where we stay.

**Fuel:** We'll stop regularly to fill up. RSA Petro cards and Garage cards are **NOT** accepted in Zimbabwe, but **Credit & Debit cards can be used** to purchase fuel at most garages. Rather purchase cash.

**Clothing:** Casual – warm during the day and it can get fairly cold at night.

**Excursions:** Entry fees are not included in the tour price. You can book and pay an excursion on the day of arrival at the venue or earlier if so informed.

**What you DO need:** (Before departure)

- A vehicle in a good condition (check the tyres, spare wheel & tools to replace a flat tyre)
- A valid passport – with at least six months before expiry date & three blank pages when entering Zimbabwe
- No Visa is needed if you are a RSA citizen
- Your vehicle's documents to be able to cross international borders
- Travel insurance – we can refer you to someone to help with it
- A credit or debit card, as well as some cash (pocket money)
- All your personal medicines
- Respect for your neighbouring country
- Energy to drive long distances – it is after all a Road Trip
- A big smile

**Note:** We'll be crossing international borders on only two occasions during this trip. You'll need a bit of patience!

**What to expect:** An orderly and well-planned Road Trip, with a few surprises en route. Good food, a very beautiful country, interesting roads and routes, tar and gravel roads, some mountain passes in the East of the country and many very small towns and villages, cute shops and road stalls, bushveld, interesting landscapes, friendly people and something new...

**Some of the places to be visited on tour:** Matobo Hills (where Cecil John Rhodes' grave is), Bulawayo, Beitbridge, Antelope Park, Gweru, the capital city of Harare, a tobacco auction, Nyanga, the Rhodes Museum, various waterfalls, World's View, Vumba, Birchenough Bridge, Great Zimbabwe National Monument and much more....

**What will you gain by going on this tour?** You'll return with a lot of relevant and interesting information about Zimbabwe. You'll be enriched by discovering eye-opening areas and districts with exceptional beautiful nature. It is a country much better than portrayed in daily news and on TV. Go and see and experience it yourself.

We are looking forward to welcoming you on this Road Trip.



Johan Badenhorst

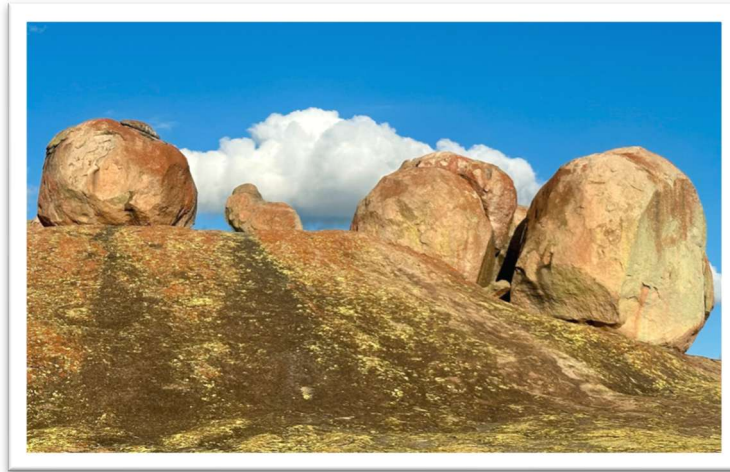
### **Platteland Tours**

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Sunday to Friday

### Itinerary:

**Day # 1**      **Total Panorama on the N1 – Pretoria to Mazunga**      **509 km**  
**Sunday**

Welcome, briefing & handing out 2-way radios before departing on the N1 via Polokwane, Louis Trichardt & Musina, crossing the Limpopo River via Beitbridge border post to Mazunga in Zimbabwe.

Leaving Pretoria, you travel north along the N1 toward the Beitbridge Border Post, with the road opening up into Limpopo's warm bushveld—long, straight stretches lined with mopane trees and wide, open skies. The drive is easy and flowing, with a sense of heading deeper into Africa.

After crossing into Zimbabwe, the landscape becomes drier and more rugged. From Beitbridge, the route heads out into quiet countryside toward the lodge we will be visiting.



**N1 on our way to Zimbabwe Border Post**

**Day # 2**  
**Monday**

**Mazunga to Bulawayo**

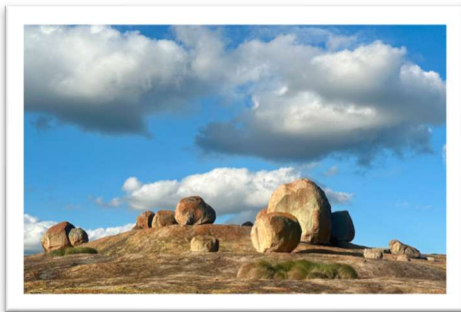
**353 km**

On Day # 2 we travel via the towns of West Nicholson and Gwanda to the second biggest town in Zimbabwe, Bulawayo. It is situated in the Matabeleland North province.

Today you'll experience a beautiful natural phenomenon in this country – the Matobo Hills. The rock formations, granite rocks and beautiful colour schemes on the rocks are fascinating. Learn more about the bushman as well. It is also situated within a National game park – hence the possibility to see game does exist. This is also the venue where Cecil John Rhodes was buried.

We visit the inner city of Bulawayo, paying a visit to the Railway Museum and a handcraft centre for the handicapped. (Safe parking has been arranged).

We dine at the venue where we overnight.



**Matobo Hills**



**Handcraft on display**

**Day # 3**  
**Tuesday**

**Bulawayo to Gweru**

**169 km**

The road will take us today to the Antelope Park outside the town of Gweru in the Midlands province. This venue has played a very important role on the conservation of animals during the time of unrest in Zimbabwe. One can interact with elephants and lions.

Spend the afternoon between the animals. We dine at the venue where we overnight – in the bushveld.



**Antelope Park**



**Cosy accommodation**

**Day # 4**      **Gweru to Harare**

**297 km**

**Wednesday**

This day will take you through the midlands whilst observing agricultural practices and dairy farms. We also drive pass the military museum in Gweru before arriving in the capital of Zimbabwe, the biggest city in the country, Harare.

There will be time for shopping in Harare, whilst we see some well-known landmarks in town, including the House of Zimbabwe, the statue of a lady who played a leading supporting role during the Rhodesian war, the international cricket field and the CBD (including the 'NG Kerk' in the middle of the city).

Enjoy a dinner where we overnight.



**'Lekker' Jeep track**



**CBD of Harare**

**Day # 5**      **Harare to Nyanga**

**244 km**

**Thursday**

Zimbabwe is one of the biggest tobacco producers in the world. We'll visit the biggest auction floor for tobacco in the world! (When in season). This is an interesting experience one can only experience at this venue.

Then onwards to the East of the country – the natural beautiful part of the country. Drive via Marondera & Rusape into the Mashonaland East province to arrive in the hilly Highlands in Manicaland province.

We'll stop en route at interesting venues with beautiful views. Dinner is available at our overnight venue where we stay for three nights.



**Tobacco warehouse**



**Tobacco ready to be auctioned**

**Day # 6**  
**Friday**

**Nyanga to Nyanga – circular route**

**84 km**

After breakfast we travel to World’s View. From here one can see forever in the distance. En route we stop at an “Inn with a story” before stopping at a local market at the town of Nyanga.

One of the most beautiful and well know waterfalls, within a National Park, is also visited.

Then onwards to the Rhodes Museum whilst traversing scenic and panoramic views of the area before returning back to our hotel – with spectacular views AND good sporting facilities for the fit-minded.



**Beautiful gardens**



**Lakes and dams**



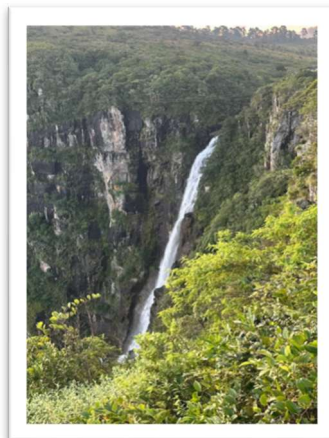
**Nyangombe Falls**

**Day # 7**  
**Saturday**

**Nyanga to Nyanga – circular route**

**96 km**

One of the highest waterfalls (the Mutarazi Falls) in Africa is within this region. Come and visit it with us. Just driving there is an experience, when traveling through forests and natural bush, with birds galore.



**Mutarazi Falls**

At this same venue one can do a Sky Walk and/or a Zip line excursion and see the falls from a hawk eye's view. Something NOT to be missed. Click on this link to read about it and to see pictures: [www.farandwide.co.zw](http://www.farandwide.co.zw)

We stop at a trout farm for snacks and drinks (and a taste of trout) en route back to the hotel for dinner.

**Day # 8**      **Nyanga to Bvumba**  
**Sunday**

**127km**

The road takes us out of the valley after breakfast, via the Christmas Pass en route to the third biggest town in Zimbabwe, Mutare.

There will be time for shopping at the local Pick 'n Pay before proceeding into the Vumba district. Again, you'll be driving in a beautiful region, this time close to the Mozambique border, including a visit to The Prince of Wales' lookout point.

The historical hotel (going back to the Rhodesia days), where we stay for two consecutive nights, offers a colonial ambience with lots of surprises.

This is another very special venue where we overnight with a bar the size of a small hall!



**Welcome in Mutare**



**Left, or Right?**

**Day # 9**      **Bvumba to Bvumba**  
**Monday**

**25 km**

This could be a lazy day but there is still lots to be seen and done.

A visit to a nearby castle, with an intrigue history, is a must.

The hotel offers a game park where self-drive trips can be undertaken. One can help with the feeding of the game late afternoon and engage with them.

Dinner is available at this venue & beware of the curious monkeys!



**Day # 10**  
**Tuesday**

**Bvumba to Masvingo district**

**328 km**

Leaving the Highlands behind, one travels in a Southerly direction to cross the Birchenough Bridge. A place well worth a stop to take pictures.

Then onwards to Lake Mutirikwi (previously Lake Kyle), driving over the 66-meter-high dam wall.

You'll overnight close to the lake and enjoy dinner at the venue.



**The Bridge**



**Lake Mutirikwi Wall**

**Day # 11**  
**Wednesday**

**Masvingo district to Beitbridge district**

**307km**

Today we take a short drive & go back in history when visiting the Great Zimbabwe National Monument (Previously called the Zimbabwe Ruins). Here one has to do a bit of walking to visit all the places.

This visit is like walking back into history, visiting the old but impressive rock-constructions. One can only imagine how the people lived in those times.



**Great Zimbabwe Monument**

The journey from Masvingo to Nottingham Estate is a relaxed drive through southern Zimbabwe's warm lowveld. Heading south toward Beitbridge, the road stretches through open savannah, scattered rural villages, and dry bushveld landscapes.

As you near the Beitbridge region, just before reaching the border town, you turn off toward Nottingham Estate — a working citrus farm tucked into the surrounding bushveld. The scenery becomes more cultivated, with neat rows of citrus orchards contrasting against the natural landscape.

The drive is easy and unhurried, offering a glimpse of authentic rural Zimbabwe, before arriving at the tranquil, farm-style setting of Nottingham Estate — a peaceful stopover perfectly positioned just before the Beitbridge crossing.

We overnight at this beautiful venue for two nights. Both dinners are included in the tour price.

**Day # 12**      **Nottingham Estate (Beitbridge district)**  
**Thursday**

**54 km**

After breakfast we'll enjoy a boat cruise (optional) on the local lake with antelope, hippos and crocodiles to be seen.

Dinner is to be enjoyed at a venue overlooking the Elephant amphitheatre – where one can observe the elephants from a short distance, enjoying citrus produce.

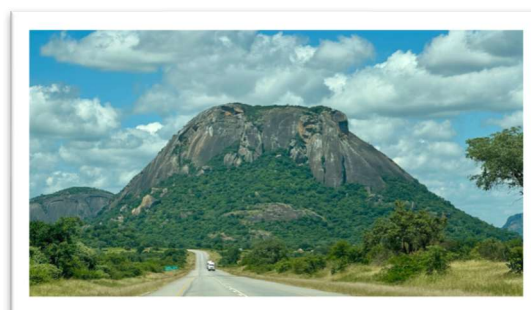


**Nottingham Estate**

**Day # 13**      **Beitbridge district to Pretoria**  
**Friday**

**512 km**

Today we cross the border back into South Africa, heading home via the N1, enjoying the South African bushveld before arriving at our initial departure point, before saying good bye to all.



**N1 main road home**

**GENERAL -**

Please note that we'll stop at many more places, not mentioned in the above itinerary. On a Road Trip the leader driver can fit in anything interesting at any time....

**Note:** Travellers can leave the group on the final day at any place en route to turn off for home.



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### 13-day Road Trip

#### Map:

**Note:** The Road Trip could & will deviate from the map. I.e.: Due to visits to places not mentioned in the itinerary.



Distance: 2900+ km