



# BUSH WAYS PREMIUM CAMPING SAFARI

GUEST INFORMATION





# BUSH WAYS



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# 1. LUGGAGE

- One large kit bag (preferably a rucksack or a bag with soft sides – Please do not bring hard suitcases as they are very difficult to pack in our trailers and can pose a problem for any light aircraft flights you may take as part of your safari. Semi-hard suitcases should be avoided as well.
- One item of hand luggage (e.g. a small backpack) – there will be room for this at your feet
- Mainluggage: max weight = 12kg, max. size = 700mm x 350mm x 350mm
- The sleeping bag can be carried outside the main luggage.
- If you are travelling with us to the Delta we request that you take only what you need for the 2/3 nights in a smaller pack. You can leave the large bag with the vehicle which will be locked in a secured area while you will be staying on a small island, with transfers by traditional dugout canoes.
- Remember that on safari you need far less clothes than you think so bear this in mind when packing

# 2. LOST LUGGAGE

- If travelling with someone else pack a set of your clothes in each others bag in case only 1 arrives with you
- Pack a set of safari clothes in your hand luggage and any key medication
- On arrival if you find your bag is missing contact Bush Ways immediately with your tag number and name on the bag as well as a description and the file number (ask for one if they don't give it to you at the airport) and we will try our best to find it for you.
- Do not believe the airlines when they tell you it will be on the next flight! Our experience is that it rarely is, the best course of action is to ask us for assistance.
- If your luggage can not be located for you prior to your safari don't let this spoil your holiday, purchase some toiletries and a few clothing essentials and get out and enjoy what the magnificent bush has to offer, we will do everything to help you during this time and work at reuniting you with your luggage as soon as possible.
- Note that in some circumstances additional cost may be involved to return your bag to you of which we will advise you of at the time. We suggest you pay this and claim from your travel insurance. Despite this being the airlines responsibility we have not known them to do so.



### 3. PERSONAL EQUIPMENT

- Sleeping bag (note that nights can be chilly all year round and cold in winter therefore a warm sleeping bag is advised). A sleeping bag and small pillow can be hired (USD 22 for the duration of the safari, please book this in advance)
- Extra mattress can be hired at USD 11 (please book this in advance)
- Torch with spare batteries and bulbs – a head torch is a good idea
- Hat/cap
- Scarf and gloves (especially for winter months – note that if you also have gardening or working gloves, they can be convenient to set up & pack your tent)
- Warm jacket/fleece/jumper – windproof in winter months (May – Sept), waterproof in summer months (Nov – Mar)
- Swimming costume
- Towel
- Natural clothing (i.e. no bright colours and no white), t-shirts, shorts, a pair of light weight long trousers and a lightweight long sleeve shirt (long sleeves are extremely useful for sun protection during the day and mosquito protection during the evening)
- Please note that camouflage printed clothing is fine for the bush but please do not wear in towns or when crossing borders.
- Comfortable walking shoes and flip flops/sandals
- Camera equipment, binoculars, lots of spare film, batteries and spare memory cards for digital cameras are essential as the opportunity to download photos is limited.

- Adaptors for cables, chargers, USB, etc.: note that we recommend you label them to avoid confusion on the vehicle charging station
- Waterbottle and a small day pack for walks



## 4. TOILETRIES & FIRST AID

- Personal toiletries and medications in small bag, not a vanity case
- Sunscreen
- Malaria prophylaxis (see section 5 for further information)
- Mosquito repellents/lotion/spray
- Water proof/ziplock bags for storing personal items to keep dust free and/or dry.
- Personal First Aid Kit
- Please note: A First Aid Kit will be present throughout the safari but personal medicines must be brought for the duration of the safari.



## 5. MEDICAL PRECAUTIONS

- Ensure that you have tested for COVID 19/have your COVID vaccination certificate prior to departure to avoid denied entry into Zimbabwe.
- Check with your local immunisation authority, travel clinic, public health facility or personal physician
- Visit the WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION website for up to date information [www.who.int](http://www.who.int)
- Botswana is considered a malaria area and preventative medications should be taken
- Between 2012 and 2015, both South Africa and Botswana required that all travelers coming from / going to Zambia should have a valid yellow fever vaccination certificate. Beginning of 2015, both South Africa and Botswana officially communicated that they shall not require the yellow fever vaccination certificate for travelers coming from / going to Zambia.
- However, beware that regulations could change again without prior notice.



## 6. TRAVEL DOCUMENTATION

- Valid passport: your passport must be valid at least 6 months after the end date of your trip and there must be at least 6 blank visa pages.
- Many nationalities are able to obtain tourist visas for Botswana, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe at the border posts HOWEVER citizens of certain countries are required to obtain a visa before travelling. Please note that certain visas can take up to 3 months to be processed so please consider this when booking.
- For more information see [www.botswanatourism.co.bw](http://www.botswanatourism.co.bw), [www.zambiatourism.com](http://www.zambiatourism.com), [www.zimba-bwetourism.co.zw](http://www.zimba-bwetourism.co.zw) and [www.namibiaturism.com.na](http://www.namibiaturism.com.na)
- Valid visas – it is your responsibility to arrange visas
- For up-to-date visa requirements please check with your travel consultant and/or Embassy
- If you need to get a visa for one of the countries visited during your safari, please check when and where the visa can be obtained, and which currency is required for its payment.
- Requirements for minor traveling through all Botswana ports of entry
- Effective from the 1st October 2016 minors travelling through the country's borders will be required to produce certified copies of unabridged birth certificates in addition to their valid passports. In the event that one parent is not travelling with the child, the other parent's affidavit consenting to such travel should be availed. However, an affidavit will not be required if the father's name does not appear on the child's birth certificate.



## 7. TRAVEL INSURANCE

- For all our safaris, it is **COMPULSORY** to take out travel insurance covering: cancellation and curtailment, medical situations, baggage, emergency evacuation.
- Bush Ways Safaris does not provide travel insurance.
- Bush Ways Safaris provides Okavango Air Rescue membership for the duration of the safari nights. The service provides medical evacuation from isolated areas of the bush by a medically equipped helicopter and emergency doctor, ensuring smooth and swift operations. International insurance companies are not always familiar with the practicalities of dealing with emergencies in the Botswana bush, which can add to delays in obtaining medical care. Please note this cover does not include pre and post safari arrangements.
- Please note that you will be required to provide your insurance details prior to your arrival so we can liaise with your insurance company in the shortest amount of time in case of an emergency. Required details include: medical evacuation insurer's Name, medical evacuation policy number, 24-hour contact number of Medical evacuation insurer (must be able to phone it from Botswana - USA 800 numbers don't work from here).

## 8. SAFETY

- Botswana is considered a safe destination. It is economically and politically stable
- Listen to your guide. He will brief you regarding your safety in the Bush and Towns
- Do not have your valuables on display when visiting the Falls and markets



## 9. CURRENCY

Depending on your safari, these are the expenses you may be required to cover: You will have to pay for your own beverages, at the lodges or in the shops. Some meals are excluded from the rate (see detailed itinerary).

If you go to the shops in Namibia you will need Namibian dollars (you can change at the border). Shops in Kasane and Maun will accept either Botswana Pula in Cash or Debit / Credit Cards. See in section 12 below for approximate prices.

See below what modes of payment are accepted in some of the lodges. Please note sur- charges may apply respectively (depending on availability, we may be staying at alternative lodges):

- **Pioneer Camp** – Cash: USD, ZAR, EUR and Credit Card with no min. amount
- **Phezulu Lodge** or similar– Cash: USD, ZAR, EUR & GBP and Credit Card with no min. amount.
- **Khwai Guest House** – Cash: BWP, ZAR, USD & EUR and Credit Card with no min. amount.
- **Boteti River Camp** – Cash: BWP, ZAR, USD, EUR and Credit Card with no min. amount.
- **Chobe Elephant Camp** – Cash: BWP, USD, ZAR, EUR and Credit Card with no min. amount

If you are required to get a visa, whether in Botswana, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Namibia, make sure you get the correct amount in the required currency (for all our trips ending in Victoria Falls, if you are eligible for a visa on arrival, USD in cash will be required). Check consulate and embassies for further details.

The Botswana Tourism Development Levy has not been reinstated if put back in place this will be advised.

Scenic flights can be an optional activity pre or post safari or during your safari. To be paid in cash in EUR/USD to our partner once you are in Maun. You can pay in other currencies, subject to ex- change rate established by our local partner. Check our itineraries for applicable rates.

You will have the option to visit the Victoria Falls. It is advisable to pay cash in USD (US Dollar)at the main entrance to the Falls.

There are ATM machines in major towns (Maun, Kasane and Vic Falls) although they are not guaranteed to be working. However please note USD withdrawals are not applicable in Zimbabwe ATM's.

Credit Cards: Visa and Master cards are the most widely used. Amex and Diners are rarely accepted.

In Zimbabwe, American USD is limited to major establishments such as super markets and lodges and not street vendor facilities, where the Zimbabwe dollar would apply.

If you withdraw excess Botswana Pula it can be changed at a good rate in Victoria Falls due to Botswana's proximity. However, once you are out of this area, exchange rates will not be in your favour.



## 10. TIPPING

Tipping is a generally accepted form of “thanks” throughout the world.

It is not compulsory to tip but highly appreciated by all levels of staff.

We believe that tipping is a personal decision and should reflect the level of service you have received throughout your safari. Therefore, we don't think it is our place to suggest any particular amount. Most guide books and travel forums will give you indications, if you wish to get advice on the matter.

In Botswana it is appreciated if you tip in either foreign(USD, EUR, etc) or local currency

In Zimbabwe it is recommended that you tip in foreign currencies

As an idea of who you may want to tip, we have listed the following

- Professional Guide, Camp Assistant& Translator
- Mokoro Polers/local guides in the OkavangoDelta
- Boat driver on a Chobe River Cruise
- Porters/bar staff/waitresses at any lodges
- Pilot during the optional scenic flight

## 11. SHOPPING

For curios and crafts the best value shopping is in the Victoria Falls area

There are also a good variety of shops in Botswana towns which sell local Botswana crafts such as basketry, ask your guide about it, they will be happy to show you.

As space is limited on safari, we encourage shopping at the end of the safari in Victoria.

What we can provide (subject to availability) either at the start of the safari if pre-ordered or during the safari is our mammal guide book for guests to enjoy while exploring the bush (USD20, EUR25 or BWP250)



## 12. SAFARI DRINKS

The following drinks will be provided on safari, if you require any other drinks, you will need to purchase these at your own cost:

- Filtered drinking water
- Local Beer
- House White Wine
- House Red Wine
- Gin
- Tonic
- Fruit Juice
- Coca Cola or similar soft drinks
- Coca Cola Light/Zero

- All food is pre-ordered and supplied from either our Maun or Kasane base which means there is good consistency of quality as well as minimising any time wasted if your guide had to visit the supermarket.
- It is important to advise us if you are vegetarian, or have any allergies or intolerances prior to coming on safari so we can plan for and accommodate your dietary requirements.

## 13. FOOD

- You will enjoy a wide variety of meals during your safari and we attempt to include an 'African' flavouring our safari menus
- All meals are cooked on an open fire
- It is possible for us to cater for specific dietary requirements, provided we are notified when making your booking. Please note that specialist gluten free/vegan foods are not always available in Botswana. Therefore, if you require any specialist food please bring it on safari with you.



## 14. CAMPING EQUIPMENT

- Our tents are walk in mini meru tents which have mosquito mesh covering all the windows and doors.
- We provide comfortable camp beds with bedrolls and bedding for each guest. Please note: Towels are also provided.
- En-suite bush ablutions consist of high slung bucket showers and bush toilets with private canvas screens.
- 220V/2 pin (round) power points are available on our vehicles to recharge cameras. Please bring suitable adapters. Please note that there are internet cafes/photo shops that will download digital photos in Maun.
- Our vehicles are custom-built game viewing vehicles, specially designed for our safaris. Each vehicle takes a maximum of 9 passengers, which ensures excellent game viewing and mobility
- We have developed our own trailers, each containing a mobile kitchen and space for all camping equipment and luggage
- It is possible for you to hand wash clothes while on your safari. Please note that this is not always possible due to water restrictions in some areas. You must provide your own detergent, just ask our staff for a basin.
- We have a small fridge for guest drinks on board the vehicle



## 15. STARTING YOUR SAFARI

The Bush Ways Safari you choose will determine the time and meeting point for your safari

A Bush Ways Professional Guide or transfer company representative will meet you at a pre-arranged location at the commencement of your safari – these details will be arranged upon booking

We are happy to assist in booking transfers, additional accommodation and activities in Maun, Kasane and Victoria Falls.

On arrival your guide will brief you on the safari and your next destination as well as answering any questions or safety concerns you may have. If you are leaving early in the morning on day 1 of your safari, he will brief you quickly before you head out and then in full once you stop for a break so you can make the most of the cool mornings to travel in.

## 16. DURING YOUR SAFARI

Every morning hot water will be provided in a jug that is placed next to your wash basin for washing your face before breakfast.

Showers are provided in the afternoon but are also possible during the evening on request to your guide.

On the days that you move camps, you may have a picnic lunch en route to your new campsite with your guide, while the back up team goes ahead and sets up the camp in preparation for your arrival.



## 17. WHO WILL JOIN ME ON SAFARI?

Each Bush Ways Premium Camping Safari has a guide and two or three camp assistants. We also offer the services of translators on selected scheduled safaris.

All our guides have a Professional Guides Licence and are extremely knowledgeable about Botswana bird and wildlife, flora and fauna.

There is a maximum of 9 guests on our Premium Camping Safari.

Our policy regarding children is a minimum age of 12 years old. However, please contact us should you want to travel with a child under 12 years old, as they could be accepted under special conditions.



## 18. ARE OUR SAFARI PHYSICALLY DEMANDING

Our average age range on safari is 30-65 however we have happily had children and people as old as 82 who have all thoroughly enjoyed their time with us.

Our vehicles, although open have sides providing greater wind protection on the longer open road sections of the safaris, just let your guide know what your comfort level is.

Botswana has varying weather conditions depending on the season. Expect hot temperatures during the day and cool temperatures at night in winter (May – September) and hot days and nights with rain storms in summer (November – April)

## 19. CAN I TRAVEL AS AN INDIVIDUAL

Yes, our international groups comprise of small parties, pairs or single travellers. Please note that there is a single supplement charge for single travellers. However, if a single guest is willing to share a tent/room with another single guest of the same gender there is no single supplement charge



## 20. WHAT CONTRIBUTIONS DOES BUSH WAYS MAKE TO COMMUNITIES IN BOTSWANA

Passionate about Botswana's people and wilderness, we continuously strive to ensure our activities have a positive impact and contribute to a sustainable development of our natural wonders.

Having collaborated for 18 years on a daily basis with a variety of organizations in Northern Botswana promoting local development, we have managed to identify the support needed to improve the socio-economic status of the communities and areas where we operate.

Our Bush Ways Foundation has therefore developed a variety of projects in the fields of business development, education, health, social welfare and environmental conservation that we conduct within the villages in the vicinity of our camps and safaris.

If you would like to learn more about our non-profit activities, but also contribute and support some of our projects, feel free to let us know during your reservations or to contact [foundation@bushways.com](mailto:foundation@bushways.com). Please note that with the generous support of our guests and industry partners, we are also able to donate to NGOs and communities on a regular basis.



## 21. WHAT CAN I DO IN VICTORIA FALLS

- White Water Rafting: Full and half day options are available including lunch
- Sunset Cruise
- Bungee Jumping, Zipline, Gorge Swing, Wild Water Rafting (for the adrenaline junkies)
- Guided Tour of the Falls
- Helicopter Flight over the Falls: 15 or 30 minutes
- Mosi oa Tunya visit



## 22. SAFARI PRICE INCLUDES

- All accommodation as per the safari itinerary: spacious mini meru tents with camp bed and full bedding with ensuite bush ablutions.
- Transfers and activities as per the safari itinerary
- Meals that are indicated (B – breakfast, L – lunch, D – dinner) as per the itinerary
- Tea/coffee
- Soft drinks, local alcohols & filtered drinking water
- Services of a Professional Guide, Camp Chef and Camp Assistant
- All Botswana park entry fees for activities included in the itinerary
- Transport in specialised safari vehicles

## 23. SAFARI PRICE EXCLUDES

- Restaurant meals in Maun/Kasane/Livingstone/Victoria Falls
- Visas
- Airport transfers
- Tips
- Curios
- Optional excursions; scenic flight over the Delta and activities in Livingstone/Victoria Falls/Maun.
- Insurance to cover for cancellation and curtailment, medical, baggage, and emergency evacuation
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If you need any further information, please contact  
[safari-res@bushways.com](mailto:safari-res@bushways.com)

