



THE GREAT PLAINS WEDDING EXPERIENCE | BOTSWANA

"Love... it surrounds every being and extends slowly to embrace all that shall be"

- KHLIL GIBRAN

EXCHANGE VOWS, RINGS AND PRECIOUS MEMORIES IN THE AFRICAN BUSH. WE LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU WHEN PLANNING YOUR BUSH WEDDING SAFARI.

Africa is the birthplace of humankind, and let this be the birth of where your romance begins. We invite you to confirm your love for each other in some of Africa's most idyllic and romantic hideaways with a bush wedding safari. Celebrate your nuptials with a simple ceremony set out in the middle of an African plain or set against a backdrop of one of our finest Relais and Châteaux camps.

Instead of having your guests pile up gold-wrapped gift boxes with toasters and wine decanters, tell your friends you want to buy a rhino's freedom or solar lanterns for a local community. Imagine making your marriage a symbol of how you live your lives together, unselfishly, about experiences rather than things, about giving rather than taking and about making the world better.

We can arrange private wedding celebrations in all of our Kenya, Zimbabwe and Botswana camps. Many a celebrity couple have elected to sneak off with a dozen or so close friends for a private and authentic African wedding. While many couples opt to do a once-in-a-lifetime ceremony with us while obtaining a marriage license in their home country, those wanting to ensure a legal marriage while on safari should review the Marriage Requirements in this document.

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MARRIAGE REQUIREMENTS

To enable foreigners to register a marriage in Botswana, they need to apply for and obtain a Special License from the District Commissioner to have a wedding in the 'bush'.

To apply for a Special License, the couple which intends to get married must provide complete and clear copies of the following documentation before travel:

1. Valid passports-copies with a minimum of a 6-month validity;
2. Birth certificates-copies;
3. Full residential address of both partners;
4. Certificate of no impediment to marriage from their respective countries in the case of single persons (bachelor and spinster);
5. A death certificate and former marriage certificate (if relevant) in the case of a widowed person;
6. Divorce decree absolute in the case of a divorced person;
7. Return air ticket for the couple;
8. The couple must be physically present before the Registrar of Marriages when the application for the Special License is made. Guests should plan to stay in Maun for up to 2 days for all arrangements to be confirmed. The processing of requests takes place from Monday to Friday except for Public Holidays. The registrar of marriages needs to prepare and issue the Special License;
9. Once the District Commissioner issues the Special License, the couple may celebrate their wedding in the 'bush' with a commissioner, pastor or priest;
10. Details of occupation for both partners;
11. Father's name, full address and occupation;
12. Affidavit stating that neither person wishing to get married have been married previously. This document must be prepared in your country of residence before arrival;
13. All documentation must be officially translated into English and accompanied by original copies;
14. Dutch couples must first apply to the Dutch Council for clearance to wed.

The couple must bring original copies of the above to Botswana to ensure the successful processing of the license.