

PRE-TRIP INFORMATION: DESERT & DELTA SAFARIS

How safe is Botswana?

Botswana is considered a safe travel destination. It is both financially and politically stable. It has been spared much of the unrest and turmoil which plagues so many countries in Africa. As is the case elsewhere, the larger cities and population centers generally have the most crime, but once you are on safari, such problems are all but nonexistent. It is, however, a good idea to leave your valuables (expensive watches, jewellery, etc.) at home, thus eliminating the temptation for possible theft. Luggage locks are always advisable when flying.

What type of travel documents do I need?

A valid passport is a requirement for any international travel, when travelling into Southern Africa your passport needs to be valid for a minimum requirement of 6 months after your entrance date as well as 2 blank pages FOR EACH ENTRY. Citizens of certain countries are required to obtain visas for entry into Botswana. As this list of countries changes from time to time, it is important to check with your travel consultant regarding current visa requirements, well in advance of your departure. Please note that it is your own responsibility to ensure all necessary visas are obtained prior to entry (unless available on entry, such as Zimbabwe at current time).

What type of clothing will I need on safari?

Depending upon the time of year you safari in Botswana, lightweight clothing of cotton and cotton/blends are most suitable. During the winter months (notably June, July & August) it can be very cold and a warm jacket will be needed for early morning and evening game viewing activities. During the summer months bring a lightweight water/windproof jacket in case of rain, but otherwise temperatures are very warm. For evenings bring lightweight long sleeved clothing as protection from mosquitoes.

Neutral colours such as khaki, beige/cream or olive green are appropriate, and are less conspicuous to the animals. Laundry is done daily in lodge, so it is not necessary to over pack. Consult our packing list as a general guide before you travel.

It is recommended that on your international flight to Botswana you carry a change of clothing (e.g. t-shirt and underwear), any prescription medicines and your valuables (documents, camera, wallet) in your hand luggage in case of lost luggage or luggage delays from connecting international flights. In the case of lost luggage, Desert & Delta Safaris will assist where possible in calling the airlines to monitor progress in your luggage claim which, in most cases, arrives the following day, however please note that it is often beyond our control and your best precaution is the essential items being packed in your hand luggage.

Is the water safe to drink?

Yes. Water supplies in camp are filtered to city standards. Water jugs in each tent are replenished on a daily basis. And bottled water is readily available at each camp. You can help yourself.

What type of safari vehicles will I be game viewing in?

Desert & Delta Safaris uses Toyota Landcruisers which have been specially built for game viewing and photography. All have completely open seating areas and cabs for unhindered photography. Each has ample seating (although we normally keep occupancy to six or less in each vehicle!), with seat pockets, reference books, snacks, bottled water, toilet paper, insect spray and a cool box for refreshments.

Is electricity available in the lodges?

As our camps are situated in remote areas we need to generate electricity, for the most part by generator and in some instances solar power. Due to their noise, these generators are normally run during the day, when guests are out of camp on activities. In the evenings, the generator is switched off, and the camps run on the inverter system whereby batteries provide 220V power.

If necessary, batteries may be recharged in camp during the day. Depending upon the electricity needed for camp operations, it may be possible to recharge video cameras during the day, but this will be at the discretion of the camp manager. Be sure you bring a 3 prong, round point adapter with you and also be sure to bring a spare battery for use whilst the other battery is being charged in camp, to avoid missing out on any photographic opportunities.

Please note that it is not possible to use appliances such as hairdryers and electric shavers in the delta camps as the power is insufficient to charge and usage may result in the power tripping at the whole camp.

For Botswana and South Africa, you will need two adaptors, Type D and Type G

Here is a useful website reference: <http://www.iec.ch/worldplugs/map.htm>

Chobe Game Lodge and Chobe Savanna Lodge have 220V mains electricity.

What about tipping?

Tipping is not obligatory. It is, however, appropriate if you feel that the measure of service you received warrants a show of your personal appreciation, this is purely discretionary. The average tip amounts are approximately \$10 per guest, per day. Customarily, \$10 per day will go to your driver/guide directly and \$5 per day can be placed in the Tip Box provided in the lodges, Lodge Managers distribute the latter among the camp employees. It is a fair distribution system ensuring that the 'behind the scenes' staff are also rewarded.

Is a safari strenuous?

No. Getting into and out of vehicles and light aircraft as well as some walking is the most strenuous activity you will encounter. Our safaris are considered 'soft adventure'. Some of the road terrain can be bumpy as it is 'off road', this is part of the experience, however if you have a back problem please do advise us in advance for suitability for a safari of this nature.

How much baggage can I bring on safari?

Since most safari travel is done in small aircraft, each passenger is limited to one soft-sided bag, weighing no more than 20 kg (44 lbs), plus a typical sized camera bag. Bear in mind the door to the luggage pod is only 25 inches wide by 10 inches deep. Soft type duffel bags are ideal and are required. Excess baggage may be subject to additional baggage/charter charges and please note it is optional to store your excess baggage in our Maun office at no extra charge until the end of your safari (this option is only available if your safari starts and ends in Maun, otherwise alternate arrangements will need to be made).

Please refer to the luggage requirements stipulated in the "What to bring" and "Moving Between Camps" section of this website.

How much money will I need?

Most major currencies are accepted throughout Botswana. You will not need large sums of cash while on safari, as our programs are all inclusive. However, some guests enjoy shopping in Maun. Selected camps have a small gift shop stocked with various curios, safari items and film, credit card can be used (Master or Visa cards). Otherwise, you may need money for any accommodations, meals and shopping before or after your scheduled safari as well as for visas (Zimbabwe etc) and taxes. The amount needed, of course, is your personal decision.

What about insects or snakes?

Surprisingly, there are very few snake problems in Botswana, normal common sense avoids contact with snakes (i.e. don't go crawling through dense bushes!). Insect repellent is provided in all tents and safari vehicles. However, for your personal comfort, we recommend you bring some insect repellent of your own and take malarial prophylaxis (please consult your local travel medical specialist for the medication best suited to you). It is also a good idea to bring some sunscreen as even in the winter months the days are warm and clear and as you spend a large part of the day outside on activities, there is a risk of sunburn. We recommend Tabard or Peaceful Sleep insect repellent which can be bought at the airport in JNB or at any pharmacy or grocery store in South Africa.

What contact details should be left at my home/office?

You should leave the contact details for the [Desert & Delta Safaris Maun office](#) in order that you can be contacted in the camps by radio from Maun in the case of an emergency.

Desert & Delta Safaris (Pty) Ltd

Postal Address: Private Bag 310, Maun, Botswana

Physical Address: Desert & Delta Safaris, Cnr Airport Ave & Mathiba 1 Road, Maun, Botswana

Tel: +267 686 1559

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What to bring

Generally, casual comfortable clothing is suitable throughout the year. The most practical items to pack for safari are:

- Blouses with long sleeves (even in summer, they will protect you from the sun and from mosquitoes)
- T-shirts
- Shorts or a light skirt
- Jeans or safari trousers for walking at the water properties, evenings and cooler days
- Fleece or sweater and a warm jacket for game drives (necessary, even in summer)
- Comfortable walking shoes
- Sun block, Lip balm, sunglasses, hat and insect repellent
- Binoculars and a camera
- Light, compact raincoat is a good idea for the summer
- Swimsuit, as all the Desert & Delta Safaris properties have swimming pools

Layers of clothing are most practical for the fluctuating day/night temperatures of Botswana. Dull and/or neutral colors are more suitable for safari, while white is not practical. It is best to pack hardy, durable clothing.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:- Luggage is restricted to 20kgs (44 lbs) per person on Safari Air flights. This 20kg includes both hand luggage and travel luggage. Bags should be soft sided, flexible bags. Bags with a solid frame, wheel frame, rigid pull out handles do not constitute as being “soft bags”. Bags MUST be completely flexible with no wheels to facilitate the packing within the “belly pod”

luggage compartment of the light inter-camp transfer aircraft. By not adhering to these luggage requirements, travellers stand to cause delays and additional costs to themselves.

Moving Between Camps

We offer a fully integrated private air charter service, operated by our sister company Safari Air which operates single engined Airvans, Cessna 206s and Cessna Caravans. Some of our lodges have their own private airstrips.

Unless a private charter is requested, your flight transfers have been booked on a "seat on plane" basis. Flight times are arranged according to each day's requirements and to fit in with activities, thus the plane may pick up and drop off other guests en-route to your destination. Times therefore vary from day to day and will be communicated to you the afternoon before departure. Flights to Kasane for the Chobe lodges and for Victoria Falls/Livingstone depart early to meet the scheduled road transfers; so early morning activities for guests departing on these flights are curtailed. Should you wish, private charters can be arranged, in which case you will be the only guests in the plane and you may specify your departure times. Please contact Fish Eagle Safaris for a quote for private charters.