

## **NORTHERN HIGHLIGHTS PREPARATION INFO**

Thank you for deciding to travel to Botswana with Letaka Safari, this journey could change the way you look at life, and this document will help you get the most out of it.

Here is some information you might find helpful when preparing for your trip. We know how boring it can be to read these things so we will start off with the essential stuff, the rest is detail.

### **Pack this stuff in your hand luggage so it can't get lost.**

- **Flashlight & headlamp**
- **Binoculars – don't leave home without them!!!**
- **A digital camera with spare batteries, battery charger and plenty of memory cards.**
- **Your personal medication/prescriptions – replacing these in Botswana is not always possible.**

### **Health**

We will be carrying a comprehensive First Aid kit on board our vehicles; But, if you have any medical problems or existing medical conditions please bring enough medication and inform us of these problems as soon as possible.

For inoculations, please consult your local GP or health provider.

### **Malaria**

The areas you will be travelling in are malaria areas. We suggest you speak to your local GP or healthcare provider and take the action he/she recommends. Some of the prophylactics can cause side effects such as nausea, headaches and a lowering of your resistance to the sun. We provide insect repellent in your tent but you are welcome to bring your own.

### **Weather and Temperatures**

Winter (Aug – September) can drop to single figures in degrees C at night but during the day it warms up substantially to about 25 degrees Celsius.

Early morning game drives on an open vehicle can be quite chilly, a windproof jacket is a good idea.

### **Sun**

You will spend a lot of time outdoors and may have a sunny seat so bring a high factor sun cream, all year round. A cool, light long-sleeved shirt will also come in handy to protect you from the sun. A wide brimmed hat is a must as are a good pair of sunglasses.

### **Clothing**

Bring along a good jacket, scarf, gloves and woolen or fleece headwear if you are travelling in winter as early morning and late evenings are cold on game drives. It can get quite hot during the day so light summer clothing is also a must. The best way to deal with winter is to dress in layers. If you are travelling in summer, a good sweater (jumper) is recommended, as it can get rather cool. Light trousers and a cool long-sleeved shirt in the evenings in summer will help protect you from the mosquitoes. For the remainder bring light cotton clothing. For walks it is recommended that you bring neutral coloured clothing (beige, khaki, olive, stone etc.) but when travelling in the vehicle, most colours are fine – light colours generally being cooler. Dark blue and black clothing are not recommended. Bring clothing that can be hand washed easily and dried quickly.

Bring some good walking shoes and sandals (with sturdy soles to protect you from the large thorns) or thongs as you may need to get your feet wet on boating excursions. Don't forget your sun hat!

## **Water**

Although Botswana's water is generally safe to drink, we supply filtered water on all our safaris. It is important to remember to drink enough water while on safari.

## **Food and Drinks**

All meals and drinks are provided; please inform us if you have any special requirements or if you are allergic to any food. Wine, local beer and soft drinks are provided. Water, tea and coffee are available all day.

Spirits are also

available on request and included in the price. The spirits that are available are Gin, Vodka, Whiskey and Brandy. If you have any requests not mentioned above please make the request and we will do our best to order it for you.

## **Luggage limitations**

On a safari where bush flights are included, the maximum luggage weight is 20kg inclusive of hand luggage.

Duffel/soft bags are essential as these pack easier into aircraft and vehicles, hard cases are not recommended as they might not fit into the pod of the aircraft and you may be asked to repack into an alternative bag. If you feel you are not able to pack to these weight requirements an additional seat on the charter flight can be purchased ahead of time – please contact our offices for a quotation or for further information on luggage limitations.

## **Equipment:**

Binoculars, even if you are not a regular birder, are a must for safari. One pair per person will greatly enhance your safari experience, this may seem like an unnecessary cost if this is the only time you think you are going to use them but if you don't want to buy, then take our advice – beg, borrow or steal! 10x42 is an ideal magnification but any binoculars will enhance your experience. If you are going to bring an expensive camera along, we recommend you bring a good camera case as the roads are bumpy and there is a lot of dust. Beanbags for the car windows can be provided for you on request. If you are a keen photographer please ask for our Information for Photographers document. Bring extra camera batteries. We will have 220V A/C inverters in the vehicles so please bring your standard AC charger for your electronic rechargeable items as well as an adapter that conforms to South African (plug type M) standards.

Although lighting around the campsites is provided, a good torch is essential at night. We recommend a handheld flashlight for use around camp and head torches with 3+ LED units to use in your tents and for reading at night.

## **Books**

Your guide will have books on the fauna and flora of Botswana. Bring along a novel or other reading material as there is often time in the middle of the day to relax. You may also want to bring a pack of cards or some other game for siesta time between morning and afternoon activities.

## **Money**

Since your safari is prepaid, you will not need to travel with much cash. Botswana currency is in Pula (P) and Thebe (t). The best denominations to bring to Botswana are Euro, GBP and US Dollars. If you wish you will be able to exchange money in both Maun and Kasane.

## **Tipping**

We provide guidelines on tipping strictly for your information, tipping is optional and the amount is entirely up to you

but these are the 'industry standards'.

Guides: USD10.00 per person per day

Safari Chef: USD5.00 per person per day

General Staff: USD5.00 per person per day

If you have any questions which are not answered by this document please e-mail us with your queries to: