



Botswana

Limits

- You may import a total of three (3) firearms into Botswana: two (2) rifles and one (1) shotgun; or two (2) shotguns and one (1) rifle. Rifles must be of different calibers.
- A maximum of 100 rounds of ammunition per firearm. Note that an import tax and duty is charged by customs on arrival. (Remember that airlines will restrict you to no more than 11 pounds or 5 kilos of ammunition.)
- Ammunition must be the same caliber(s) as the firearms you are importing.
- Semi-automatic, automatic and military-style firearms, and handguns are prohibited.
- Firearms in military calibers, including .308/.303 (7.62x51mm NATO), are prohibited, as well as .22 caliber.

Fees

- 100 Botswana Pulas. This fee is currently under review and may be increased.
- Your safari operator may charge additionally for handling your permit application. Expect to pay US\$150-\$200 per firearm. Charges vary according to the operator and will cover the costs and time of courier services and/or personally traveling to government offices, plus follow-up to get the permit issued in time for your arrival.
- Importation of ammunition into Botswana is subject to a 12% Government Value Added Tax (VAT), plus a 36% duty tax upon arrival. The amount depends on the caliber size of the ammunition. Bring only what is necessary for your hunting safari. Taxes must be paid in cash and in Botswana Pulas.

Time Frame

Application for your firearm import permit should be submitted at least two (2) months in advance of your arrival. Although authorities often process permits within three weeks, they just as often take much longer.

Requirements

Your safari operator must acquire the permit for you. No one else can. Your operator will send you an application form for a firearm import permit ([or download it here](#)). He will submit it to the Botswana police at the Central Arms Registry on your behalf. You must complete and return the application with the following information and additional documents outlined below.

- Personal information: name, address, age, nationality, passport number, occupation
- Firearm: make, model, serial number and caliber/gauge
- Number of rounds of ammunition for the firearm(s) you are taking to Botswana
- A copy of your passport.

- Letter giving your operator permission to obtain the permit on your behalf.
- Proof of ownership of the firearms you are taking. US citizens may use a US Customs Form 4457. Other nationals may use a firearm license or permit, depending on your country. Your proof of ownership must list the firearm(s) you take to Botswana.

Note: If you plan to travel through South Africa, you will need a South African firearm import permit if you overnight there or if you must claim your baggage to check onto your connecting flight to Botswana. Check with your airline to ensure it has an interline baggage agreement with your connecting airline to Botswana and that you can check your bags all the way to your final destination. Otherwise you will need an in-transit permit for South Africa.

Also, some European countries allow fewer firearms per person than Botswana, even if they are only in transit. Verify with your travel agent before booking flights.

Clearing Your Firearms

Your safari operator will assist you with clearing your firearms.