



# IMPORTANT INFORMATION

## VISA

It is the responsibility of the client to obtain their own visas.

U.S. passport holders: U.S. passport holders are not required to obtain a visa for entry into Botswana at this time.

Australian passport holders: Australian passport holders are not required to obtain a visa for entry into Botswana at this time.

Please Note:

It is a requirement of some countries that you have a validity of 6 months on your passport at the time of travel and at least 4 blank pages in order to gain entry.

## MEDICAL

Please consult your General Practitioner or nearest Traveller's Medical Centre for advice on medical issues relevant to your destination. For additional information you may wish to consult the Centre for Disease Control and Prevention website – <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/list.htm>.

## TRAVEL INSURANCE

It is highly recommended that all clients obtain **comprehensive Travel Insurance cover**. Please furnish Epic with a copy of your insurance policy prior to travel. If you require assistance in obtaining travel insurance, please let us know. Policies should be checked to ensure that they include ALL medical situations, including:

- Hospitalisation
- Repatriation
- Cancellation
- Loss of baggage and loss/breakage of valuables en-route
- Loss/breakage of valuables such as cameras (care should be taken on rough roads).

## AIR TRANSFERS & LUGGAGE

**Baggage is limited to 20 kg/44 lb per person in soft sided bags including carry-on and camera equipment.**

**PLEASE DO NOT USE HARD CASES.** This is due to the fact that bags are maneuvered in and out of light aircraft holds. As laundry is offered in all the camps there is no need for excess luggage. No hard suitcases and no bags with wheels can be transported as they physically cannot fit into the aircraft.

## COMMUNICATIONS & SAFETY

All camps have 24 hour radio contact with their base support headquarters. Each game-drive vehicle has radio contact with camp. In the event of a medical emergency evacuation will be arranged. The daily camp tariff includes an amount for emergency evacuation insurance.

## CASH & CREDIT CARDS

Any personal expenses such as purchases from the camps curio shops can be paid for with Visa and MasterCard credit cards in addition to traveler's cheques and cash. There is no need to have local currencies on hand. US dollars speak volumes in Africa and are accepted in markets and for tipping (per the above suggested guidelines). It is a good idea to have a quantity of smaller denominations of US\$ for distribution of tips.

## PHOTOGRAPHY & BINOCULARS

Digital cameras are the best for wildlife, with a good zoom up to 300mm or more. If you have an SLR it is a good idea to bring a point and shoot as back up. Remember to bring plenty of memory cards, spare batteries and battery chargers (Please check that you have all your chargers for cell phones, iPods, kindles,



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camera and video batteries).

Binoculars are very useful when looking at wildlife in the distance. We recommend 7 x 35mm or 8 x 32mm as these are a good size with great magnification. If size is an issue then 7 x 25mm or 8 x 25mm are compact and can be put into your pocket. Nikon & Canon are great options. Have a look at the following website for further ideas - <http://www.consumersearch.com/binoculars>

### POWER IN CAMPS

Most camps have no access to regular electrical power as they are located in such remote areas. Camps have generators on site that produce 220V electricity, and these are run for between 4-6 hours per day - generally over activity times to ensure reduced noise when you are in camp. The powers ice machines, cold rooms, fridges and freezers, and charges the batteries that store power for bedroom lights and overhead fans. There is ample electricity for charging batteries for video cameras/iPods etc. and most camps have an array of adaptor plugs.

### CELL PHONES

Tri-band cell phones on global roaming generally work from all major urban centres. They do not, however, work from the majority of safari camps.

### MEALS

Meals are best described as wholesome home style cooking at elegantly set dining tables (sometimes under the stars, sometimes under thatch or canvas). Meal times are geared around the best game viewing times and activities, and vary from season to season. In most camps you start the day with a continental breakfast of juices, tea or coffee, cereal or porridge and toast - prior to the morning activity. Following this a large brunch is served. Thereafter high tea is served before the afternoon activity. Dinner is served after the evening activity. The camps can cater to specific dietary requests. Please advise your special requirements (at time of booking) and we will ensure your needs are met.

### BEVERAGES

In most camps alcoholic beverages are included in the daily tariff. Bottled water is available at all times. Many people enquire whether they can eat salads (as ingredients have been washed in water), brush their teeth with the tap water and have ice in their drinks. In the camps we use there are absolutely no concerns in this regard.

### GRATUITIES

Although tipping is not compulsory, if service expectations are exceeded we recommend the following

guidelines:

- Guides - USD 5.00 - 10.00 per person per day. This should be handed to the guide personally.
- General Camp Staff - USD 10.00 in total per guest per day.