

## TRAVEL INFORMATION FOR DELTA TO FALLS SAFARI

**Botswana** is a huge country in Southern Africa, known to be hot and dry, with the exception of the lush oasis of the Okavango Delta in the north of the country - reputedly one of the most beautiful places in the world. Largely off-the-beaten track, Botswana is a haven for wildlife and especially elephants.

### History & Background

Botswana was formerly known as Bechuanaland and was a British colony until 1966. It was first inhabited by the San (Bushmen) and then by the Khoi-Khoi (Hottentots) and Bantu groups. Botswana is a landlocked nation, bordered by South Africa in the South, Namibia to the west, Zambia to the north, and Zimbabwe to the northeast. *Botswana* is one of Africa's most stable and peaceful democracies with its economy, closely tied to South Africa's, being dominated by cattle raising and mining, boasting huge diamond deposits. It's official languages are English and Setswana.

### Currency

Please bring US dollars, including small bills. There are ATM's available for use in South Africa. Visa is the credit card of choice.

**Weather** in winter (May-Aug.) – Usually very dry (no rain) and sunny, average temperatures: low 48 high 80. In the morning you have on your jacket, sweater, long sleeve shirt and t-shirt, by 9 o'clock the jacket comes off, by 10 the sweater comes off and so on. By midday it is hot, and in the afternoon you just reverse the dressing process.

**Time** - GMT plus two hours. In June Botswana will be 9 hours ahead of Oregon, and 6 hours ahead of the east coast.

### Medical

The dry and warm climate make Botswana a fairly healthy area. There are no real major diseases, other than malaria, that the traveler has to worry about. Malaria is prevalent during the summer (the wet season) but is not usually a problem during the dry season. If you are going to take a prophylaxis, research the drugs you are going to use carefully. In some instances the reaction to the prophylaxis can be quite severe. Those who live in malaria areas, for long periods of time, do not use prophylaxis – rather just treat it if you contract the disease, but you must be able to identify it quickly. Please see your doctor for a prophylaxis if you decide to take one.

Please note that there is **no risk** for yellow fever in Southern Africa. There are also no required vaccinations, but your doctor may advise you to have some recommended ones.

Lastly, please try to pack lightly and preferably in a soft-sided bag.