

SAFARI GUIDE

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- Visa & Passport Requirements
- Family Travel
- Transfers & Border Crossing
- Getting Around
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- Practical Tips
- What to Pack

Safari
Destinations



COUNTRY INFO

Botswana

Capital City: Gaborone

Official Language: English, Setswana

Currency: Botswana Pula (BWP)

Population: ~2.6 million

Time Difference: GMT +2

Bordering Countries: Namibia, Zambia, Zimbabwe, South Africa

Key Destinations: Okavango Delta, Chobe National Park, Makgadikgadi Pans, Central Kalahari Game Reserve

Zimbabwe

Capital City: Harare

Official Language: English, Shona, Sindebele (Ndebele)

Currency: Zimbabwean Dollar (ZWL), USD widely used

Population: ~16 million

Time Difference: GMT +2

Bordering Countries: South Africa, Botswana, Zambia, Mozambique

Key Destinations: Victoria Falls, Hwange National Park, Mana Pools, Great Zimbabwe Ruins

Zambia

Capital City: Lusaka

Official Language: English

Currency: Zambian Kwacha (ZMW)

Population: ~19 million

Time Difference: GMT +2

Bordering Countries: Angola, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Tanzania, Malawi, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Namibia

Key Destinations: Victoria Falls (Zambian side), South Luangwa National Park, Lower Zambezi, Kafue National Park

Mozambique

Capital City: Maputo

Official Language: Portuguese

Currency: Mozambican Metical (MZN)

Population: ~32 million

Time Difference: GMT +2 (no daylight saving)

Bordering Countries: Tanzania, Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Eswatini

Key Destinations: Bazaruto Archipelago, Quirimbas Archipelago, Gorongosa National Park

Namibia

Capital City: Windhoek

Official Language: English

Currency: Namibian Dollar (NAD), South African Rand (ZAR)

Population: ~2.5 million

Time Difference: GMT +2 (Summer), GMT +1 (Winter)

Bordering Countries: Angola, Zambia, Botswana, South Africa

Key Destinations: Etosha National Park, Sossusvlei, Swakopmund, Damaraland, NamibRand, Fish River Canyon

VISA & PASSPORT REQUIREMENTS FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA

Botswana

- Passport Validity: 6 months at departure
- Minimum Pages Required: 2 blank pages (4 if routing through South Africa)

Visa Fees:

- No visa required for most countries.

Zimbabwe

- Passport Validity: 6 months at departure
- Minimum Pages Required: 4 blank pages (6 if routing through South Africa)
- Online Immigration form, mandatory to prefill: <https://evisa.gov.zw/app/index.html#/standby-kiosk>

Visa Fees:

- Europe & USA: \$30 (single entry) / \$45 (double entry)
- UK & N. Ireland: \$55

Zambia

- Passport Validity: 6 months after journey ends
- Minimum Pages Required: 3 blank visa pages for entry & exit stamps

Visa Fees:

- No visa required for most countries
- \$25 (single entry) / \$40 (double entry)

Namibia

- Passport Validity: 6 months at entry
- Minimum Pages Required: 3 blank pages

Visa Fees:

- \$90 (for citizens from non-African)
- \$70 for citizens from African countries)

Mozambique

- Passport Validity: 6 months at entry
- Minimum Pages Required: 3 blank pages

Visa Fees:

- No visa required for most countries.
- Compulsory admin fee of \$11 at point of entry

For Latest Updates on Tourist Visa Info for Botswana, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Zambia & Mozambique:

africaseden.travel/tourist-visa-info

FAMILY TRAVEL

Required documents for children under 18 include:

Traveling with both parents

Certified unabridged birth certificate and valid passport.



Unaccompanied children

Certified unabridged birth certificate, valid passport, affidavit of parental consent, and a letter from the receiving person at the destination with their contact details and a certified copy of their ID or passport.



Traveling with a guardian

Certified unabridged birth certificate, valid passport, and an affidavit confirming parental consent.



Traveling with one parent

Certified unabridged birth certificate, valid passport and affidavit from the absent parent granting permission, death certificate or along with a certified copy of the absent parent's ID/ passport or court order.



Traveling with kids? [Click here](#) for more info and helpful guidelines.

TRANSFERS & BORDER CROSSINGS



How Shared Transfers Work

- Set Schedule: Operate on a fixed timetable, connecting major airports, lodges, and national parks.
- Vehicle Type: Typically minibuses in Zambia and Zimbabwe or game-viewing vehicles on the Botswana side
- Multiple Stops: Passengers may be picked up/dropped off along the route.
- Possible longer waiting time at immigration.
- Cost-Effective: More affordable than private transfers but with less flexibility in times and often also slower.



How Private Transfers Work

- Personalised Service: Exclusive vehicle for you/your group with a driver.
- Flexible Schedule: Departures tailored to your itinerary.
- Direct Routes: No stops for other passengers, making the journey quicker.
- Quicker border crossing.
- Comfort & Privacy: Ideal for families, honeymooners, or those who prefer a more exclusive experience.



How Border Crossings Work

- Passport & Visa: Ensure passport validity and visa requirements are met for each country.
- Multiple Checkpoints: Some crossings involve stopping at both exit and entry immigration offices.
- Vehicle Transfers: In some cases, travellers switch vehicles between borders due to different vehicle regulations.
- Kazungula Bridge (Botswana/Zambia)
- Kazungula Land border (Botswana/Zimbabwe)
- Victoria Falls (Zimbabwe/Zambia): Short crossing, often done on foot.
- Ngoma (Botswana/Namibia): Used for travellers heading to/from Chobe and the Caprivi Strip.

GETTING AROUND



Charter Flights

Safari flights use light aircraft like the Cessna Caravan or GA8 Airvan to reach remote camps and lodges, landing on short, unpaved airstrips in the bush.

- **Small Aircraft:** Limited seating (6–12 passengers) with compact interiors.
- **Quick Stops:** Flights may include pickups or drop-offs at other airstrips.
- **Unpaved Airstrips:** Expect dirt or grass runways, adding to the adventure.
- **Scenic Views:** Low-altitude flights offer breathtaking views of the Okavango Delta, wildlife, and waterways—keep your camera ready!



Guided Trips (Mobile Safaris)

- **What to Expect:** Mobile safaris involve travelling with a guide in a specially equipped safari vehicle, moving between camps or lodges.
- **Group vs. Private:** Can be booked as a shared group trip or a private experience.
- **Flexibility:** Routes and itineraries on scheduled trips are pre-set. On private trips itineraries are flexible and tailor-made.
- **Accommodation:** Often includes tented camps that move with the group or a mix of lodges and campsites.



Helicopter Transfers

Some camps in Botswana are only accessible by helicopter.

For a thrilling, lower-altitude flight, helicopters provide quick access to remote camps with unmatched aerial views of the landscape and wildlife. And another advantage is, you will land very close to the camp, avoiding long transfers.

- **Compact & Snug:** Expect some noise (headsets provided) and limited space.

TRAVEL PRECAUTIONS: ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

Travel & Medical Insurance

- Travel insurance is highly recommended. It usually covers cancellations fees, delays and lost luggage.
- Okavango Air Rescue is recommended for emergency evacuations in Northern Botswana.
- International health insurance is compulsory and the details need to be shared at time of confirmation.

Personal Safety

- Botswana, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Mozambique and Namibia are generally safe, but caution is advised in towns and cities.

Security tips:

- Keep valuables and medication in hand luggage.
- Use room safes (make sure you don't forget valuables in the safe when checking out of the camp, lodge, hotel).
- Follow wildlife safety rules and guide's instructions.
- Safaris involve risks—guests must sign indemnities in every camp and follow operator regulations.

Medical Evacuation

- Medical travel insurance is mandatory—contact info and details required at time of booking.
- Evacuations from camps to medical facilities are limited after dark. Only in Northern Botswana can **Okavango Air Rescue** provide night evacuations by helicopter, but this requires patron membership and depends on the emergency and weather conditions.
- In emergencies, travelers are flown to the nearest facility, then transferred to South Africa if needed.
- Local medical care is limited—carry essential medications and backups.

Health & Medical

- Stay hydrated with water, juice and soft drinks.
- Carry prescribed medication in hand luggage with a spare prescription.
- Malaria risk in Botswana, Zambia, Zimbabwe, and Mozambique—use Mozzie nets, repellent, and wear long trousers and shirts at night.
- Camps have limited power—inform your agent if 24-hour electricity is needed.
- Yellow Fever certificate required if arriving from affected areas.
- If prone to motion sickness, take precautions for light aircraft travel.
- Camps provide first aid, but bring essentials like painkillers, Imodium, antihistamines, plasters, electrolytes.
- Further info regarding health can be found [here](#).

SEASONS & CONDITIONS

April and May

Balanced season with lush scenery, the rains will have stopped.
Accessible game areas, water levels start to rise (Vic Falls experiences highest water), and cooler temperatures—ideal for a pleasant safari experiences.



June to August

Peak safari season; cool, comfortable days (20-28°C)
Thinned vegetation for great game viewing.
Shorter days during our winter months.
Mornings and nights are cold (0-8°C - bring warm layers).



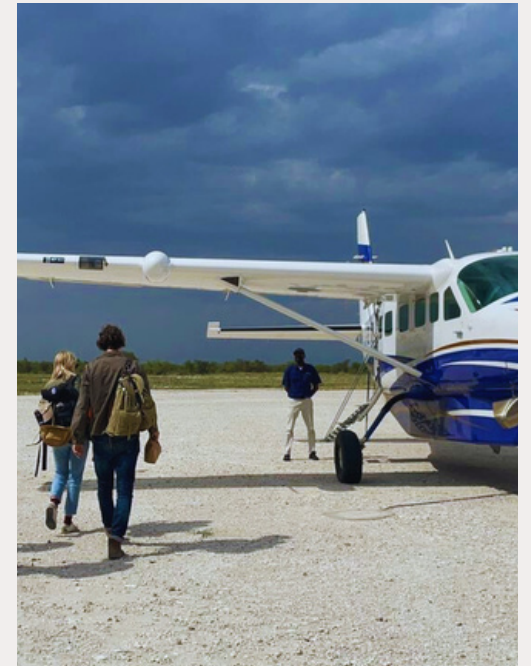
September and October

Best for big game sightings as wildlife gathers near water sources.
Very hot temperatures (35-40°C), longer days, lots of sunshine.
Stay hydrated and carry electrolytes.



November to March

Rainy season with lush landscapes.
Newborn animals, warm days (30-35°C)
Occasional afternoon thunderstorms.
Stay hydrated.



ACTIVITIES ON SAFARI - BOTSWANA | ZIMBABWE | ZAMBIA



Experience a diverse range of safari adventures, including:

- Game Drives – Explore wildlife-rich areas in open 4x4 vehicles.
- Night Drives – Spot nocturnal predators under the stars.
- Guided Walks – Discover the bush up close on foot.
- Mokoro Excursions – Glide through waterways in traditional canoes.
- Boat Safaris & Canoeing – Navigate rivers teeming with wildlife.
- Fishing & Quad Biking – Enjoy unique off-the-beaten-path experiences.

What's Included?

Your itinerary will outline the specific activities included.

- In Botswana, most activities are pre-arranged and included in the nightly rate.
- In Kasane/Chobe, inclusions may vary, and some extras—like drinks or select activities—may require additional payment.

Availability of activities depends on water levels, season, and location. They are led by professional guides to create an immersive experience.

ON SAFARI

A Typical Safari Day

Early Start (5:00 AM in summer 5:30 / 6:00 in winter)

- Wake-up call with your beverage of choice and some bites to eat before heading out on a morning activity.
- Activities last 3–5 hours, offering prime wildlife viewing as the sun rises.

Midday Break

- Return to camp for brunch or lunch, followed by relaxation or a nap.
- Lunch is served around 12:00 PM—enjoy camp amenities like a pool or lounge area.

Afternoon Activity (around 3:30 in winter at 4 / 4:30 PM in summer)

- Set off on an afternoon safari.
- Dinner follows, rounding off the day under the stars.

Physical Demands of a Safari

- Light Aircraft Transfers – Small planes require stepping and bending to board; turbulence may cause motion sickness.
- Game Drives – Open 4x4 vehicles navigate bumpy terrain, exposing you to heat, dust, or chilly winds depending on the season (bring a hat for the sun, a buff for the dust).
- Walking Safaris – Some camps offer 2–3 hour walks, suitable for those with average fitness levels (bring comfortable walking shoes).

PRACTICAL TIPS

Money

- US Dollars are widely accepted.
- Most lodges and camps accept credit cards, with Visa and Mastercard being the most commonly used.

Tipping

Tipping is not mandatory but is appreciated.

Recommended guidelines:

- Guides: USD 20 per person per day
- General staff: USD 10–15 per person per day (the camps usually have a tip box in the main area).

WiFi

Most camps offer free WiFi either in the main area or in the rooms. WhatsApp and Emails are usually fine, streaming of movies is not possible.

Electricity

Botswana operates on 220V power supply. Most safari camps prioritise sustainability, relying on solar power for clean and efficient energy.

- Charging stations (2-pin, 3-pin, and USB) are typically available in guest rooms.
- Mobile camps often provide charging facilities in vehicles and the main camp area



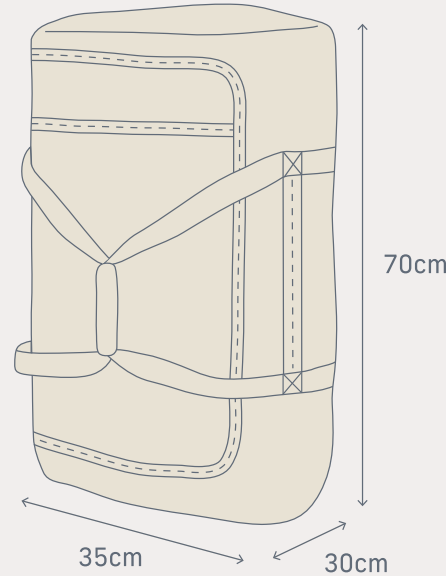
WHAT TO PACK

Essentials

- Personal Items: sunscreen, a wide-brimmed hat, sunglasses, good walking shoes and any required medications.
- Travel Documents: Passport, visas (if applicable), travel insurance, and plane tickets.
- Comfort: Light toiletries and your skincare essentials.
- Camera, binoculars, head-torch

Clothing

- Neutral Layers: Pack neutral colors (khaki, brown, beige) for better blending in. Include warm layers for cool mornings and evenings. It can get very chilly in our winter months from June to August, fleeces, light feather jackets and beanies/gloves/scarfs are recommended.
- Footwear: Bring comfy closed-toe shoes for walking and a pair of sandals or flip-flops for lounging.



Luggage Restrictions

- Weight Limit: 15 kg checked baggage + 5 kg hand luggage (20 kg total per person).
- Bag Type: Soft-sided bags only, for easy storage in light aircraft and on mobile safaris.
- Layering: Dress in layers to adapt to temperature changes throughout the day.
- Laundry: Most camps provide laundry services, so you can pack light.
- Carry-On Essentials: Always keep a change of clothes, essential medications, and valuables in your hand luggage in case of delays or lost luggage.
- Note on Charter Flights: Some charter companies, such as Moremi Air and Safari Air, enforce strict luggage limits — but our ground handlers are always happy to store any excess luggage for you.
- Sending extra baggage may incur additional surcharges, so it's best to pack within the allowed weight.

Need Help While on Safari?

If you're on safari and unable to reach us via our regular channels, please note that our Ground Handling team @Safari Destinations has a 24-hour emergency line available via call or WhatsApp at: +267 72 80 61 50

For after-hours non-urgent matters, feel free to email us at: afterhours@safaridestinations.net

Want to Make a Meaningful Impact?

If you'd like to support local communities during your visit, consider bringing along gently used clothing or books. It's a simple way to give back and make your journey even more meaningful.

Learn more about what to bring and find out more about our partnership with Pack for a Purpose:

[Pack for a Purpose – Safari Destinations](#)