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Botswana "Wing" Safari– 2016 revised 9/23/2015

Fly to Luxury Tented Camps, from the Okavango Delta to Victoria Falls

Trip Summary

Dates

May 13 - 25, 2016

Cost

- \$7,995 from Johannesburg, South Africa (\$1500 deposit)
- All land costs and 3 internal flights included; plus 2 nights at Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe.
- Airfare from Washington, Dulles-Johannesburg, S. Africa-Maun, Botswana-Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe-Johannesburg-Dulles is priced separately at approximately \$1,799* (Sept 2015).

*Air prices subject to change without notice.

Rating

Moderate

Activities

- Wildlife Viewing
- Birding
- Walking
- 4X4
- Canoe and Boat Travel
- Natural History
- Photography
- Sightseeing
- Cultural Exploration
- Elephant Interaction

In May 2016, we head to Southern Africa for a Botswana wildlife safari to rival none. With comfortable accommodations in permanent deluxe tented camps, we "wing" our way from camp to camp, immersed in the sights and sounds of Africa as we explore the pristine Okavango Delta, the Kwando Wilderness, plus Victoria Falls, and photograph Africa's life as it unfolds before us - from her elephants, lions and birds to her landscapes and sunsets.

Botswana is Africa—wild and free—the way you've always imagined Africa to be. Our Botswana "wing" safari (small airplanes fly us from camp to camp) takes us to Africa's largest and most beautiful water oasis (the Okavango Delta) plus plains and savannas: home to lion, leopard, buffalo, elephant, the elusive wild dog, and a myriad of other African animal and bird species, plus a lush diversity of bush grasses, trees - from acacias to baobabs, and fascinating plant life.

Each of our camps is in vast private concessions, which strictly limits the number of guests and allows game drives both off-road and at night. This custom-designed, deluxe tented African safari in Botswana features private accommodations in 3 of the finest fly-in permanent tented camps in northern Botswana (Kwara, Lebala, and Lagoon), with charter flights to fly us to each camp so we can spend more quality time viewing game. Guaranteed to transform your notion of "camping," a deluxe tented safari pampers you with first-rate staff that provides personalized service and prepares fabulous meals at each camp, and where our luxury safari-style tents have their own viewing decks, private ensuite facilities, and modern amenities. Our guides and trackers take us on awe-inspiring game drives in open-top 4X4 vehicles, on bush walks, by power boat, and by mokoro (a dugout canoe) through the meandering waterways and lagoons of the Okavango Delta, for phenomenal birding and game viewing. And just north of the Okavango is Lebala, the wide open spaces dominated by vast plains and wooded savannas. Lagoon, remote and beautiful, is set on the banks of the Kwando River.

Another highlight of this Botswana safari is the grandeur and beauty of one of the natural wonders of the world, Victoria Falls, an extraordinary phenomenon that must be seen to be believed.

We'll spend 2 nights in Elephant Camp in Victoria Falls, with breathtaking views of the Falls spray, and the spectacular gorges which separate Zimbabwe and Zambia. In addition to exploring the Falls, we'll have a sundowner boat cruise on the upper Zambezi River, and elephant and cheetah interaction at camp.

Main Attractions

- Safari in Botswana's famous and mighty Okavango Delta, the largest wetland wonderland in the world and home to magnificent African wildlife and scenery.
- Explore open savannah plains, semi desert, and woodland where wild dogs, cheetah, leopard, lions, and mighty herds of elephant and buffalo roam.
- Stay in private luxury tented camps catering only to our AdventureWomen group, featuring en-suite bathrooms, hot showers, and fabulous food. Experience the real wilderness in privacy and high comfort.
- Flightsee by private plane between African safari camps in chartered light aircraft. No lines and no check-in!
- Experience Africa with fully-guided game viewing in 4X4s, canoes, double-deck power boats, and on foot.
- End our amazing safari with a 2 night stay at the luxurious Elephant Camp in Victoria Falls. Visit the Falls, one of the 7 Wonders of the World, take a Zambezi River sundowner cruise, and interact with elephants and cheetah in camp.

What's Included:

- 13 days/12 nights includes fully guided wildlife safari in Botswana, with 2 nights at Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe.
- Hotel overnight in Johannesburg, South Africa, before morning flight to Maun, Botswana.
- Private, chartered flights between tented camps: Maun to Kwara Camp, and Kwara Camp to Lebala Camp.
- Flight from Botswana to Victoria Falls.
- All wildlife viewing and transportation throughout the safari in open-top 4x4 vehicles driven by knowledgeable, English-speaking driver-guides.
- Superior accommodations throughout, in luxury safari camps, lodges, and hotels with private en-suite facilities and modern amenities, based on two people sharing a twin room.
- 2 nights in Elephant Camp at Victoria Falls, with visit to the Falls, sundowner river cruise on the Zambezi River, plus elephant and cheetah interaction in camp.
- Services of professional safari staff in all private tented camps.
- Full board, table d'hote breakfast, lunch, and dinner while on safari, as per itinerary.
- Laundry service.
- All local beverages during safari in Botswana, including premier brands (alcoholic and non-alcoholic).
- Complimentary bottled water in vehicles.
- One AdventureWomen Associate.
- All park entry fees and sightseeing as specified.

What's Not Included:

- Round-trip international air on South African Airways from Dulles, VA to Johannesburg, South Africa, and flights between Johannesburg and Maun, and Victoria Falls back to Johannesburg.

- Passport and visa fees and service charges for obtaining visas. No visas are required for South Africa or Botswana. We will get a Zimbabwe visa when we cross the border on our way from Botswana to Victoria Falls. (The current fee is \$50 U.S.).
- Any excess baggage charges levied by airlines.
- Meals and beverages, other than specified.
- Items of a personal nature.
- Optional insurance coverage for Baggage, Accident, and Trip Cancellation/Interruption. See Travel Insured International on the AdventureWomen Web site.
- Gratuities to driver-guides and other staff:
 - Safari Driver-Guides: \$10/person/day (one guide per vehicle).
 - Lodge Staff: \$7/person/day (communal tips shared among the staff).
 - Assorted other tips: bartender (depending on use!); guides for nature walks and other activities, to be determined.

Passports, Visas and Health Requirements

Citizens of the United States must possess a valid U.S. passport for travel to Botswana and Zimbabwe. It must be valid 6 months beyond your intended stay in Africa. You will need 2 empty passport VISA pages per country visited. You will be flying to Botswana through South Africa, then going to Zimbabwe (Victoria Falls), so you should have 6 empty Visa pages (2 per country).

Citizens of other countries should inquire about requirements for entry. If you do not have a passport, APPLY NOW! Please do not wait until the last minute. You should always carry 2 extra passport photographs with you, in case of emergency (if your passport/visa is lost or stolen).

There is no visa required for U.S. visitors to Botswana and South Africa for stays up to 3 months. For Zimbabwe, we will get our visas on arrival, at the point of entry when we cross the border in vehicles from Botswana to Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe. Zimbabwe visa costs are currently U.S. \$50.

You MUST have your own health insurance, and have no physical problems or conditions that would be adversely affected by riding in 4 X 4 vehicles on rough, bumpy roads or walking 3-4 miles per day (on level ground.) You must be in very good physical condition to participate in this trip.

Vaccinations

There are no mandatory immunizations required for US residents visiting Botswana or Zimbabwe. However, please consult your personal physician, local health department, travel clinic, or immunization center about any vaccinations you may need to update, or others that may be personally recommended for you based on your age, health, and past vaccination history.

You do not need a Yellow Fever Vaccination for traveling to either country.

As far as Malaria is concerned, many women choose to take Malaria medication, but many choose not to due to possible side effects. If you do not want to take this, the best prevention is to avoid mosquito bites. Wear long slacks and long sleeved shirts in the evenings, use mosquito nets (provided in your rooms and tents), and a repellent with 30% DEET, Skin So Soft, or oil of citronella.

Luggage and Per Person Weight

Although international baggage allowance is 2 normal pieces of luggage not to exceed 50 pounds each, our small charter aircraft on this trip has a weight allowance of **ONLY 20 KG, or 44 POUNDS** of baggage per person, in soft sided luggage only (about 24" X 17" X 8" is ideal). This 44 pound limit includes ALL carry-on luggage and camera equipment. Please do not bring hard suitcases, as they may be left behind.

Maximum weight per person is 220 pounds.

THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT AND STRICTLY ENFORCED.

How To Register

First, call (800-804-8686) or email (trips@adventurewomen.com) the AdventureWomen office to determine space availability. As a courtesy, we will hold your space for 5 days while you are completing the registration process, and making personal and travel arrangements.

Next, complete and sign the Trip Registration and International Passenger Information forms on our Web site by clicking "Sign Up for this Trip" on the trip page. We can also fax or email them to you. Include, with your forms, the required deposit that can be made by credit card (Visa, MasterCard, or Discover), personal check, money order, or cashier's check. You can also give us your credit card number over the phone. Once we receive **your deposit and BOTH forms**, we will mail you a trip confirmation/information packet verifying your registration.

Traveling to Botswana: Arrival and Departure

Round-trip airfare on South African Airlines from the U.S. to Johannesburg, South Africa (departing from Dulles Airport in Washington D.C.), plus your flights from Johannesburg to Maun, Botswana, and from Victoria Falls back to Johannesburg, are NOT included in the cost of the trip package.

The approximate *total cost of all these flights/per person (Economy Class) on a continuous South African Airlines ticket is a great price of \$1,799.00 (*as of Sept 2015) It will be due with your final balance. *Prices are subject to change.

Three internal flight (in Botswana) ARE included in the cost of your trip.

It is important that we all fly as a group on South African Airlines to coordinate with our flights into and out of Johannesburg, South Africa, into and out of Botswana, and our included internal flights within Botswana.

Departure from Dulles for Johannesburg, South Africa is May 13, 2016 at 5:05 pm. We arrive in Johannesburg on the afternoon of May 14 and check into our hotel at the airport. Early morning of May 15 we fly from Johannesburg to Maun, Botswana, where we connect with our small aircraft flight to our first tented camp. From Maun, the 3 internal flights within Botswana are included in your trip cost.

Departure from Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe to Johannesburg, South Africa is on May 24. We will connect through Johannesburg with our South African Airlines flight at 5:50 pm for our flight back to Dulles, arriving early morning on May 25.

Making Travel Arrangements to Botswana

On this AdventureWomen Botswana Safari, once you have booked your trip with AdventureWomen, you call Ciretta Green at Travel Café, Montana's Travel Agency, to reserve your air space on the group ticket, and to let her know if you also want her to handle your add-on airfare from your hometown city to Washington, Dulles.

Ciretta can also handle your add-on airfare from your hometown city to Washington, Dulles.

1-800-247-3538 OR FAX 1-406-586-1959
email: ciretta@travelcafeonline.com
CANADIAN RESIDENTS, please call 406-587-1188

When calling, please identify yourself as an AdventureWomen traveler. If you leave a message on Ciretta's voice mail, she will return your call promptly.

NOTE: The recent trend in travel is for travelers to finalize their plans much closer to departure time than was customary in the past. While we try to be as flexible as possible booking last minute registrants, we must often relinquish hotel space and air reservations up to 6 – 12 weeks prior to departure!

Please keep this in mind when making your travel plans.

Liability Form and Final Payment

Part of what AdventureWomen, Inc. hopes to foster is the taking of more self-responsibility for our own lives, health, and safety. Please read the LIABILITY FORM carefully, return it with the remainder of your balance due by **FEBRUARY 14, 2016.**

Cancellations and Refunds

Notification of cancellations must be received in writing. Full payment is due 90 days prior to departure date, and 50% of the registration deposit is non-refundable.

For cancellations received 60-89 days prior to the trip departure date: 50% of the total trip cost is non-refundable. For cancellations received 1-59 days prior to the trip departure date: 100% of the total trip cost is non-refundable.

You are highly encouraged to purchase trip cancellation insurance to cover emergency situations. A brochure will be sent to you in your registration packet.

Switching Trips

Before your final balance due date, you may change your deposit to another trip within the same calendar year by paying a \$75 fee to switch. You may not switch your deposit to a trip in another calendar year.

No Smoking Policy

Beginning in 1995, our trips became smoke free. Please note that there will be no smoking by any participants on AdventureWomen vacations.

Trip Itinerary

Please Note: The itinerary for your Botswana Safari is correct at the time of writing, but is subject to change without notice.

DAY 1

Friday, May 13, 2016

Morning Departure from the U.S. for Botswana

This evening we depart Dulles Airport, Washington, DC for our overnight flight on South African Airways to Johannesburg, South Africa.

Meals Aloft

DAY 2

Saturday, May 14

Arrival and Overnight in Johannesburg, South Africa

This afternoon we arrive in Johannesburg, South Africa and transfer to our hotel City Lodge, very conveniently located just 100 yards from the departure area of the airport. Since the flight to Maun does not depart until tomorrow morning, we have time at leisure to relax and rest up for our safari. There are good restaurants and shopping areas close by, inside the airport!

DAYS 3 - 5

Sunday - Tuesday, May 15 - 17

Fly to Botswana and on to Kwara Camp in the Okavango Delta – a Jewel in the Middle of the Kalahari Desert

This morning we walk from our hotel the short distance to the departure area in the airport for our flight to Maun, Botswana. After clearing customs in Maun, we are greeted by our safari staff and transferred to the domestic terminal for our private charter flight to Kwara Camp.

Arriving into camp on our privately chartered plane, we are welcomed by our attentive safari staff. After a good meal, hot shower, and short rest in our tents, the promise of some of Africa's best game viewing lures us on our first game drive. You can always sleep tonight!

No trip to Botswana is complete without a visit to the Okavango Delta, a shimmering watery jewel in the middle of the Kalahari desert. Set deep in the crystal-clear permanent waters of the Okavango Delta, time at Kwara Camp will reveal why the Delta, with all its remarkable plant, bird and animal life, is unique in all the world. Exploring the channels and rivers by dugout canoe and powerboat is spectacular.

The Camp fronts onto a huge floodplain and is backed by extensive bush. It is in a magnificent wilderness area in excess of 1,056 square miles, bordering the world famous Moremi Game Reserve. The private Kwara concession encompasses a wide diversity of habitats, ranging from the clear Delta waters with reed-lined lagoons and channels, to open grasslands, mopane woodlands and palm-fringed islands. The forested island on which the Camp sits is typical of those encountered throughout the vast 4,000 square miles of the Okavango Delta. The area is one of the few camps in the Okavango Delta that is on permanent water and has game drives year-round.

At Kwara, you will discover why the Okavango is considered one of the ecological wonders of Africa and indeed the world. It is mysterious, calming, unpredictable and very wild. It is formed from waters which flow down from the Angola highlands and die in the sands of the Kalahari to create the world's largest inland delta.

At Kwara Camp we will enjoy a diverse wildlife experience, but the focus is definitely on the water. We'll glide on crystal-clear water in the special silence of a mekoro (a traditional dugout canoe), and visit a lagoon, where you can literally stand on our double-deck power boat and look eye to eye with thousands of herons, storks and other nesting birds.

Other species we'll encounter through the channels and rivers are kingfishers, pygmy geese, fish eagles, jacanas, darters and if we're really fortunate, the elusive pels fishing owl. In addition, the Kwara area is also home to a variety of wild animals including lechwe, sitatunga, reedbuck, bushbuck, hippo, crocodiles, elephant, buffalo, sable, roan, zebra, giraffe, wildebeest, impala and tsessebe. Lion, hyena, wild dog, leopard and cheetah are abundant in this part of the Delta and regularly seen.

In addition to our morning and afternoon games drives, there are spectacular night drives, bird watching and guided walks on one of the many palm-fringed islands. The beauty and charm of Kwara will certainly captivate you.

Our game drives, in themselves, are incredible adventures, and our guides and trackers have a wealth of knowledge about the animals and the ecosystems we will be viewing. The 4 X 4 open-topped safari vehicles permit just 6 passengers per vehicle in 2 rows of seats, which makes for a more comfortable and intimate safari experience with great opportunities for photography.

After dark, spotlights are switched on and the game drives expose us to nocturnal sightings of rare and elusive species such as leopard, Selous Mongoose, small spotted genet, and aardwolf, to name a few. Nocturnal bird species that are encountered include natal nightjar, pennant-winged nightjar and a large variety of owls.

All of our tented camps are on private land, so we are not restricted by roads, nor time of day. One day we might be on a game drive off-road, hunting for a pack of wild dogs, and the next day sitting silently watching elephants drink and bathe.

Our private luxury safari-style tents are built on raised decks, within a grove of huge and ancient African Ebony trees. Resident hippos will generally serenade you year round from the water on the floodplain in front of the Camp. Each tent has its own viewing deck, private en-suite facilities including hot and cold outdoor covered showers, flush toilets and modern amenities. You will fall asleep to the sounds of the Okavango Delta – hippos and painted reed frogs serenading you as you drift off into a peaceful sleep.

Our highly skilled chefs prepare delicious meals to complete our perfect days spent in Kwara's watery wonderland.

Overnights **Kwara Camp**

www.kwando.co.za/kwara.html

DAYS 6 - 7

Wednesday - Thursday, May 18 - 19

Fly to the Plains of Lebala Camp

This morning we depart Kwara Camp for our charter flight to Lebala, with its stunning wide open plains that surround the Camp.

Located at the southern edge of the massive Kwando concession, northeast of the Okavango Delta and in Northern Botswana, our Camp is surrounded by open grasslands scattered with Illala Palms that stretch to the south and west of Lebala. The perennial and southerly flowing Kwando River disappears into the vast marshes before emerging as the Linyanti River as it flows northeast. This is the heart of big game country, well-known for its huge elephant and buffalo herds, and one of the largest private safari areas in Africa.

The wetlands and flood plains around Lebala offer a wonderful variety of wildlife with excellent sightings of elephant, hippo, bushbuck, zebra, giraffe, impala, wildebeest, kudu, tsessebe, cheetah, sable, buffalo and the ever present predators; wild dog, lion, and hyena. The area is also excellent for birds, with over 300 different bird species recorded to date. The Kwando concession is home to more elephant than the entire country of South Africa.

As we are in a private concession it is possible to drive off-road in search of that perfect photo opportunity, it is also possible to drive at night and spot some animals that are not active during the daylight hours.

This wild expanse is contrasted with the casual elegance and luxury of Lebala Camp itself. Our spacious and beautifully decorated tents are unique and were designed specifically for this camp. Each one is built on a raised teak deck, laid out with maximum comfort and privacy in mind. Access to each tent is via a sliding door on the private veranda. This leads into the sleeping area with a writing desk to one side and a small lounge area on the other. The bathroom has a free standing bathtub and double sinks, and leads out to open-air showers. The tasteful yet subtle décor makes this the perfect place to relax when not out enjoying the wildlife on activities. Set back among the trees, there are endless vistas from each tent's large windows and decks across the vast plains, all of which makes Lebala one of the finest wilderness camps in Botswana.

Mouth-watering fare is prepared by our chefs and served in the open-sided dining room. After dinner there is a wonderful camp-fire around which to sip a coffee or enjoy a nightcap. As you drift off to sleep, you will hear the night sounds of Africa and specifically, hippos grazing in the water near your tent. It's an experience you will long remember from your safari vacation.

Overnights **Lebala Camp**

www.kwando.co.za/lebala.html

DAYS 8 - 9

Friday - Saturday, May 20 - 21

Game Drive from Lebala Camp to Lagoon Camp

Both remote and beautiful, Lagoon Camp is set on the banks of an oxbow of the Kwando River. For many months out of the year there will be elephant drinking from the water next to camp, and huge herds of buffalo that keep close proximity to the Kwando River. Wild dogs, lion, cheetah, leopard and hyena are all never far away from their food sources.

Being in a vast private concession, our game drives are allowed to operate both off road and at night. Many mammals are only active after dark, which gives us the opportunity to see them using a spotlight operated by the tracker. In addition to the game drives, there are walking safaris and evening boat cruises. You can watch the sunset from the comfort of a double deck boat, while heading slowly along the winding Kwando River.

The rooms at Lagoon are truly something to behold. They each offer stunning views that overlook the river and Mudumu National Park, on the opposite bank in Namibia. Each tent has a private balcony on the banks of the river, and a sliding door leads into a lounge area with large meshed windows that look out to spectacular views. The raised bedroom area leads to a dressing room and a large bathroom, again with more beautiful river views. There is a free standing bathtub, inside shower, double basins, separate toilet, and an outdoor shower.

Overnights **Lagoon Camp**

www.kwando.co.za/lagoon.html

DAYS 10 - 11

Sunday - Monday, May 22 - 23

Fly to Kasane and Transfer by Road to Elephant Camp at Victoria Falls

After a hearty brunch we are transferred by light aircraft to Kasane, and then onwards by road across the border into Zimbabwe to Elephant Camp in Victoria Falls.

Straddling the borders of Zambia and Zimbabwe, the majestic Victoria Falls captivates visitors from all over the world. The grandeur and beauty of this extraordinary natural phenomenon, one of the 7 Natural Wonders of the World, must be seen to be believed. It is more than twice the size of Niagara Falls. An endless curtain of the waters of the Zambezi River, more than a mile wide, crash 400 feet to the earth below and then rise again in millions of droplets of spray that cloud the surface. The Africans once called this breathtaking scene "the smoke that thunders."

For 2 nights we stay at the luxurious Elephant Camp, just 10 minutes from the Falls. With just 12 tents situated in a private game reserve, Elephant Camp has breathtaking views of the Victoria Falls' spray and the spectacular gorges which separate Zimbabwe and Zambia.

This is a perfect base from which to explore Victoria Falls. All suites are gorge facing and boast a private viewing deck and plunge pool, plus a private lounge area. The en-suite facilities consist of a bath (with a view) inside and outside showers, and flush toilet. There is also a minibar and tea/coffee stations in each room.

Activities included for our last two days are a guided visit to Victoria Falls, a sundowner cruise on the Zambezi River, and a once-in-a-lifetime insight into these gentle giants, the elephant. There may also be cheetah interaction (subject to availability).

This Victoria Falls region has recently been described as the adventure capital of the world, affording us the opportunity to enjoy all this and more from the tranquil and exclusive Elephant Camp.

Overnights **The Elephant Camp**

www.theelephantcamp.com

DAY 12

Tuesday, May 24

Fly from Victoria Falls to Johannesburg and Connect with our International Flight to the U.S.

We are transferred to the Victoria Falls Airport for our flight back to Johannesburg, where we connect with our evening South African Airways flight home.

Meals Aloft

DAY 13

Wednesday, May 25

Morning Arrival into Dulles and Flights Home

This morning we land in Washington D.C., bringing with home with us the memories of all the wonderful sights and sounds of our "wing" safari adventure in Botswana, Southern Africa.

Meals Aloft

Climate and Wildlife in May/June

May Flood waters from Angola start to reach the top of the Okavango Delta and begin their slow and deliberate progress through the Delta. The rains are over and the nights are cooler with temperatures averaging 60 degrees F while day temperatures, still warm, have lost their edge and maximum temperatures seldom exceed 90 degrees F. Jackets are sensible for night drives. The buffalo begin to group into large herds and visit the Kwando River more often as the seasonal pans begin to dry. Breeding herds of elephant increase in density daily as they visit the permanent waters. The greens start fading to the duller dry season colors and the predators begin to enjoy themselves as their colors blend with the surroundings again. The migratory birds begin their flights to winter feeding and breeding grounds in far away places.

June What an exciting time! The African wild dogs begin to search for their den and our guides search for the dogs to discover their den. Once they have denned, these endangered species are easy to find for 3-4 months as they operate from their dens. Dogs den in both the Kwando and Kwara concessions and the Kwando area offers some of the best dog viewing in Africa. Exciting hunts, playful puppies - what more could you wish for! Temperatures have dropped to their coldest by the end of June with night temperatures reaching as low as 40 degrees F (very cold on night drives due to wind chill). Day temperatures rise up to a very comfortable 75-80 degrees F and dusty, dry conditions begin to dominate. Some green bushes and trees persist but leaf drop commences and pans dry up. Animals concentrate at the permanent water sources as do their predators.

Tipping, Money and Credit Cards

The unit of currency in Botswana is the Pulas. One U.S. dollar is worth approximately 9.82 Botswana Pulas (as of April 15, 2015).

Tips to your driver-guides and camp staff at our private tented camps are not included. See the "Not Included" section of this itinerary for tipping recommendations.

Credit cards (Visa and MC) are widely accepted in Botswana's larger shops, but not necessarily in the markets and small towns. U.S. dollars are widely accepted and you shouldn't need to change money. You should bring enough cash for tips (which are accepted in USD) and spending money: \$500 minimum U.S. cash, in small bills (\$1s, \$5s, \$10s, and \$20s). Make sure that the money you bring is in NEW bills, and not worn or torn bills.

PLEASE NOTE that in Botswana you can no longer use or exchange US Dollars that are dated 2006 or before. Make sure that any US money you bring with you is dated 2007 or later!

U.S. residents are allowed to bring back \$800 worth of merchandise, duty free.

***Important information about credit cards! Please note:** You should bring **at least one smart card, usually referred to as a chip card, or chip-and-PIN credit card** for travel to Europe and to other overseas destinations. These new cards are more secure and you are more protected from credit card fraud.

These so-called smart cards have embedded microchips in them. You will see the silver or gold microchip on the front of your card. They also have the traditional magnetic stripe, so can be used the same as your regular credit/debit card. You'll either sign for purchases, or enter a 4 digit PIN into a terminal. (Confirm with your bank that your PIN, or 4 digit number, will be the number that you use the FIRST time that a PIN is required for use with your new card. So just make sure you remember it for all future transactions!)

It is best to have your chip card as a VISA or MasterCard, since American Express is often not accepted in many places. In Europe and in parts of Asia, they simply don't acknowledge magnetic-strip cards anymore unless they are chip-and-PIN enabled. In addition, in any automated transactions such as train stations and gas stations, **ONLY** chip-and-PIN cards are accepted.

Chip-and-PIN cards have become standard in many European countries because of their superior fraud-prevention abilities. Now countries in Asia, North America and South America, and Canada are doing the same.

Water and Food

If the tap water in our camps is not safe to drink, there will be a thermos or a carafe of drinking water in your room. Or, we will be supplied with bottled, boiled or filtered water. Bottled water is supplied to us during the daytime on safari. It is important to take the advice of our guides whenever you are unsure about the safety of water. During safari, all food is very well prepared and it is safe to eat anything that is served.

What to Bring

Baggage Restrictions

We've said this before, but we're saying it again:

Although international flights from the U.S. to Johannesburg, South Africa allow one piece of checked luggage not exceeding 50 lbs., our charter flights between safari camps in Botswana **ONLY ALLOW A MAXIMUM WEIGHT LIMIT OF 44 LBS. TOTAL (which includes your carry-on bag and camera equipment.)**

Also, the size and structure of your baggage per person is limited to **soft sided luggage only** (about 24" X 17" X 8"). Large, hard-sided suitcases are virtually impossible to stow on small aircraft and vehicles and therefore should NOT be used.

Maximum weight per person is 220 pounds.

These weight restrictions are very important and strictly enforced!

Needless to say.... pack light for your trip to Botswana! Remember, you will be able to have laundry done at each of the camps.

In addition to your duffel, you should bring a small carry-on bag with everything you cannot live without on your safari (all camera equipment and film, toiletries, prescription medication, anti-diarrhea medication, all money, important travel documents, passport, etc.). Please go to www.tsa.gov/travelers on the internet for airline regulations regarding carry-on luggage.

Select your clothing based on comfort. Safari clothes should be washable, cotton or the new fabrics (not synthetics like rayon), and loose fitting. Some of the new fabrics like Coolmax, supplex, and polypropylene are excellent. Clothing should be light colored (tan, khaki, or neutral colors) on safari; it keeps you comfortable and is unobtrusive and non-threatening to wildlife.

Important Tip: To help with the luggage weight restrictions in Africa, try wearing a camera vest and putting your camera accessories (lenses, charger, and extra batteries), wildlife book, and any other small, heavy items in the pockets.

- A well broken-in, comfortable pair of lightweight walking shoes.

- Pair of sport sandals.
- 2 long-sleeved shirts.
- 2 short-sleeved shirts and/or T-shirts.
- 2 pairs of shorts.
- Or 2-3 pairs long pants that zip off for shorts.
- Underwear, socks, sleepwear.
- Toiletries, including Wash & Dries.
- Prescription drugs (with the labels on.)
- A lightweight fleece and light jacket for cool evenings, plus a wool or synthetic cap and gloves. It can get downright cold at night in May, so a jacket, hat and gloves for early morning and night game drives are essential.
- A lightweight day pack for carrying camera, film, hat, sunscreen, etc. (you can also use your day pack as your carry on bag).
- Moneybelt or waistpack for money/passport.
- Washcloth (not supplied in most lodges/camps).
- 2-3 cotton bandannas.
- Bathing suit and pair of rubber "thongs" for the showers.
- Sunglasses.
- Lightweight, wide-brimmed hat (a must).
- A spare pair of glasses (if you wear glasses.)
- Insect repellent.
- Ziploc bags of various sizes.
- Travel alarm clock.
- Small flashlight.
- Small, lightweight binoculars (a MUST) for game viewing and birds. You will be very disappointed if you do not have a good pair of binoculars. Nikon or Minolta make fine, lightweight viewing binoculars. Try a general game viewing 7 X 28, or 8 X 20 binocular.
- *Lonely Planet Watching Wildlife Southern Africa (Travel Guide) Paperback* – September 1, 2009 by [Matthew D Firestone](#), [Mary Fitzpatrick](#), [Nana Luckham](#), [Kate Thomas](#)

Camera Equipment

Since photography is such a large part of this trip, we suggest you bring the following:

- Digital camera, LOTS of extra memory cards and batteries, battery charger, and adapter. You can charge your digital batteries in hotels and lodges. Most digital cameras have a built in converter so you only need to bring an adapter. Adapters can also be bought while in-country.

If you want to get great pictures of animals and birds, a long lens is a must. I have an 80-400 mm Nikon lens and I can get just about anything that you want to take photos of on this trip. There is really no need to have anything larger than a 400 mm lens. You will, of course, need a normal or wide angle lens (somewhere between 24 – 70 mm), to take pictures of people, villages, and general photography during the trip. Many lenses on newer cameras are "all in one" (i.e. 28 – 400-500 mm). Get advice from a good, reputable camera shop!

Electricity

It is strongly suggested that you leave all electrical appliances at home except those which are battery operated.

- Botswana and Zimbabwe Plug Adapters and Outlet Shapes

Outlets in Botswana and Zimbabwe generally accept 2 types of plug:



Three round pins arranged in a triangle
(Type D, as used in India)



Two parallel flat pins with ground pin
(Type G, Great Britain)

Personal First Aid Kit

- Prescription drugs (with the labels on.)
- Systemic antibiotic (prescription).
- Cloth, not plastic Band-aids; about 10 individually-wrapped alcohol pads; and a small tube of Neosporin or other antibiotic cream.
- Prescription medicines in their original bottles.
- Acidophilus enzyme (available in capsules in health-food stores). This often helps your digestive system get in shape for "new" flora.
- Immodium, Lomotil, or similar anti-diarrhea medicine.
- Pepto-Bismol tablets and/or liquid (in leak-proof bottle.)
- Laxative tablets.
- Visine or similar eye drops.
- Tweezers.
- Benadryl cream for itchy bites.
- Aspirin/ibuprofen, etc.
- Cold-symptom relief tablets, antihistamine, cough drops.
- Insect repellent with Deet.

Last Minute Reminders

- Make photocopies of your airline tickets and the first two pages of your passport, and put them in different locations (suitcase, carry-on bag, etc.).
- Bring 2-3 extra passport size photos to use in emergencies.
- Your valuables should be insured for the duration of the trip, but better yet, leave them at home.
- Remove extra credit cards, driver's license, and personal items from wallet or purse.
- Make sure passport and airline tickets are valid and in the correct name.
- Check with airline to reconfirm reservations and departure time (most airlines want to hear directly from the client for confirmations).
- Please leave all valuable jewelry at home!!!

Some Extra Items to Add to your "What to Pack" List (if you can fit them into your 44lb weight limit!) We think these items help make your long airline flights much more comfortable and even more bearable:

- Neck pillow - Inflatable neck pillow for blissful support and deep sleep. For packing, it folds into itself. Self-sealing valve means nothing to close. Soft microfleece cover removes for washing.
- Sleep mask /Comfort eye shade - Ultra lightweight and comfortable, the Comfort Eye Shade screens out light and distractions for a cozier flight. Ultra-soft micro fleece for comfort. Adjustable elastic strap for a perfect fit. Made of Molded Polyester Micro Fleece.
- Travel compression socks - Reduce ankle and leg swelling and reduce the risk of deep vein thrombosis. These doctor-designed socks stimulate circulation through gradual compression that stops swelling and guards against (DVT). Made of coolmax®-lycra®-nylon. The TravelSox® cushion Walk Socks have extra-padded soles and are made of moisture wicking SoftPrim®.
- Noise canceling headphones - Block out unwanted sounds of children crying and airplane engine drone, and/or enjoy great audio sound. Reduce distortion and increase perceived loudness so you can enjoy sound at a lower volume. Get the around the ear design, which is very comfortable.

About Adventure Travel Today - Please Read Carefully!

At AdventureWomen, we would like to ensure that all participants understand that our excursions are *adventure travel vacations*, and not "tours." We define "adventure travel" as travel in which one *actively participates*, as opposed to a "tour," in which one is more or less a passive observer. AdventureWomen designs and organizes vacations all over the world for women who want to experience an *active, out of the ordinary vacation, and meet new friends*. Most of all, we want our trips to be fun!

In this spirit, the successful adventure traveler should be a *good-natured realist* and have a *sense of humor!* *Adventure vacations, by nature, require that participants be self-sufficient, flexible, and able to accept situations as they exist*, and not just as they would have preferred or expected them to exist. The constraints of scheduled group traveling also necessitate that each of us be understanding of and sensitive to others. *Being on time is important*, and contributes to the congeniality, success and well being of both individuals and the group!

Thank you for choosing to travel with AdventureWomen! If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to call, write or email us.

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