

BOTSWANA

THE REWILD WAY



REWILD
SAFARIS™

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Dumelang! (doo-MEH-lung)

It's how you say hello to two or more people in Botswana.

We're excited and grateful you have entrusted us to guide and support you on your journey. Please consider this guidebook essential instructions for your upcoming adventure.

Refer to it for everything from passport and visa instructions to tipping etiquette, as well as important health, safety, and conservation information.

At Rewild Safaris, our "what" is providing sustainable upscale for travelers and continuing our growth as a leader in conservation-centered premium travel. Our "why" is to inspire traveler commitment to wildlife protection, preservation, and the rehabilitation of the wild.

We hope to help "rewild" your soul and spirit through these life-changing escapes from an overdeveloped world, to profoundly connect you to the wild, and inspire support for vital global conservation efforts.

By joining us on this adventure, you are helping to protect Botswana's incredible wildlife and support sustainable tourism. Together, we can ensure these wild spaces thrive for generations to come. So let the rewilding begin!

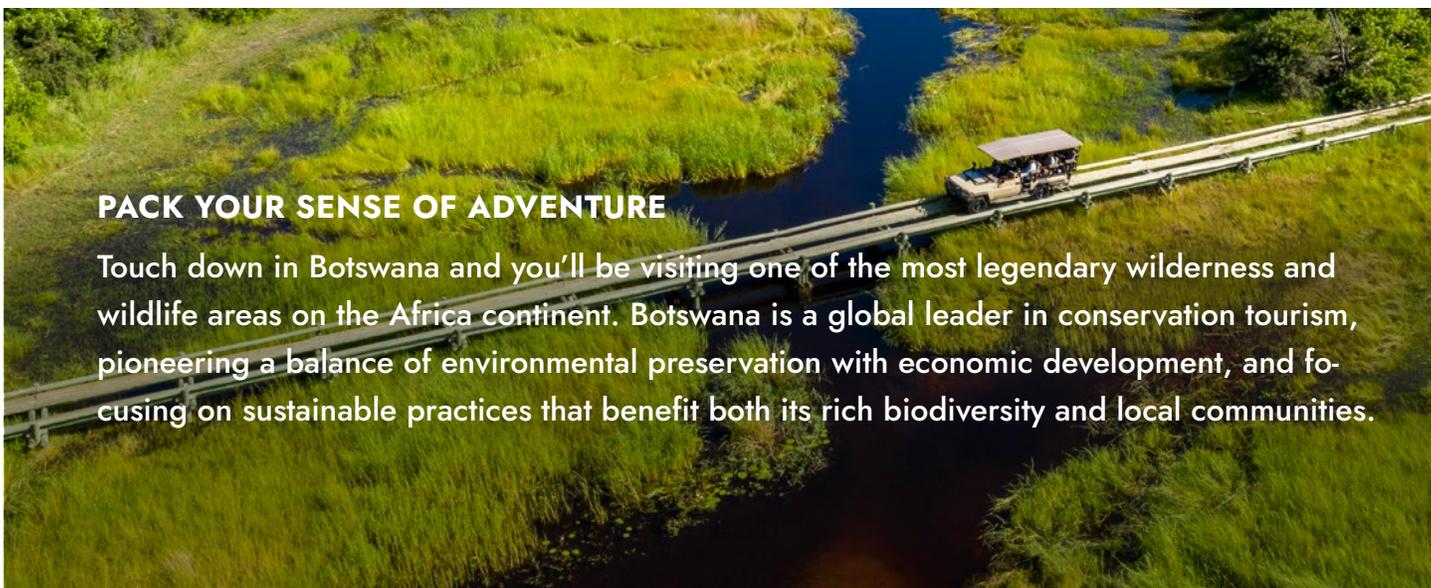


Tom LaRock
PRESIDENT AND FOUNDER



James Ward
CHIEF EXPLORATIONS OFFICER

DESTINATION BOTSWANA



PACK YOUR SENSE OF ADVENTURE

Touch down in Botswana and you'll be visiting one of the most legendary wilderness and wildlife areas on the Africa continent. Botswana is a global leader in conservation tourism, pioneering a balance of environmental preservation with economic development, and focusing on sustainable practices that benefit both its rich biodiversity and local communities.

Botswana Wild Facts



TIME ZONE

Botswana operates on Central African Time (CAT) which is GMT +2. The country stays on the same time all year—there is no Daylight-Saving Time to worry about.



LANGUAGES

English is the official language, while Setswana (or Tswana) which is spoken by 90% of the population is the national language. There are several different tribes who speak their own language, the oldest being the San. Setswana phrases to practice: **Le kae?** (How are you?); **Go siame** (Good-bye); **Kea leboga** (Thank you).



CLIMATE

The Dry season (May–October) is best for wildlife with cool mornings & warm days.

The Wet season (November–April) brings lush landscapes, baby animals, and fewer crowds.



GEOGRAPHY

Botswana is a landlocked country in Southern Africa, dominated by the Kalahari Desert and Okavango Delta, and bordered by South Africa, Namibia, Zimbabwe, and Zambia. The Okavango Delta is one of the world's natural wonders. Rainfall from the Angola Highlands travels 750 miles before reaching Botswana during the dry season. At its peak flood, the delta expands to cover up to 5,800 square miles before eventually draining into the Kalahari Desert.



CURRENCY

The local currency in Botswana is the Pula (1 pula is divided into 100 thebes), but the US dollar is widely accepted at lodges and hotels. Major credit cards, such as MasterCard and Visa, are accepted at most hotels and retail outlets. However, shops in remote areas may only accept cash so it is always a good idea to have some cash on hand. ATMs are available in Maun. **Note:** The pula is a closed currency so you cannot obtain or use it outside of Botswana.



WHAT TO BRING BACK

Woven baskets and bowls, particularly those made from palm fronds.

Carved wooden masks made by bushmen craftsmen.

Traditional textiles in bright, bold colors.

Handmade jewelry, made from stone or ostrich eggshells.

What not to buy: Avoid anything made from tortoiseshell, ivory and the fur or skin of protected species. These items are illegal and will be confiscated at customs.



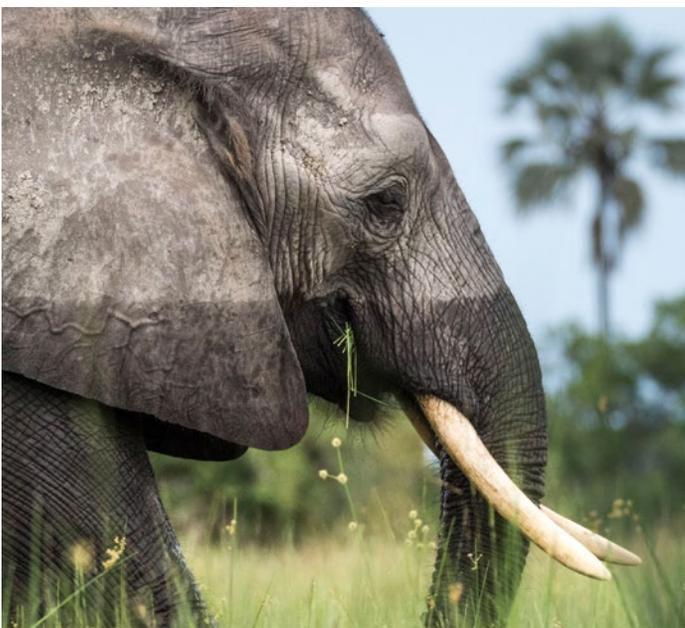
For anyone who feels overwhelmed by
their job, or take their job too seriously,

— Jill Scott, star of *The No 1 Ladies Detective Agency*

I say go to the Okavango Delta,
and just be humbled.

Wildlife & Safari Highlights

Explore major parks for the Big Five (lion, elephant, leopard, rhino, buffalo). The Okavango Delta for water-based safaris and mokoro (dugout canoe) safaris; Chobe National Park for massive elephant herds, hippos, and boat safaris; Central Kalahari and the Makgadikgadi Pans for desert landscapes, friendly meerkats, and superb stargazing.





Conservation: Literally, A Way of Life

Approximately 37% of Botswana's land is designated as national parks, reserves, or wildlife management areas, underscoring the nation's commitment to conservation. Botswana's dedication to conservation tourism not only safeguards its unique ecosystems but also ensures that local communities benefit from tourism revenues, creating a sustainable model for wildlife preservation and economic growth.

130,000

elephants (more than any other country in Africa)

17%

of land National
Parks & Preserves

22%

of land Wildlife
Management Areas

450

bird species





Getting the Shots

James Ward, our Chief Explorations Officer, is also a professional wildlife and conservation photographer. Here are a few tips he'd like you to consider.

The early bird catches the shot: Wildlife is generally more active when it's early. (Early morning light can also create stunning effects.) Don't sleep in on your safari!

When choosing the exposure settings, consider the lighting conditions and the movement of the object.

In bright light, a fast shutter speed and low ISO (measuring the sensitivity of camera sensors to light) can freeze motion.

In low light, a slower shutter speed and higher ISO may be needed to get a good exposure.

Equipment matters: a long lens can help you get close to a wild target without disturbing it; a tripod can keep the camera steady for a sharp, clear shot.

Shoot from downwind: Don't let your scent scare the models away!

Silence the camera: Always use your equipment's silent mode. And make sure you also stay as quiet as possible.

Don't miss the background: Yes, the animal can take your breath away, but make sure you capture the setting as well. The wild in the wild is why you traveled all this way.

Stay safe: Remember these amazing animals are wild and unpredictable. Always follow your guide's directions.





Local Flavors

Botswana’s culinary traditions offer a feast for every palate. While seasonal and local availability can influence carefully crafted menus, here are some of the dishes you might encounter:

Dikgobe: One of the most traditional Botswanan dishes, consisting of beans, corn, and lamb

Mogodu: A tripe stew served with potatoes and peas

Seswaa: Botswana’s national dish—slow-cooked, shredded meat (usually beef) served with pap (thick maize porridge) or rice

Vetkoek: A South African favorite also popular in Botswana—deep-fried dough filled with savory minced meat

Morogo: Wild spinach, considered a staple

Biltong: Similar to beef jerky, a popular meat snack

Bojalwa ja Setswana: A traditional beer made from fermented millet



When not to be adventurous:

- Avoid food from street vendors (unless recommended by your guide)
- Stick to peeled or washed fruit
- Avoid undercooked meat or raw vegetables
- Opt for pasteurized dairy products
- Only drink bottled or purified water

If you have any dietary restrictions, make sure to include them on your safari registration.

PRE-FLIGHT CHECKLIST



Entry Requirements

- A valid, signed passport
- Passport is valid for at least six months after arrival
- At least three blank pages in passport
- Passport name matches your booking exactly
- Yellow fever vaccination certificate if you have traveled through a country where the disease is endemic
- Proof of Tourist Travel: Travelers may be asked to present their itinerary and/or to demonstrate sufficient funds for their stay

If transiting through South Africa:

- Additional two consecutive blank pages in passport
- Online Customs Traveler Declaration – saved to your mobile or printed copy to present at customs
- If traveling with a minor, you will need additional documentation—requirements found here: <https://www.gov.za/faq/travel-tourism/what-are-requirements-travelling-children>

Share with us: provide Rewild Safaris with a copy of your passport during your safari registration or send via encrypted link:

<https://rewildsafaris.com/passport-upload/>



Booking Flights

Please book and purchase your international flights to and from the airports listed for the beginning and end of your safari itinerary. Once you arrive, we'll handle all local travel between smaller airports and remote reserves.

IMPORTANT: Send us a copy of your flight confirmation as soon as you book it so our Botswana Team can coordinate a seamless safari. Email to: support@rewildsafaris.com

PASSPORT TIPS



- ✓ Carry your passport securely and keep it with you at all times.
- ✓ Expedited Services: Use professional passport services if you need a fast renewal.
- ✓ Carry color photocopies of your passport's photo page at all times.
- ✓ Lost Passport? Report it immediately to the nearest embassy or consulate. Your photocopy can speed up replacement.

FLIGHT TIPS

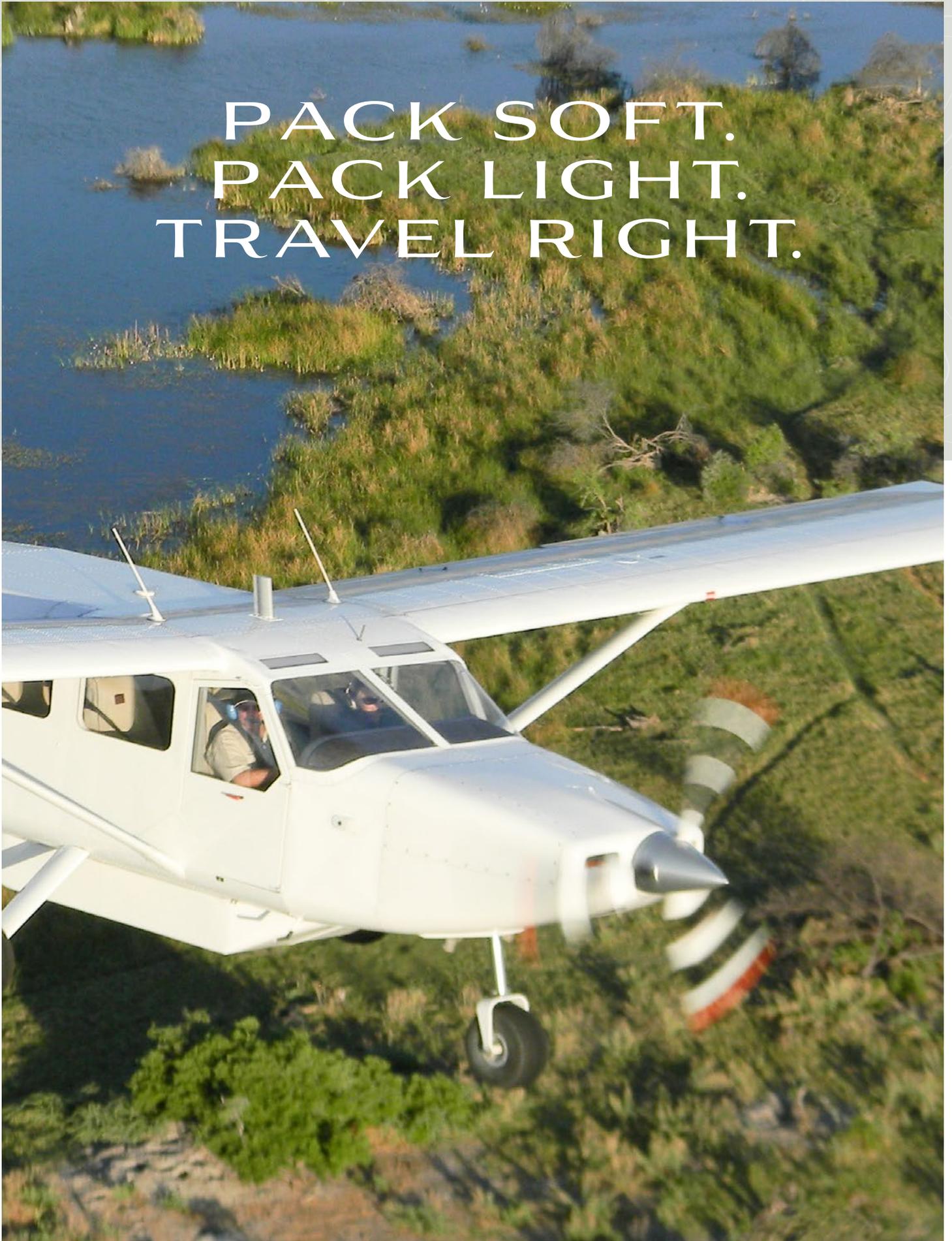


- ✓ Book early: Reserve flights ahead of time for the best prices and seat options
- ✓ Allow extra time: We recommend allowing 2 - 3 hours before your international departures and for connections
- ✓ Early arrival: Consider arriving a day early in case of delays and to acclimate to your destination

Visas

US, Canada, UK and EU passport holders do not require a visa to enter Botswana.

PACK SOFT.
PACK LIGHT.
TRAVEL RIGHT.



Your Carry-On

THE ESSENTIALS

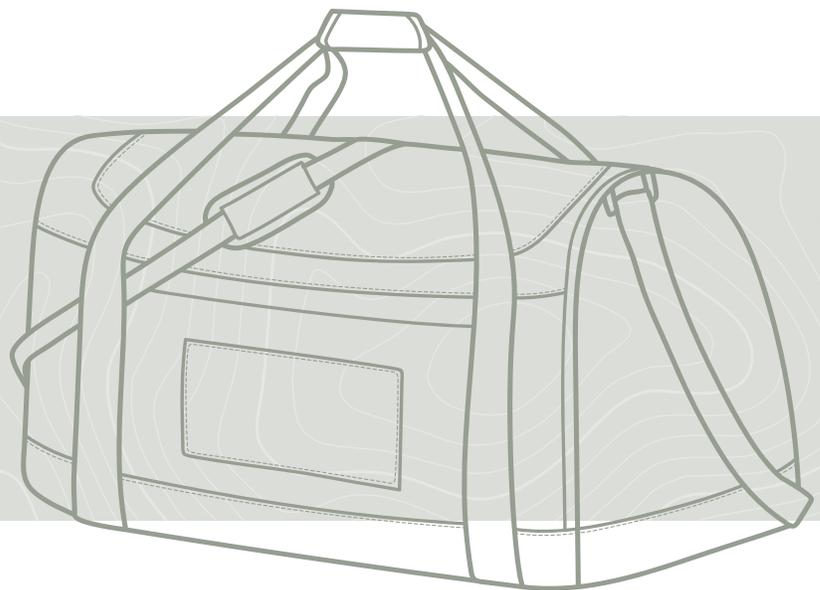
- Passport
- Photocopies of your passport's photo page in a separate compartment
- Medications
- Printed color copies of visa & Traveler Declaration
- Cameras and Devices (plus memory cards, extra batteries, chargers, lens cleaning supplies)
- Change of clothes (in case of luggage delay)
- Spare eyeglasses or contacts (with a copy of your prescription)
- Credit Cards and Cash

Luggage Limits

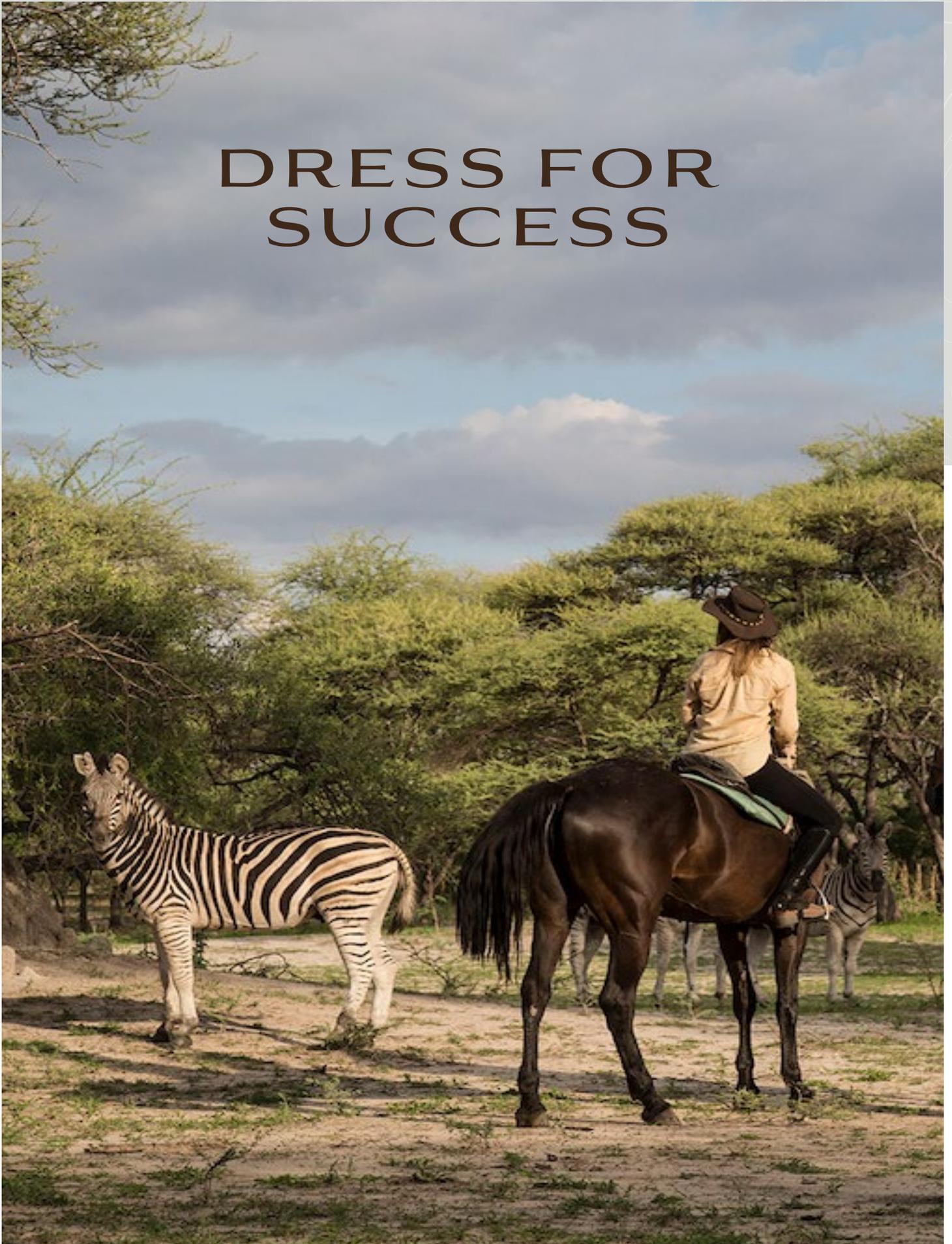
OVERSIZED LUGGAGE WILL NOT BE ALLOWED ON REGIONAL FLIGHTS. THINK SMALL.

- For safaris that include light aircraft flights, passengers are entitled to one piece of checked luggage and one small carry-on item only
- Maximum checked in luggage weight is 15kg (33lbs) and should not exceed 30cm (12in) wide x 35cm(14in) high x 70cm (28in) long
- Maximum hand luggage is 5kg (11lbs)
- Strictly soft sided bags only, no wheels or frames or rigid sides
- For additional camera equipment or overweight luggage, additional seats can be bought prior to departure

Recommended luggage for your travels will be gifted to you by Rewild Safaris.



DRESS FOR SUCCESS



What to Pack

CLOTHING

- Light, breathable layers in neutral colors to stay comfortable and blend in with the environment
- **Do not wear** camouflage (reserved for military), dark blue or black (attracts insects)
- Lightweight long and short sleeved shirts and shorts/pants in moisture-wicking fabric
- Comfortable walking shoes or lightweight hiking boots
- Comfortable, above ankle socks
- Comfortable shoes for around the lodge or camp
- Warm layers for mornings and evenings (fleece or sweater)
- Wide-brimmed hat for sun protection
- UV protective, polarized sunglasses
- Buff or bandana for dust and sun protection
- Light rain jacket



OTHER ESSENTIALS

- Travel adapters: Electrical sockets typically use **Type G**, **Type D** or **Type M**. A universal adapter may be helpful. Standard voltage is 230V with a frequency of 50Hz. If your device does not support 230V, you may need a voltage converter.
- Good binoculars for wildlife viewing
- High-SPF sunscreen and lip balm
- Insect repellent
- Medications, including a small first-aid kit
- Device chargers
- Headlamp or small flashlight
- Extra batteries for your camera and devices

CLOTHING TIPS

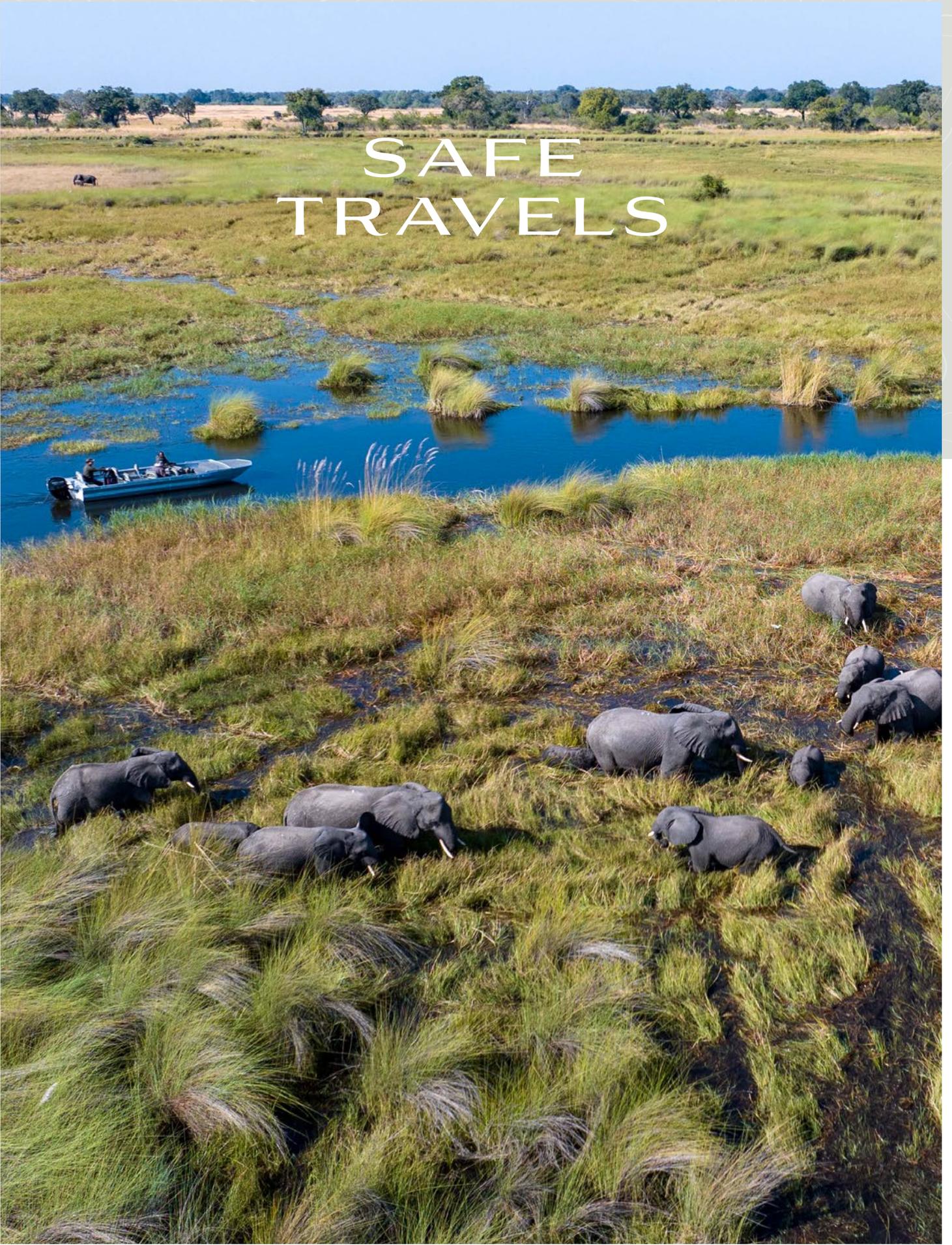


Some suggestions for upscale performance (and fashionable) safari gear:

- | | |
|--------------|---------------------|
| ✓ Patagonia | ✓ Arc'teryx |
| ✓ Orvis | ✓ LL Bean |
| ✓ Fjallraven | ✓ Tilley Endurables |



SAFE TRAVELS



Health & Safety

VACCINATIONS AND MEDICATIONS

Consult your doctor or travel clinic at least six months before departure. Inform them of everywhere you're visiting, your current medications and conditions. Bring enough of your prescription medicines in their original packaging. It's also a good idea to pack medications for digestive discomfort, itching and rashes—just in case.

ASK ABOUT

- **Malaria prevention medication:** You might have to start taking it before you travel
- **Vaccinations:** Share your itinerary with your doctor or travel clinic for accurate vaccination requirements or recommendations
- **Medication restrictions:** Some destinations have requirements, restrictions & penalties for traveling with certain medications.

Check the CDC website for up-to-date information on your destination/s. <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/list>

HEALTH TIPS



- ✓ Stay hydrated—carry a reusable bottle and consider hydration tablets
- ✓ Use only bottled or treated water, even for brushing teeth
- ✓ Avoid overindulging in rich food or alcohol
- ✓ Protect against the sun with hats, sunglasses, and sunscreen

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

- Carry a letter from your physician with personal information on any existing needs or conditions
- Carry extra prescription medications and written prescriptions

- Inform Rewild Safaris in advance of any conditions that may require special care
- Review the details of your travel insurance coverage to be sure you're adequately covered on your journey and purchase additional insurance if needed



ON YOUR SAFARI



Good to Know



TRAVEL SMART

It's always wise to take basic precautions when traveling internationally. Be aware of your surroundings, especially in areas frequented by tourists. Do not leave your food or drink unattended. Being alert is a good way to help ensure a safe and enjoyable trip.

Check for travel advisory updates on your local government website. For the US: <https://travel.state.gov/en/international-travel/travel-advisories.html>

HEALTH CARE IN AFRICA

Chances are you'll be traveling across areas where medical care is not highly developed and will be hours from a medical facility or doctors. Although emergency medical evacuation services are available in Africa, they may not be available immediately. While there may be some basic medical facilities available in parks and reserves, your guides, drivers and others cannot be relied on for anything but the most basic first aid. We highly recommend medical evacuation insurance coverage and to always carry emergency numbers with you.

VALUABLES AND PACKING

Keep valuables with you or in safes when available. Travel light for easier mobility and smoother transfers.

CPAP MACHINES

Be aware that some lodges may not provide 24-hour electricity. If you need one, consider purchasing a portable, battery-powered one to take with you. If you can only use a CPAP that requires overnight electricity, contact us at support@rewildsafaris.com to ensure that the lodges and camps on your itinerary can accommodate your needs.

STAYING CONNECTED

Mobile service may be limited, but WhatsApp is often a reliable communication tool via Wi-Fi. Many lodges offer limited Wi-Fi—perfect for staying connected while connecting with nature.

WILDLIFE AND ETIQUETTE

Respect Botswana's stunning wildlife, landscapes and environment by following these guidelines:

- Follow local laws and customs
- Stay quiet and avoid sudden movements to reduce stress on wildlife
- Keep a distance from all wildlife
- Do not touch or feed wildlife
- Do not touch or remove anything from the environment e.g. rocks, plants, flowers
- Do not store food in your sleeping area
- Do not litter
- Rewild Safaris have a strict no smoking/no vaping policy
- Follow your guide's instructions to minimize your impact on the environment
- Conserve resources like water and electricity, especially in lodges using solar power
- Follow the "Leave No Trace" principal

TIPS ON TIPPING



PER PERSON, PER DAY, USD:

- ✓ Hotels, Lodges, Camps General Staff Tip Box: \$10
- ✓ Guides: \$20
- ✓ Tracker: \$10
- ✓ Half Day Activities: \$10
- ✓ Restaurants: 10% of total bill

It's Go Time!

Thank you for choosing Rewild Safaris. This journey not only offers incredible wildlife and landscapes but also supports conservation efforts in Botswana. Your trip makes a difference by helping preserve these ecosystems and uplift local communities. Pack wisely, travel safely, and get ready to explore the beauty and wonder of Botswana.

We can't wait to welcome you!

