

# BOTSWANA ONLINE TRAVEL RESOURCES

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*This document was produced by Mandy Jones, author of Cats for Africa, based in South Africa.*

*[Cats for Africa](#) is a website established to provide information on the smaller wild cats of Africa and to promote awareness about research and conservation projects on these lesser cats.*

*All efforts were made to list websites that have up to date and accurate information however we bear no responsibility for the accuracy, legality or the content of these websites. Please contact the websites regarding their content if you have any questions. All links in this document were secure and valid as at October 2022.*

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## BOTSWANA TRAVEL REQUIREMENTS

Knowing what your travel requirements are to enter a country is essential when organising a trip. Besides visas, this includes whether you need proof of sufficient funds, travel insurance, return air tickets, documents showing the purpose of your visit and passport validity period.

There are three key online sources to find out what the travel requirements are to Botswana:

- a. Your own country's government website
- b. Botswana embassy in your country (if there is one)
- c. Botswana's government travel website

Here are the country websites for **Australia**, the **United States** and the **United Kingdom**:

1. Australian Government – Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade  
<https://www.smarttraveller.gov.au/destinations/africa/botswana>
2. United States – U.S. Department of State  
<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/International-Travel-Country-Information-Pages/Botswana.html>

Botswana Embassy in the USA: <http://www.botswanaembassy.org/>

3. United Kingdom – UK Government – Foreign Travel Advice  
<https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/botswana/entry-requirements>

Botswana High Commission in the UK:

<https://www.facebook.com/BotswanaHighCommissionUnitedKingdom/>

Tip: Not all countries will have information on visas to all other countries – for example on the Poland government website I could only find information on visas TO Poland and not for Polish citizens travelling elsewhere: <https://www.gov.pl/web/diplomacy>. So Polish citizens would need to check with a travel agent or on the destination country's tourism and government websites.

## BOTSWANA GOVERNMENT WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA

Botswana Government:

- Website: <https://www.gov.bw/>
- Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/BotswanaGovernment/>
- Twitter page: <https://twitter.com/BWGovernment>

Botswana Tourism website: <https://www.botswanaturism.co.bw/index.php/travel-information>

Visa information:

<https://www.botswanaturism.co.bw/index.php/travel-info/entry-formalities>

<https://www.botswanaturism.co.bw/travel-info/countries-requiring-visas>

<https://evisa.gov.bw/#/needvisa>

To apply online for an e-Visa: <https://evisa.gov.bw/#/>

UK visa website (from / to any country) which also gives you a list of travel requirements:  
<https://cibtvisas.co.uk/destination/bwa/botswana-visa>

## COVID-19 REQUIREMENTS

All COVID-19 related entry restrictions have been dropped according to a statement released by the Botswana Ministry of Health in September 2022. However most travel advice says still take your vaccination certificates with you.

<https://yourbotswana.com/2022/02/13/botswana-covid-19-requirements-for-travellers/>

Other vaccinations to consider are yellow fever, rabies and malaria:

USA website: <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/none/botswana>

UK website: [https://travelhealthpro.org.uk/country/33/botswana#Vaccine\\_recommendations](https://travelhealthpro.org.uk/country/33/botswana#Vaccine_recommendations)

Tip: Bear in mind most African government websites are generally NOT up to date, so it is always best to confirm the latest travel requirements for your country with a travel agent. For example the Botswana Tourism website listed Poland as a country requiring a visa, but the e-Visa website says no visa is required for Poland. I also found that the latest Covid regulations were posted on the government's Twitter feed however their websites, including the tourism website, still have the older information.

## NATIONAL PARKS

Most tourists go to Botswana to see the spectacular wildlife. The Okavango Delta covers most of northern Botswana and is protected in part by the Moremi Game Reserve. The four main national parks are Chobe, Gemsbok, Makgadikgadi Pan and Nxai Pan.

The Department of Wildlife and National Parks (DWNP) of Botswana does not appear to have their own website however there are websites about the individual parks. Although some of these belong to commercial tour operators or travel agents, however the information about the park is comprehensive and kept up to date.

## OKAVANGO DELTA

Okavango Delta Explorations (UK): <https://www.okavangodelta.com/the-okavango/>

Okavango World Heritage Site listing: <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1432/>

Botswana Tourism: <https://www.botswanatourism.co.bw/explore/okavango-delta>

Lodge booking site and map (BW): <https://www.okavango.com/>

## MOREMI GAME RESERVE

Okavango Delta Explorations (UK): <https://www.okavangodelta.com/destinations/moremi-game-reserve/>

Botswana Tourism: <https://www.botswanaturism.co.bw/explore/moremi-game-reserve>

Lodge booking site and map (BW): <https://www.moremi.com/>

## CHOBE NATIONAL PARK

Umkulu Adventures (ZA): <https://chobenationalpark.co.za/chobe-national-park-information/>

Botswana Tourism: <https://botswanaturism.co.bw/explore/chobe-national-park>

Lodge booking site and map (BW): <https://www.chobe.com/>

## GEMSBOK NATIONAL PARK

This park is the Botswana side of Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park which straddles Botswana and South Africa.

Botswana Tourism: <https://www.botswanaturism.co.bw/explore/kgalagadi-transfrontier-park>

Wikipedia: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kgalagadi\\_Transfrontier\\_Park](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kgalagadi_Transfrontier_Park)

Birdlife: <https://www.birdlife.org.za/iba-directory/kalahari-gemsbok-national-park>

## MAKGADIKGADI PANS

Note the National Park just covers a small section of the salt pans.

Botswana Tourism: <https://www.botswanaturism.co.bw/explore/makgadikgadi-pans-game-reserve>

Makgadikgadi World Heritage Site listing: <https://whc.unesco.org/en/tentativelists/5559/>

Wikipedia: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Makgadikgadi\\_Pan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Makgadikgadi_Pan)

Birdlife: <http://datazone.birdlife.org/site/factsheet/makgadikgadi-pans-iba-botswana>

## NXAI PAN

Botswana Tourism: <https://www.botswanaturism.co.bw/explore/makgadikgadi-and-nxai-pans>

Botswana Info (NA): <https://www.info-botswana.com/activities-and-places-of-interest/makgadikgadi-nxai-pans/nxai-pan-national-park>

This informative article by Lonely Planet covers all the national parks:

<https://www.lonelyplanet.com/articles/best-national-parks-botswana>

## TRAVEL WEBSITES

Searching for travel information on the internet can be very time consuming! Many websites are informal travel blogs – such as The Blonde Abroad, World Pursuit and Planetd which unfortunately often come up at the top of search results. Many are full of adverts and unreliable, outdated information. It is better to find the reputable travel guide websites in order to conduct your research. They have to ensure their information is accurate and up to date in order to keep up their reputation.

Here is a list of excellent travel guide and magazine websites that have well researched articles by experienced travel journalists about Botswana:

## TRAVEL GUIDE WEBSITES

Lonely Planet: <https://www.lonelyplanet.com/botswana>

Bradt Guides: <https://www.bradtguides.com/?s=botswana>

## TRAVEL MAGAZINE WEBSITES

Wanderlust: <https://www.wanderlust.co.uk/destinations/botswana/>  
<https://www.wanderlust.co.uk/search?srch-term=botswana>

Africa Geographic: <https://africageographic.com/stories/places/botswana/>

National Geographic: <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/travel/destination/botswana>

## OTHER TRAVEL WEBSITES

Trip Savvy.com – travel information site with verified articles:

<https://www.tripsavvy.com/botswana-4138780>

Responsible Travel – travel agent for ethical tour operators:

<https://www.responsibletravel.com/holidays/botswana/travel-guide>

## ONLINE MAPS

Online maps are generally not too detailed or precise however they are a great starting point to plan your journey:

<https://www.nationsonline.org/oneworld/map/botswana-map.htm>

<https://www.expertafrica.com/botswana/reference-map>

<https://www.worldatlas.com/maps/botswana>

[https://www.botswana.co.za/Map\\_of\\_Botswana-Travel/Map\\_of\\_Botswana.html](https://www.botswana.co.za/Map_of_Botswana-Travel/Map_of_Botswana.html)

## 5 FACTS ABOUT BOTSWANA

Here are 5 amazing facts about Botswana:

1. The world's largest elephants – known as Kalahari elephants.
2. The world's largest population of elephants – estimated at 130 000.
3. The world's highest concentrations of lion, giraffe, hippo, wildebeest and buffalo.
4. The world's largest salt pan - Makgadikgadi Pan.
5. The world's largest inland delta - Okavango Delta.

## TRAVEL AGENT

Cats For Africa has partnered with a South African travel agent that specialises in African Safaris. **Go2Africa** has been operating since 1998, all the consultants live in Africa and they personally attend the safaris they promote to ensure quality and standards are maintained. They have won various travel awards, have excellent reviews and will arrange your entire journey including flights and transfers. Besides their South African office they also have toll free numbers in the United States, United Kingdom, Australia and Canada.

Here are some of their Botswana articles:

Botswana: <https://www.go2africa.com/destinations/botswana/why-go>

Chobe: <https://www.go2africa.com/destinations/chobe-national-park/why-go>

Okavango Delta: <https://www.go2africa.com/destinations/okavango-delta/why-go>

If you'd like Go2Africa to send you some itinerary suggestions, click on one of the **Enquire** buttons on their website. A form will come up asking you a few short questions about your holiday - Country, Dates and Number of People and then where to send the information.

More about Go2Africa: <https://www.go2africa.com/about-us/why-travel-with-us>

To be transparent - if you book your trip through Go2Africa, Cats For Africa will receive a small referral fee at no additional cost to you. This goes towards keeping our website updated and our work promoting wild cat conservation in Africa. If you could please ensure they have recorded **Mandy Jones - Cats For Africa** as the referral as sometimes tracking links can fail, or if you decide to phone them instead of using the enquiry form. Thank you so much – I really appreciate it!

Tsamaya sentle ! ('Go well' in Tswana)

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