

# ESSENTIAL INFORMATION BOTSWANA

## PASSPORT AND VISA INFORMATION

Your passport needs to be valid for **at least six (6) months** after your journey ends, and should have a minimum of three (3) blank visa pages for entry and exit stamps\*.

*Note: If your international air routing takes you through South Africa, you will need an additional two (2) consecutive blank visa pages for each entry into South Africa.*

Holders of U.S. and Canadian passports are not required to obtain a tourist visa for entry into Botswana for stays of up to 90 days.

Our partner VisaCentral offers easy, efficient U.S. passport and visa processing. Visit them online at [visacentral.com/abercrombiekent](http://visacentral.com/abercrombiekent) or call 844 823 1224 and reference A&K's account number 73001. Service fees apply.

Citizens of other countries should contact the appropriate consular office for entry requirements pertaining to their journey.

### Of Special Note: Adults Entering and/or Exiting Botswana with Minor Children

Botswana has instituted requirements for adults travelling with children under the age of 18.

Parents travelling with children will be requested to provide an official birth certificate that includes the details of the full name of both the child's father and the mother of all travelling children. This applies even when both parents are travelling with their children and it also applies to foreigners and citizens of Botswana alike. When children are travelling with guardians, these adults are required to produce affidavits from parents providing permission for the children to travel. All documents must be in English.

#### **Both parents travelling with child:**

- When both parents are travelling with a child, such parents must produce an official birth certificate that includes the details of both the child's father and mother.

#### **One parent travelling with child:**

- In the case of one parent travelling with a child, he or she must produce an official birth certificate that includes the details of both the child's father and the mother. In addition, the parent must produce one of the following:
  - If the travelling parent has shared legal custody of the child: Consent in the form of an affidavit from the other parent registered as a parent on the birth certificate of the child authorizing him or her to enter into or depart from Botswana with the child he or she is travelling with.
  - If the travelling parent has sole legal custody of the child: A court order granting full parental responsibilities and rights, or legal guardianship, in respect of the child, if he or she is the parent or legal guardian of the child; or where applicable, a death certificate of the other parent registered as a parent of the child on the birth certificate.

#### **Child travelling with persons who are not their biological parents, for example adoptive parents, grandparents or persons given the parents' approval to enter into or depart from Botswana with child:**

- Where a person is travelling with a child who is not his or her biological child, he or she must produce a copy of the official birth certificate that includes the details of both the child's father and the mother.

- An affidavit from the parents or legal guardian of the child confirming that he or she has permission to travel with the child.
- Copies of the identity documents or passports of the parents or legal guardian of the child.
- The contact details of the parents or legal guardian of the child.
- Where applicable: copy of an adoption order, death certificate or a court order granting full parental responsibilities and rights /legal guardianship in respect of the child.

## COVID-19 COUNTRY ENTRY REQUIREMENTS & TRAVEL ADVISORIES

Botswana currently has no COVID-19 vaccination or testing requirements for entry for U.S. and Canadian residents. Visit the U.S. Department of State at [travel.state.gov](https://travel.state.gov) or the Government of Canada at [travel.gc.ca/travelling/advisories](https://travel.gc.ca/travelling/advisories) for up-to-date information and travel advisories. All requirements are subject to change.

## YELLOW FEVER VACCINATION & MALARIA PREVENTION

A yellow fever vaccination is only required to enter Botswana *if* you are arriving from, or have transited through, a yellow fever-endemic area in South America or Africa. The CDC and WHO each provide a current list of all affected countries. If vaccination for yellow fever is necessary, you must carry an International Certificate of Vaccination provided by your physician; you may be denied entry without it. If your physician advises against receiving the vaccination because of your personal medical history, he or she can provide you with the necessary documentation for the country/countries you are visiting.

You will be travelling to an area of malaria transmission. We strongly advise that you speak with your doctor or travel clinic regarding your itinerary, individual risk assessment and options for mosquito bite prevention and antimalarial drugs. We recommend filling any prescriptions before you depart.

## OF SPECIAL NOTE

### Age Restrictions on Bush Walks in Botswana

Due to government regulations, persons under the age of 16 are not allowed to participate in bush walks (game viewing on foot) at National Parks and private game reserves in Botswana. Persons over the age of 60 are required to produce a note from their physician stating that they are fit enough for such an activity. Note: Enforcement of these regulations can vary at each safari property. We recommend guests over the age of 60 carry the physician's note as a precaution.

## CASH & CREDIT CARDS

Botswana has a cash-based economy. Cash transactions can be made in either U.S. dollars or local currency. U.S. dollars should be recently issued bills in smaller denominations. Major credit cards are accepted on a limited basis at shops, hotels, safari lodges and restaurants. Access to ATM machines is limited to locations in Maun and Kasane.

## PACKING LIST & BAGGAGE RESTRICTIONS

On flights within Southern Africa, each passenger is limited to 1 piece of checked luggage and 1 carry-on bag with a combined total weight of no more than 44 pounds (20 kilograms). This includes the weight of purses and camera equipment in addition to your other luggage. Luggage restrictions are adhered to very strictly and passengers should pack their bags accordingly. Soft-sided luggage or duffels are required for luggage storage on safari vehicles and also on light aircraft used throughout Southern Africa. Dimensions of your checked bag should not exceed 23 inches (58 centimeters) long x 13 inches (33 centimeters) high x 10 inches (25 centimeters) wide. As a convenience, A&K provides each safari guest with a complimentary, custom-designed A&K Duffel. This bag is specifically crafted to meet airline standards. Your carry-on bag should be small enough to fit in your lap or under your seat.

Please use the provided A&K luggage tags, even if your bags already have ID tags. This makes it easier for A&K staff to collect and manage your luggage for you.

### Clothing

Choose comfortable and casual clothing in natural, "breathable" fabrics and versatile styles that can be layered as temperatures may vary considerably in the course of the day. For game viewing, wear neutral colors (though not camouflage, which is illegal in most national parks and reserves). Black, navy or other dark colors tend to attract insects. Smart casual attire is appropriate for evenings. Formal clothing is not necessary.

- Casual slacks
- Walking shorts
- Polo shirts, casual short-sleeve shirts or blouses
- Long sleeve shirts or blouses
- Comfortable walking shoes with traction
- If you are travelling during Africa's winter months of mid-May through early September, bring warm clothing —heavy sweater, hat, gloves, lined jacket —to protect against chilly early morning and evening temperatures
- A pair of rubber beach sandals to use as slippers.
- Brimmed hat for sun protection
- Swimwear/cover-up
- Personal garments
- Sports bra for women for bumpy roads
- Sleepwear
- Socks

### Other Recommended Items

- Face masks and hand sanitizer
- Insect repellent with high % of DEET to protect against mosquitos and tsetse flies\*
- Sunglasses / Sun block
- Simple first-aid kit
- Prescriptions and medications (in their original bottles and/or packaging)
- Smartphone
- Extra eyeglasses/contact lenses
- Global travel adapter
- Charging cables for electronics

### Optional Items

- Small LED flashlight
- Foldable walking stick
- Lightweight binoculars
- Small daypack or fanny pack
- Inflatable pillow or stadium cushion can make bumpy roads more comfortable
- Low-suds detergent for washing small items of personal laundry

\*Note: many properties provide insect repellent in rooms/tents. However you may wish to bring your own preferred brand.

Laundry Service is available at most hotels, lodges and camps. Because some laundries in Africa do not accept any underclothing, be prepared to wash your own smalls. Laundry techniques may not be suitable for delicate and/or synthetic fabrics. Check costs and return times before using these services.

## TIPPING GUIDELINES

While decisions regarding tipping rest entirely with you, we suggest the following gratuities (noted in U.S. dollars) depending on the type of journey.

	<b>Tailor Made Journeys</b>
Local Safari Guides	\$20 per person, per day (full day)
Game Trackers (spot game from front of vehicle to assist Safari Guide)	\$15 per person, per day (full day)
Airport Transfer Drivers	\$5 per person, per transfer
Hotel Porters	\$2 per bag
Bush Lodges and Permanent Tented Camps	\$10 per person, per day – Gratuities are accepted at each property and shared among the staff.
Staff aboard Trains or Vessels (if applicable)	\$10-\$15 per person, per day – Gratuities are accepted onboard and shared among the staff.
Housekeepers	\$2 per person, per night
Included Meals	Included
Restaurants or Room Service on Own	10-15% unless already added