

# From foreign soil to Zambian gates: Paying tolls smoothly



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**T**RAVELLING through Zambia's stunning landscapes and vibrant cities is an unforgettable experience, but for foreign drivers, understanding the country's toll requirements is essential to ensure a smooth journey. Navigating Zambia's toll system can be confusing for

on the entire tolling system, from the type of tolls one is expected to encounter to step-by-step instructions on how to pay and also important tips for compliance. Whether you are a tourist, business traveller, or transport operator, this guide will help you avoid penalties and enjoy your travels across Zambia with confidence.

Zambia's toll system supports road infrastructure development by collecting fees from vehicle owners based on vehicle type and distance travelled. These fees contribute directly to road maintenance, safety enhancements, and infrastructure upgrades, supporting the country's growing transportation needs.

Foreign vehicles entering Zambia must comply with the country's toll payment system, which includes paying both entry fees and road toll access fees at designated toll plazas along major highways and transit routes. To facilitate smooth entry, foreign-registered vehicles typically need to pay the entry fee online in advance through the Zambia Revenue Authority.

The entry fee calculation is



visitors unfamiliar with local regulations, payment methods, and road networks. This guide is designed to help foreign drivers prepare in advance, avoid unexpected fines, and make the most of their travels. In short, it provides a guide

based on factors such as vehicle type, weight, axle count and the expected distance with payment accepted only in US dollars or the equivalent in Zambian Kwacha. Upon entering, the driver of the foreign vehicle must present relevant documents



ZAMBIA'S toll system supports road infrastructure development by collecting fees.

such as cargo or passenger manifest or consignment note to the toll collector for verification. The correct fee will then be paid according to the vehicle's declared trip and destination. This registration facilitates seamless toll fee payments and helps authorities monitor cross-border traffic effectively.

At the toll gates, foreign vehicles' drivers are further required to stop, present their vehicle or passenger manifest documents and pay access fees based on the vehicle type and classification. Fees are collected in Zambian Kwacha, so it is advisable to have local currency on hand. Alternatively, one can pay using an electronic toll card. Electronic toll cards can be obtained at border points, NRFA toll stations or head office.

If a foreign-registered vehicle driver needs to extend the trip beyond the initially paid distance, additional fees must be paid at a designated inland toll collection point. Furthermore, in situations where a driver has been redirected by their employer, it is advisable to obtain a redirection permit from ZRA to avoid fines or vehicle

impoundment. By following these procedures, drivers can ensure compliance with toll regulations and avoid potential penalties.

When driving an unregistered vehicle in transit (IT) through Zambia, it is essential to have the following documents on hand to ensure a smooth transit experience at toll points and border crossing: original vehicle registration papers and proof of initial road toll payment upon entering the country. To avoid

issues, ensure that the road toll and the vehicle registration papers have matching details. Tolling officers strictly verify documents to ensure compliance with regulations. Having the necessary documents in order will help ensure a smooth experience at toll points and border crossings.

The road tolls paid for foreign-registered vehicles are valid for single use tied to the designated trip/journey as paid at the entry point. Tolls paid

cannot be used for multiple trips.

Meanwhile, tourists and those visiting Zambia with foreign-registered vehicles must obtain either the Temporary Import Permit (TIP) or Customs Importation Permit (CIP). These documents allow visitors to drive their vehicles legally within Zambia for a specified period. These permits are usually obtained at the border points from ZRA and must be kept in the vehicle at all times. Once these documents expire, the driver of a foreign vehicle is required to immediately apply to pay local tolls or seek an extension for every inland trip/journey undertaken.

It is important to be aware of the correct category for your vehicle as failure to present a TIP/CIP when requested can result in a fine or vehicle impoundment.

Navigating Zambia's toll gates can seem daunting for drivers of foreign-registered vehicles, but following a simple step-by-step process will ensure a smooth experience.

Here's how to efficiently use the toll gates during your journey:

As you near a toll gate, make sure you have all necessary documents ready, including your vehicle registration papers. Look for signs indicating

lanes for light vehicles or heavy vehicles. Outer lanes are preferably used by heavy vehicles and inner lanes by small vehicles.

When it is your turn, stop at the toll booth. Present your documents to the toll collector and be prepared to pay the toll applicable to your vehicle type.

After payment, the toll collector will issue you with a stamped receipt. Keep this safely until the end of your trip, as you may be required to show it at exit points or during vehicle inspections.

If you plan to use toll roads frequently during your stay, consider keeping a record of your toll payments. This can help with budgeting and ensuring that you have all the necessary proof in case of any queries by traffic authorities.

Look out for our next article next week and channel your feedback to: National Road Fund Agency, plot 33 Fairley, P. O. Box 50695, Lusaka.

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