



WILLKOMMEN IN BERLIN

Fascinating journey through the "land of stone houses" WiB group visited Zimbabwe

▼ The tour group in front of the mighty Victoria Falls



Zimbabwe, meaning 'stone houses' in the Shona language, owes its name to the largest pre-colonial stone structures in southern Africa, which have been a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1986. However, the country is best known for its breathtaking Victoria Falls, also a UNESCO World Heritage Site. From 29 October to 6 November 2024, a group of WiB members travelled to Zimbabwe, formerly Rhodesia. The trip was organized at the suggestion of H.E. Alice Mashingaizwe, Zimbabwe's Ambassador to Germany, a WiB member herself, who graciously met the group on several occasions during the visit.

The trip got off to a spectacular start: an idyllic lodge in Hwange National Park offered an up-close encounter with elephants during dinner in the garden. Exciting day and night safaris followed, along with a dream-like overnight stay in a hotel on the banks of the Zambezi River in Victoria Falls, near the border with Zambia, an evening river cruise against the backdrop of a magnificent sunset, surrounded by hippos and crocodiles, and, after visiting the majestic Victoria Falls, an elegant high tea at the historic Victoria Falls Hotel. In the capital, Harare, the group was immersed in the history of the country. In the south-east, they explored the ruins of Great Zimbabwe, which was an important centre of political power in centuries past, as evidenced by the remains of a royal palace and hill complex. A hike through the Nyanga National Park on the border with Mozambique, whose mountainous landscape is reminiscent of the Alps – if it were not for the grazing zebras and wildebeests – led to

the Mutarazi waterfalls, which at 760 metres are the second highest in Africa. Zimbabwe's artistic heritage and its roots in the traditions of Shona stone structures could be seen during a visit to the internationally renowned sculptor Dominic Benhura.

The warmth and friendliness of the people was overwhelming, and this was noticeable at many points during a bus trip across the country. Zimbabwe is a demographically young country, and a good education is important to many people. It is particularly valued by women, because traditionally the bride's dowry – often paid in the form of cows – increases the higher the woman's level of education is. A final highlight of the trip was the warm welcome by the Deputy German Ambassador and his wife at their residence. In a very hospitable atmosphere, the unforgettable experiences of this interesting trip were recalled.



Very British: High Tea



The Great Zimbabwe Ruined City in Masvingo Province



Hands up! The group expressed their thanks for the warm welcome by the counsellor at the German Embassy



In the Sculpture Garden of the internationally renowned artist Dominic Benhura