



MALAIKA TRAVEL | BOTSWANA WILDERNESS & SAFARI

Botswana Wilderness & Safari Gear Checklist

Malaika Travel Master Expedition Packing List

IMPORTANT TRIP OVERVIEW & PACKING RULES

- **Strict Luggage Limits for Light Aircraft / Bush Planes:** Transfers between Okavango Delta camps, Moremi, and Chobe via light aircraft (e.g., Mack Air / Wilderness Air) strictly enforce a 15 kg (33 lbs) total weight limit per passenger (including camera gear and hand luggage).
- **Strict Soft Duffel Bags Only:** Luggage pods on light aircraft measure approximately 25cm x 30cm x 62cm. Hard-shell suitcases or bags with rigid frames/wheels are strictly prohibited and will not fit.
- **Water & Savannah Environment:** Botswana combines water-based safaris (mokoro canoes, motorboats in Okavango Delta) with dusty savannah game drives and walking safaris.
- **Color Strategy:** Wear neutral earth tones (khaki, beige, tan, olive, brown). Avoid dark blue and black (attracts Tsetse flies) and bright white or neon colors.

1. SAFARI APPAREL & WATER-BASED SAFARI GEAR

- **Lightweight Long-Sleeve Safari Shirts (2–3x):** Breathable, quick-dry UV-protective shirts (essential protection against sun, mosquitoes, and high grass on walking safaris).
- **Short-Sleeve T-Shirts / Polo Shirts (3–4x):** Lightweight shirts in neutral earth tones.
- **Convertible / Lightweight Safari Trousers (2x):** Quick-dry trekking/safari pants (zip-off legs are ideal for changing daytime temperatures).
- **Safari Shorts (1–2x):** Comfortable shorts for hot afternoon boat cruises and lodge relaxation.
- **Warm Mid-Layer / Fleece Jacket (1x):** Heavy fleece or Powerstretch jacket for chilly early morning game drives and open-boat trips.
- **Lightweight Windproof / Rain Jacket:** Packable windproof jacket for fast motorboat transits in the Delta and unexpected rain showers (especially Nov–April).
- **Wide-Brim Sun Hat / Safari Cap:** Must feature an adjustable chin strap for wind on motorboats and open 4x4 vehicles.
- **Evening Casual Wear (1–2x):** Lightweight, comfortable outfits for dinners at luxury tented camps.

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2. FOOTWEAR & CAMP COMFORT

- **Lightweight Trail Shoes / Breathable Sneakers:** Comfortable breathable walking shoes or light trail runners for walking safaris, bush walks, and boat transfers. (Heavy high-top hiking boots are not required).
- **Water-Friendly Sandals / Flip-Flops:** Quick-dry sandals (e.g., Teva / Chaco) or flip-flops for mokoro trips, boat docks, and camp relaxation.
- **Moisture-Wicking Socks (4–5 pairs):** Merino wool or synthetic socks.

3. ELECTRONICS, OPTICS & WATER PROTECTION

- **Waterproof Dry Bags / Sacks (2–3x):** Heavy-duty dry bags (10L–20L) to protect camera gear, phones, and extra layers from water spray during boat safaris and rain.
- **Binoculars (10x42 or 8x42):** Essential—1 pair per traveler for spotting wildlife across channels and savannah plains.
- **Camera Gear + Telephoto Lens:** DSLR / Mirrorless camera with a 200mm–500mm lens for wildlife photography + wide-angle for Okavango sunsets.
- **High-Capacity Power Bank (10,000mAh–20,000mAh):** Charging outlets in remote fly-in Delta camps run on solar power with limited generator hours.
- **Universal Travel Adapter:** Type M plugs (large 3 round pins, South African standard) and UK Type G plugs are used in Botswana lodges.
- **Headlamp with Red-Light Mode:** Crucial for walking safely around unlit wilderness camps and canvas tents at night.

4. HYDRATION, HYGIENE & HEALTH

- **Reusable Stainless Steel / Nalgene Water Bottle (1x):** Insulated bottle to refill from camp/vehicle water supplies.
- **High-Factor Sun Protection Kit:**
 - **Sunscreen:** SPF 50+ broad-spectrum sunscreen (sun reflections off water channels can cause fast sunburn).
 - **Lip Care:** SPF 30+ lip balm.
 - **Sunglasses:** Polarized UV-400 sunglasses (polarized lenses reduce water glare in the Delta).
- **Insect Repellent (DEET / Picaridin):** High-strength spray for mosquitoes around Delta channels and evening bush dinners.

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- **Personal First Aid & Medications:**
 - **Prescription:** Anti-Malaria prophylaxis (mandatory for Okavango Delta and Chobe), personal prescription drugs.
 - **General:** Imodium, Paracetamol/Ibuprofen, Motion sickness tablets (for small bush planes), Rehydration salts (ORS), Antihistamines, Blister plasters.
- **Toiletries & Hygiene:** Biodegradable wet wipes, hand sanitizer, eye drops (essential for dry, dusty game drives in Chobe/Kalahari).

5. PACKING & TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

- **Ultra-Lightweight Soft Duffel Bag (50L–70L):** Must be completely soft-sided without wheels, rigid bottoms, or pull-up handles to fit bush plane luggage pods.
- **Daypack (20L–25L):** Small, collapsible backpack carried with you in 4x4s, mokoros, and motorboats.
- **Fabric Packing Cubes / Dry Sacks:** Organizes clothing inside your duffel and keeps items dry during water transfers.
- **Travel Documents & Cash:**
 - **Passport:** Valid passport (min. 6 months validity with at least 3 blank pages).
 - **Insurance:** Travel & Medical Insurance details covering emergency medical evacuation (mandatory for remote Okavango camps).
 - **Cash:** US Dollars (USD printed after 2013) or South African Rand (ZAR) for lodge tips, local craft purchases, and border fees. VISA/Mastercard accepted at major lodges.

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