



Population: 2.3 million



Languages: National: Setswana
Official: English | 9 local languages spoken by the diverse tribals.



Size: 581,730 km², Botswana is approximately the size of France or the state of Texas



Time Zone: 00:00 | GMT/ UTC +2



Currency: Local: Pula & Thebe
International: US\$, GBP, EURO, ZAR



National Bird: The Kgori Bustard (Ardeotis kori)



Inbound Airlines: Ethiopian Airlines | South African Airlines | Airlink

CLIMATE

Botswana's climate is semi-arid. Though hot & dry for much of the year, the rains arrive through the summer months (Nov - March). Rainfall is erratic, unpredictable & highly regional. Showers are often followed by strong sunshine. Mean annual rainfall varies from over 650mm in the extreme northeast area of the Chobe District to a minimum of less than 250mm in the extreme southwest part of Kgalagadi District. The winter months are cooler and dry. Generally, rainfall decreases in amount and increases in variability the further west and south you are.



Peak temperatures reached in the summer months (Nov- March) with high humidity. Heavy rain showers provide temporary relief.

Dry season: May - September. Clear-skies and bone-dry, the air seductively warm during the daylight hours but cold at night and in the early mornings. Frost is common and even ice.



The summer months of Nov - March with October & April being transitional months. January & February are generally regarded as the peak months.



Calving Season

Nov - Feb | Annual

With the start of the rains in November the fresh grasses provide perfect conditions for raising young. This in turn creates a conducive environment for predators to also cub and pup, resulting in sightings of hunts aplenty between predator and prey.

"Flood Season" in the Okavango

Annual | Okavango Delta

Not related to the rainy season, the Flood Season, is the time of year where rainfall from the Angolan highlands start to arrive in the panhandle around May, but can take up to July to mark the height of the flood and the delta is at it's most expansive.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Star Gazing

May - end Sept | Annual | Kalahari

lack of rain and clear skies make star gazing throughout Botswana superb but coupled with the arid, vastness of the Kalahari makes it especially impressive (and with fewer tourists).

Flamingo Bird Watching

Nov - March | Annual | Nata Sanctuary

The annual flooding of Nata Sanctuary welcomes thousands of migratory pelicans and flamingos - one of the few important breeding sites for these birds in Africa.

Khawa Dune Challenge & Cultural Festival

May | Annual | Khawa Village

The event features quad & motor bike challenges, fun Camel rides, cultural performances, exhibitions, arts and crafts from the Kgalagadi area. A fun 2 day festival for all ages.

Tiger Fish Season

June - August | Annual | Chobe River

The best time to fish for Tiger Fish is during the annual barbel runs. which varies each year but is expected from late Aug - early Nov. No fishing permitted in Chobe Jan-March as it is spawning season.

Zebra migration

Dec - April | Annual | Kalahari

Following the rains, when the usually dry Makgadikgadi Pans turn into lush and bursting with vegetation, hundreds of thousands of zebra make their way from northern Botswana to the Central Kalahari to enjoy the mineral rich grasslands.

