

BOTSWANA
Southern Africa's Gem



Entry Visas

(All pages contain **hyperlinks** to authoritative institutions offering reliable, official information)

Pages 5–11 explain Botswana’s visa regulations by consolidating earlier rules and translating them into practical travel guidance. They reiterate that most Western nationals qualify for visa-free entry for up to 90 days within a 12-month period, provided passports are valid for at least six months with sufficient blank pages. Travelers who are not visa-exempt are urged to apply in advance using the e-Visa system, allowing adequate processing time. The section also highlights special requirements, such as yellow-fever certificates for arrivals from risk countries and additional documentation for minors. Finally, it underscores the value of the KAZA Univisa for tourists planning multi-country travel in Southern Africa, framing visa policy as facilitative rather than restrictive for regional mobility.

Short-stay Accommodations

(All pages contain **hyperlinks** to authoritative institutions offering reliable, official information)

Pages 12–15 present a broad range of short-stay accommodation options in Botswana, catering to different budgets and travel styles. The section begins with **upscale and four-star hotels**, mainly concentrated in Gaborone and the Kasane/Chobe area, offering reliable comfort, business facilities, and convenient urban or gateway locations. It then highlights **five-star safari lodges**, located in premier conservation areas such as the Okavango Delta, Moremi Game Reserve, Chobe National Park, and the Makgadikgadi Pans. These lodges emphasize exclusivity, luxury, and immersive wildlife experiences. Finally, the pages introduce **alternative stays**, including vacation rentals and guesthouses, which provide flexible, home-style accommodation for short visits. Together, the pages portray Botswana as offering accommodation choices that range from city hotels to high-end wilderness retreats.

Managing Health Risks & Care

(All pages contain **hyperlinks** to authoritative institutions offering reliable, official information)

Pages 16–19 focus on **managing health risks and accessing medical care in Botswana**. They outline how travelers should assess medical situations, distinguish between emergencies and minor issues, and use national and private ambulance services. The section compares public and private healthcare, noting cost, capacity, and quality differences. It stresses the importance of travel medical insurance, carrying essential medications due to supply shortages, and identifies reputable hospitals and clinics in major cities for emergency and routine care.

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Establishing & Operating Your Business

(All pages contain **hyperlinks** to authoritative institutions offering reliable, official information)

Pages 20–33 focus on the **practical process of establishing and operating a business in Botswana**, moving from registration to ongoing compliance. They outline the steps for choosing a legal structure, registering with the Companies and Intellectual Property Authority (CIPA), reserving a business name, and completing incorporation through the Online Business Registration System. The section then covers post-registration requirements, including opening a business bank account, registering for taxes with the Botswana Unified Revenue Service (BURS), and **understanding PAYE and VAT obligations**. It also explains when trade licences and sector-specific permits are required, typical documentation needed, and timelines and fees. The pages conclude with guidance on operational compliance—accounting, payroll, licence renewals—and highlight common pitfalls, such as VAT misregistration and overlooking premises or employer obligations.

10 Key Business Issues

(All pages contain **hyperlinks** to authoritative institutions offering reliable, official information)

Pages 34–125 present a **comprehensive investment climate assessment for Botswana**, structured around key issues investors typically evaluate. The section examines the **efficiency and transparency of permitting**, noting generally clear procedures and low corruption, alongside some bureaucratic delays in areas such as environmental approvals and immigration. It then addresses the **repatriation of profits and capital**, highlighting Botswana's liberal foreign exchange regime and full currency convertibility, subject mainly to tax compliance.

Subsequent sections assess **infrastructure**, covering transport, power, digital connectivity, and logistics, and identify both strengths in urban and trade corridors and gaps in rural and energy resilience. The document also evaluates the **availability of local talent**, labour laws, wage standards, and the controlled use of expatriate skills. Further issues include **local content and ownership rules**, which are generally open with limited citizen-reserved sectors, and **sector-specific risks and opportunities** across mining, energy, tourism, agriculture, finance, and manufacturing. The final part highlights **fast-growing agribusiness startups**, illustrating innovation and emerging investment opportunities

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Land Ownership & Cost of Living

(All pages contain **hyperlinks** to authoritative institutions offering reliable, official information)

Pages 126–133 explain practical living considerations in Botswana, focusing on **land ownership**, **housing costs**, and the **cost of living**, with particular relevance for foreigners. They clarify that foreigners are legally allowed to own both freehold and leasehold land, especially in urban areas, though leasehold properties require Land Board approval. The section then outlines **average residential real estate prices**, showing significant variation between the capital, secondary cities, and tourism hubs, with Gaborone and safari areas being the most expensive. Finally, the pages detail **typical living expenses**, including rent, food, utilities, and transport, using Gaborone as a benchmark. Overall, the section provides a realistic picture of affordability, investment requirements, and everyday expenses for residents and expatriates in Botswana.

Obtaining Residency & Citizenship

(All pages contain **hyperlinks** to authoritative institutions offering reliable, official information)

Pages 134–148 focus on how to obtain legal residency or citizenship in Botswana, while also offering broader social context. They explain the legal framework governing residence permits, permanent residency, and citizenship, outlining requirements such as work, investment, marriage, or long-term residence. The section clarifies citizenship pathways by birth, descent, and naturalization, noting Botswana's generally restrictive stance on dual citizenship, with some recent but incomplete policy relaxation. It also discusses the announced—but not yet fully defined—**Citizenship by Investment** programme, emphasizing the lack of confirmed legislation or investment thresholds. The final pages widen the lens, examining Botswana's political stability alongside deep economic inequality, linking this disparity to colonial legacies, diamond dependence, and limited social mobility despite relative safety and strong infrastructure.

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Schooling options in Botswana

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Pages 149–170 focus on education in Botswana, covering schooling from early childhood through university level. The section first outlines international and private primary and secondary schools, listing leading institutions and providing detailed fee structures, registration costs, and payment options. This gives families a realistic picture of the financial commitment involved in private education. The second half shifts to higher learning, profiling major tertiary institutions such as the University of Botswana, Botswana International University of Science and Technology, Botswana University of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Botho University, and Botswana Open University. It summarizes faculties, admission requirements, and pathways for both local and international students, highlighting Botswana's structured but accessible education system across multiple disciplines.