

# Great Zimbabwe National Monument

## Historic and symbolic ruins

In the southeast of the country about 300 km from Harare lies an area of about 80 hectares which used to be the largest trading center in Sub-Saharan Africa. It is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site of protected ruins that have become a national symbol and testimony to a great past.

The **Great Zimbabwe National Monument** is one of the most iconic landmarks in Sub-Saharan Africa. It was built between the **11th and 15th century** and was the largest medieval city in sub-Saharan Africa. Today you can see the ruins of this city which bear testament to its great past.

In the 14th century the city was a thriving religious, **political and commercial capital** due to gold and its trade routes to the **Indian Ocean**. At its peak it had a population of between 10 000 and 20 000.