

## Botswana Travel Guide

### Visa and Entry Requirements

#### Who Needs a Visa?

- **Visa-exempt countries:** Citizens of most EU countries, the US, UK, Canada, South Africa, Australia, and New Zealand **do not need a visa** for stays up to 90 days.
- **Visa-required [countries](#):** Some African, Asian, and Middle Eastern countries **must apply in advance**.

#### Visa Application Process

- Apply at your **nearest Botswana embassy** or consulate.
- Required documents typically include:
  - Valid **passport** (6 months validity + 2 blank pages)
  - **Completed visa application form**
  - Passport-sized [photos](#)
  - **Proof of accommodation** and return ticket
  - **Bank statements** or proof of funds
- **Other VISA requirements**
  - Business profile/Invitation letter from the host or facilitator in Botswana
  - Meeting schedule (If coming to attend or organize a meeting)
  - Certified copies of trade license, certificate of incorporation, share certificate of host if operating a business
  - 500 Botswana Pula for single entry for a period up to 3 months

**Note:** E-visas or online visa application is temporarily closed, new applications should therefore be routed through Botswana Embassies abroad or submitted physically at Immigration offices across the country for processing.

#### Language

- **Official Language:** English (used in government, business, and tourism)
- **National Language:** Setswana (widely spoken)

#### Weather & Clothing

**Seasons:**

- **Summer (Wet Season):** November–March (hot & humid; frequent rain, especially in north)
- **Winter (Dry Season):** May–August (cool nights, dry days)

#### **December Weather:**

- **Temperatures:** 20°C–35°C (68°F–95°F)
- **Rain:** Frequent afternoon thunderstorms
- **Humidity:** Moderate to high

#### **What to Wear:**

- Lightweight, breathable **cotton clothing**
- Neutral colors for safaris (avoid bright or dark blue—attracts tsetse flies)
- **Rain jacket/poncho**
- Hat, sunglasses, and high SPF sunscreen
- Comfortable walking shoes or boots

**NB:** While it's hot during the day, evenings can get cooler. In order to cope with the changing temperatures throughout the day and evening, pack a warm fleece jacket, sweater, and a scarf to stay comfortable during early morning and evenings

#### **Meals and Dietary Preferences**

Botswana offers a variety of meal options that cater to diverse dietary preferences. Vegan and vegetarian participants are encouraged to communicate their dietary preferences to ensure suitable meal arrangements.

#### **Childcare Facilities**

Participants who require babysitting services during the conference are advised to communicate in advance. This will allow the organizers to make appropriate arrangements and ensure the availability of suitable facilities.

#### **Accommodation Booking**

The main conference events will be held at **Gaborone International Conference Center**, Gaborone, Botswana.

Self-sponsored Participants are encouraged to book their accommodation early to secure the best options. The list of hotels that are closer to the conference center will be shared with all the self-sponsored participants

Please share your hotel booking details with the RUFORUM Secretariat to enable us plan for your airport pickups and transportation during the conference.

### **Airport/Hotel Transfers**

Transportation from the Airport to designated hotels will be arranged for conference participants. Details on airport pick-up services will be communicated closer to the event dates. Please ensure that your flight itinerary has been communicated and or captured by the Secretariat to facilitate airport transfers

### **Travel and Layover Information**

For those traveling via airlines, which often have layovers exceeding eight hours, it is recommended to:

- Utilize lounge facilities at your cost, at the airport for comfort.
- Explore any available short tours or activities offered by the airline during the layover.

### **Currency & Payments**

- **Currency:** Botswana Pula (**BWP**)
- **1 USD ≈ 13–14 BWP** (check current rates)

### **Payment Options:**

- **Credit/debit cards:** Accepted in cities, lodges, and major stores
- **Cash:** Essential in rural areas or for small purchases
- **ATMs:** Available in towns and cities
- **Exchange:** Available at airports, banks, and hotels

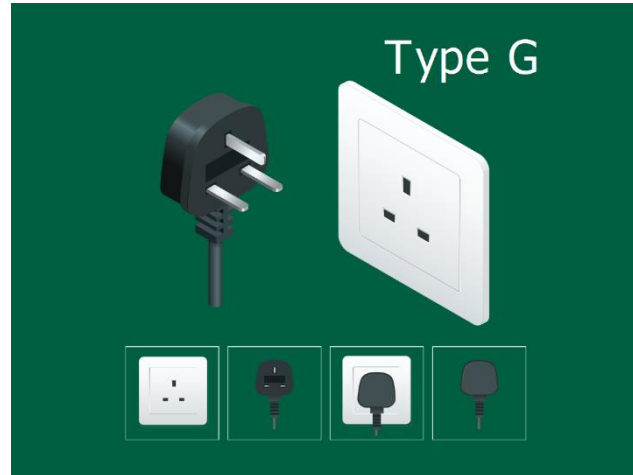
### **Internet and Connectivity**

- **Mobile Operators:** Mascom, Orange Botswana, BTC
- **SIM cards:** Inexpensive, available at airports and shops (bring ID/Passport)
- **Data plans:** Affordable; 4G available in cities
- **Wi-Fi:** Available in hotels, lodges, cafes in urban areas (limited in remote regions)

### **Electronics and Power**

- **Voltage:** 230V
- **Frequency:** 50 Hz

- **Plug types:** Type G (UK-style, 3-prong)
- Bring a **universal adapter** and **voltage converter** if needed.
- Power outages can occur in rural areas, so a **power bank** is useful.



### Safety & Security

- **Generally safe** and politically stable
- Petty theft can occur – **don't leave valuables in vehicles**
- **Avoid walking alone at night**, especially in isolated areas
- Use licensed taxis or rideshare apps where available
- **Do not swim in rivers/lakes** (crocodiles, hippos, bilharzia)

### Emergency Contacts

In Botswana, the general emergency number is 997, which serves as a central point for connecting callers to various emergency services. This includes ambulance, police, and fire brigade services.

- **991:** Toll-free number for pre-hospital emergency services.
- **999:** Toll-free number for Police.
- **998:** Toll-free number for Fire Brigade.

### Additional Information

- **Registration:** Participants are encouraged to complete their registration online as early as possible. Please visit the [RUFORUM AGM website](https://www.ruforum.org) for more details
- **Contact:** For any further inquiries or special requests, please contact the RUFORUM Secretariat at [agm@ruforum.org](mailto:agm@ruforum.org) with a copy to [secretariat@ruforum.org](mailto:secretariat@ruforum.org).

