



BOTSWANA

TRAVEL INFORMATION AND REQUIREMENTS

DISCLAIMER: Please note that whilst we take every care to ensure the information contained herein is accurate, we cannot in any manner or form guarantee the accuracy and correctness thereof. The information is taken directly from relevant country government sources and the IATA travel centre, and can change at any time and without notice. You are therefore advised that any information contained herein should not be construed as a representation made by Wilderness and it remains your sole and absolute duty to double-check current information at the time of creating an itinerary.

09/02/2021

Pre-travel Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A negative COVID-19 Real Time Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR) test, taken within 72 hours (3 days) of arrival. • The time-frame of 72 hours is from the time the swab was taken and the time you hand your certificate over to authorities on arrival at the immigration gate of your destination country. It may mean that further tests are required en route and itineraries will have to take that into account.
Arrival/Entry Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In addition to the mandatory negative RT-PCR test taken within 72 hours of arrival, Botswana have implemented rapid (antigen) tests at all ports of entry (free of charge). • All travellers will now be subject to a COVID-19 rapid test on entry for further screening, and this will continue for the foreseeable future. • At Maun Airport, it takes about 20 minutes to complete the paperwork, then the test is taken and you wait about 15 minutes for the results. • Symptomatic travellers who need to go into quarantine are expected to arrange and pay for their own accommodation in a lodge/hotel.
In-country Regulations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The wearing of masks in public places, social distancing and sanitising are mandatory.
PCR Test Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diagnofirm • Pharma

In-Lodge/Hotel Room Testing	<p>There are 3 options available to all guests that book through Wilderness Safaris as a DMC, which covers both Wilderness Safaris camps and third parties. Note the difference in WHERE testing is conducted for the helicopter vs fixed wing.</p> <p>Option 1 – the existing helicopter option, where medical personnel fly into camp and guests are tested in their rooms. (USD 330, Pula 3500, ZAR 4800 per person)</p> <p>Option 2 – a new fixed wing option where medical personnel fly to the camp airstrip. Guests are transferred by road to/from the airstrip and are tested there. (USD 260, Pula 2750, ZAR 3800 per person)</p> <p>Option 3 – in-town testing. The costs for the test, plus necessary accommodation, should be included in the quote/booking. There is currently no option to pre-pay for transport in Maun – it will either be taxi or hotel shuttle which must be settled direct. (Test only – USD 100, Pula 1000, ZAR 1400 per person)</p>
In-Lodge/Hotel Room Testing (continued)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tests are booked with either Diagnofirm or Pharma, depending on the specifics of the booking and availability of appointments. 2. Testing is possible every day of the week, including weekends. 3. While test results should be available within 24 hours, they sometimes come out around 13:00, just before check-in for international flights which does cause stress. We therefore prefer to book tests 48 hours in advance to ensure results are available in good time, prior to departure. That said, please specify the route/destination when making your booking so that test timing can be taken into account i.e. in some cases it will have to be the day before departure to meet the requirements of the onward destination. 4. The rates quoted apply to a single traveller – there is no minimum number required. 5. There are no additional costs or vehicles to be booked for the camp/airstrip transfers on the fixed wing option. 6. It is preferable to pre-book and charge for the in-town testing. In this way, the details appear on our booking sheets and we can arrange it accordingly. The consultant/agent/guest is still responsible for making the necessary accommodation arrangements in Maun. 7. In-camp testing is not possible at Kalahari Plains so either do not have it as the last camp on the itinerary, or include two nights in Maun at the end if it is. 8. We are only able to assist with testing in Maun at this time – any testing requirements in Kasane are the clients' responsibility.
Waiting Period for Results	24-48 hours
Further In-country Test Requirements	Inter-zonal permits are required if travelling across the country on a self-drive basis. They can be applied for online - https://covid19.gov.bw/
Departure Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A valid negative RT-PCR test is required by most airlines/onward destinations when departing from Botswana. Destination country requirements must be taken into account by the agent/guest prior to departure and tests arranged accordingly. • Neither RT-PCR test or rapid (antigen) tests are required by Botswana authorities for departure.
Quarantine Facilities (mild/asymptomatic)	This is currently inconsistent, at some times they allow self-isolation at a private residence and other times will move a patient to a government facility.

Treatment Facilities (severe symptoms)	Port Health Authorities are allowing medical evacuations across borders so our first priority would be to medically evacuate a patient to Johannesburg. However, this would be subject to availability of hospital beds during peak COVID periods, where citizens are prioritized. Under these circumstances, other private hospitals in neighbouring countries will be considered. Please bear in mind that we have no control over medical resource availability, especially during such trying times, but all efforts will be taken to ensure the comfort of our guests.
Days to Isolate/Quarantine	14 days minimum (until a negative test status is achieved).
Notes	There are still a number of grey areas in terms of how Botswana will be implementing testing, isolation facilities etc. We hope this will all be cleared up in the coming weeks.