

A dark green vertical bar on the left side of the page, with a light green arrow pointing right, overlapping it.

Sengyati & Botswana For Dummies

Several thin, curved lines in shades of green and grey, resembling grass or reeds, located in the bottom left corner.

Compiled by Lula



Lonely Planet's Top Choice in Chobe

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Booking at Senyati

50% Discount 4 January through 20 March every year

Senyati has a Birdwatchers' special from 4 January through 20 March. All prices at Senyati is then 50% discounted.

Can Senyati be reached by 2x4 vehicle? Yes, read below. Follow the road through Lesoma Village.

WIFI? Yes, we have 24/7 WIFI from our bar area.

Can I order food and coffee at Senyati? Yes.

Is there a Bar at Senyati? Yes, the Bar with the best view in the world.

Can I book activities at Senyati? Yes. Book at reception.

Can I do a Victoria Falls Day Trip from Senyati? Yes.

Can I stay at Senyati and do a self-drive day trip into Chobe National Park? Yes. We are only a few kilometres from Chobe National Park.

Can I book a guided Safari Drive from Senyati? Yes. Book at reception.

Can I buy wood at Senyati? Yes.

Can I use the water at Senyati for Cooking and Coffee? Yes. You can drink it too, however a bit salty. Please do not buy unnecessary water. Plastic bottles have become a huge problem.

Water at Senyati? Please limit plastic water bottles. Our water is drinkable, totally fine for cooking, and some people say tea even tastes better with our water due to the salt.

Showers and toilets? Yes, all our campsites have a small ablution with a flushing toilet, hot-water shower and a 220V power point. Adapters are available from the shop at reception.

Ice: Sold at reception.

All-inclusive stays/honeymoon? Please enquire when making a booking as we do offer all-inclusive stays at Senyati.

Airport Pickup? Yes, for people who stay two days or longer (in our Chalets or Glamper) we offer free airport pickup and return.

Can I buy T-shirts of Botswana and Botswana Caps at Senyati? Yes.

Bread? Senyati sells wonderful Sourdough bread at reception. And we offer fantastic sour-dough sandwiches at our restaurant.

Set meals if you don't like pizza? We also prepare set meals for groups of more than 6 people.

Can I bring my dog? NO! Pets are not allowed at Senyati.

DIRECTIONS AND ROADS TO SENYATI

Yes, you can drive to us in a normal 2x4 sedan via Lesoma Village. There are TWO roads to Senyati. One 2x4 road via Lesoma Village (clearly marked throughout the village by Senyati signs) and then the 4x4 road for the more adventurous!

If you are not comfortable with 4x4 driving on heavy sand (especially from August to December), then rather use the 2x4 road through Lesoma Village.

Directions to Senyati: 4x4 Road 

S17 degrees 52,331 E.25 degrees 14,167.

Do not attempt this road IF you do not have a 4x4.

The 4x4 road is not suitable for caravans and trailers, and even worse from June until end December.

There is no towing service on the road and it is dangerous to walk through the bush. You WILL be stuck if you are not an experienced 4x4 driver.

Lower tyre pressure.

Set wheels to 4x4.

Engage your car into 4x4. The new Fortuner's and Toyota Hilux engages into 4x4 through a button and not at the gears. Make sure you know how that works. Very easy but difficult if you are now aware of the button.

From Nata Direction 4x4?

CARAVANS, TRAILERS and 2x4 cars, please USE LESOMA ROAD.

If coming from Nata, you must look out for Senyati, BEFORE you are in Kasane.

8km before Kazungula is a huge green Senyati sign built from stones on your right-hand side (Nata now behind you). Turn right in there onto the sandy 4x4 road.

This road is only 4x4. The sand gets worse as you move in.

If you don't have 4x4, OR if you are pulling a caravan, don't even attempt it. Turn back again to Nata Direction for a few km and drive through Lesoma. There are various Senyati Signs on the road.

SENYATI 2 x 4 Direction through Lesoma Road turnoff.

Small Cars (2x4) Trailers and Caravans



The 2x4 road is via Lesoma Village GPS Coordinates: - S 17 53 858, E 025 12 826

Coming **from Ngoma Gate/Kasane/Namibia**, you will get to:

1. Kasane
2. Kazungula (8km after Kazungula in Nata Direction)
3. Senyati

If you are coming from Namibia at the Chobe National Park, Ngoma Gate, there will be a tarred road. Get out of your car and sign the registration book when you enter the park (please stick to the speed limit) and drive the tar road and sign again when you exit that road.

You do NOT PAY on this road, but you must stay on the tar road. Do not attempt to cheat by slipping off the tar road into the park as you can be arrested as it is illegal.

From Ngoma exit (signed the book), you will go straight, then you will first drive through Kasane, then Kazungula and at Duncan Mall in Kazungula on your right (there is also an Engin Garage) you will need to turn right at the T-junction towards Nata, then go right through Kazungula. DO NOT DRIVE FASTER THAN 60km/hour.

Drive past the Kazungula Bus stop on your left. Drive for about 8 km then on your Left-hand side is Senyati's 4x4 Road. **This is the 4x4 Road.** DO NOT ENTER THIS ROAD WITHOUT A 4x4. It is very sandy. If you DO NOT HAVE A 4x4, then continue for a few more kms and follow the 2x4 route through Lesoma Village.

STOP at the 4x4 entrance and READ:

Proceed to the 2x4 road if you pull a trailer, caravan or if you have a 2x4 car. On your left there is the Lesoma Village turn off. Take the second Lesoma Turnoff where there is an old broken-down bus stop (blue and white without a roof) on the right. (Hard to see that it was a bus stop—but use your imagination).

You will see a Senyati sign there too. Follow all the Senyati signs until you get to the actual entrance of Senyati on your right.

IN A 2 x4 from Nata/Pandamatenga/Gaborone (This is the opposite direction from Namibia)

Turn Right at the 1st Lesoma sign and (on your Right hand-side). There is an old broken bus stop (blue and white without a roof) on the left. Follow all the Senyati signs until you get to the actual entrance of Senyati. Ring the bell at the gate and you will be let in.

So, if you are coming from Nata you will get, 1. Nata (Town) 2. Pandamatenga (Town with silos) 4. Lesoma Village (2x4 road for Senyati) 3. Senyati 4x4 road 4. Kazungula (Town) 5. Kasane (Town) Adventurous Road—Only for Super

VERY, VERY Adventurous People - Hunters Road (4x4 only) 4 x 4 ONLY - Black Cotton Soil Mud. Deep elephant holes and no proper signage. Do not attempt to take the HUNTERS ROAD by yourself. Very bad during rainy season as you WILL get stuck in black mud! During rainy season (from +_ 20 November to 20 April) this road is not recommended at all as it has black cotton soil which is like grease to drive on and you WILL GET STUCK! It will take you at least 4 hours during dry season to Senyati from Pandamatenga on THE HUNTERS ROAD. 20km of that is heavy sand and after that the road will improve. If you ask the villagers at Pandamatenga they will show you the road to Pha Gate. It is about 70km to the gate. If you come from the south (Nata side) and arrive early you can enter there if you wish. No camping is allowed on the Hunters Road; therefore, you cannot stay overnight as self-drive tourists are not permitted to sleep over in the Nogatsaa area. If you attempt to camp along the Hunters Road, the Botswana Defence Force will have the right to arrest you as it is illegal. Nogaatsa is West of Pandamatenga and keep in mind that the road between the Nogaatsa area and Chobe is very sandy and therefore slow-going.

Is it necessary to book for Senyati?

We strongly recommend that you reserve your campsite/chalet to prevent disappointment.

Don't forget from 4 January to 20 March every year we have a **50% discount period**. The reason is that most South Africans go on beach holidays and the Europeans go skiing, but for those who don't, we offer a 50% discount. This is a fantastic period for birdwatching and there is ample game at Senyati during this season. There are two huge misconceptions: (a) that this period of the year is extremely hot and (b) that Senyati is mosquito infested:

- (a) Rainy season is NOT the hottest period of the year. October is the hottest month in Botswana.
- (b) Senyati is relatively mosquito free as we are NOT located on a river but next to a man-made 24/7 lit waterhole where clean water is pumped in constantly. We also take various precautions against mosquitos. So, to your pleasant surprise, you will find relatively few mosquitos at Senyati during such time of the year.

Do you need to pay a deposit to secure a reservation at Senyati?

Yes, you do, however, we do accept walk-in guests but cannot guarantee a space to people who just pitch up at the gate. We do our best, but if we are full, we are full.

A 50% **Non-Refundable** deposit is needed to confirm/secure bookings. Make sure your invoices say CONFIRMED after you paid your deposit.

We do not keep bookings for people who have not secured a booking with a deposit. IF we have secured a booking and guests do not pitch up, or cancel on short notice, you will not be reimbursed as we waive various other bookings because of reservations. Please refer to our Terms and Conditions on the reservation form.

Only reservations with CONFIRMED and who has paid a deposit as requested on the reservation form, will have a guaranteed campsite. IF you do not pay your deposit and do not have a CONFIRMED on your reservation form, please take note that such reservation is NOT GUARANTEED. Make sure to contact our office on +267 71881306 via WhatsApp or phone or email senyatisafaricamp@gmail.com if you are not 100% sure about your reservation.

Reservations: We are not able to guarantee any specific campsites or chalets 100% requested in emails. We strive to do so, however, IF someone comes and books a campsite for 2 weeks, we CANNOT keep a requested campsite for someone who book it for 2 days. Length of time and the period booked in advance will get preference.

Payment Options

SOUTH AFRICA

FNB South Africa Bank Transfers (South Africa)

You can use our FNB Bank account (Dumela Botswana Travel is the account's name) **in South Africa** as indicated on the invoice.

To get the ZAR amount from the BWP is easy. Multiply the BWP with 1.3 (our set rate for reservation for the ZAR)

BOTSWANA

FNB Botswana Bank Transfers (Botswana) You can use our Romarden Investments FNB Bank account in Botswana as indicated on the invoice.

PayPal You can use our PayPal account. Please use senyatisafaricamp@gmail.com for such payment and send us proof of payment to the same email address

IMPORTANT when using PayPal:

You cannot pay in BWP or ZAR on PayPal, but you can pay in USD or EUR and no matter if you pay a bit more or a bit less, you will be credited accordingly (minus service charge). Please use a currency converter (we use www.xe.com) to convert USD to BWP and deposit such amount. So, we will convert the final amount we received, and if PayPal converted your EUR to USD, we will use the USD they gave us on such day. So, what you paid and what you are credited might differ a bit.

Credit Card Facilities? Yes, however, it works on our Wi-Fi. It is only for in-house transactions and cannot do CC payments for deposits.

Can I pay in USD and other Currencies?

Yes, you can pay in USD, Euro and South African Rands. We do not accept Namibian Dollars and we do not accept USD older than 2017, stained or damaged. Please make sure that you have NEW South African Rands and up-to-date Botswana Pula as some guest arrive with very old currency here and expect us to accept dated currencies which we do not take.

How can we pay the balance?

1. You can pay the balance in the same way you paid the deposit, but this needs to be paid no less than **14 Days** before arrival, this is so that we can assure the funds has cleared when you arrive. Please do not transfer funds from your ABSA account to our FNB account and expect it to be ok, remember one bank to a different bank does take a day or two to clear, we cannot take responsibility for money that has not cleared yet.
2. You can pay your balance due in BWP Cash/Card/Foreign Cash (Euro or USD) upon arrival.

Is there a check out procedure?

We do not have a check out procedure. That is why we settle any outstanding fees when you check in.

What time is check-in and check-out?

Check in is from 14:00 (2pm) and Check Out is at 10:00 (10am).

How long do people stay at Senyati?

Most people stay for a minimum of 3-4 days. Your first day will be a day of exhaustion as distances in Botswana are long. One night is just too short at Senyati. You will arrive quite exhausted (from driving), set up tent etc and then sleep. Then the next day you must drive again!! So, rather spend at least two nights. It is best to stay more than 2 days which gives you ample time for activities etc. You can arrange all activities from reception.

Some people prefer 4 or 5 days, as it give them more time for additional Game Drives, especially during the dry season when there are ample animals.

Activities which you can arrange from Senyati are:

- Chobe Sunset Cruise
- Game Drives
- Tiger Fishing
- Victoria Falls Day Trip with helicopter rides, bungee jumping, zip line etc.

Book your activities at reservation. A taxi service is available at a small cost to take you to the activity departure points. Some guests prefer that as you will not have to take down your rooftop tent for the Chobe Sunset Cruise. The taxi must be booked in advance.

Drive in your 4x4 to Senyati and leave the rest to us to arrange for you.

Example:

Day One:

Arrive and set up tent, sit around and recover from the long drive, order a pizza for supper at night and watch the elephants from our Bar and enjoy a Gin and Tonic or Aperol. Go to bed early.

Day-two:

Get up early. Join a Victoria Falls Day trip (departs early and return to camp around 5/6 pm);

Day Three:

Go on an early morning Safari Drive, return to Senyati for breakfast (can order a Full English breakfast from our restaurant), short rest and afternoon Chobe River sunset cruise and then depart the next day, so a total of 3 nights are recommended, but of course it depends on the need of the tourist.

Day Four:

A fourth day can be used for another Safari drive or tiger fishing, safari drive can also be combined on one day with the boat cruise. The Victoria Falls trip is an entire day trip so don't plan anything else on that day.

(2024/2025 Prices)

Elephant Bunker

Senyati prides itself with an underground photographic bunker, underneath the ground, located right in front of our bar. Here you will be able to see the elephants and take fantastic photos from ground level. Kindly note that we ask everyone to be silent inside the bunker. Noisy kids are not welcome inside the bunker. Well-behaved kids are welcome, and it is a good opportunity to teach your kids to respect nature and other humans.

Please do not allow your kids to spoil something special for others and feel free to silence kids that do not know how to behave.

ENTERING THE BUNKER:

When entering the bunker/hide, please turn around (like on a yacht) when you enter and take care not to bump your head or fall. Do not wear flip-flops when entering the bunker as you can slip and injure yourself.

Everyone enters the bunker at own risk and take care not to fall over the horizontal bars on the floor of the bunker.

So, walk slow, silent and careful but PLEASE ENJOY!

Don't forget your camera.

No food or drink allowed inside the bunker.

What to Expect at Senyati?

Campsites, Chalets, Pizzas, Best Coffee Outside Italy and Bar with Best View in the World

Camping

Campers bring their own equipment (Tents, Pots and Pans Etc.)

Each campsite has a private ablution with power points, shower, flushing toilet and private BBQ Area. Facebook has various photos to explain the setup. Adapters available at the shop at reception.

Wood is for sale at reception, together with Pizzas, Milkshakes, Waffles, Pancakes, Full English Breakfasts, Wakie, Wakie Breakfast, the best coffee outside Italy and Hot Chocolate. We even serve Aperol.

Our campsites are allocated according to the time of the booking, the size of the group, and the availability of campsites at the time of the booking. Each campsite has its own BBQ/Braai stand, 220V power point, basin, toilet, and shower.

Campsites in Africa can have ants during dry season. We recommend campers to bring/buy "Blue Death" ant poison when camping in Africa. Blue death is available at all supermarkets in Botswana.

Electric Points: Available at all campsites (220v electric plugs).

Hot Water Boilers at Campsites: Staff arrive at 8 am and will start to make the morning fires for hot water. Should you wish to have hot water earlier, kindly ask our night security staff to assist you. Do not stoke the hot-water boilers with a big fire as it will push back into the toilet and damage your toilet water.

Chalets

(All Chalets are located around the waterhole area and have their own BBQ)

Senyati's chalets have aircons, are spacious, fully equipped, have mosquito nets, 220V electric plugs, bedding, flushing toilets, hot water and each chalet has a BBQ stand situated in front of the chalet. Wood is for sale at reception. Every chalet has its own fridge.

We have three kinds of chalets: Family Chalets, Double Twin Chalets and Glampers

A. Family Chalet (We only have 3 of these chalets)

A family chalet comfortably sleeps a family, two adults and two children. Adults, who know each other well, are good sleepers and who are fit to climb stairs to a mezzanine floor, can share the family chalet. A family chalet is NOT suitable for four adults, of which some might have a bad knee or leg and who are not very comfortable with each other. The Stairs are steep, and the bed upstairs do not have a private bathroom. There is only one bathroom (shower and toilet) in each family chalet unit.

B. Family Chalet with Double Bed (We only have 2 of these chalets)

This chalet sleeps 4 people comfortably and does not have a staircase. You must climb a few steps to enter the chalet. Like all our chalets it has aircon, bedding, bathrooms, toilet, towels etc. and a small kitchen for self-catering and a BBQ in front of the chalets.

This family unit has 1 x double bed and 2 x $\frac{3}{4}$ beds in an open plan sleeping/ living area. The kitchenette is separate from the sleeping area, and it has a lovely big tree under which the braai stand is situated. It is located towards the middle of the property with a partial view of both the waterhole and the pan.

C. Family Chalet with Honeymoon Bush Bath unit has a unique view of the waterhole. It can sleep 4 and is best suited for a family. It has 1 double bed and 2 x $\frac{3}{4}$ beds, all on one level. It is an open plan sleeping room with an En-Suite bathroom. Outside next to the chalet there is a Bush Bath. Perfect for Honeymooners

Like all our chalets, it is fully equipped, including aircon, cooking area, bedding, towels, cutlery and crockery.

D. Double Twin Chalet (We only have 2 of these that can sleep people 10 each and 1 of these that can sleep only 6) Double chalets are huge, can sleep a max of 10 people and have two main bedrooms with 2 x $\frac{3}{4}$ beds inside and 2 single beds. The other beds are on the closed veranda (similar to old farm houses). These chalets have a huge living/dining area and are suitable for families who want to spend a holiday together. Our double twin chalets are fully equipped, aircon, cooking area, bedding, towels, cutlery and crockery.

Perfect for the Diaspora who want to "bond" with old family members.

E. Glamper A Glamper is a mix between a campsite and a chalet. Camping + Glamour = GLAMPING. Like all our chalets, it is fully equipped, including a cooking area, private BBQ, bedding, towels, cutlery and crockery and a very romantic bath and bed set-up, overlooking the sunset.

We offer all-inclusive packages on all of these, where guests will basically pay an amount and everything, including drinks, food and activities are included.

Please enquire about this option when making a reservation.

Alcohol

Beer, Gin and Tonic, Aperol, Brandy and Coke, Soft drinks and various others are available from the bar. From 9 am – 4 pm, please order through reception, after 4 pm drinks can be ordered directly from the bar.

Please kindly note that our bar is a licenced bar, so please refrain from carrying alcohol to the deck area and save us the embarrassment of asking you not to do so.

Cooler boxes are not allowed in the deck area where the bar is situated.

Please **NEVER offer alcohol to any of our staff**. Please note, that should you do so, and our staff consumes alcohol, it will result in immediate dismissal of such staff member. In a country where unemployment is high, we kindly ask you to be sensitive to this issue.

We had guests asking our staff to organise “dope” for them. Dope is an illegal substance and it leaves our staff with a criminal record. Kindly do not do to our staff which you would not like to be done to yourself. A criminal act in Botswana can even be punished through corporate punishment so, please do not tempt our staff into such position.

Bar: We have the bar with the best view in the world, and the best Gin & Tonic this side of the Moon. We are a licenced bar, so please do not take your own drinks into the bar while it is open, we close at 9 pm.

Currency:

Pula is the official currency of Botswana. 1 Pula = 100 Thebe (shield).

1 USD (2024) is approximately 12 Pula.

Shops only accept Pula, but most supermarkets will accept cards as well.

Cash can be withdrawn from most ATMs with Visa cards.

Make sure that you inform your bank at least one week BEFORE YOUR DEPARTURE to Africa that you might be spending money on your card in Africa. Sudden shopping in Africa, can result in your bank freezing your card until your bank has contacted you. It can cause great inconvenience, so make sure you sort that out before your departure.

Check expiry dates of all your bank cards before your departure from your home country.

When withdrawing money in Botswana, it is worthwhile to withdraw large sums at a time, as there is a fixed fee per transaction. (Ask your bank for the current international transaction fees)

Cash machines can be short of cash at the end of months as many local people withdraw cash to send to families etc, so don't rely 100% on cash machines during end of month times. Senyati does accept other currencies. Senyati will exchange money for you at reception. (at our Rate)

Cell Phone reception at Senyati?

Yes, there is cell phone reception which has improved since we installed signal enhancers. We currently make use of 5G communication which has done wonders so far. So far, so good.

Our phone numbers are 00267 7188 1306 or 00267 74315288.

Diesel and other fuel:

50 ppm diesel is readily available in Kasane.

Yes, there are plenty of gas stations in Kazungula and Kasane area.

Make sure you fill your car up before departure to Chobe National Park.

Kasane is your last place to refuel if you go to Moremi, Savuti etc. but then one does not use as much petrol as you imagine, as you do not drive that far. You drive long hours, but small distances. If you are going into Savuti and Moremi, it is advised that you take an extra Jerry can.

Fuel can be bought by credit card in most towns (not inside the park) but carry cash in case the card machine is off-line. No "Petrol Cards" or "Garage Cards" are accepted.

Fire wood?

Wood is sold at reception. It is illegal to collect firewood in Botswana from the side of the road and there are officials who control it, so please refrain from doing so and if caught, you might find yourself in trouble.

Gifts:

African gifts are available in our gift shop at the Reception Area of Senyati. Be very careful before buying huge wooden sculptures in Zimbabwe etc as your country might require a phyto sanitation certificate. Many of these hug carvings and chairs carry bore worms so be careful.

Groceries: There is a lovely Spar in Kasane, which stocks just about everything, a huge Choppies very close to Senyati (about 6km away), a fantastic Chemist in town, so just pack yourselves and come! Not necessary to stop in Francistown etc. for groceries. Kasane has everything.

Internet 24/7 internet. Only for Guest staying at Senyati. Wi-Fi is available from reception. There are download limitations. Not good for downloading big files. You can buy your own card at Mascom in Kasane and then recharge that card with data as much as you need IF you need to download huge files.

Kids: Kids are welcome, but we ask parents to control their kids as most of our clients visit Senyati because of their love for animals. Please see that your kids remain quiet on the deck. There is a lovely pool located at the back of the waterhole (so where you enter Senyati—look for the big large pots). Your kids can play and enjoy the pool. Kids should not be unattended at pool **PLEASE KEEP YOUR KIDS AWAY FROM THE ELECTRIC FENCING around the pool. Senyati will not take responsibility for any injury.** Parents are expected to look after their kids.

No kids are allowed into the hide without their parents. We ask for absolute silence in the hide. Senyati welcomes everyone; however, Senyati cannot take responsibility for the safety of kids if people do not look after their own kids. There can also be a snake in the hide and kids should not be there unattended.

But, yes, we welcome well behaved, nature loving, sweet kids as much as we love our elephants.

Malaria Malaria season in Botswana is only during the rainy season. We have never had a case of Malaria at Senyati as we take all kinds of preventive measures against malaria (mosquito nets, long-sleeved shirts, 1 bottle tabard cream mixed with ¾ (same size bottle) Dettol, mixed and sprayed on body). Tabard itself does not spread well over the body, but the Dettol helps to spread the tabard widely. Senyati is not situated ON THE RIVER but we have our own waterhole with a fountain from which the water comes out and move. However, Botswana is a Malaria area. So, if you feel more comfortable, you can take Malaria tablets, but Malaria tablets have various kinds of side-effects. When you come to Senyati only, Malaria should not be a problem, however, we still strongly recommend people to take preventive measures such as spraying yourself with insect repellent, especially on the feet and ankle areas and Senyati has now installed mosquito nets to let our guests sleep more comfortable. Furthermore, the malaria mosquito moves late at night, after midnight, so 2-6 am are the dangerous hours you should be under a mosquito net during rainy season.

For Malaria prevention, we recommend that you mix 1 bottle Tabard with ¾ bottle of the same size of Dettol and spray yourself at night. Especially when sitting outside. As owners, we do not use Malaria medication and believe that this spray mix is enough. Senyati is not located on the river or opposite a hugely populated malaria infested area. We are located next to a 24/7 waterhole with fresh water being pumped in daily. (Put your “Malaria” mix in a big spray bottle ---household cleaner spray bottle). This spray action “spreads” the mosquito repellent better than merely dabbing on the thick cream as such protects you better.

Maps: Are for sale at reception.

Meat: It is not necessary to buy meat in South Africa. Beef in Botswana is much cheaper and of excellent quality. Fillet is excellent. Good meat is available at the back counter of Spar Supermarket in Kasane.

Meals: We do have restaurant that sells pizzas, breakfast, milkshakes, fantastic coffee and we prepare set meals for groups more than 6 people (pre-order).

Recycling at Senyati: We at Senyati strive to do full recycling. We kindly ask your cooperation. It took us a long time to train our staff to get the recycling up and running smoothly. We make every effort to save our planet and to prevent plastics from getting into the water where it releases artificial hormones and creates cancer. We try to be an example for other lodges, and our recycling has done wonders to our rubbish problem at Senyati and it limits the number of scavengers on our campsite.

IF you don't like rubbish, then please do not create rubbish. Limit your trash footprint to the absolute minimum when visiting Botswana.

In your chalet you will find various bins. Each for a different kind of rubbish. We do not use any plastic bags for our trash bins at the chalets. Therefore, it is advisable to bring old newspapers along to wrap your peels, cut-offs and other food items in and then put that into the fresh disposable rubbish bin. You will see Big Bright Yellow cages placed all over the campsite and behind chalets. Please dispose your rubbish into those bins. Please never mix fresh and disposable items with bottles, cans etc. Our cleaning ladies will clean out the bins daily in the Chalets.

Please never leave any rubbish OUTSIDE OR ON TOP OF THE BIN... as it will attract the baboons that do not only become a nuisance but also become dangerous.

Restaurant: Senyati does have a restaurant. You can order various foods from there, including fantastic coffee and lovely Pizzas. We prepare meals for groups with a minimum of 6 people.

We well fantastic sour-dough bread at reception.

Is it safe around Senyati's campsite during the nights? Please use a light when walking at night. Elephants roam free here, so we recommend everyone to use a torch light when they walk at night. Please wear closed shoes against scorpions and snakes.

Safety in General? Senyati does everything possible to secure the safety of our guests. We employ security guards every night to safeguard our guests, however, we still ask all guests to hide all precious belongings including computers etc. When you go to bed at night, of course it is still better to take the normal safety precautions you will do as when you are home. Lock your car. Do not expose valuables in the car, lock your front door, do not let your passport, money etc. lie around.

Kindly keep your distance from the Elephants while at the Bar/Viewing Deck. Do not go past the Bar, do not take photos while standing right in front of the waterhole, or standing on top of the hide, this is dangerous.

Swimming Pool: **NO SMALL KIDS ARE ALLOWED IN AND AROUND THE POOL WITHOUT PARENTS!**

Sewage Tanks: ONLY TOILET PAPER is to be flushed down the toilets. Please refrain from flushing cigarette buds, sanitary towels, tampons or condoms down the toilets. These items do not decompose in the septic tank and destroy the bacteria within which are necessary for the system to work. Please ensure that all these items are placed in the bins provided. Sanitary napkins and baby diapers can be burned at night when the hot water donkey behind your campsite is lit. Please use your discretion when disposing anything in our bins as we do have animals like honey badgers, mongoose and baboons that raid the bins. Kindly burn for health reasons.

Shower Heads can be blocked due to high salt in water. Please report to reception and we will attend to it immediately.

Toilet/Shower: All campsites have their own toilet/shower. Free toilet paper available at reception.

Tents to Rent? Senyati does not provide tents. You will have to bring your own tent, but we can rent you a fully-equipped chalet if you do not have a tent. In Kasane, in the same shopping area is the Choppies shop, next to Chobe Marina, there is a place that rents out camping equipment for very reasonable prices. Call Rose on 71654372 or 71746085 for hiring camping goods and tents.

Transfers: We can organise the following transfers: Victoria Falls (Zimbabwe and Zambia can be arranged), Airport, drop off & pick up, Livingstone, Chobe boat cruise drop off & pick up. All information and prices are available at reception.

Valuables: Please do not leave any valuables unattended to at night when you go to bed. People in Botswana are very honourable however; we do not want to invite crime. We can lock up extra valuables for you in our safe upon request.

Safes are provided at the Chalets. A P200 deposit is to be paid at reception for the key to the safe. This is our measure to ensure that staff do not get the keys in their hands, though inconvenient, it works.

Washing/Laundry: We have a laundry service. Please enquire at reception. Your washing will be washed, dried and folded.

Water:

You can drink the water at Senyati, however, we do not recommend people to drink it non-boiled. It is totally safe in coffee, tea and boiled, however, it might not taste very nice with ice only. Please limit plastic water bottles. Do not buy unnecessary water bottles at Spar when coming to Senyati. Our water is just fine.

Weather:

- **December, January and February ARE NOT the hottest months in Botswana. October is the hottest month as it is just before the big rains and there is no breeze during October.**
The evenings at Senyati are nice and cool. October is the hottest month at Senyati when there is not much of a breeze. However, during the October there are ample wild life.
- **When is the rainy season?**
The rainy season starts in Middle November and last until the end of April.

Animals / Insects

What kind of animals can one see at Senyati? Elephant, hyena, jackal, buffalo, roan antelope, waterbuck, honey badger, porcupine, Oryx, steenbok, duiker, baboon, monkey, etc. and a huge variety of birds, especially from December to April.

Ants: Certain seasons have more ants than other seasons. Therefore, if you do not like ants, we strongly recommend you bring your own ant poison, BLUE DEATH, readily available at all Supermarkets in Botswana.

Birds: Ample birds at Senyati, especially during the rainy season.

Elephants from dusk to dawn. Elephants graze during the day and drink water at night, so do not expect elephants at 1pm. They come for SUNSET DRINKS!

When elephants notice a vehicle too close for comfort, they usually give a nasty shake of the head, a trumpet and a mock charge. However, if you keep your distance they are quite docile. Make sure you NEVER come between a mother and her calf or any calf for that matter. The adults are very protective of all their young. Never rev the engine or blow the horn this only aggravates them. Keep your distance always as an Elephant can easily overturn your vehicle. Do not even attempt to feed them. People think it to be a joke to give an apple or whatever, but if the elephant slap you just slightly with your trunk, your car might suffer great damage. If you tease elephants, you will lose the battle. In the unlikely event of an Elephant attacking your car, do not leave your vehicle as you will certainly be trampled to death. There is really no reason to panic when you see Elephants but don't do anything stupid. If you try to feed them from your car, you are looking for trouble, as they might come close enough to take the apple, then get a fright, and push your car over. One does not play with elephants as they are just a bit stronger than you. They say that an elephant can pick up 2 tons with its trunk, so don't take any chances.

Yes, the elephant still come to Senyati during rainy seasons, but not as many as you will see during dry season. During rainy season, we recommend that people stay at Senyati at least for two days in order to make sure that they see Ellies, as the Ellies might skip a day during this time of the year.

Elephants graze during the day. You might arrive at Senyati when there is not a single elephant. Don't worry, they will come later. Most elephant come to Senyati at around 5pm or a bit later. They come throughout the night. Other animals and predators come too, however, Senyati is a waterhole for the elephants. Lions are afraid of the elephants and will only come later at night when the elephants are gone. Hyena often come to the left-hand side of the waterhole after 9pm at night.

Monkeys/Baboons: Monkeys steal.....so please hide away anything that looks tasty. DO NOT FEED THEM, even if they are cute!

Scorpions: Scorpion season is from August to March. Scorpions at Senyati are not deadly however, it gives a very strong and sore sting. We therefore recommend that you shake out all towels before you dry yourself and that you shake out your shoes and close your sleeping back up (fold the top over) when you go out in the day. We also recommend people not to walk barefoot at night when the scorpions come out. If a Scorpion stings you, a very good remedy is to heat up the spot as hot as you can, with a very hot boiled egg or something. Some people say a slice of bread dipped in boiling milk (again something very hot) over the sting. Apparently, the poison from a scorpion is a protein and if you heat it up, it will solidify and not move further in the blood stream. This is just an old-fashioned remedy and can be applied as an emergency measure until you can get to a doctor. It is not recommended that you put ice on as many people tend to do. By no means do I consider myself an expert, however, I do think it is worthwhile trying such measures in emergency.

Drones

DRONES ARE NOT ALLOWED AT SENYATI. Kindly do not fly any drones. It chases the animals away.

However, if you want to fly your drone somewhere else, kindly note:

All Drone Operators in Botswana are required to register their Drones with Civil Aviation Authority of Botswana (CAAB) for an operations certificate and obtain a clearance certificate.

Registration is done at CAAB Offices at a fee of BWP 250.00 (2017 rates). Non-citizens or non-residents who wish to bring their drones into Botswana of the purpose of flying them within the country should apply to CAAB Offices in writing giving 7 days' notice

The penalty for using a Drone without an Operators Certificate is P5000 and/or confiscation.

For more information contact CAAB Head Office:

Directorate of Flight Safety

Plot 61920, Letsema Office Park, Fairgrounds, Gaborone: Tel: +267 3688200, Fax: +267 3105440

Directions to Senyati

4x4 Road Only

GPS Co-Ordinates:

S17 degrees 52,331 E.25 degrees 14,167. Do not attempt this road at all if you do not have a 4x4. The sand can be extremely deep. There is no towing service on the road and it is dangers to walk through the bush.

From Nata (4x4 Only, NO Caravans)

If coming from Nata, you must look out for us BEFORE you are in Kasane, 8km from Kazungula is Senyati. Look out for our sign (Large and build with stones) Coming from Nata Senyati will be on your Right-hand side. Turn

right in there onto the sandy road. If you have 4x4, you will make it. If you don't have 4x4, don't even attempt it. 2x4 please choose the Lesoma road.

So, from Nata you will get, 1. Nata 2. Pandamatenga 3. Senyati 4. Kazungula 5. Kasane

Hunters Road (4x4 only)

Only for the Very Adventurous Driving from Pandamatenga (Hunters Road) 4 x 4 ONLY

It will take you 4 hours during dry season to Senyati from Pandamatenga on THE HUNTERS ROAD. 20km of that is heavy sand and after that the road will improve. If you ask the villagers at Pandamatenga they will show you the road to Pha Gate. It is about 70km to the gate. If you come from the south and arrive early you can enter there if you wish. No camping is allowed; therefore, you cannot stay overnight as self-drive tourists are not permitted to sleep over in the Nogatsaa area. If you attempt to camp along the Hunters Road, the BDF will have the right to arrest you as it is illegal. Keep in mind that the road between the Nogatsaa area and Chobe is very sandy and therefore slow-going. During rainy season (from +_ 20 November to 20 April) this road is not recommended at all as it has black cotton soil which is like grease to drive on and you WILL GET STUCK!

SMALL CARS (2X4) TRAILERS AND CARAVANS:

Coming from Ngoma Gate (Namibia)/Kasane

Less sandy route. Via Lesoma Village

GPS Coordinates: - S 17 53 858, E 025 12 826

Coming from Ngoma Gate, you will get 1. Kasane 2. Kazungula 3. Senyati

Tarred road from Ngoma. Sign in upon entering gate and sign out again when exiting. You do NOT PAY on this road, if you stay on the tar road.

The road is tarred all the way. It will take you about one hour from the Gate to Senyati. *Please observe the speed limit when driving through the park as they love to fine people. They also use a hand-held device inside a police car that is driving for speed traps. So be very careful if you do not want to pay fines (and waste time). And don't forget your seatbelts, even if you sit in the back. It is law in Botswana.*

You will need to drive towards Nata, go right through Kazungula (follow the road all the way) Turn Right at the end of the road at the T junction with Kazungula. Drive past the truck stop on your left, and Kazungula Engen on your Right. Drive for about 8 km then on your Left-hand side is Senyati's 4x4 Road. **DRIVE PAST the big Senyati Safari Camp** sign on the left side of the road, continue about 8km. The next road on the Left is the Lesoma Village turn off. There is an old broken-down bus stop (blue and white without a roof) on the right. You will see a Senyati sign there too. Follow all the Senyati (or Tilodi) signs until you get to the actual entrance of Tilodi on your right. Continue for about another kilometer and you will see Senyati's sign on your right. WELCOME TO SENYATI SAFARI CAMP!! You can also go have a look at our website for more directions.

Coming from Nata/Pandamatenga

Turn Right at the **2nd** Lesoma Sign and road turn off (on your Right hand-side). There is an old broken-down bus stop (blue and white without a roof) on the left. You will see a Senyati sign there too. Follow all the Senyati (or Tilodi) signs until you get to the actual entrance of Tilodi on your right. Continue for about another kilometer and you will see Senyati's sign on your right. WELCOME TO SENYATI SAFARI CAMP!!

You can also go have a look at our website for more directions.

Driving from Senyati

Driving at night in Botswana is not recommended!

Chobe, Savuti, Linyanti, Moremi & Maun

Driving from Senyati to Ihaha in Chobe National Park?

It takes about 3 hours to get to Ihaha, depending of course on the sightings along the road. This can also be done as a day trip.

Driving from Senyati/Kasane to Savuti?

The road from Kasane to Savuti is mostly sandy, with only one bad patch south of Ghoha Hills which fills up with water during heavy rains. From Kasane to Ngoma Gate is a tarred road (54km). From Ngoma Gate to Kachikau the road is hard and gravelled. From Kachikau to Ghoha Gate the road passes through deep Miombo sand veld, consisting of thick, red loose sand and supports Brachystegia woodland and it crosses several sand ridges. This stretch is better during rainy season. The 10km stretch north of Ghoha Gate is particularly bad. From Ghoha Gate to Savuti the road is a combination of thick sand and clay in places. The total distance from Savuti to Kasane is 161km and it takes about 5 to 6 hours. Yes, it might be quite a tiring drive, but many people do so. It will take you about 6 hours.

Driving from Senyati/Kasane To Linyanti Via Ghoha Gate (4 X 4 Only)

At Kasane one goes through the Sedudu Entrance Gate at Chobe National park and drives for 30km on a tarred road to Ngoma Gate. You do not have to pay entrance fees when in transit. After that you continue for 40km on a gravelled road to Kachikau. From there the road consists of a very thick sand and one crosses several vegetated sand dunes up to Ghoha Gate where the cutline is. You turn right here and continue along the cutline for 45km up to Linyanti Gate. This road is hard but also sandy in places. From there it is 7km to Linyanti Public Campsite. ***Please observe the speed limit when driving through the park as they love to fine people. They also use a hand-held device inside a police car that is driving for speed traps. So be very careful if you do not want to pay fines (and waste time). And don't forget your seatbelts, even if you sit in the back. It is law in Botswana.***

Driving from Senyati/Kasane to Nogatsaa. (4 X 4 Only)

This road goes through very thick sand and for most of the way and may take longer than the distance suggests. The road is only 48km from the tarred road to Nogatsaa and takes up to 2.5 hours. The Nogatsaa area is very clayey during the rains, but the main roads are still quite accessible. The first 23km from the tarred road is very sandy.

Driving from Senyati/Kasane to Savuti then Moremi by Yourself

We will not recommend women who are not well trained in 4x4ing or single men to drive this very sandy road by themselves. During dry season, it is do-able, however, it would be better to do this, two vehicles together, but driving this very sandy road can be challenging and dangerous for one person. It is possible to drive to Savuti from Senyati by yourself, go there for the day (there are many animals) and then drive back to Senyati. We advise people not to plan trips from Ihaha to Moremi during rainy season in Botswana. Rainy season is from end November to end March/April. You might find yourself spending money, paying deposits for camping, just to find out that the road from Moremi to Savuti is closed and you will lose your money. This is the same story every year and we find travel agencies making these bookings for guests again and again, and the guests are disappointed year after year.

Driving from North Gate to Kasane: (4x4 Only)

From North Gate to Mababe Gate is 40km. The road goes through Mopane woodland and a 7km long sand dune. The road directly south of Mababe Gate is very clayey. From Mababe Gate to Savuti is 65km. There are two roads to choose from, the sand ridge road and the marsh road. The latter is more scenic but very difficult to negotiate during the rainy season. The road from Savuti to Kachikau is 70km long and very sandy, especially after Ghoha Gate where one goes into red sand. From Kachikau to Ngoma Gate is 40km and the road is gravelled, but very corrugated. At Ngoma Gate one does not have to pay entry fees if you are in transit to Kasane. From Ngoma Gate to Kasane is 53km and the road is tarred. The total distance is 265km and requires a full day travelling. It is advisable to spend a night in Savuti.

Driving from Maun to Kasane

The quickest way from Maun is via Nata then Kasane via the A33 Tarred road. The more SCENIC route is via Shorobe, Sankuyo and Mababe Villages until you reach Chobe at Mababe Gate. From Maun to Mababe Gate is 141km. The first 40km of this road is tarred and then gravelled for 20km up to Buffalo fence. After this it becomes a bush road. Straight after the gate there is a split in the road where one turns right to Sankuyo which is 25km further. From Sankuyo to Mababe Gate is 48km and the road is extremely muddy in the rainy season as it follows the Mababe Depression. Take note that you do have to pay entry and vehicle fees even if you are in transit in Kasane. The total distance is 369km. The easier route from Maun, although further is via Nata to Kasane (600km). This road is much quicker since it is tarred all the way. Please note that there is no (about 360km) fuel available between Maun and Kasane. Keep in mind that fuel consumption is higher in difficult areas and remember to make provision for game drives and don't forget a high-lift jack.

Nata

Stopover in Nata?

We recommend a stopover at Nata Lodge (this is basically just a stopover for one night), where you and is about 3 hours from Senyati. 70 km before Nata there is a gate where they check for meat products, if you come from Senyati. Make sure that all meat is cooked or hide it. Processed meat is allowed, but we recommend you not even to show that as we had various cases where officials just took away the food of the guests unreasonably.

Continue North to Nata (180km from Woodland's). 18 km south of Nata is the Nata Sanctuary. There are times of the year when there are loads of Flamingo there. But check at the gate first if the flamingo is there, otherwise it really is not the most exciting place. Loads of potential but they don't do anything with the place.

Francistown

Francistown is the second largest city in Botswana, with a population of about 11,316 (2001) and often described as the "capital of the North". Francistown was the centre of the Southern Africa's first gold rush and is still surrounded by old and abandoned mines. Although evidence of habitation by humans goes back to

around 10,000 years, written evidence of habitation is more recent. The Ndebele came through the area in the 1830's on their way to Bulawayo, bringing their culture and influence on the Kalanga area of north-eastern Botswana. Reportedly, Nyangabgwe was the nearest village to Francistown to have been visited by Europeans when it was visited by Robert Moffat, Moffat was followed in 1867 by a gold prospector, Iarl Mauch who found gold along the Tati River.

The present town was founded in 1897, as a settlement near the Onarch Mine and named after Daniel Francis, an English prospector who acquired prospecting licences in the region in 1869. Francis was a Director of the Tati Concessions Company, who owned all the land in the settlement. The centre of the new town was formed when the company sold off 300 lots in August of that year. The Monarch Mine was not the only mine in operation at that time and it was widely believed that Francistown would grow rapidly. In the beginning, the town comprised one street east and parallel to the railway line. This street featured a several companies, including hotel, retail, wholesale shops and three banks. Behind these were the houses of the few white settlers. Segregated areas were made for mixed race and black people in the satellite township and between the railway and the river respectively. After Botswana gained its independence in 1966, Francistown was no longer segregated. In 1997 the town became a city, being the second largest city of the country.

To/from Francistown BY ROAD

Kasane is about 316km (3 hours' drive) of good tarred road from Nata (be careful of potholes in and around Nata), and 506km from Francistown. It's a straight and easy drive, though not very interesting scenically; Nata is an overnight place (maybe) and good to fill up with fuel. There is not much to see in Nata itself. If you are hitching or travelling by bus, then this road is easy by Botswana's standards – make an early start from Francistown and you can expect to reach Kasane by nightfall.

Note that there are often plenty of elephants on this road, so despite it being tarred you should drive with caution. As with most roads in rural Africa, driving at night is asking for trouble – especially as grey elephants are well camouflaged against the grey tarmac. Cattle often sleep on the warm tarred road at night and poses a danger to cars driving at night. Driving at night in Botswana is dangerous.

Stopover in Francistown? Francistown is really nothing exciting. Drive through if you can (coming from the South) and sleep at Woodlands just outside town (on the Nata side) as you drive out of Francistown, look on your right, there is a HUGE sign. A place we always recommend to stopover in Francistown is Woodlands just outside Francistown when you come from Gaborone, and it is just before Francistown when you come from Senyati. In high season, it is better to make a booking at Woodlands info@woodlandsbotswana.com. Woodlands is located on a private farm next to the Tati River (dry) 10km north of Francistown. When you reach the town (Botswana's second city) take the first exit at the second roundabout, and approximately 10km out of Francistown (2km after the Orapa turn-off) you will see a sign for Woodlands indicating a turn to the right. Woodlands is a further 8km along a badly corrugated gravel road. Barbeque packs and firewood are available from reception.

Palapye (Between Francistown and Gaborone)

Palapye has various kinds of accommodation. Other hotels are Desert Sands, Itumela Lodge, Majestic Five etc.

Go Moremi Gorge—is not far from Palapye either and is eco-friendly self-catering accommodation which people highly recommend. Their number is: 00267 7124 7225

Khama Rhino Sanctuary (Khama Rhino Sanctuary is close to Serowe), so you must turn off from the road going North, but it is worth the trip.

Khama Rhino Sanctuary is a bit off the road; however, it is not far from Serowe. Khama Rhino Trust email: krst@khamarhinosanctuary.org.bw. YOU WILL SEE RHINOS. I thoroughly enjoy this place. Campsites have loads of trees and the afternoon drive (with your own car if you have 4x4) is lovely. I personally don't think you do need a safari drive, but the place is nice. Chalets are basic but adequate. Bookings are necessary.

Khama Rhino Sanctuary is located about 40 KM from Palapye, Khama Rhino Sanctuary's number is: 00267 4630713 If you have a problem with your booking, overbooked or something similar, don't worry, you can overnight in **Palapye** which has various kinds of accommodation. Other hotels are Desert Sands, Itumela Lodge, Majestic Five etc. **GO MOREMI GORGE**—is not far from Palapye either and is eco-friendly self-catering accommodation which people highly recommend. Their number is: 00267 7124 7225

To/From Zambia

THE NEW KAZUNGULA BRIDGE IS OUR PRIDE IN BOTSWANA:

Coming from Senyati, turn right at the exit gate onto the tarred road in the direction of Kasane. Drive straight as if you go to Kasane. On your left, there will be a Choppies Centre, then an Engine Garage. Continue straight to the border post.

This is a new One-stop border post. It can take time FROM BOTSWANA TO ZAMBIA due to Interpol Checks on cars so allow enough time when driving to a destination in Zambia. It is a one-stop but not necessarily a QUICK STOP.

THIS IS MORE OR LESS HOW IT WORKS (2024)

1. On entering the building, the Botswana immigration desk is on the left where your passport gets stamped out of Botswana.
2. From Immigration, you go to Botswana customs, just to the right of the Immigration desk to get the vehicle CdP exit stamp.
3. Next you cross the hall to the Zambia immigration desk where you get your entry visa, US\$50 per visa for a single entry.
4. Once you have your visa, you must move your car up the car park to the Vehicle inspection point where the Zambian official will check for correct vehicle paperwork. Once he is satisfied that the paperwork matches the car you go back into the hall to the Zambia Customs desk.
5. At the Zambia Customs they entry stamp the Carnet
6. Once finished with customs, you must go to the revenue desk to Pay Bridge Toll US\$15
7. Next to the Bridge Toll payment desk is the Vehicle Carbon desk where you pay a carbon tax for the vehicle, in our case 240 Zambian Kwacha
8. You have now finished with the border crossing hall and must go outside and up beyond the vehicle inspection point to pay road toll of US\$20
9. There will be someone outside who will now sell you the insurance for the vehicle. I can't remember how much this was, but we bought 3 months insurance for the vehicle and got a sticker on the windscreen as evidence of insurance.
10. One requirement in Zambia, so they say, is to have reflective stickers, red at the rear and white at the front, on your bumpers and there will be someone there to sell these to you and to fix them on your number. Depending on how hard you negotiate, you can apparently get these for about 50 Kwacha, but we didn't try that hard.
11. You can now drive to the exit gate where there will be a final inspection to check all paperwork.
12. Once cleared to leave, there is a Council levy of K50 to pay. Then you can drive out of the border crossing compound and be on your way!

DO NOT USE THE "RUNNERS" or strangers offering to help outside immigration office without uniform. YOU WILL BURN YOUR FINGERS. DO IT YOURSELF. IT IS NOT THAT COMPLICATED!

FROM NAMIBIA TO ZAMBIA BY ROAD:

You can go to Zambia from Namibia heading west on the Zambian side, it's about 130km to the small town of Sesheke. This is the gateway to Zambia's Western Province, although given that Sesheke can be reached painlessly on good tar roads, through Namibia via Ngoma. When coming from Botswana, you will have to take the tarred road through the park (you do not pay) entering at Ngoma gate (sign in and sign out), go through Namibian immigration, drive to Katima Mulilo, then straight onto Sesheke and cross there into Zambia. This will mean that you might have to pay vehicle charges twice (when coming from Botswana) but if you want to combine the Botswana, Caprivi and Zambia then this will be a clever idea.

However, if you want to go to Zambia, not pay transport taxes 2x then you should skip going through Namibia and go straight across the river. It looks worse than what it looks like as you do not need to stand in line with the trucks. DRIVE PAST THE TRUCKS!

Zambian Visa fees: Day trip Visa US\$20, Single entry US\$50, Double entry US\$80, Transit Visa US\$50

Zambian officials can be very serious. So, do not try to make jokes with them. Buy your visa, pay the money and go. Try to make smaller USD when travelling in Africa as "no change" can often be an excuse of keeping your money.

To/From Zimbabwe

PRIVATE MOTOR VEHICLE (ZIMBABWE BORDER)							
1500CC OR LESS	BWP	ZAR	USD	1500CC TO 2000CC	BWP	ZAR	USD
Carbon Tax	50	50	6	Carbon Tax	90	100	11
RAF	80	90	10	RAF	80	90	10
Insurance	240	260	30	Insurance	240	260	30
TOTAL	370	400	46	TOTAL	410	450	51
2000CC TO 3000CC	BWP	ZAR	USD	3000CC PLUS	BWP	ZAR	USD
Carbon Tax	120	180	11	Carbon Tax	240	260	30
RAF	80	90	10	RAF	80	90	10
Insurance	240	260	30	Insurance	240	260	30

TOTAL	440	530	51	TOTAL	560	610	70
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IMPORTANT: The Immigration official who sells you the visa will give you a small piece of stamped paper called Gate Pass. Move to the next counter (customs). There you will need to complete a form called Temporary Import Permit (TIP) for the vehicle. You will need to hand this in on return so do not lose any documentation. Keep it all together. **THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT. Don't forget to hand in this paper when you leave Zimbabwe.** Don't even attempt not to pay these fees. You will regret later, and they can ask you for these documents in road blocks (which there are plenty of in Zimbabwe).

When paying you third party insurance, make sure you buy only a one-month certificate. Insurance is mandatory, despite the rental vehicles being covered by its own insurance policy.

If you are driving a hired vehicle, the taxes are a bit more complicated and there are officials who will do that for you (inside the immigration office—cannot understand it myself 100% but that is their way).

Carbon tax is dependent on the size of the vehicle engine.

You will need US dollars for the border fees for the vehicle, entry visa to Zimbabwe (30 US for most countries, however US\$55 for UK citizens) as well as an entrance fee into the park US\$20. The speed limit between the border and the park is 80km/hour and be careful there are speed traps.

Entry requirement to Vic falls can change easily, however, Visa fees (US\$30), Carbon Tax (US\$20), Road Access fee (US\$10), Third Party insurance (US\$25).

A: In and out of Zimbabwe @ Kazungula: There is an excellent tarred road from Zimbabwe to the Kazungula border (Tel: +267 625 0420) and into Botswana (open 06.00–18.00). This means that one of Africa's biggest centres for travellers is a day-trip away from Kasane – and, more noticeably, that Chobe can be visited as a day-trip from the Falls.

About 2km after entering Botswana there's a T-junction. The right turn is for the bridge to Zambia only. If you want to go to Kasane, you must go left at the T-junction and then right the next road you see going right (there is an Engine petrol station on the corner where you must go right).

If you go left, you will go to Senyati (that will be the beginning of the Nata Kazungula Road). We are 8km down that road.

But while at the border post, the following: Your vehicle will be driven through a puddle of soda ash and you'll be asked to stamp your shoes on a soaked mat. You'll also be checked to make sure that you're not importing banned animal products – like fresh meat, milk, bones or skins.

Meat can normally be transported from South to North, so from South Africa to Kasane, but NOT from North to South. So legally not from Kasane back to Cape Town, but you can transport cooked meat. So make all your meat, and eat it on the road, or hide your meat. NEVER EVER authorities that you have meat as there are some individuals who will, even when it is legal, attempt to take your meat. Make very sure about the current status of meat as it can change very fast when foot and mouth disease breaks out.

70km before Nata, on the Nata-Kazungula Road there is a veterinary gate 70km before Nata, coming from Kasane, make sure that you have no food visible. There are always individuals who are happy to take whatever they can, taking advantage. Hide everything, even processed meat (which is legal) as they might even take that or intimidate you. Coming from South (South Africa's side), make sure that you don't have fruit. There is a huge thing going on about fruit flies, so eat up what you can and don't show the rest.

(All part of Botswana's zealous efforts to protect their national herd from diseases.)

B: In and out of Zimbabwe @ Pandamatenga Border Post (+267 623 2029) (open between 6 am and 6 pm), about 93km south from Kasane, and 223km from Nata, this is one of the country's few arable farming areas. It's easily distinguished by the prominent grain silos, which tower over the surrounding sorghum and maize fields. There's a small border post here for crossing into or out of Zimbabwe. It opens 08.00–16.00. This is under 50km from Robins Camp, deep in the heart of Hwange National Park, so it can be a convenient way to drive between Chobe and Hwange.

To/From Namibia

In and out of Namibia via Ngoma Gate of Chobe National Park and Ngoma Border Post:

You do not need a 4x4 for this border crossing but if you want to drive onto the River Route then you need one.

Ngoma is the location for a bridge across the Chobe, and a border post with Namibia (open 06.00–6pm). It's about 51km (will take one hour due to speed limit) from the centre of Kasane by good tar road, but rather more if you take the scenic riverside road (4WD advisable) through Chobe National Park. From Ngoma, it's a further 69km of good tar to the main town of Namibia's Caprivi Strip, Katima Mulilo.

Sossusvlei	Sossusvlei Service	00264 63 293 632
Swakopmund	Midvaal Diesel and Turbo 3992 Einstein Street	00264 64 417 Or 0024 81 1460590
Breakdown? Continued		
Swakopmund	Tyre Corporation, Marius	00264 64 418080
Tsumeb	Executive Auto Repairs Hage Geingob Avenue	00264 67 222412
Tsumeb	Trentyre Ellis	00264 221 402/00264 81 122 3484
Usakos	Duppies Car & Truck Repairs	00264 81 2347124 00264 81 2172908
Walvisbay	Walvisbay Garage Gerald	00264 81 273 5934
Walvisbay	Pieter	00264 204 224/00264 81 129 4531

NAMIBIA:

IMPORTANT...read below and see the insert on how much you will have to pay for cars:

ROAD TAXES: You pay for the Road Taxes at the border (It changed recently) (2015 prices, but it will give you an indication)

ANNEXURE A: Entry Fees in relation to Foreign Motor Vehicles

Type	Description (Petrol and Diesel Driven)	Entry fee (N\$)
Type 1	Motor cycles, motor tricycle and motor quadru-cycle, Caravans and light trailers drawn by type 2 vehicles	140.00
Type 2	Motor cars, S/C and D/C goods vehicles (bakkies), 2x4 and 4x4 goods vehicles (bakkies), minibuses (less than 25 passengers)	220.00
Type 3	Light goods vehicle/delivery vehicles (GVM <3500 kg)	460.00
Heavy vehicles : (single units)		
Type 4	Bus with 2 axles. (carrying capacity of 25 or more Passengers)	520.00
Type 5	Bus : with 3 axles (carrying capacity of 25 or more Passengers)	660.00
Type 6	Single unit Truck with 2 axles	520.00
Type 7	Single unit Truck with 3 axles	660.00
Heavy vehicles : (Traction unit as part of a combination vehicle)		
Type 8	Truck tractor with 2 axles	520.00
Type 9	Truck tractor with 3 axles	660.00
Type 10	Truck tractor with 4 or more axles	1,260.00
Heavy trailers as part of a combination vehicle		
Type 11	Trailer with 1 axle	340.00
Type 12	Trailer with 2 axles	520.00
Type 13	Trailer with 3 axles	660.00
Type 14	Trailer with 4 axles	890.00
Type 15	Trailer with 5 or more axles	1,080.00
Construction vehicles		
Type 16	Tyre dozer, grader motor, front-end loaders, excavators, self-propelled vibratory rollers	1,830.00
Type 17	Any other vehicle not listed	350.00
Regular user permit		310.00

Note: the entry fee for a combination of vehicles is calculated by adding the sum of the entry fees for each vehicle in the combination that is subject to the payment of entry fees. The entry fee also includes an amount of N\$45.50 as an administrative fee.



**Please pay your
Cross-Border Charges
& Mass Distance Charges,
in order to use
Namibia's roads**

**Owners/operators of any
foreign-registered vehicles,
entering Namibia and using its
national road network, are obliged
to pay a Cross-Border Charge
(CBC) per vehicle, plus a
Mass Distance Charge (MDC) per
vehicle carrying more than 3,500 kg.**



**TABLE A: Cross-Border Charges
(Entry Fees) for foreign-registered
vehicles (From 1 May 2015)**

Type	Description (Petrol & diesel driven)	Entry fee (N\$)
1	Motor cycles, motor tricycle, motor quadru-cycle, caravans, & light trailers drawn by Type 2 vehicles.	154.00
2	Motor cars, single and double cab goods vehicles (bakkies), 2x4 and 4x4 goods vehicles (bakkies), minibusses (less than 25 passengers).	242.00
3	Light goods vehicles/delivery vehicles (GVW <3,500 kg)	506.00
Heavy vehicles: single units		
4	Bus with 2 axles (carrying capacity of 25 or more passengers)	572.00
5	Bus with 3 axles (carrying capacity of 25 or more passengers)	726.00
6	Single unit truck with 2 axles	572.00
7	Single unit truck with 3 axles	726.00
Heavy vehicles: Traction unit as part of a combination vehicle		
8	Truck tractor with 2 axles	572.00
9	Truck tractor with 3 axles	726.00
10	Truck tractor with 4 or more axles	1,386.00
Heavy trailers as part of a combination vehicle		
11	Trailer with 1 axle	374.00
12	Trailer with 2 axles	572.00
13	Trailer with 3 axles	726.00
14	Trailer with 4 axles	979.00
15	Trailer with 4 or more axles	1,188.00
Construction vehicles		
16	Tyre dozer, grader motor, front-end loaders, excavators, self-propelled vibratory rollers	2,013.00
17	Any other vehicle not listed	385.00
Regular User Permits		341.00

**TABLE B: Mass Distance Charges (Travelling Distance Charges)
for different foreign-registered vehicles
(From 1 May 2015)**

Charge Level	Vehicle Type	Vehicle Description	Not equipped to draw	Equipped to draw	MDC N\$ per 100 km
1	Bus	Minibus, designed for 17 to 35 persons, including the driver	V value: More than 3,500 kg & less than or equal to 7,000 kg	D value: More than 3,500 kg & less or equal to 7,000 kg	5.50
1	Goods vehicle	Truck	V value: More than 3,500 kg & less than or equal to 7,000 kg	D value: More than 3,500 kg & less or equal to 7,000 kg	5.50
2	Bus	Minibus, designed for 17 to 35 persons, including the driver	V value: More than 7,000 kg & less than or equal to 16,000 kg	D value: More than 7,000 kg & less or equal to 16,000 kg	6.60
2	Goods vehicle	Truck	V value: More than 7,000 kg & less than or equal to 16,000 kg	D value: More than 7,000 kg & less or equal to 16,000 kg	6.60
3	Bus	Bus, or bus-train designed for 35, persons including the driver	V value: More than 16,000 kg	D value: More than 16,000 kg	12.10
3	Goods vehicle	Truck	V value: More than 16,000 kg & less than or equal to 34,000 kg	D value: More than 16,000 kg & less than or equal to 34,000 kg	12.10
3	Goods vehicle	Truck-tractor	n.a.	D value: More than 16,000 kg & less than or equal to 34,000 kg	12.10
4	Goods vehicle	Truck	n.a.	D value: More than 34,000 kg & less than or equal to 44,000 kg	24.20
4	Goods vehicle	Truck-tractor	n.a.	D value: More than 34,000 kg & less than or equal to 44,000 kg	24.20
5	Goods vehicle	Truck-tractor	n.a.	D value: More than 44,000 kg	36.30

Road Fund Administration

The Road Fund Administration (RFA) was established by an Act of the Parliament of the Republic of Namibia (Act 18 of 1999) with the object of managing the Namibian Road User Charging System in such a manner as to secure and allocate sufficient funding for the achievement of a safe and economically efficient road sector.

Road User Charges are accrued in the Road Fund, which the RFA manages as well. Funding is allocated mainly to projects and programmes for the preservation and development of the national road network and major urban arterials; contributions towards the maintenance of urban roads; traffic information, law enforcement, adjudication and safety, and road research.

The following Road User Charges are imposed on all vehicles using Namibia's national road network:

- Licence Fees ● Cross-Border Charges
- Vehicle Registration Fees ● Mass Distance Charges
- Fuel Levies ● Abnormal Load Fees

Foreign-registered Vehicles

The RFA according to its enabling Act, the Road Fund Administration Act (Act 18 of 1999), under Section 18(1) (b) and Government Notice 4677 of March 2011, is authorised to collect Cross Border Charges (or Entry Fees) from every foreign-registered vehicle (from motor cycles to heavy vehicles) as well as Mass Distance Charges (or Travelling Distance Charges) on all vehicles above 3,500 kg from foreign countries that enter and utilise Namibia's roads temporarily.

The RFA responsible for the collection of Cross-Border Charges and Mass Distance Charges from foreign-registered vehicles entering Namibia at all its official border posts.

Obtain permits for CBC and MDC at

Namibia's border posts

Owners and operators of foreign registered vehicles should visit the offices of the RFA at Namibia's border posts to complete the required forms, pay and obtain permits to comply with the requirements of a Cross-Border Charge (CBC) and/or a Mass Distance Charge (MDC).

based on the distance a vehicle will travel in Namibia.

Officials of the RFA in uniform at the Namibian border posts, will ensure and check that each and every foreign-registered vehicle adheres to and pays a CBC and/or an MDC. On payment of the correct amount in Namibia Dollars a CBC/MDC official will issue permits (and tax invoice) for a MDC and/or a CBC.

The RFA has CBC/MDC offices at the following Namibian border posts or nearest town (indicated):

- Noordoewer ● Ariamswel
 - Sendelingsdrif ● Velloorsdrif
 - Aroab ● Trans Kalahari (Buttepos)
 - Mata Mata ● Oshikango
 - Maheene ● Katwitiwi
 - Moienbo ● Windhoek
 - Ngoma ● Weneke
- Representations are planned for the following border posts:
- Kasanane ● Saransungu
 - Walvis Bay

Which vehicles should pay a CBC?

Each and every foreign-registered vehicle entering Namibia should pay a CBC or entry fee and obtain the corresponding permit (and tax invoice) at an RFA office at Namibia's border posts. Please see the rates for the different vehicle types on the reverse side in Table A.

Which vehicles should pay an MDC?

All foreign-registered vehicles, trailers and semi-trailers with a carrying capacity of above 3,500 kg are obliged to complete an application form, pay a MDC in order to obtain an MDC permit, which would be based on the distance the vehicle would travel within Namibia. Owners/operators are obliged to declare the odometer reading of the vehicle(s) when entering Namibia and when leaving. Owners/operators of heavy vehicles must ensure that the driver(s) correctly record the distance travelled by a specific heavy vehicle. This should be indicated on the MDC permit form and also be recorded in the log book of the vehicle.

Please see the relevant MDC rates according to the

vehicle types on the reverse side in Table B. Calculations of MDCs are done strictly according to accepted transport-economic principles.

MDCs are aimed at recovering the excess variable cost responsibility for heavy vehicles that cannot be recovered using fuel levies only, thus ensuring that owners of heavy vehicles pay their equitable share for the use of the Namibian road network.

Which vehicles are MDC exempt?

- Owners/operators of the following vehicles are exempt from paying an MDC. These vehicles are:
- Motorcycles, Motor tri-cycles, Motor quadra-cycles,
 - Passenger cars,
 - Stations wagons, kombis, minibuses,
 - Minibuses designed for 10 to 16 persons, including the driver less than or equal to carrying 3,500 kg.
 - Light delivery vehicles (single & double cabs less than or equal to carrying 3,500 kg.
 - Light delivery trucks less than or equal to carrying 3,500 kg.

Where are and how are MDCs payable?

Owners/Operators of especially heavy foreign registered vehicles who undertake trips to Namibia on a regular basis are advised to do their payments by electronic fund transfers (EFTs). It is not advisable to use cash as a means of payment at the RFA offices at Namibia's official border posts. CBCs/MDCs should be paid directly into the RFA's bank account, via bank guaranteed cheque deposits and/or electronic fund transfers. The RFA's banking detail are:

Account Name: Road Fund Administration
Bank: Bank Windhoek
Branch Number: 481 972
Account Number: 8001281876

The original proof of payment of the electronic fund transfer should be forwarded to the RFA upon payment.

Keep CBC and MDC permits in vehicles at all times

Owners and operators of foreign registered vehicles

should ensure that they have their CBC and MDC permits with them in their vehicles when travelling in Namibia at all times. Foreign-registered vehicles will be checked strictly for their compliance regarding CBC/MDC permits at roadblocks by the Namibian Police, Traffic Police, Transport Inspectorate officers or at Roads Authority weigh bridge stations.

Fines for non-compliance

When owners and operators of foreign-registered vehicles are caught without the required CBC and MDC permits, or if these permits do not comply with their specific purpose, entry date or any other requirement, such owner/operator may be fined on the spot or face prosecution. A person who commits an offence is liable to be fined an amount not exceeding N\$2,000 or to be imprisoned for a period not exceeding one year.

When exiting Namibia

When foreign-registered vehicles leave Namibia after their travels within the country, owners/operators must hand in the CBC and MDC permits/forms at the RFA border post offices. CBC/MDC officials are authorised to check heavy vehicles and verify their odometer readings according to the issued MDC permits and distances travelled.

Assistance at border posts

The RFA's CBC/MDC officials at the Namibian border posts will kindly assist you with your CBC/MDC payments, permits and documentation. Please ask them for any further clarification or assistance in this regard. Also visit the CBC/MDC office in Windhoek – address below.

Contact detail

Road Fund Administration
Windhoek
Namibia
Tel: +264 - 61 - 378 950
E-mail: info@rfanam.com.na
www.rfanam.com.na



Publishing date of this brochure: 1 May 2015

By Air Kasane (airline code: BBK) is a busy gateway for the light aircraft that taxi visitors around the camps of northern Botswana, but it's otherwise quiet. Most travellers coming through Kasane will also pass through Victoria Falls or Livingstone and find it best to use the frequent flights to/from that airport to reach either Harare or Johannesburg.

By Bus There are buses and regular small combis plying between Kasane and Nata and linking on to both Francistown and Maun – but relatively little else. As with most long bus journeys, get there early in the morning to be sure of getting away. Expect Francistown to cost about P45 and take seven hours, Maun to be about P50 and take a little longer.

How Long Does It Take?

Please observe the speed limit when driving in Botswana, and when driving on the tar road through the park as Botswana loves to fine people. They also use a hand-held device inside a police car that is driving for speed traps. So be very careful if you do not want to pay fines (and waste time). And don't forget your seatbelts, even if you sit in the back. It is law in Botswana.

Normally the rate for a speed fine is P100 as the fine part and P20 per kilometre over the speed limit. So, if drive 70km/h in an 60km/h zone your fine will be P100 + P200 (20 x 10) So P300. Make sure that you get a receipt for the money paid if they stop you on one of the long stretches of roads, like the one going from Nata to Kasane.

Be very careful as you enter Kazungula. There are traffic cops most of the time just as you enter.

You cannot judge distance by time in Botswana as there are many potholes, speed limits, animals etc. on the roads.

Town	To	Hours	Notes
Nata	Senyati	4	On the tarred road
Francistown	Senyati	6	On the tarred road
Gaborone	Senyati	10	On the tarred road
Johannesburg	Francistown	9	Stay over at Woodlands and drive on to Senyati the next day.
Khwai	Senyati	12	We do not recommend that you drive that in one day as it is a very tough road to drive and driving at night is not recommended
Maun	Senyati	6	On the Tared road via Nata
Pretoria	Francistown	8	Stay over at Woodlands and drive on to Senyati the next day.
Savuti	Senyati	6	The total distance from Savuti to Kasane is 161km and it takes about 5 to 6 hours. Yes, it might be quite a tiring drive, but many people do so.

Activities Booked at Senyati

Chobe Boat Cruise

The boat tour starts from Kasane, at the Jetty behind SPAR. You need to be there at 2:45pm (14:45) and the boat will depart around 3pm (15:00) in winter months, and you will need to be there at 03:30pm (15:30) in summer months. If you want to go, you will need at least 2 nights at Senyati as it starts in the afternoon and finish just after sunset. You can also do early morning trips or lunch trips, however, the most beautiful are the sunset cruise.

How much does it cost? The following prices are for 2024

P350 per person excluding park fees which is P145 for SADC and P190 for Foreigners.

How much do children pay? Children pay the same price as adults, as regulation states that ONE PERSON PER SEAT. This is because of safety concerns.

How long does the cruise take? It starts at 3:00 (15:00) and ends around 6:30 (18:30), so it is around 3 hours.

How long does it take to drive back to Senyati after the boat trip? It will take you about 20 minutes to drive back. If you drive slowly, it is perfectly safe to drive back after the boat trip.

Is it complicated to drive back from the boat trip to Senyati? No, it is very easy. Kasane is a small town with only one big road.

Do we need to reserve the boat trip in advance? Yes, you will need to make a reservation in advance if you plan to go directly to the Boat Cruise, but if you first come to Senyati and only want to go on your next day at Senyati, then a reservation can be made at our desk. If you want to go there directly, we also recommend that you give us a call/SMS/email the day before your arrival to remind us that you will be going there directly.

Does Senyati Offer a transfer to the boats? Yes, we can transfer you at a fee, please speak to the person in Reception

Game Drives with a Guide:

3 options: (Prices exclude park fees)

1. 3 Hour Drive (with light breakfast and coffee)
2. 6 Hour Drive (with light breakfast and coffee)
3. 12 Hour drive (foods and drinks inclusive)

Children pay the same as adults as law requires everyone to have a seat.

Park Fees with a Guide

When you enter the park on a Game Drive or a Boat Cruise then the park fees are Discounted. You will then Pay P190 International and P145 for SADC per adult.

Chobe National Park Self Drives

Area: 11,700 km² (4,500 sq. mi)

Coordinates: 18°40'S 24°30'E

The Chobe National Park is Botswana's first National Park and the most biologically diverse. Located in the north of the country, it is Botswana's third largest park, after Central Kalahari Game Reserve and Gemsbok National Park, and has one of the greatest concentrations of game in all of Africa.

The park is 20 Km from Senyati. Therefore, it's easy to use Senyati as a base camp.

From Kasane the Chobe National Park entrance is the Sedudu Gate. It is only 5km from Kasane, on the main road and only 2km from the airport. If you continue straight the road is tarred for the next 46km up to Ngoma. If you turn towards the river after the gate, you will travel on a well-maintained dirt road, however 4x4 is recommended on this dirt road.

How to Get There

There are 2 ways to get to the park (Sedudu Gate) from Senyati. This is also the gate that leads to the River Front Route as people refer to it.

1. At the top of our 4x4 road, at the Big Senyati Sign (A33), you will see a dirt road straight across from you. That is the Forest Reserve Road, you can follow that all the way to the other tarred road by the Airport. You cannot get lost if you just remain going straight. At that road turn Left towards the Park. Sedudu Gate will be on your Right before the Boom gates where you need to sign in if you go to Nata.
2. You can stick to the Tared road, drive via Kazungula on to Kasane, but instead of turning right into Kasane, you will continue straight. It is a couple of Km and you will pass the turnoff to the Airport. The gate will again be on your right side.

To get to the Park from Kasane.

1. If you are in Kasane by the SPAR for e.g. then you need to turn towards Chobe Safari Lodge or FNB/Choppies. There at the last road you get before entering Safari Lodge you will Turn Left, follow the road all the way to the next T-Junction and turn Right. Continue straight, you will find Sedudu Gate on your Right Side.
2. If you are in Kasane around Shoprite and Puma Fuel Station, turn Left and at the T-Junction turn Right, Follow the road all the way past the Airport and then Sedudu Gate will be on your Right.

Road conditions in Chobe National Park depend greatly on the season and rainfall; one needs a 4x4 vehicle to travel in the Park. Thick sand becomes a problem in the Chobe River Front during the dry months, particularly as the temperature rises and during the wet season the roads near the river become muddy

Self-drive Park Fee Rates (2024 rates)

If you want to do a self-drive you are more than welcome, the park entrance fee per person is SADC P205 (children 8-18 years half price) Foreigners P270 and P115.00 per vehicle (Botswana Registered is P30). Your permit is only valid for the day of purchase. However, if you buy the permit in the morning you can use it that afternoon for a boat cruise, if it is on the same day. If you cannot show the permit the afternoon (you lost it somehow) then you will need to pay again.

If you overnight in the park your permit will expire at 11 am on your last day.

Gate Times

April – September: 06:00 Until 18:00

October – March: 05:30 Until 19:00

Can one drive from Senyati to the Chobe National Park easily?

Yes, you can. Many people use Senyati as the base camp.

Is it true that only a certain number of cars are allowed into the Chobe National Park?

We are not totally sure where this story came from. However, as far as we know and until now 2021, people go in and out as they wish and if you pay your money, they are happy. As you know, MONEY TALKS! We think it could have been an idea at some stage, however, it never materialized. So, it was printed in a book, but this never happened that they limited the number of cars.

What time do you have to be at the Chobe gate?

Tour operators can use a certain route from 6am until 9am. You can still enter the park in that time, once you are at the office where you are buying your permit to enter the park; they will direct you to an alternative entrance where you can enter.

Can I go into the park with a normal SUV?

No, you cannot. You can book a game drive at Senyati Safari camp if you drive a 2x4 which is not allowed in the park.

Victoria Falls

Trip to Victoria Falls - Day Trip

Senyati Safari Camp has a daily shuttle going to Victoria Falls which you can book at reception.

What do you do at Vic Falls?

Most people just enjoy "walking the falls" but there are various activities to choose of which our guide will explain to you on the bus. For safety and security reasons, we only use Shearwater for our activities.

Do I need to book the day trip in advance?

You do not need to reserve your Vic Falls trips in advance.

What currency do they use?

You will need to by a visa at the border in USD, IF your country is not SADEC (South Africans do not pay for a visa). Make sure you have US\$ for visa purposes, however, the rest can be paid with a card in Zimbabwe.

How much time can we spend at Victoria Falls?

You are welcome to tell the guide what time you want to be picked up from Vic Falls if you think you do not have enough time.

Which side is best to see the Vic Falls?

The Zimbabwean side is without doubt the most beautiful. However, the Zambian side is magnificent in March and April.

Devil's Pool:

Devil's pool is on the Zambian side of the Vic Falls but keep in mind that it is very dangerous. It is also part of a package deal.

Snacks/Lunch:

- Take some snacks and drinks along.
- **Not a Tight Budget:**
If you want to have a fantastic lunch and is not on a budget, I can recommend that you go for **lunch or high tea at the Vic Falls hotel**. This hotel was visited by the Queen Mother and other Royalties. And it is stunning. Expect to pay about USD70 for 2 people for lunch and three drinks each...I would say it is worth it IF you are not on a too tight budget.

Or you can go for lunch at the **LOOK OUT DECK** where you have a fantastic view of the gorge.

- **A Medium Budget**
We recommend that you pack a picnic basket and go have a picnic at a park, or we recommend Chicken Inn. This is a fast food joint that sells delicious food at a reasonable price, and the facilities are clean. In one shop, there are different "shops" there is a coffee corner, pies, pizza's, chicken and Ice cream & waffles
- **A very tight budget:**
Go to Ok Bazaar and buy yourself some of their ready-made food. It is excellent and cheap.

Zimbabwe Visa Requirements: GO TO www.evisa.co.za and buy your visa online

Visa Requirements for Zimbabwe

Please see below. However, if you DO NEED A VISA, you can go to www.evisa.org.zw In such case you do not need to go to the Zimbabwean embassy but can complete the application in advance. This is only necessary for the countries in Category C below.

Trips to Vic Falls and what other expenses are involved going into Zimbabwe?

Foreign countries pay ±USD30 for VISA and USD50 for park fees.

South Africans (SADC) pay USD30 to go into the park.

UK Citizens and Canadians pay US\$70 and USD75 (2024 prices)

If you are staying a day or two and then will come back to Botswana, please ask for a KAZA visa at the border.



VISA REQUIREMENTS-REVISED REGIME WITH EFFECT FROM 16/10/12

CATEGORY A

Countries whose nationals do not require visas

1	Antigua & Barbuda	11	Ghana	21	Malawi	31	Solomon Islands	41	Tuvalu
2	Aruba	12	Grenada	22	Maldives	32	Nauru	42	Uganda
3	Bahamas	13	Hong Kong	23	Malta	33	St. Kitts & Nevis	43	Vanuatu
4	Barbados	14	Hong Kong (China)	24	Mauritius	34	St Lucia	44	Zambia
5	Belize	15	Jamaica	25	Montserrat	35	St Vincent & The Grenadines		
6	Botswana	16	Kenya	26	Mozambique	36	Swaziland		
7	Cayman Islands	17	Kiribati	27	Namibia	37	Tanzania		
8	Congo(DRC)	18	Leeward (S)	28	Rep. South Africa**	38	Tonga		
9	Cyprus	19	Lesotho	29	Samoa (Western)	39	Trinidad & Tobago		
10	Fiji	20	Malaysia	30	Singapore	40	Turk & Guacos Islands		

CATEGORY B

Countries whose nationals are granted visas at the port of entry on payment of the requisite visa fees

7. Britain / UK / Ireland - US\$55 single entry / US\$70 - double entry / US\$90 - Multiple entry

9. Canadian - US\$75 single entry / multiple can only be obtained from local embassy prior to departure

Rest: US\$30 single entry / US\$45 - double entry

CAN get Visa
AT BORDER

1	Argentina	14	Dominican Republic	27	Korea(South)	40	Puerto Rico	53.	Virgin Islands
2	Austria	15	Egypt	28	Kuwait	41	Russian Federation		
3	Australia	16	Finland	29	Liechtenstein	42	Rwanda		
4	Belgium	17	France	30	Luxembourg	43	Seychelles		
5	Bermuda	18	Germany	31	Monaco	44	Slovak		
6	Brazil	19	Greece	32	Netherlands	45	Slovenia		
7	Britain UK *** 55US	20	Hungary	33	New Zealand	46	Spain		
8	Brunei	21	Indonesia	34	Norway	47	Sweden		
9	Burundi	22	Iceland	35	Palau Island	48	Switzerland		
10	Canada *** 75US	23	Ireland *** 55US	36	Palestine(State of)	49	United Arab Emirates		
11	Cook Island	24	Israel	37	Papua New Guinea	50	Uruguay		
12	Czech Rep	25	Italy	38	Poland	51	USA		
13	Denmark	26	Japan	39	Portugal	52	Vatican		

CATEGORY C

Countries whose nationals are required to apply for and obtain visas prior to travelling - US\$30

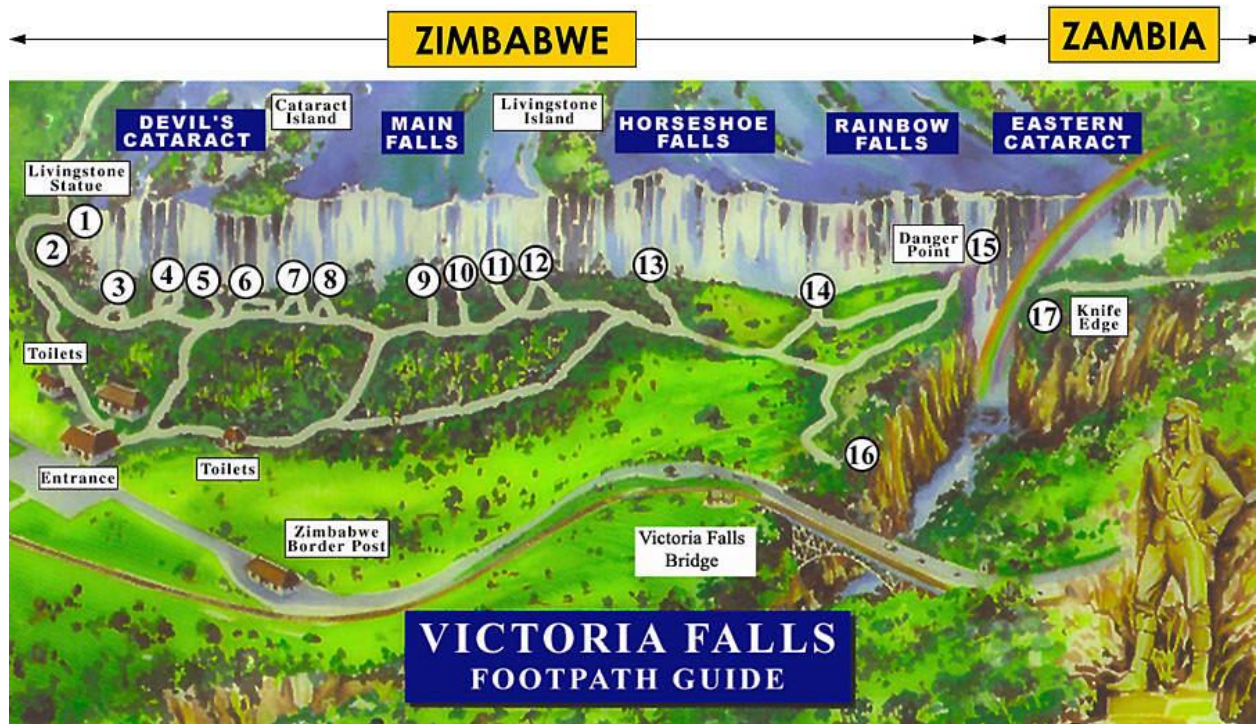
China - US\$60 single entry / US\$90 double entry

FROM EMBASSY

1	Afghanistan	29	Cote d'Voire	57	Jordan	85	Nigeria	113	Togo
2	Albania	30	Croatia	58	Kazakhstan	86	Northern Marana Isl.	114	Tunisia
3	Algeria	31	Cuba	59	Korea (DPRK)	87	Norfolk Islands	115	Turkey
4	Andorra	32	Djibouti Rep	60	Kyrgyzstan	88	Oman	116	Turkmenistan
5	Angola	33	EL Salvador	61	Laos	89	Pakistan	117	Ukraine
6	Armenia	34	Ecuador	62	Latvia	90	Panama	118	Uzbekistan
7	Azerbaijan	35	Equatorial Guinea	63	Lebanon	91	Paraguay	119	Venezuela
8	Bahrain	36	Eritrea	64	Liberia	92	Peru	120	Vietnam
9	Bangladesh	37	Estonia	65	Libya	93	Philippines	121	Yemen Rep
10	Belarus	38	Ethiopia	66	Lithuania	94	Principe	122	Yugoslavia
11	Benin	39	Eyrom	67	Macao	95	Qatar		
12	Bhutan	40	French Guiana	68	Macedonia	96	Reunion		
13	Bolivia	41	French Polynesia	69	Madagascar	97	Romania		Key
14	Bosnia-Herzegovina	42	French West Indies	70	Mali	98	Samoa(America)		
15	Bulgaria	43	Gabon	71	Marshall Islands	99	San Marino		
16	Burkina Faso	44	Gambia	72	Mauritania	100	Sao Tome		**Gratis Visas at
17	Cambodia	45	Georgia	73	Mexico	101	Saudi Arabia		Port of entry for
18	Cameron	46	Gibraltar	74	Micronesia	102	Serbia		South Africans
19	Cape Verde Islands	47	Guam	75	Moldova	103	Sierra Leone		-Bilateral
20	Central Africa Rep	48	Guatemala	76	Mongolia	104	Somalia		agreements
1	Chad	49	Guinea	77	Montenegro	105	Sri Lanka		***Visa fees
2	Chile	50	Guinea Bissau	78	Morocco	106	Sudan		Charged on
3	China	51	Guyana	79	Myanmar	107	Sudan- South		Reciprocity basis
4	Colombia	52	Haiti	80	Nepal	108	Suriname		
5	Comoros Islands	53	Honduras	81	New Caledonia	109	Syria		Total No. of
6	Congo(Brazzaville)	54	India	82	Nicaragua	110	Tajikistan		Countries shown
7	Costa Rica	55	Iran	83	Nie	111	Taiwan		On this page
8	Conakry	56	Iraq	84	Niger	112	Thailand		219

FOR THE PRINCIPAL DIRECTOR IMMIGRATION

***** Please note on day trips to Botswana & Zambia you will need to pay to get back into Zimbabwe - you will need purchase Double Entry when arriving in Zimbabwe *****



Viewpoint Notes

- 01:** Top of Devil's Cataract and Livingstone Statue
- 02:** Devil's Cataract view. 73 steps but worth it
- 03 - 05:** View of Devil's Cataract (70m depth)
- 06:** View of Devil's Cataract, Cataract Island & Main Falls
- 07:** View of Main Falls which are 93m High and 150m Wide
- 08 & 09:** Main Falls (93m depth)
- 10 & 11:** View of Main Falls. Opposite Devil's Pool

- 12:** View of Main Falls. Livingstone Island & Horseshoe Falls.
- 13:** Horseshoe Falls (95m depth)
- 14:** Rainbow Falls (108m depth)
- 15:** Danger Point, Easter Cataract view (101m depth) No rails here so watch your step!!
- 16:** Boiling Pot - Bridge view
- 17:** The "Knife Edge" can be reached from the Zambian side of the falls

High Water Season: February & April
Mid Water Season: April & May

Low Water Season: October to January
Photographic Season: June to September

National Parks and Bookings

The easiest is to contact a booking agent in Botswana, we recommend Botswana Footprints. Their contact info is below. They are excellent, and it will save you a lot of trouble. They charge a very reasonable booking fee and it will save you hours on the phone. They are in Maun.

(DWNP = Department of Wildlife and National Parks)

All bookings for the Parks and Reserves can be done at the Parks and Reserves Reservation Office.

Gaborone: Tel +267 318 0774, Fax +267 318 0775 or Fax +267 391 2354

Maun: Tel +267 686 1265, Fax +267 686 1264

Email: dwnp@gov.bw

GENERAL PARK FEES

Kgalagadi Trans frontier & Mabuasehube Parks

Wilderness Trail: (One way - Mabuasehube to Nossob. Including one night's accommodation at Mosomane) - P200-00pp. (2015 prices, so please check again)

Accommodation for Public Campsites in the National Parks must be booked with the Private Operators.

Here is a MS Word Doc with all the operators and the Campsites.

The same info is on the Getaway Blog. (<https://www.getaway.co.za/travel-ideas/book-campsites-botswanas-national-parks/>)

Borders: Times, Contact & Crossing

Botswana /South Africa			
Border Post	Town	Tel:	Open
Pont Drift (Tuli)	Selebi Phikwe	+267 264 5260	07h30 – 16h30
Martin's Drift	Sherwood	+267 491 5907 /5913	06h00 – 22h00
Zanzibar	Tsetsebjwe	+267 264 6217/263 0012	07h00 – 18h30
Platjan	Selebi Phikwe	+267 264 6333	08h00 – 16h00
Sikwane	Sikwane	+267 570 0000	07h30 – 16h30
Tlokweng	Gaborone	+267 317 800	06h00 – 00h00
Ramotswa (Bridge)	Ramotswa	+267 539 0344	07h00 – 18h00
Pioneer Gate	Lobatse	+267 533 3992/0387	06h00 – 00h00
Ramatlabama	Pitshane	+267 540 7170/548 6296	06h00 – 22h00
Phitshane Molopo	Phitshane Molopo	+267 548 6306	06h00 – 22h00
Hereford/ Bray	Werda	+267 653 0068/9	07h00 – 16h30
Makopong	Werda	+267 653 0063	07h30 – 16h30
Bokspits	Bokspits (Kgalagadi District)		08h00 – 16h00
McCarthy Rust/Tshabong	Tshabong	+267 653 0056	08h00 – 18h00
Middlepits	Tsabong	+267 653 0060	08h00 – 16h00
Two Rivers	Tweerivieren (on SA)		07h30 – 16h00
Parr's Halt/Stockpoort	Palapye	0027 14 763 7934/5/6	08h00 – 16h00
	Stockpoort is a fast border post if you are only doing a self-drive and has nothing exciting to declare, but if you are moving things you bought in SA, like machines etc, you cannot go through here. There is no clearance, customs officials so they will send you back. Then you must go back to Martinsdrift. You can drive with this road with a 2x4 but don't do it if you don't have good tyres. It is a gravel road but not in accessible		

Botswana /Namibia			
Border Post	Town	Tel:	Open
Mamuno	Charles Hill	+267 659 2013	07h00 – 00h00
Ngoma	Kasane	+267 620 0050	07h00 – 18h00
	You will cross here when you go to the Caprivi/Katima/Kongola/Divundu etc		
Mohembo	Shakawe	+267 687 5505	06h00 – 18h00

Botswana / Zimbabwe			
Border Post	Town	Tel:	Open
Ramokgwebana	Ramokgwebana	+267 248 9266	06h00 – 22h00
Maitengwe	Maitengwe	+267 248 3275	07h00 – 16h30
Pandamatenga	Pandamatenga (Kasane)	+267 623 2029	08h00 – 17h00
	Do not attempt this road if you do not have good tyres and a 4x4. Very rocky. Good when you are going into the Wanky Reserve		
Matsiloje	Matsiloje (Francistown)	+267 248 3275	07h00 – 16h30
Kazungula Road	Kazungula (Kasane)	+267 625 0320/1303	06h00 – 20h00

Botswana / Zambia			
Border Post	Town	Tel:	Open
Kazungula Ferry/Bridge	Kazungula (Kasane)	+267 625 0420	06h00 – 18h30

Airports			
Border Post	Town	Tel:	Open
Sir Seretse Khama Airport	Gaborone	+267 395 3022/364 3190	06h00 – 22h00
Francistown Airport	Francistown	+267 241 2065	06h00 – 22h00
Kasane Airport	Kasane	+267 625 0175	06h00 – 18h00
Maun Airport	Maun	+267 686 0278	07h30 – 16h30
Jwaneng Airport	Jwaneng	+267 588 0309	07h00 – 16h30
Selebi Phikwe Airport	Selebi Phikwe	+267 260 1238	07h30 – 16h30
Sowa Airfield	Sowa Town	+267 621 3219	07h30 – 16h30

Entry Requirements

Look at the [Botswana Tourism](#) website

Border Entry Fees

Vehicle Levy: P40-00 per vehicle less than 3.5 Ton. Trailer is P40-00 as well. (Payable every time you enter)
Road Safety: P20-00 per vehicle. Trailer is also P20-00. (This is valid for the calendar year. Jan 1 to Dec 31)
3rd Party Insurance: P50-00 per vehicle. If you are planning to go through Botswana to Namibia/Zambia and back through Botswana, ask for a Multi entry Permit. P90-00.

Border Procedure

At "Immigration", ask for a "blue form" (all passport holders older than 16). Fill out the form and hand it in with your passport. The driver must ask for the "vehicle register" and complete the details. You will receive a "Gate Pass" (missing one stamp). The driver must proceed to "customs", pay all applicable "entry fees" (see above) and get the second stamp. Declare anything if needed. That will do it. (Something personal.... Please remove your hat and sunglasses when you approach the official at the gate. It is just good manners. Ummm – and safety belt ON)

Vehicle Registration Papers

You will need the following:

1. If you are the owner: The original reg. papers. Certified copies are dodgy.
2. If you are not the owner, copy of registration papers and an original letter from owner, giving you permission to take vehicle into Botswana.

(Personal note: In my 8 years crossing the border frequently, I have never been asked for the papers. BUT!!! Rather be safe than sorry. Please note: This is with a Botswana registered vehicle.)

On the Road

The general speed limit is 120km/h, and 60km/h in towns and villages. There is 80km/h limit when passing intersections or villages (where not indicated) on the main roads. Respect and obey these. Check the speed limits on the tarred road in the park. And believe me, they do trap there. They have a hand-held device which they will trap you with.

Chobe And Zambezi (Something Interesting)

The Chobe River is a rather complex waterway. The Chobe River meets the Zambezi River (the meeting of the four countries Namibia, Zambia, Zimbabwe and us in Botswana) at the ferry in Kazungula which eventually flows over the Victoria Falls and into Mozambique and the Indian Ocean.

Unlike the Zambezi, which is one of Africa's largest and longest rivers, The Chobe River is a rather complex maze of channels and marshes from the moment it rises in Angola to not long before reaching Serondella. Some 10,000 years ago the Kavango River that flows into the Okavango Delta and Chobe River were all one interconnected river system that flowed into the massive Lake Makgadikgadi. Due to an earth tremor the Chobe (or Cuando as it is known in Angola) land was uplifted and diverted east and the Makgadikgadi is now a massive dry salt pan.

However, the Chobe River that we know in Kasane is a wide river that has plenty of water all year round and rises very significantly during the months February – May. This is because most of our water is water that spills from the Zambezi into the Chobe. The masses of water you see in March and April in the Zambezi and Victoria falls are not from the rains in the area, but this is water that comes down from Angola, so water from the previous rains in Angola.

When the rains of Angola have fallen from November onwards the Zambezi swells and the flow of water into the Chobe increases dramatically. This is known as the backflow and in the river then quickly pushes this water westerly past us all the way into Lake Liambezi (some 80km away) which is a seasonal lake filling up at such time of the year.

The river seemingly changes its direction of flow overnight when this happens although it is more to do with a damming effect caused by the water having nowhere else to go due the bottleneck in the Liambezi region. This is especially noticeable as the lake reaches saturation point and the water pushes back again. Sometimes on a safari boat cruise you can see the reeds and the grasses at the river's edge lying down facing west but with the river flowing to the east!

ER (Emergency Rescue)

24-hour emergency service is available in Kazungula, in the same shopping centre where Choppies is located. Call 992.

There is also a hospital in Kasane and, under circumstances, doctors are doing their best. So, if an emergency arises, please be patient, kind and not arrogant to staff at the Kasane Hospital. I have found them very helpful and kind.

If you do not have international medical aid, then the Kasane Hospital can be helpful, however, the ER 24 clinic at Kazungula I found to be very expensive.

There is an excellent pharmacist called Marvellous at the Pharmacy in Kasane (located just across the road from Chobe Marina in a small complex. Marvellous is wonderful in rendering help and antibiotics are available without doctor's prescription in Kasane. So, do not waste money on ER24 unless it is an emergency. Marvellous is excellent.

Some "Off" Road Driving Advice

River Crossings

DEEP water river crossings are among the most dangerous of all off road driving hazards. If you have any doubt about a river crossing, don't do it. Find an alternative route or wait for another vehicle to come along. Solo crossings are very dangerous. And, when crossing a river, always prepare yourself for the worst possible scenario.

You MUST walk the route before driving it. If a river is flowing strongly enough to make you lose your footing, then it will be dangerous for your vehicle. Check for big boulders, holes, tree stumps and other obstacles. If necessary, remove boulders. Mark obstacles with stakes, or have a passenger stand by them.

If the river you are approaching is in flood because of a recent rain storm, sit back, brew up some tea, and wait it out. River levels drop very quickly in most parts of Africa after rain, and a raging torrent in the morning may be a few drying up puddles in the afternoon. Mark the high-water mark with a stick or stone and watch the rate at which the water level drops -- this will give you a good idea of whether it is worth waiting out the flood waters. If necessary, camp the night well above the flood mark.

Make sure that the exit point on the opposite bank is driveable, and if not, repair it.

Vehicle Preparations

There are two danger points on petrol engines: The air intake and the high voltage ignition system, starting with the coil, which kicks out an intermittent, very high voltage, low amperage charge through the distributor, or electronic ignition, to the spark plugs.

This is a "Loskop" charge and is easily side tracked, short circuited or even drowned: Even a light splash is enough to cause misfiring, or total cut-out.

On diesel engines, with no high voltage system, there is no danger of drowning the electrics: But this is what makes diesels susceptible to catastrophic water damage -- the engine will be happily ticking over and water will suddenly enter the air intake, and get sucked into the ignition/compression system, causing irreversible damage.

On both petrol and diesel engines then, it is the air filter intakes which are the real danger points for engine damage. On "professional" petrol 4X4s, the air intake is always higher than the ignition system, providing a safety cut-out system. A diesel engine fitted with an extension wading "snorkel" can often go so deep through the water that the biggest danger is that the driver starts floating and can no longer reach the pedals.

Damage can also be caused by water leakage through oil dip sticks, oil filter breathers, and breathers on axles, diffs and drain plugs on clutch bell housings.

Before Entering the Water:

1. Loosen or remove the fan belt: This stops water being thrown into the electrical system and prevents fan blades from being driven into the radiator core by water pressure.
2. Seal all electrics on petrol engines with rubber boots (this should be standard equipment). If you don't have the necessary boots, use thick plastic bags. A greased rubber surgical glove with the tips of the fingers cut off can be used for four-cylinder engines. Greased condoms with their tips cut off and secured with elastic bands also work. Coat the battery terminals with loads of grease.
3. Spray all electrical components with Q-20, WD40 or other water dispersant or grease them. Keep the Q-20 can handy.
4. Secure a sack or canvas sheet across the bull bar or radiator grille.
5. Make sure your rescue equipment is close at hand -- tow cables, shackles, spanners, tools. If the water flow is strong, you may want to consider securing a long tow rope to the front or rear of the vehicle. As you drive, a passenger feeds out or pulls in the rope, using a tree as an anchor. Then, if the vehicle rolls over or the engine is drowned, the rope can quickly be lashed around the tree to prevent total loss of the vehicle. On

- extreme crossings, and if you have the equipment, you can consider stringing a wire cable upstream of the vehicle, with shorter running cables connected to the front and rear of the vehicle with D-shackles.
6. If you have two vehicles, connect with a tow rope, so the one on dry land can tow the other out of difficulty. If one of the vehicles is fitted with a winch, attach the winch cable of the rear vehicle to the one attempting the crossing. Pay the cable out carefully as the lead vehicle crosses, ready for a crisis. Once they are across, they can return the favour.
 7. Seal your axle breathers. If your clutch bell housing has a drain hole, seal it. (Some vehicles come equipped with a clutch plug). If the engine has a turbo charger, allow it to cool off before attempting to wade.
 8. If the bottom is sandy or muddy, deflate your tyres.
 9. Finally, before entering the water, remove everything off the floor and seats that could be damaged by water. If the water is very deep, you may have to unpack the vehicle and carry goods which could be damaged -- clothes, cameras, dry food stocks -- across by hand.

Crossing:

If the water is above the bottom of your door frames, you must open two doors for the crossing. This allows the water to flow through the vehicle, rather than turn the vehicle into a floating box which will lift the wheels off the bottom, and make you run the risk of turning turtle because of an unbalanced vehicle.

Unless you elect to go through at high speed, DO NOT wear a safety belt: Should the vehicle roll over, you run the risk of drowning if you are strapped in.

Slow and steady is the motto. DO NOT CHANGE GEAR ONCE IN THE WATER: WATER WILL ENTER THE CLUTCH PLATE AND CAUSE THE CLUTCH TO SLIP LEADING TO POTENTIALLY DISASTROUS LOSS OF TRACTION. Select your gear in advance -- low range second or first are probably your best options, depending on the severity of the crossing.

Proceed at a steady, fast walking pace -- this sets up a bow wave in front of the vehicle, accentuated by your canvas sheet or sack, pushing the water to the side. Once you are up and running, there is no stopping, steady momentum is essential. If you are lucky enough, the wake will catch up with you at just the right moment to give you an extra bump from the rear to shove you out of the water onto the far bank.

If for any reason you should lose power by hitting an obstacle, spinning the wheels or dropping into a hole, and the bow wave overtakes you, you don't have a second to lose:

If there is any danger of the water rising to the level of the engine air intake or manifold, immediately switch off the engine, even before momentum is lost. Isolate the batteries. If this is not done, a short circuit in the starter motor can cause the engine to turn over and suck water into the cylinders. Do not attempt to restart the engine unless you are certain no water has been sucked into the cylinders. If the water has risen higher than the inlet and exhaust valves or if your air intake is wet, then you must assume water has got into the combustion chambers.

If you can recover the vehicle without restarting the engine, then do so, rather than risk the possibility of damaging the engine.

Hopefully, you will make it safely to the other side, secure the fan belt and remove any temporary shielding you may have attached. If the water was very deep, you will need to check all your transmission oils for water contamination and change them if necessary. If the water leakage is limited, it is possible to tap off the water, as oil will float on top of the water. If your engine oil is a greyish, milky colour, you will have to change it completely. Dry out your brakes by applying repeated gentle pressure while driving slowly.

Recovering A Drowned Vehicle:

We sincerely hope you will never need to use this advice

Get the vehicle out of the water as soon as possible by towing or winching. Place rocks behind the wheels, release the hand brake and engage neutral, open all doors and windows and unpack the vehicle, checking for water damage.

You might as well set up camp. Let the vehicle stand for an hour or two for the oils to settle.

Check the sump, diffs and transmission oils (and turbocharger, if fitted) for contamination by loosening the drain plugs and allowing the water to drip out (oil floats on water). If the oil is milky, then it has emulsified with the oil. Leave the oil to stand in the vehicle for a couple of hours, then drain it and leave the oil and water standing to separate out. If it does not lose its milkiness, replace with fresh oil.

Check all your fuel tanks for water by loosening the drain plugs and draining off water until pure fuel emerges. If there is water in any of the fuel tanks, check all filters, lines and pumps for contamination. In diesels, carefully check the primary sediment bowl.

Remove and thoroughly drain and dry all electrical motors and check all electrical fittings for water. On petrol engines, remove and dry out the distributor cap and internal components. Dry out the air filter. If any moisture is

found in the air intake, you must assume there is water in the cylinders. Even a very small amount can be enough to damage a high-performance engine. If your filter is an oil-bath type, change the oil if it is milky. If it is a paper element filter, change the filter if it is wet.

Dry out everything you can: Combustion chamber passages, HT leads, battery compartments etc. If you have even the slightest suspicion that water has entered the cylinders, you must continue with the following procedures: These are rough guidelines, and may differ for different makes of vehicles, so carefully check your own workshop manual for any specific references. The procedures are different for diesel and petrol:

Petrol Engines:

Take out all the spark plugs, and if the electrics are dry, reconnect and turn the engine in short bursts of not more than two revolutions at a time (literally a split-second crank). If the electrics are still wet, use a crank handle, or jack up the back wheels, and turn one of the wheels while in second gear.

As the engine cranks, water will shoot out of the plug holes. Carry on doing this until all the water is out, then replace all the dried-out components, reconnect the electrics and start the engine. Leave it running until warm and listen carefully for strange noises -- and keep sniffing the air for weird smells.

Diesel Engines:

WARNING: Keep your face clear of the engine when following this procedure, as any diesel or water expelled will come out under high pressure.

Remove all the fuel lines and injectors. Place them clear of dirt, in such a way as to drain any water out. Do not tamper with the injectors -- that's a job for professionals. Turn the engine as for petrol engines until no more water comes out of the chambers.

Dry the injector ports and replace them, carefully following workshop manual specs on seating and torque, bleed the fuel system, refit air filters and intakes, connect electrics and start up. Listen for strange noises and check for leaks around all the joints and bleed screws.

As soon as possible, get your vehicle to qualified service personnel for a complete check-up, oil and hydraulic fluid change and an all-round flush and clean of fuel and hydraulic lines. It's very complicated, so rather just park off on the bank of the river and do some birding and wait for the river to drop. It's much more fun than trying to salvage a drowned vehicle.

Socials

FACEBOOK: Botswana Tourism at its Best Senyati Safari Camp

Instagram: Senyatibotswana