



## **Botswana Scheduled Mobile Safaris Guest Information**

### **Luggage**

- One large kit bag (preferably a rucksack or a bag with soft sides)
- One item of hand luggage (e.g. a small backpack)
- Main luggage: max. weight = 12kg, max. size = 700mm x 350mm x 350mm
- 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.
- 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 and secure.

### **Personal Equipment**

- Passport and valid visas – it is your responsibility to arrange visas (see visa section below)
- Warm sleeping bag. A sleeping bag and small pillow can be hired (EUR 20 for the duration of the safari)
- Torch with spare batteries and bulbs
- Hat/cap and gloves in winter months (May – Sept)
- 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 okay 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.
- Water bottle and a small day pack for walks

### **Toiletries and First Aid**

- Personal toiletries and medications in small bag, not a vanity case
- Sunscreen lotion and block out for the face.
- Malaria prophylaxis
- Mosquito repellents/lotion/spray
- Toilet paper (this is only necessary if you prefer 2 or 3 ply toilet paper)
- Water proof/zip lock bags for storing personal items and camera film 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.

## Medical Precautions

- 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 [ww.who.int](http://www.who.int)
- Botswana is considered a malaria area and preventative medications should be taken

## Travel Documentation

- Valid passport – it must have at least 6 months validity before your passport expires
- Citizens of certain countries are required to obtain a visa before travelling to Botswana. Please note that certain visas can take up to 3 months to be processed so please consider this when booking.
- For up-to-date visa requirements please check with your travel consultant and/or Embassy
- We do our best to apply for Zambian Visa Waivers for our guests. However, visa waivers are not guaranteed so we ask our guests to be prepared to pay for a visa on arrival in Zambia. You can find information regarding Zambian Visas at [www.zambiatourism.com](http://www.zambiatourism.com)
- It is not possible for us to arrange a Zimbabwean Visa Waiver. You can find information regarding Zimbabwean Visas at [www.zimbabwetourism.co.zw](http://www.zimbabwetourism.co.zw)

## Travel Insurance

- Cover for cancellation and curtailment, medical, baggage and emergency evacuation is compulsory for all our trails
- We do not provide travel insurance

## 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.
- As you will be spending only a short time in Livingstone, Zambia/Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe you should not encounter many of the problems that affect the rest of these countries.
- Do not have your valuables on display when visiting the Falls and markets

## Currency

- Cash in US Dollars is a universally accepted currency
- There are ATM machines in major towns (Victoria Falls, Maun, Kasane and Livingstone) although they are not guaranteed to be working.
- VISA is the most widely accepted credit card. You can no longer use MasterCard in Zimbabwe.
- A 'back up' of cash or travellers cheques are also recommended.
- It is not possible to change Zimbabwe Dollars or Zambian Kwacha in other countries so we suggest you only withdraw/change what you need
- If you withdraw excess Botswana Pula it can be changed at a good rate in Victoria Falls or Livingstone due to Botswana's proximity. However, once you are out of this area, exchange rates will not be in your favour.

## 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
- Tipping should reflect the level of service you have received throughout your trip
- In Botswana it is appreciated if you tip in the local currency although foreign currencies also accepted
- In Zimbabwe and Zambia 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 and Camp Assistant
  - Mokoro Polers/local guides in the Okavango Delta
  - Boat driver on a Chobe River Cruise
  - Porters/bar staff/waitresses at any lodges

Please note: If you choose to tip we suggest a guideline of approximately P20 per day for your guide and P10 per day for your camp assistant. We also suggest that you tip your guide and assistant separately.

## **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
- As space is limited on safari, we encourage shopping at the end of the trip in Victoria Falls and Livingstone

## **Drinks**

- Drinks are excluded on all our camping safaris
- At all hotel/lodge accommodation drinks are on a cash bar basis
- A minimum 3 litres of drinking water is needed per day

## **Food**

- You will enjoy a wide variety of meals during your safari and we attempt to include an 'African' flavour in 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

## **Camping Equipment**

- 220V/2 pin chargers 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 trails. Each vehicle takes a maximum of twelve passengers, which ensures excellent game viewing and mobility (Please note that on small group safaris we may use an alternative vehicle).
- We have developed our own trailers, each containing a mobile kitchen and space for all camping equipment and luggage – a complete unit travels together at all times on the safari.
- Our tents have treated mosquito mesh covering all the windows and doors
- We provide 5cm high density foam camping mattresses for our guests
- You will need to provide your own sleeping bag. However, you can hire one (EUR 20 for the duration of the safari)
- 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 (the Kalahari Game Reserve and the Okavango Delta). You must provide your own detergent.

## **Starting your safari**

- Depending on the Safari you choose will determine the time and meeting point for your safari
- Your Professional Guide or transfer company representative will meet you at a pre-arranged location at the commencement of your safari – these details should be arranged upon booking
- We are happy to assist in booking transfers, additional accommodation, domestic flights and activities in Livingstone and Victoria Falls.

## **Who will join me on safari?**

- Each Safari has a guide and a camp assistant; we also provide a translator on selected 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 12 guests on our safaris
- Our policy regarding children is a minimum age of 12 years old. However, children under 12 will be accepted on private safaris and under other special circumstances.

**Are our safaris physically demanding?**

- Our safaris are moderately strenuous
- Our vehicles are open although they do have sides providing greater wind protection on the longer open road sections of the trails
- Botswana has varying weather conditions depending on the season. Expect hot temperatures during the day and cool temperatures at night in winter (May – November) and hot days and nights with rain storms in summer (November – April)
- Walking is the most strenuous activity you will encounter although guests of average fitness will experience no problems
- Our safaris are semi-participatory which means that you are only asked to carry your own luggage to/from your tent and to put up/take down your own 'user-friendly' tent

**Can I travel as an individual?**

Yes, our groups comprise of small parties, pairs or single travellers. Please note that there is a single supplement charge for single travellers (EUR 80). 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.

**What can I do in Livingstone/Victoria Falls? (Some suggestions)**

- White Water Rafting: Full and half day options are available including lunch
- Elephant Back Safari: Morning or afternoon
- Sunset Cruise
- Chief Mukuni Cultural Village Tour
- Guided Tour of the Falls
- Helicopter Flight over the Falls: 15 or 30 minutes

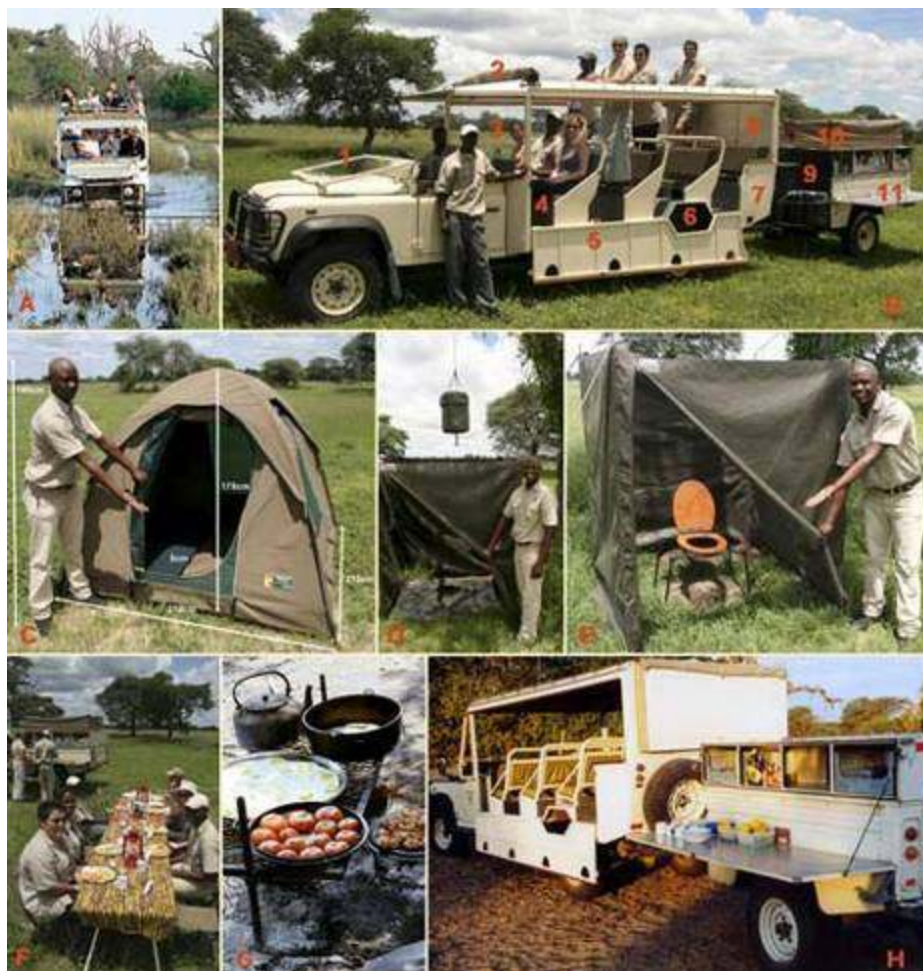
**Safari price includes:**

- All accommodation as per the safari itinerary: spacious bow tents with mattresses and rooms at a comfortable lodge in Maun/Livingstone/Victoria Falls.
- Transfers and activities as per the safari itinerary
- Meals that are indicated (B – breakfast, L – lunch, D – dinner) as per the itinerary
- Tea/coffee
- Services of a Professional Guide and Camp Assistant
- All Botswana park entry fees for activities included the itinerary
- Transport in specialised safari vehicles

**Safari price does not include:**

- Restaurant meals in Maun/Livingstone/Victoria Falls
- Visas - with the exception of the Zambian visa waiver which subject to government regulations
- Airport transfers
- Tips
- Curios
- Optional excursions; scenic flight over the Delta and activities in Livingstone/Victoria Falls/Maun)
- Beverages (alcohol, soft drinks and bottled mineral water)
- Insurance to cover for cancellation and curtailment, medical, baggage, and emergency evacuation
- Sleeping bag. (EUR 20 to hire for the duration of the safari)

## SAFARI EQUIPMENT:



All Safaris are equipped with the luxuries required for travel comfort and peaceful relaxation (custom-built safari vehicles, a mobile kitchen serving good wholesome food with an African flavour and ice-cold drinks for that tropical sundowner) while still maintaining the exhilarating adventurous spirit of the pioneer.

A: Tough reliable Safari Land Rovers

B: All customised safari vehicles are extra wide allowing for more seating space and have:

1. Folding windscreen,
2. Removable canvas roof,
3. Perspex windows for the cold and rain,
4. Fridge for cold beverages,
5. Folding side door,
6. Comfortable coil spring suspension,
7. 120L water tank with tap
8. Open sides for unobstructed views.
9. All trailers are also custom built on Land Rover chassis:
10. Chair box for easy access,
11. Easy modular packing system – saves time,
12. Folding side table complete with full kitchen behind.

C: The tents are large and comfortable

D: Showers are private and hot

E: The bush toilets are clean and private.

F: Meals are served in a tranquil setting next to the campfire in the African bush.

G: Traditional meals are prepared on the open fire by the camp assistant.

H: All custom designed vehicles and trailers are ideally suited for photographic safaris in the African bush.