

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 two (2) 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 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 South Africa and/or Botswana with Minor Children
South Africa and Botswana have instituted requirements for adults traveling 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 South Africa and 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. *Note: In South Africa only, this requirement is waived if the child and both parents share the same surname.*

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 South Africa and/or 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 a relative (for example grandparent) or with a person given the parents' approval to enter into or depart from South Africa and/or 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.

VACCINATIONS

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.

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.

OF SPECIAL NOTE: PLASTIC BAGS IN BOTSWANA

The government of Botswana has announced that it intends to implement a ban on plastic bags. The ban applies to "carrier and flat bags," primarily targeting bags from shops and grocery stores, but also extending to Ziploc bags, duty-free bags and bubble wrap. If tourists have those types of bags visible while in the airport, they are likely to be confiscated. Bags designed for multiple use, such as zippered cosmetic bags, are not included in the ban. The specific implementation date for this ban has not been confirmed, however, it may be prudent to adjust your packing to meet the standards of the ban regardless.

PACKING LIST & BAGGAGE RESTRICTIONS BOTSWANA

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.

PACKING LIST

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.

Clothing

- 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

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

Optional Items

- Small LED flashlight
- Lightweight binoculars
- Inflatable pillow or stadium cushion can make bumpy roads more comfortable
- Foldable walking stick
- Small daypack or fanny pack
- 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 BOTSWANA

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

Local Safari Guides / Game Rangers	\$20 per person, per day (full day)
Safari Driver- Guides / Game Trackers	\$10 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