

51st International Commission on
the History of Geological Sciences
(INHIGEO) Symposium

Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe 2-15 September 2026



International Commission on the History of Geological Sciences (INHIGEO)
University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg
Geological Society of Zimbabwe

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Zimbabwe
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2026

Arriving in Johannesburg

We are delighted to welcome you to Johannesburg, South Africa, for our INHIGEO pre-conference field trip! We hope you will enjoy discovering this vibrant and fascinating city, its people, history and culture.

While Johannesburg is a large city and, like many cities around the world, it is important to take sensible precautions, you will be well looked after throughout the field trip. We will travel together with experienced drivers and guides, as well as local residents who know the city well.

To help you feel comfortable, confident and prepared during your stay, we have put together a few practical tips and useful information on currency, transport, communication and general safety.

Travel Requirements:

Please check the latest visa and entry requirements for South Africa before travelling, as these vary depending on your nationality and may change. For up-to-date information, please visit:

www.southafricainfo.co.za/plan-your-trip/visa-requirements

Transport from the airport:

For your safety and peace of mind, **please do not accept or search for transport from taxi touts at the airport**. We strongly recommend arranging your airport transfer before you leave home with one of the trusted drivers listed below, whom we use regularly and can confidently recommend. We will send these numbers to you on the whatsapp group.

Your driver will meet you as you exit the arrivals gate. True and Derrick can be contacted directly via WhatsApp to arrange your collection before you travel.

True Mlazi - Mlalazi Courtesy Transfers

+27 83 885 8005

Derrick Mogano- Dae Night Shuttles

+27 83 438 9846

or contact

Sunnyside Park Hotel Airport Shuttle

email: info@hijoburgssph.co.za

+27 (11) 640 0400 (Land Line)

Sunnyside Park Hotel Address:

32 Princess of Wales Terrace, Parktown, Johannesburg

Currency South Africa:

For airport transfers you will need to pay in South African Rand (ZAR). You may also wish to carry some cash for tipping and smaller purchases. ATMs are widely available at the airport and throughout Johannesburg should you need additional cash for dining or shopping. Credit and debit cards are accepted at most establishments, although drivers will require cash payment. US Dollars (USD) are not used in South Africa.

WiFi and SIM cards:

The Sunnyside Park Hotel offers complimentary Wi-Fi for guests. If you would prefer a local SIM card, MTN and Vodacom have outlets in the International Arrivals area at O.R. Tambo International Airport, **open daily from 06:00 to 22:00**. Prepaid SIM cards and data packages are available, and you will need your **passport and proof of accommodation to register the SIM card**. If your phone supports eSIM, you may also wish to arrange one before travelling.

Electricity & Adapters

South Africa uses 230V electricity and Type D and Type N three-pin plugs. International visitors may need a travel adaptor to charge phones, laptops and other devices. **We recommend bringing an adaptor suitable for South African outlets.**

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General Safety & Personal Security

Johannesburg is a dynamic and culturally rich city, but it also has higher crime rates than many other destinations. As part of a group tour, you will always be safe. Still, we recommend staying alert, especially in busy urban areas, and following our tour leaders' guidance. Do not walk alone after dark and do not display valuables such as jewellery, cash, or expensive electronics in public.

Health & Medical Preparedness

Ensure you have comprehensive travel insurance covering medical treatment and emergency situations. Check recommended vaccinations before travel, and carry any routine medications with you. Most medications are available here.

Johannesburg has excellent clinics and hospitals with world class treatment so you will be well cared for in case of an emergency

Johannesburg is not in a malaria zone. South Africa may require proof of yellow fever vaccination if you're arriving from a risk country - confirm this before departure.

Food and water

Johannesburg's tap water is clean and safe to drink. The city can occasionally experience water and power outages; however, the Sunnyside Park Hotel has filtered borehole water and a back-up generator to provide reassurance and continuity during any interruptions.

South Africa has an excellent standard of fresh produce, food and dining.

Tipping

Tipping is customary and appreciated in South Africa, with 10–15% generally considered appropriate for good service. As all meals are included in our programme, there is no need to tip at group meals. However, delegates may wish to show their appreciation to the Sunnyside Park Hotel staff and our bus driver for their service during the trip.

Weather in September

September is early spring in Johannesburg, with generally mild, sunny and pleasant weather. Daytime temperatures are typically around 20–24°C, while mornings and evenings can be cooler, around 10–15°C. There may be occasional short afternoon showers, and temperatures can change quickly, so please bring a warm jacket or fleece for cooler mornings, evenings and the occasional cold snap.

Packing Recommendations for Johannesburg

Pack light layers for warm days and cooler mornings/evenings; comfortable walking shoes; sun protection – sunscreen, sunglasses and a hat; swimming costume; light rain jacket or compact umbrella; personal medication and toiletries.



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What to do in Johannesburg before we meet

If you are arriving early, the Sunnyside has a lovely heated pool and steam room if you need to rest for the day before we meet in the evening.

If want to explore a bit of the city, we suggest visiting sites that will **we not see** on our field trip. We suggest visiting:



Constitution Hill, Johannesburg

<https://www.constitutionhill.org.za>

Constitution Hill is a significant landmark in Johannesburg and a powerful reminder of South Africa's journey from apartheid to democracy. This former prison complex once held political figures including Mahatma Gandhi, Nelson Mandela and Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, and is now home to the Constitutional Court of South Africa. Today, its remarkable history is brought to life through exhibitions, contemporary art and vibrant on-site dining. Just 1.7 km from the Sunnyside Park Hotel, the secure precinct offers visitors a memorable and engaging Johannesburg experience, with on-site security, CCTV and secure parking. You can expend to spend 2-3 hours here. Tours are available on site.

Rosebank - Shops, African Market, Restaurants. Easy to walk around safely should you just want to shop and eat some good food.

The Apartheid Museum

<https://www.apartheidmuseum.org>

The Apartheid Museum is a landmark Johannesburg attraction, located approximately 5 km south of the city centre. Opened in 2001, it offers a powerful and moving journey through South Africa's apartheid era, from its rise to the country's transition to democracy. Through compelling exhibitions, film, photography and artefacts, the museum brings this important history to life and offers visitors a deeper understanding of South Africa's past and its journey towards reconciliation and freedom.



The Wilds

<https://www.inyourpocket.com/southafrica/johannesburg/venues/the-wilds>

Just a short distance from the Sunnyside Park Hotel, The Wilds is one of Johannesburg's oldest and most beautiful parks. This 40-acre heritage site, established in the 1920s, offers peaceful walking trails through indigenous gardens, historic stonework, sculptures and spectacular views across the city. It is a wonderful opportunity to experience a greener, quieter side of Johannesburg.

You can arrange transport to any of the above sites directly with The Sunnyside Park Hotel's transport desk or by using Uber.

Sunnyside Park Transport desk

email: info@hijoburgssph.co.za

+27 (11) 640 0400

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Johannesburg Field Trip Itinerary

Wednesday 2nd September - WELCOME

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| 5:30 PM | - Depart by bus from Sunnyside Park Hotel |
| Welcome Dinner | - La Cucina del Ciro, Parktown North |

Thursday 3rd September - JOHANNESBURG CITY OF GOLD

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| 8:15 AM - 8:30 AM | - Depart by bus from Sunnyside Park Hotel |
| Morning: | - Gold Reef City, 14 Shaft of Crown Mines
- Ferreira's Stope in City Centre
- Main Street Mining history |
| Lunch: | - Lunch at Rand Club City Centre
- Tour of Rand Club |
| Afternoon: | - Worker's Museum Newtown
- Museum Africa Newtown |
| Evening: | - Opening function at Northwards
- Tour of Northwards
- Talk by David Russo-early mining history of Johannesburg and Witwatersrand Goldfields |



Friday 4th September - HUMAN ORIGINS AND ARCHAEOLOGY

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| 8:15 AM - 8:30 AM | - Depart by bus from Sunnyside Park Hotel |
| Morning: | - Wits University
- Guided Tour of Origins centre with Dr Tammy Hodgskiss
- Ochre pigment workshop |
| Lunch: | - Lunch at Origins Curios Cafe |
| Afternoon: | - Bongani Nkosi's casting studio & The Phillip V. Tobias Hominid Vault
- Melville Koppies Iron Age Iron smelter
- Guided walk |
| Evening: | - Straight to Pablo House sunset view
- Dinner at Pablo Dos Manos |

Saturday 5th September - THE CRADLE OF HUMANKIND

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| 8:15 AM - 8:30 AM | - Depart by bus from Sunnyside Park Hotel |
| Morning: | - Sterkfontein Caves and Museum |
| Lunch: | - Lunch at Cradle Heritage Hotel restaurant |
| Afternoon | - Malapa Museum & Human Origins Tour in Safari vehicles |
| Evening | - Talk by Professor Hassina Mouri, President of IUGS
- End of field trip dinner at the bar at Sunnyside Park hotel |

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Arriving in Zimbabwe

We are delighted to welcome you to Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, for our conference and field trips. In addition to the conference programme at Victoria Falls, we will explore the fascinating history, geology and culture of Zimbabwe through field trips to Bulawayo and Great Zimbabwe.

We are pleased to be working with our local partner, Africa Addict, who will help us discover these remarkable places and ensure that our time in Zimbabwe is both enjoyable and memorable.

Travel Requirements:

We are sure that all delegates have applied for and received their multiple entry visa to Zimbabwe visas by now. Just a reminder that visa requirements vary depending on your nationality, and you should ensure that your visa is valid for the duration of your stay.

See: <https://zimbabwetourism.net/visas-and-immigration/>

To ensure a smoother and quicker journey through immigration, we recommend completing your form in advance by going to <https://evisa.gov.zw/app/index.html> or by scanning the QR code provided here.

Zimbabwe - Zambia Day Trip - Visa Reminder

Since we are going from Zimbabwe into Zambia and back into Zimbabwe on the same day, please ensure that your visa allows re-entry into Zimbabwe. A double-entry visa or KAZA UNIVISA is required for travellers who need a visa. Please check your visa before travelling and speak to our team if you are unsure.



Currency Zimbabwe:

The currency used in Zimbabwe is the Zimbabwe Gold (ZiG), although US Dollars (USD) are widely accepted and are often the easiest currency for visitors to use. Carry small-denomination US Dollar notes for tips, transfers and smaller purchases. Credit and debit cards are accepted at many hotels, restaurants and larger establishments, but cash is useful when travelling outside the main tourist areas. ATMs availability and functionality can vary.

WiFi and SIM cards:

Wi-Fi is available at most hotels and lodges in Victoria Falls. If you would like a local SIM card, Econet and NetOne have outlets at Victoria Falls Airport, where SIM cards and data packages can be purchased on arrival. NetOne also offers a Tourist SIM designed specifically for international visitors. Airport shop opening hours can vary, so if you arrive late, a SIM can also be purchased in Victoria Falls town.

Electricity & Adapters

Zimbabwe uses 230V electricity and British-style Type G three-pin plugs. International visitors may need a travel adaptor to charge phones, laptops and other devices. We recommend bringing a suitable adaptor with you.

General Safety & Personal Security

Victoria Falls consistently ranks as one of Africa's safest tourist destinations. The town is small, walkable, and has a strong tourism police presence. Violent crime against tourists is rare, and most visitors experience no safety issues whatsoever. Keep valuables secure, avoid displaying expensive

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jewellery or electronics, and do not walk alone after dark. During excursions, please stay with the group and follow the advice of your guides.

Health & Medical Preparedness

Malaria is present in parts of Zimbabwe, although the risk is generally lower during the dry season. Whether to take preventative anti-malarial medication is a personal decision and should be discussed with your doctor or travel clinic before travelling.

Whatever you decide, it is sensible to avoid mosquito bites: use insect repellent, wear long sleeves and trousers when practical, and keep accommodation doors and windows closed or screened. Mosquitoes that transmit malaria are most active from dusk onwards, so take extra care in the evenings.

If you develop a fever during or after your trip, seek medical advice promptly and mention that you have travelled to Zimbabwe.

Drinking Water in Victoria Falls

Clean, purified drinking water is readily available in Victoria Falls. **EcoDrop** refill stations are located throughout the town, including at the airport. Africa Addict are kindly providing a personal reusable EcoDrop bottle with a QR code, which allows you to refill with cold, purified water at the stations. It's a convenient and environmentally friendly way to stay hydrated while helping to reduce plastic waste in Victoria Falls.



Food

Vegetarian and gluten-free options are generally available in hotels and restaurants in Zimbabwe, particularly in Victoria Falls.

Tipping

Tipping is customary in Zimbabwe and is appreciated for good service. A tip of around 10% is generally appropriate in restaurants, while hotel staff, drivers and guides also appreciate a small gratuity for good service. As with South Africa, there is no need to tip at meals that are included as part of our group programme, although you are welcome to do so if you wish.

Weather in September

September is the dry season in Victoria Falls, with warm, sunny days and very little rainfall. Early September temperatures are typically around 30–32°C during the day, with cooler mornings and evenings of around 15–17°C. Comfortable clothing, sun protection and a light layer for early mornings and evenings are recommended.

Packing Recommendations for Zimbabwe

The luggage allowance on small flights is usually limited to a maximum of 20 kg (44 lbs), which includes hand luggage, so please bear this in mind when packing.

Camouflage-patterned clothing is not permitted in Zimbabwe. This applies to any clothing that can be construed as mimicking military-wear. Travellers are urged not to wear, or even carry, any military-inspired clothing while travelling in Zimbabwe.

Pack light layers for warm days and cooler mornings/evenings; comfortable walking shoes; high SPF sun protection; sunglasses and a hat; swimming costume; mosquito repellent; light rain jacket or compact umbrella, especially for the visit to Victoria Falls; and

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Zimbabwe Conference Itinerary

Sunday 6th September

VICTORIA FALLS

Arrival into Victoria Falls Airport - Meet & Greet at airport and transfer to lodges

- 4:15 PM
- Pick up at Victoria Falls Safari Lodge and other accommodations from reception
 - Sunset Cruise – including drinks and canapes
Dress – Smart Casual
- Dinner
- Dinner at The Boma

Monday 7 September 2026

51ST INHIGEO SYMPOSIUM

- 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
- Conference proceeds at Victoria Falls Safari Lodge
** A detailed conference programme will be provided*
- 9:30 AM
- Partners - Village & City Tour with lunch at Palm River Hotel
 - Evening dinner - own arrangements

Tuesday 8 September 2026

51ST INHIGEO SYMPOSIUM

- 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
- Conference continues at Victoria Falls Safari Lodge
- 6:00 AM
- Partners - Game Drive in the Zambezi National Park
- 12:00 PM
- Partners - Dusty Roads Cultural Lunch Experience
 - Evening dinner - own arrangements

Wednesday 9 September 2026

VICTORIA FALLS & LIVINGSTONE FIELD TRIP

- 7:45 AM
- Delegates and Partners: Pick up at Victoria Falls Safari Lodge
 - Tour of Victoria Falls (Zimbabwe & Zambia) and Livingstone Museum. (Please bring passports)
 - Evening dinner - own arrangements

Thursday 10 September 2026

51ST INHIGEO SYMPOSIUM

- 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
- Conference continues at Victoria Falls Safari Lodge
- 5:20 AM
- Partners - Pick up at Victoria Falls Safari Lodge Reception. Sunrise Breakfast Cruise – Including: painting and David Livingstone Talk
- 6:00 PM
- Delegates and Partners: Pick up at Victoria Falls Safari Lodge
 - Baines Restaurant – 3 course meal. (excluding drinks)
Dress – Smart Casual



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Zimbabwe Field Trip Itinerary

Friday 11 September 2026

BULAWAYO FIELD TRIP

- Departures from Victoria Falls - Group flight to Bulawayo
- Pick up at Bulawayo and transfers to Matopos

Saturday 12 September 2026

BULAWAYO FIELD TRIP

- Full-day Matopos tour. Includes Matopos Tour, Park Fees, Monument Fees and Packed Lunch

Sunday 13 September 2026 |

BULAWAYO FIELD TRIP

- Khami Ruins & Natural History Museum tour. Includes packed lunch and entry fees.

Monday 14 September 2026

GREAT ZIMBABWE FIELD TRIP

- Pick up ex Bulawayo Club transfer by bus to Great Zimbabwe Ruins
- Tour of Great Zimbabwe

Tuesday 15 September 2026

GREAT ZIMBABWE FIELD TRIP

- Explore more of Great Zimbabwe after breakfast
- Depart back to Bulawayo

Wednesday 16 September 2026

- Transfers to Bulawayo Airport for departure flight to Johannesburg



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International Scientific Committee

Dr Sharad Master

Chairman of Committee;
Vice-President of INHIGEO (Africa)
University of the Witwatersrand,
Johannesburg, South Africa
Sharad.master@wits.ac.za

Prof. Ezio Vaccari

President of INHIGEO
University of Insubria,
Varese, Italy

Prof. John Diemer

Editor of Earth Sciences History Journal,
University of North Carolina, Charlotte,
NC, USA

Dr Martina Kölbl-Ebert

Secretary General of INHIGEO
University of Munich, Germany

Prof. Marianne Klemun

Vice-President of INHIGEO (Europe)
University of Vienna, Austria

Dr Kerry Magruder

Editor of INHIGEO Annual Record
University of Oklahoma,
Norman, USA

Prof. John Compton

INHIGEO Member
University of Cape Town (Retired)
Cape Town, South Africa

Dr Maddalena Napolitani

INHIGEO Webinar Coordinator
Museo Galileo,
Florence, Italy

Prof. Ernst Hamm

Vice-President of INHIGEO
(North America)
York University,
Toronto, ON, Canada

Dr Victor Monnin

INHIGEO Webinar Coordinator
Chicago, IL., USA

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Local Organising Committee

Dr Sharad Master

Chairman of Committee;
Vice-President of INHIGEO (Africa)
University of the Witwatersrand,
Johannesburg, South Africa
Sharad.master@wits.ac.za

Ms Michèle Dean

Excursion coordinator
Johannesburg, South Africa

Mr David Russo

Excursion coordinator
PhD student, Wits University
Johannesburg, South Africa

Mr Forbes Mugumbate

INHIGEO Associate Member
Director of Geological Survey of Zimbabwe
Harare, Zimbabwe

Mr Tim Broderick

INHIGEO Member
Founding member, Geological Society of
Zimbabwe
Harare, Zimbabwe

Dr Anthony J. Martin

INHIGEO Associate Member
Founding member, Geological Society of
Zimbabwe
Harare, Zimbabwe

Mr Edgar Chiteka

Chairman, Geological Society of Zimbabwe
Harare, Zimbabwe

Dr Moira FitzPatrick

Regional Director,
Natural History Museum of Zimbabwe
Bulawayo, Zimbabwe

Ms Rachael Goba

INHIGEO Associate Member
Harare, Zimbabwe

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Important Contact numbers

Johannesburg Organisers:

Dr Sharad Master

email: inhigeo2026africa@yahoo.com

mobile: +27 82 894 9479

Michèle Dean

email: inhigeo2026africa@yahoo.com

mobile: + 27 83 267 7986

David Russo

mobile: + 27 83 267 7986

Johannesburg Transport:

True Mlazi - Mlalazi Courtesy Transfers

mobile: +27 83 885 8005

Derrick Mogano- Dae Night Shuttles

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+27 (11) 640 0400 (Land Line)

Sunnyside Park Hotel Address

32 Princess of Wales Terrace, Parktown,
Johannesburg

Zimbabwe Organisers:

Shaun Jolife - Africa Addict

email: shaun@africa-addict.com

mobile: +27 82 894 9479

Michelle - Africa Addict

email: miche@africa-addict.com

mobile: +263 77 227 2833

