



IN PARTNERSHIP
WITH

Letaka
SAFARIS

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

EXPERIENCE BOTSWANA IN STYLE

GETTING THERE

How do I book this tour?

Booking is very easy! Simply follow the booking procedure by clicking on "Book Now". This will take you to the product page where you can reserve your place by paying a DEPOSIT. Alternatively, please contact us by email using info@victor-soares.com. You will receive a confirmation of your booking and any queries will be dealt with using the e-mail you provide. All major credit cards and paypal are accepted.

Where will we meet?

We will meet at OR Tambo International Airport in Johannesburg, South Africa. From there we will travel by plane to Maun in Botswana where our adventure begins.

What flights do I take?

There are a range of flights available, depending on where you are travelling from. If you need help selecting a flight that coincides with the tour, please reach us by email at info@victor-soares.com. **NOTE, however, that it is vital that you take the correct connecting flights that will ensure a proper beginning to the tour. On return you may choose to extend your holiday so it is not as important, but the initial connecting flight to Maun is critical – please let us help you book this flight.**

Do I need a visa for Botswana?

If you're wondering whether you need a visa for Botswana, most passport holders will not require one. Citizens from the US, UK, Germany, France, Italy, Spain, Australia, Canada, New Zealand and several other countries can obtain a three-month visa upon arrival at Botswana's borders or airports. For more detailed information on which countries require visas and the guidelines for completing a visa application, please visit www.botswanaembassy.org.

Do I need to hire a car?

For the duration of this tour, there is no requirement for a vehicle, all is catered for.

Do I need to take Malaria medication?

When considering whether to take malaria medication, it's important to note that Botswana is classified as a low-risk malarial region. However, it is advisable to consult with your doctor for personalised advice on vaccinations and any necessary malaria medication for your trip to Botswana. Additionally, if your travel plans include other countries, such as Zambia, you may require further vaccinations like the Yellow Fever vaccine.

What is the luggage restriction?

Luggage restrictions vary depending on your travel arrangements. If you are flying with Air Botswana, the allowance is 20kg for checked luggage and 7kg for carry-on. However, for safaris that involve charter flights, such as Northern Highlights and Miracle Rivers during peak and shoulder seasons, the total luggage limit is 20kg. This must be packed in soft bags due to the small size of the charter planes and strict regulations. Exceeding this limit may result in having to leave items behind or travelling without your luggage, so adherence to these guidelines is essential. Should you need extra baggage space, an additional seat can be purchased; please inform us when confirming your booking.

Packing guidelines

Pack this in your hand luggage so it can't get lost:

- Flashlight & headlamp
- Binoculars – don't leave home without them!!!
- A digital camera with spare batteries, battery charger and plenty of memory cards.
- Your personal medication/prescriptions – replacing these in Botswana is not always possible.

In late March, the rains start to ease and the weather is generally still hot, so don't bring too much cold weather



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clothes. It can get quite hot during the day so light summer clothing is also a must. The best way to deal with winter is to dress in layers. If you are travelling in summer, a good sweater (jumper) is recommended, as it can get rather cool, especially if you are doing any boat trips as well as a light raincoat. Light trousers and a cool long-sleeved shirt in the evenings in summer will help protect you from the mosquitoes. For the remainder bring light cotton clothing. For walks it is recommended that you bring neutral coloured clothing (beige, khaki, olive, stone etc.) but when travelling in the vehicle, most colours are fine – light colours generally being cooler. Dark blue and black clothing are not recommended. Bring clothing that can be hand washed easily and dried quickly. Bring some good walking shoes and sandals (with sturdy soles to protect you from the large thorns) or thongs as you may need to get your feet wet on boating excursions. You may get opportunities to swim, so bring along a swimming outfit. Don't forget your sun hat!

WHILE IN BOTSWANA

What will the weather be like?

This tour takes place in late March, a period when the rains begin to subside, giving way to predominantly hot and dry conditions both day and night. While daytime temperatures remain high with ample sunshine, the nights become cooler, offering more comfortable sleeping conditions and opportunities for enjoying evenings outdoors with a sundowner. Additionally, this time marks the breeding season for antelope; males can be observed engaging in head-butting and displaying behaviours as they compete to attract females.

What can I expect on a typical travel day?

On a typical travel day, you can expect an early start as we pack our bags and depart from camp to enjoy breakfast in a picturesque location. After breakfast, we embark on a game drive towards our next camp, pausing for tea or coffee with cookies and later enjoying a leisurely lunch under the shade of trees.

Lunch usually brings us close to our new camp, where you'll find that our crew has already set up the site for your arrival. There will be time for a shower before afternoon tea, after which we'll begin exploring the area. Please be aware that this is just an outline of what to expect on a travel day; activities may vary from safari to safari based on factors such as wildlife distribution, distances between camps, road conditions, and your guide's decisions.

What about days where we are not moving between camps?

On other days, you can anticipate a schedule designed to maximise wildlife viewing and photography opportunities. The day typically starts at the crack of dawn (or just before) with a coffee and light breakfast by the fire, as early morning offers the best game viewing. From there, you'll embark on a game drive, walking safari or boat trip. After several hours of observing wildlife, there will be a comfort break where tea, coffee and cookies are served. Between 10 and 11 am, you'll return to camp for some time to freshen up using warm water in your standing basins before indulging in a delicious brunch featuring freshly baked camp bread, baked dishes and cold salads. Post-brunch is reserved for relaxation—whether that means taking a siesta, reading a book or having a shower—before setting out again in the late afternoon for another game drive or boat trip. In areas outside National Parks, there's also the possibility of returning to camp after dark using spotlights to search for nocturnal animals. This outline represents what generally occurs on most exploration days; however, each day's activities may vary depending on local conditions, wildlife distribution and safety considerations as determined by your guide.

What kinds of animals will we see?

During a safari, the variety of animals you might encounter can vary greatly. While nothing is guaranteed, which adds to the excitement of tracking and searching for elusive creatures, each itinerary typically outlines the types of animals you can expect to see in different regions. This information helps set



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realistic expectations and enhances your overall experience by highlighting potential wildlife sightings specific to each area.

What type of vehicle will we be travelling on?

Our vehicles for travel are designed to be spacious and comfortable, accommodating up to nine guests. Each vehicle is equipped with inverters and strip plugs, enabling guests to charge essential items like camera batteries using the AC charger provided with their appliance. For those needing adapters, please note that Botswana uses the Old British 3 Pin Type M plug, similar to South Africa's standard. It is important that these inverters are used only for necessary items; please avoid bringing high-drain devices such as electric toothbrushes that require prolonged charging. The seating arrangement consists of three seats per row. Additionally, a fridge will be available either on the vehicle or trailer to ensure cold drinks are accessible throughout your game drive experience.

Do I need to be very fit?

There is no upper age limit for participating in our safaris; however, please be aware that a basic level of mobility and fitness is necessary if you wish to partake in guided walks. Other than that, we will be climbing on and off the safari vehicle and you will have to raise your cup or glass to your lips! That's about it!

What is the standard accepted tipping procedure for Botswana?

In Botswana, the standard tipping procedure is generally as follows: While tipping is entirely optional and at your discretion, these guidelines are commonly recognised within the industry. For guides, a tip of USD 10.00 per person per day is customary. Safari chefs typically receive USD 5.00 per person per day, and general staff also usually receive USD 5.00 per person per day. These figures are provided for informational purposes to help you decide on an appropriate gratuity during your visit.

Should I bring any money with me?

It is generally not necessary to bring money with you on these trips, as they are fully inclusive. However, if you wish to leave a tip for your guide and crew, you may want to have some cash on hand. For those extending their trip to places like Kasane, Vic Falls, or Livingstone, there will be opportunities to visit craft markets where you might want to make purchases. In such cases, bringing US Dollars is advisable as it is widely accepted and can be easily exchanged in towns. Additionally, major towns have ATM machines available for convenience.

Is laundry available during our trip?

Laundry services are available during your safari, with the camp crew offering to do laundry upon request on full days spent in camp. However, this service is subject to weather conditions and water availability. Guests are kindly asked not to include undergarments with their laundry. If you prefer to wash these items yourself, washing powder can be provided; simply inform your guide the evening before so arrangements can be made for the following day.

THE ACCOMODATION

Do you cater for vegetarians and other dietary requirements?

We do indeed cater for vegetarians and other dietary requirements. We kindly request that you inform us of any specific needs or allergies at the time of booking. This allows us ample time to tailor the menu to your preferences. Given the occasional scarcity of certain ingredients in Maun, we might need to source some items from South Africa, especially for guests with gluten intolerance. Therefore, providing as much notice as possible is beneficial, as items cannot be dispatched once the safari has left Maun. Rest assured, we will always strive to accommodate all requirements if notified in advance.



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Do I need to bring my own towel, linen and toiletries?

You do not need to bring your own towels or linen, as we provide both bath and hand towels, along with all necessary linen during your safari with us. However, guests are advised to bring their own personal toiletries.

If I am a single traveller; will I have to share my tent?

As a single traveller, you will not be required to share your tent with another person unless you specifically indicate that you are comfortable doing so. For further details on the single supplement policy, please contact us directly.

Is it safe in my tent?

Yes, provided you adhere to the safety guidelines given by your guide. These include not bringing food into the tent and ensuring that your tent is properly zipped up. By following these instructions, you can ensure that your tent remains secure from any potential 'intruders'.

PHOTOGEAR

What camera and lenses will we need or are recommended?

Any telephoto lens will work. Anything from a 70-200 to a 500 prime is welcome and will meet your needs. However, this tour allows you to get quite close to some of the more sought-after species so you may not be struggling for reach. Photography however is a very personal thing so it is probably best to understand your expectations to accurately advise you on what will work for you. Please see the Tour Brochure for more details.

Is a tripod necessary?

A tripod is not specifically required but some people prefer to work with one, so again this depends on you. A monopod is another good option to consider. We will however, be shooting from a moving vehicle and a tripod may be cumbersome and a nuisance so in our

experience, a beanbag is the favoured option. For any landscape or astrophotography, a tripod will however be invaluable.

Will I be able to charge batteries?

Yes, you can charge batteries while on safari. All vehicles are equipped with 220-volt inverters connected to Botswana plug sockets, facilitating easy charging. It is advisable for guests to purchase a Botswana converter, which is identical to the South African three-round-pin plug. We kindly request that guests use the charging facilities solely for recharging camera and torch batteries. Please refrain from bringing hairdryers, electric razors, or electric toothbrushes for use during the safari.

Is it possible to use my cell phone or access the internet?

During your mobile safari experience, you will not have access to mobile signal or internet connectivity. This is a defining feature of an authentic safari, allowing you to immerse yourself in the natural sounds of Africa and completely disconnect from the outside world.