

TRIP NOTES: Botswana



This information is provided by Africa Answers as a guideline to the country you will be visiting. Further information is available to you at <https://www.botswanatourism.co.bw/travel-information> and <https://www.africaanswers.com/destinations/botswana>

While Africa Answers endeavors to provide current information, regulations and requirements can change without notice and we are not responsible for travelers whose trips are interrupted due to documentary or medical non-compliance.

ENTRY DOCUMENTS

Travelers arriving in Africa are required to have passports that will be valid for at least six months from the date of departure and contain at least two blank pages per country to be visited for affixing entry and exit stamps.

US citizens do not require a visa for entry into Botswana; an entry permit will be processed on arrival.

VACCINATIONS, ANTI-MALARIALS AND MEDICATION

All travelers to Botswana should consult a travel clinic at least 6 weeks before departure for advice as to the recommended medications and vaccinations for their safari, based on their itinerary and personal health profile.

Malaria is present in Botswana, especially in the north. Although malaria medication is not *required* for entry to Botswana, your travel clinician may recommend it.

Yellow fever vaccination is not required for travelers arriving from the US or South Africa, Zimbabwe, Zambia or Namibia into Botswana. Travelers entering Botswana from countries where yellow fever is present, such as Rwanda, Uganda and most West and Central African countries, must have certification of yellow fever vaccination, or a waiver document provided by their physician citing the waiver reason. Travelers who are in airport transit for less than 12 hours are not required to have yellow fever vaccinations. If in doubt, please ask your Travel Clinician to review your itinerary and advise.

TIPPING

Service staff in Africa depend on tips as part of their livelihood. As a guideline, hotel porters get about \$1.50 per bag carried each way. City restaurant and bar servers should be tipped 15% - 20%. Airport transfer drivers at \$3 - 10 per person per transfer, depending on distance. Camp and lodge staff at \$10 per person per day in camp to be split between the entire camp crew – there is often a Tips box for this group tip in the main area of the camp or lodge. Driver- guides are with you the most and should receive \$10 - \$15 per person per day. If you have both a tracker and a guide, the tracker should receive \$5 per person per day.

BAGGAGE

Airlines into and out of Botswana routinely weigh both checked and carry-on bags. To avoid paying excess baggage fees, please adhere to your airline's restrictions.

Important rules for shared in-country air transfers in light aircraft, to and from game camps/lodges:

- 1) Luggage, including carry-on luggage, is restricted per person travelling on seat rates to 44lbs total.
- 2) Only soft bags will be accepted - no hard suitcases or bags with wheels can be transported as they physically cannot fit into the aircraft.
- 3) The maximum dimensions of the soft bags which can be accommodated are as follows: 12 inches wide x 12 inches high and 24 inches long.
- 4) Passengers weighing 220 lbs or more, must purchase an additional seat for safety and comfort.

MONEY

The currency in Botswana is the Pula (P). Any cash payments made to camps for souvenirs, or gratuities to guides or staff, need to be in Pula, US Dollars, or South African Rand.

When using USD bills, they must be clean and in excellent shape, and issued after 2008. Your bank will be familiar with this request if you explain that the notes are for use overseas.

Visa and Mastercard are generally accepted at camps and lodges, American Express less so.

SAFETY AND SECURITY

Always use the safe in your room to store cash, important documents and other valuables. Larger items can be left in the lodge or camp safe at the front desk.

During a game drive, the driver-guide will offer instructions concerning safety. This includes advising tour members when it is safe to exit the vehicle. At lodges and camps, the staff will often escort guests to and from the rooms to ensure safety. In National Parks, guests must be back in the lodge or camp by 6pm; this Park rule will be enforced by your driver/guide.

ELECTRICITY

Africa uses 240 volt electric current. Many Botswana camps are situated in remote areas and generate their own electricity. Guests should bring 3 prong round, 3 prong square, or 2 prong round and 2 prong flat plug adaptors. It is not possible to use appliances such as hairdryers or electric shavers in the tented rooms at most of the camps in Botswana as they have low wattage fuses which will trip. For detailed information, images and links to purchase adaptors, please consult <https://www.power-plugs-sockets.com>

POTABLE WATER

Tap water in Botswana should be boiled before drinking. Bottled water is provided by most camps and lodges at a modest cost. Safari vehicles also carry drinking water for your refillable flask.

