



Country Guide for Botswana

Page 1 of 5 Important Information Prior to Travelling to Botswana

Tourist Entry Requirements

Australian ordinary passport holders do not usually require a pre obtained visa to enter Botswana as a tourist for a period of between 30 and 90 days in any calendar year.

Passports are recommended to be valid for six months beyond the period of intended stay. Travellers should also be able to show documentation confirming they have sufficient funds to finance their stay, as well as tickets for their onward destination. If coming from a Yellow Fever infected country, a valid vaccination certificate is required. Additional documentation is required for minors, including certified copies of unabridged birth certificates and if not accompanied by both parents, an affidavit from the missing parent/s.

Travellers are recommended to contact a mission of Botswana on the details below for further information and to ensure their specific circumstances make them eligible to enter Botswana without a visa.

Current DFAT Travel Advice

This advice is current for Mon, 5th November 2018.

Exercise normal safety precautions in Botswana. Use common sense and look out for suspicious behaviour, as you would in Australia. Parents must carry a full (unabridged) birth certificate for children under the age of 18. There are additional conditions for minors. See [Entry and exit](#). Maintain a safe and legal distance when observing wildlife. Only use reputable and professional guides or tour operators. Follow wildlife park regulations and wardens' advice. See [Local travel](#).

Do not bathe in fresh water lakes and rivers due to water-borne diseases. See [Health](#). Foreigners have been robbed in the areas of Gaborone Dam and Kgale Hill in the capital, Gaborone. Exercise caution in these areas. See [Safety and security](#).

The above information is an edited excerpt of the Travel Advice Summary from The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Travellers are encouraged to read the travel advice in full, subscribe to updates to this advice and to register their presence in Botswana at www.smartraveller.gov.au.

Vaccinations and Health Precautions

The following information is intended as a guide only and in no way should it be used as a substitute for professional medical advice relative to a travellers individual needs and vaccination history. No guarantee is made as to its accuracy or thoroughness. For further information, please contact The Travel Doctor on 1300 658 844.

Vaccination against hepatitis A is recommended for travellers to Botswana. Frequent or long stay travellers should consider vaccination against hepatitis B. Vaccination against rabies (particularly if working with animals) and typhoid (particularly when travelling to areas with poor sanitation and hygiene) should be considered by travellers to Botswana. Care with food and beverage selection is recommended. There is a medium risk of malaria in Botswana and dengue fever also occurs, thus insect avoidance measures and anti malarial medication may be necessary depending on your itinerary.

Regardless of destination, all travellers should be up-to-date with their routine "background" vaccinations, including a recent annual influenza vaccination. Please consult a medical practitioner or contact The Travel Doctor for your specific risk to these preventable diseases and the appropriate avoidance measures.

Australians travelling to Botswana should ensure that they have adequate travel insurance to cover the length of their stay. Medications that are legal in Australia may be illegal in other countries. For further information on insurance, taking medication overseas and other issues please visit www.smartraveller.gov.au/tips.

Representatives of Botswana in Australia

High Commission of Botswana, Canberra

130 Denison Street
DEAKIN, ACT 2600

Tel: (02) 6234 7500
Fax: (02) 6282 4140

Honorary Consulate of Botswana,
Sydney

Old Bridge Farm, 15 Dunwoodie St
KENDALL, NSW 2439

Tel: (02) 5591 6007

Botswana also maintains honorary consulates in other states. As honorary consulates offer limited services, travellers should first contact the High Commission in Canberra for consular information.



Country Guide for Botswana

Page 2 of 5 Important Information while Travelling in Botswana

Time Differences between Botswana and Australia

Botswana is Greenwich Mean Time +2 hours. Daylight saving time is not observed. The applicable time zone in Botswana is called Central Africa Time (CAT).

Botswana, 12 noon, Winter (Jun) = Perth 6pm; Darwin, Adelaide 7:30pm; Brisbane, Hobart, Melbourne, Sydney 8pm.

Botswana, 12 noon, Summer (Dec) = Perth 6pm; Darwin 7:30; Brisbane 8pm; Adelaide 8:30pm; Hobart, Melbourne, Sydney 9pm.

Important Contact Numbers

Country Code for Botswana: +267

To Dial Australia Call: 00 61 <City> <Number>

Travelex Card Services:
 Call the US on +1 954 838 8294

Visa Global Assist:
 Call the US on +1 303 967 1090

MasterCard:
 Call the US on +1 636 722 7111

American Express Travellers Cheques:
 Call the UK on +44 20 7365 4846

Botswana Department of Immigration:
 For visa extensions call (+267) 3611 300

Emergency Services:
 Ambulance - 997
 Fire - 998
 Police - 999
 Medical Rescue - 992 (private company)

The emergency services may not have English speaking staff. To avoid delay it may be best to seek the assistance of a Setswana speaker to call the emergency services.

Important Information to be Recorded

Travellers are encouraged to carry photocopies of all important documents separately to their originals, and to leave a set of these photocopies with someone in Australia. This includes those documents listed below.

Passports

Name: _____ Passport #: _ _ _ _ _

Name: _____ Passport #: _ _ _ _ _

Credit Cards

Name: _____ Institution: _____

Card Number: _ _ _ _ _

Name: _____ Institution: _____

Card Number: _ _ _ _ _

Travel Insurance

Name: _____ Institution: _____

Policy #: _____ Emergency #: _____

Name: _____ Institution: _____

Policy #: _____ Emergency #: _____

Australian Representation in Botswana

Australian High Commission,
 South Africa

292 Orient Street
 Arcadia
 PRETORIA 0083

Tel: (+27 12) 423 6000
 Fax: (+27 12) 342 8442

Web: www.southafrica.highcommission.gov.au

Australian Honorary Consulate, Botswana

Plot 50637, Block 10, Airport Road
 (Next to Airport Junction Shopping Centre)
 GABORONE

Tel: (+267) 390 2996
 (+267) 713 31550
 Fax: (+267) 391 4293

The honorary consulate in Gaborone can only provide limited consular assistance. The Australian High Commission in South Africa is accredited to Botswana.

Alternatively, Australians may obtain assistance by contacting the 24 hour Consular Emergency Centre in Australia on (+61 2) 6261 3305. Australians are encouraged to register their presence and contact details with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade at www.orao.dfat.gov.au.



Country Guide for Botswana

Page 3 of 5 General Destination Information for Botswana

Duty Free Allowances for Botswana and Australia

Allowances when entering Botswana:

Alcohol: 1 litre spirits, 2 litres wine.
 Tobacco: 200 cigarettes, 20 cigars, 250g of tobacco.
 Perfume: 50 ml perfume, 250 ml eau de toilette.
 Other Goods: Up to R3,000 (South African Rand) when entering from outside the Southern African Customs Union (SACU) or R500 from inside the SACU.

Allowances when entering Australia:

Alcohol: 2.25 litres.
 Tobacco: 25 cigarettes plus one open packet of cigarettes.
 Other Goods: Up to AUD\$900 (\$450 for minors).

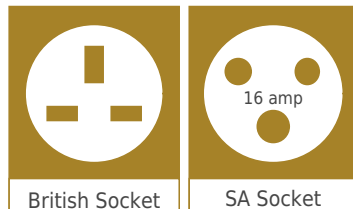
Minors may not claim alcohol or tobacco products. Further restrictions apply when entering/exiting Botswana and Australia. Travellers are encouraged to familiarise themselves with these restrictions before crossing the borders of either country. For information on customs in Botswana visit www.burs.org.bw, or for information on Australian customs visit www.border.gov.au.

Electrical Adaptors and Voltage

Electrical socket: South African sockets (old British, type M) are the most common. British (type G) and Indian sockets (type D), similar but smaller than the South African socket) may also be encountered in some areas.

Supply: 220-240 V, 50 Hz (same as Australia).

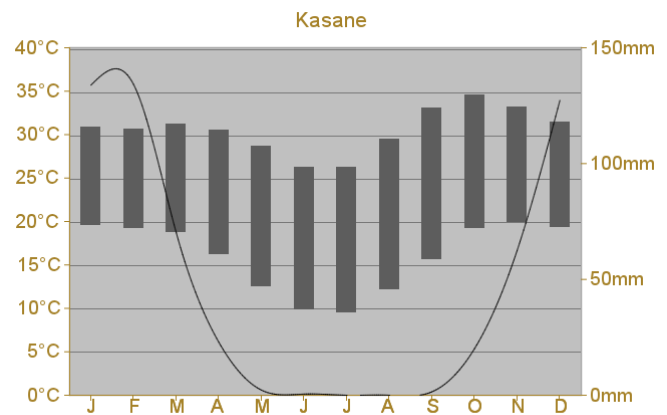
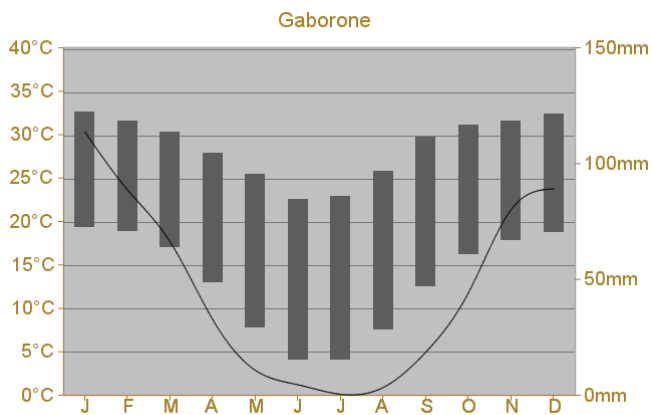
A socket converter is generally all that is required to use appliances designed for Australian use.



Public Holidays in Botswana 2018

01-02 Jan:	New Year's Day	16-17 Jul:	President's Day
30 Mar:	Good Friday	30 Sep:	Botswana Day
02 Apr:	Easter Monday	01-02 Oct:	Public Holiday
01 May:	Labour Day	25 Dec:	Christmas
10 May:	Ascension Day	26 Dec:	Boxing Day
01-02 Jul:	Sir Seretse Khama Day		

Average Temperature (Bar) and Precipitation (Line) in Botswana



For forecasts go to the Botswana Department of Meteorology website at www.mewt.gov.bw/DMS or go to www.bbc.co.uk/weather.

TRAVEL ADVICE COPYRIGHT INFORMATION - Source Document: Travel Advice for Botswana. Author: Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Commonwealth of Australia. The Travel Advice information presented in this report is copyright Commonwealth of Australia. This advice is a synopsis only, more information relevant to specific issues is available from the website listed below. This material has been reproduced by permission, but does not purport to be the current official or authorized version. The Commonwealth does not warrant that the information is accurate, comprehensive or up to date, and you should make independent inquiries, and obtain appropriate advice, before relying on the information in any important matter. A current version may be obtained from www.smarttraveller.gov.au.



Country Guide for Botswana

Page 4 of 5 Botswanan Currency Information and Cheat Sheet

Exchange Rate with Botswana

Interbank Rate

1 Australian Dollar (AUD) = 7.67 Botswana Pula
 10 Botswana Pula (BWP) = 1.30 Australian Dollars

With 4% Margin

1 Australian Dollar (AUD) buys 7.38 Botswana Pula
 10 Botswana Pula (BWP) will cost 1.36 Australian Dollars

All rates were correct at a point in time on Monday, 05 Nov 2018. The "Interbank Rate" does not take into account any exchange fees, while the "With 4% Margin" adds 4% to the exchange rate to simulate a typical margin that would be paid when exchanging currencies. These currency rates have been rounded and should not be used when calculating transactions of large value.

Currency Cheat Sheet

This cheat sheet uses the "With 4% Margin" rate of exchange listed above.

P5	= \$0.68 AUD	P100	= \$13.55 AUD	P1,000	= \$135.52 AUD
P10	= \$1.36 AUD	P200	= \$27.10 AUD	P2,000	= \$271.04 AUD
P20	= \$2.71 AUD	P300	= \$40.66 AUD	P3,000	= \$406.57 AUD
P30	= \$4.07 AUD	P400	= \$54.21 AUD	P4,000	= \$542.09 AUD
P40	= \$5.42 AUD	P500	= \$67.76 AUD	P5,000	= \$677.61 AUD
P50	= \$6.78 AUD	P600	= \$81.31 AUD	P6,000	= \$813.13 AUD
P60	= \$8.13 AUD	P700	= \$94.87 AUD	P7,000	= \$948.66 AUD
P70	= \$9.49 AUD	P800	= \$108.42 AUD	P8,000	= \$1,084.18 AUD
P80	= \$10.84 AUD	P900	= \$121.97 AUD	P9,000	= \$1,219.70 AUD
P90	= \$12.20 AUD			P10,000	= \$1,355.22 AUD

Banknotes of Botswana

The legal currency of Botswana is the Pula, which is abbreviated using the symbol "P" (for example "P10") and has the currency code "BWP". The subunit of the pula is the thebe, of which there are 100 in every pula. A thebe is abbreviated using the symbol "t" (for example "5t"). The literal translation of Pula is rain, but the idiomatic translation means blessings. The translation of thebe means a shield. The following banknotes are the most common in circulation. Pictures are not to scale. As it is illegal in many countries to print copies of bank notes, travellers are advised to remove the below images prior to travelling.





Country Guide for Botswana

Page 5 of 5 About Botswana and Botswanan Travel Map

About Botswana

Full Name:	Republic of Botswana (formally the British protectorate of Bechuanaland).	Significant Dates:	1800's - Christian missionaries begin to visit the region.
Independence:	30 September 1966 (from the United Kingdom).		1867 AD - European gold prospectors arrive, mining begins.
Size:	581,730 sq km (3/4 the size of NSW).		1885 - British protectorate of Bechuanaland established.
Population:	2.1 million (10% the size of Australia). Gaborone 430,000; Francistown 151,000.		1950 - Seretse Khama, Chief of the Ngwato people, is deposed and exiled by the British (with South African urging), due to his interracial marriage.
Religion:	Christian 72%, Badimo 6%, other 1.4%, unspecified 0.4%, none 21%.		1962-65 - Khama becomes prime minister, winning first elections with universal suffrage.
Language:	Setswana 78%, Kalanga 8%, Sekgalagadi 3%, English (official) 2%.		1966 - Bechuanaland is granted independence, becoming the Republic of Botswana.
GDP Per Capita:	US\$16,000 (Australia US\$46,600).		1967 - Diamonds discovered in Botswana.
			1980 - President Khama dies in office.
			2008 - Ian Khama, son of Seretse becomes president.

