
7 Day Southern Circle Package



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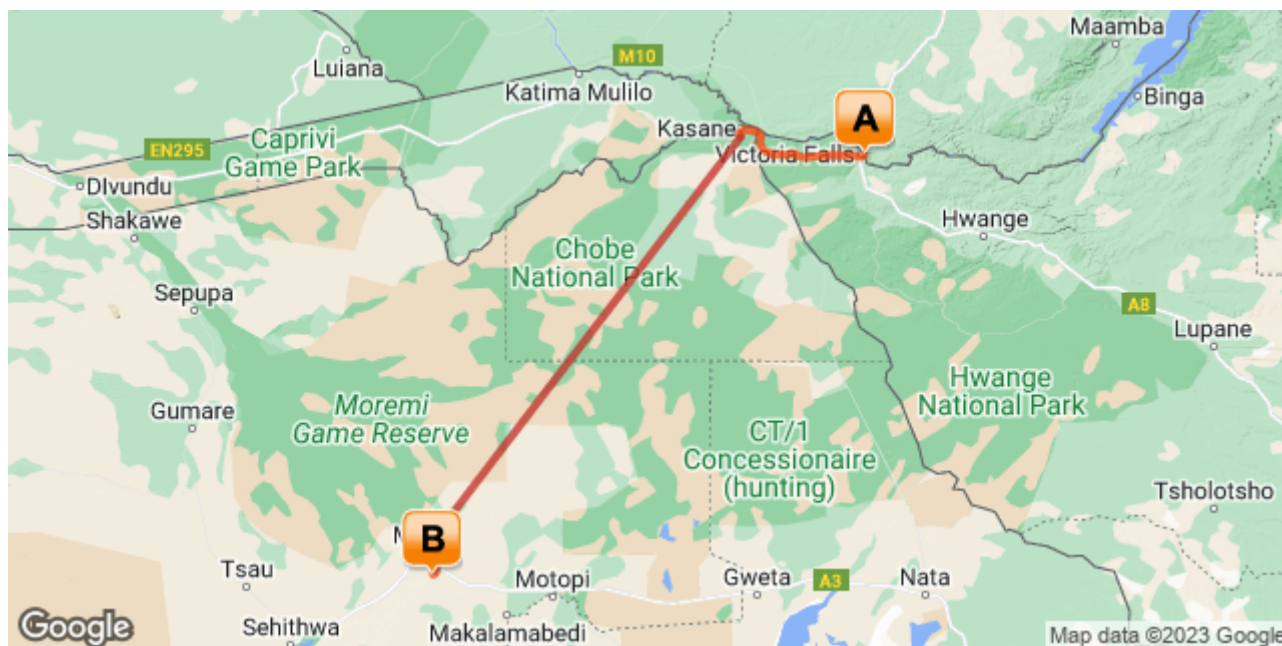
Victoria Falls (Zimbabwe) - Maun

7 Days / 6 Nights

4 Persons

Date of Issue: 03 November 2023

05 April 2024 - 11 April 2024



Introduction

Accommodation	Destination	Basis	Room Type	Duration
Shearwater Explorers Village	Victoria Falls (Zimbabwe)	B&B	2x Deluxe Chalets	3 Nights
Boteti Tented Safari Lodge	Maun	FI	2x Luxury Tent	3 Nights

Key

B&B: Bed and Breakfast

FI: Fully Inclusive - Bed, All Meals, Fees and Activities

Price

Cost per person sharing for the whole package US\$1 878

Included

Victoria Falls

All ground transportation, accommodation in standard rooms, daily breakfast, sunset cruise, guided tour of the falls Zimbabwe & Zambia, Boma Dinner, all national park fees, domestic flight from Kasane to Maun

Okavango Delta

- Pick up and transfer to and from Maun Airport
- Luxurious Safari Tented Accommodation
- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Dinner daily

- 1 Mokoro Sunset Safari on the Boteti River (2 Hours)
- 1 Full day Mokoro Safari and game walk in the Okavango delta and 1 Full day open vehicle safari to Moremi
- Bottled water and juice during safari activities included

Excluded

International flights, optional tours, meals not specified, items of personal nature, visa fees, tipping

Day 1: Shearwater Explorers Village, Victoria Falls (Zimbabwe) (Fri, 5 April)

Victoria Falls (Zimbabwe)

Victoria Falls is one of the world's most impressive waterfalls. It is set on the magnificent Zambezi River which creates the border between Zambia and Zimbabwe. These spectacular falls can be easily visited and viewed from the Zimbabwean side. Considered to be the world's widest waterfalls, Victoria Falls measures an impressive 1708 metres in width. The small town of Victoria Falls, which lies adjacent to the waterfalls, serves as a great base from which to explore the many attractions this area of Zimbabwe has to offer. The surrounding area provides a wide range of adrenalin-filled activities for adventure lovers. Visitors can look forward to an array of wonderful activities including: scenic flights, micro lighting, white water rafting, bungee jumping, kayaking, and once-in-a-lifetime expeditions into the incredible Chobe National Park.

Overnight: Shearwater Explorers Village

Shearwater Explorers Village is a lodge located in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, close to Victoria Falls and Curio Shops and Creature World. Surrounded by indigenous vegetation and wildlife, the accommodation features a range of standard and deluxe rooms as well as camping facilities. Rooms are equipped with air conditioning, a mosquito net, an en-suite bathroom and Wi-Fi. The camp facilities feature communal ablutions, showers and a kitchen area. Guests may enjoy a tasty meal and refreshing drink at the on-site restaurant.



Deluxe Chalets

The Deluxe Chalets have either twin-size beds or double beds. For added comfort, they are fitted with air-conditioning and mosquito nets. The Chalets have ensuite bathrooms. There is an in room safe, team and coffee-making facilities, USB charging points, as well as, Wi-Fi.



Activities

Afternoon	Sunset Cruise
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Sunset Cruise

The sunset cruise on the Zambezi River is a definite must on any trip to Victoria Falls. Relax with a sundowner and snacks as you gaze out onto the banks of the river. Have your camera ready to capture one of the most amazing sunsets in Africa.

You'll be sure to spot wildlife animals as they come down to the river for a drink after a hot day in the Zambezi National Park (Zimbabwe) and the Mosi-oa-Tunya National Park (Zambia). Sightings of elephant, giraffe and other resident game are common. There's always an abundance of hippos and crocodiles. Birdlife is superb and the Fish eagles will usually fill the scene with their calls.

Basis

Bed and Breakfast

Day 2: Shearwater Explorers Village, Victoria Falls (Zimbabwe) (Sat, 6 April)

Activities

Morning	Guided Tour of the Falls (Zimbabwe and Zambia)
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Guided Tour of the Falls (Zambia and Zimbabwe)

A guided tour of the falls enables you to delve into the local customs and traditions while gaining insight into how such an exquisite creation came to be. An aura of excitement envelopes everyone who lays eyes on this incredible spectacle and guided tours are conducted from both Zambia and Zimbabwe sides.

Basis

Bed and Breakfast

Day 3: Shearwater Explorers Village, Victoria Falls (Zimbabwe) (Sun, 7 April)

Activities

Dinner	The Boma Restaurant
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The Boma Restaurant

The Boma – Dinner & Drum Show is a “must do” Victoria Falls dining and entertainment experience, specializing in traditional African food, drumming and dancing. The food is cooked and served in the style and quantity of a lavish feast, including irresistible desserts.

On arrival, you are dressed in a chitenge (traditional sarong) and welcomed into a vibrant atmosphere in which the tantalizing aromas of local dishes and game meat on the braai (barbecue) fill the restaurant, which is partially open to the star-filled African sky.

Your meal begins with a mouth-watering platter of starters whilst the buffet includes soup from the campfire, a range of salads, game meat cooked on a braai (barbecue), followed by desserts. Vegetarian options are also available, as well as local dishes such as peanut butter spinach

You can also look forward to outstanding performances by traditional singers and dancers, and enjoy an energizing interactive drumming show. A face painter, storyteller, hair braider and fortune teller also form part of this festive evening.

Basis

Bed and Breakfast

Day 4: Boteti Tented Safari Lodge, Maun (Mon, 8 April)

Maun

Set on the banks of the beautiful Thamalakane River in northern Botswana, Maun is the third-largest town in this spectacularly scenic southern African country. Maun is the starting point for most expeditions into the Okavango Delta and as a result, has developed into a bustling metropolis that is considered Botswana’s tourism capital. Area attractions include a renowned riverboat that offers cruises up and down the Thamalakane River; the forest groves of the Maun Game Reserve; and Moremi Game Reserve, home to hippos, lions and rhinos. Maun also serves as the jumping-off point for many safaris and air charters as well as offering private 4x4 rentals. Don’t miss the opportunity to visit the Nhaba Museum exhibiting the local history, art and culture of the Ngamiland region.

Overnight: Boteti Tented Safari Lodge



Basis

Fully Inclusive - Bed, All Meals, Fees and Activities

You will be picked up from Rainbow Hotel and transferred to Kasane Airport to connect with a domestic flight to Maun Airport where you will meet your ranger and guide before leaving on your 20-minute drive to the riverbank oasis of the Boteti Tented Safari Lodge. After check-in, you will be briefed on your safari activities over a refreshing complimentary drink.

You will then have time to settle in before leaving on an amazing 2-hour sunset Mokoro safari on the Boteti River. You will have the chance to spot some wildlife with hippos and crocodiles right at the river's edge while witnessing some of the most amazing bird life in southern Africa. Your experienced Mokoro guide will point out several interesting aspects of the river and its wildlife during your Mokoro trip, before stopping on one of the banks for sundowners.

Back at the lodge, you will have time to freshen up and then join us around the open fire and absorb the magnificence around you while enjoying a delicious and traditionally prepared meal while listening to the calls of the night.

You will overnight in a luxury safari tent.

Day 5: Boteti Tented Safari Lodge, Maun (Tue, 9 April)

Basis

Fully Inclusive - Bed, All Meals, Fees and Activities

Waking up at sunrise to the first birdcalls of the day, you fill your lungs with the crisp morning air before enjoying some freshly brewed coffee or tea, home baked biscuits, and a light breakfast before an early morning departure on a full day mokoro safari in the Okavango Delta including a nature walk.

Full-day Mokoro safari

Your Mokoro safari will begin as you head out into the many reed channels of the Okavango Delta. Your guide will already have an update of any exciting or special sightings in the area. Most guides are from the Bayei tribe who many believe to be the first inhabitants of the Okavango Delta, "people of the Delta" so to speak. You will learn about all aspects of this magical inland oasis from the tiniest of creatures, beautiful reed frogs and big 5 mammal

species along the water edge. Your guide will also interpret nature in a unique manner and show you traditional and medicinal uses of wild plants in the delta.

A stop will be made on one of the many islands to enjoy your packed lunch before heading on a nature walk discovering more of this abundant ecosystem. After some relaxing time, you will continue your adventure exploring more of these unlimited channels and choosing to stop at any

A packed lunch will be served in style by your guide at one of the beautiful rest camps along the way.

Your day on safari will end typically with drinks of your choice on the wooden deck overlooking the sunset over the Boteti River while the coolness of the evening sets in, discussing all the excitement and amazing sightings of the day. Dinner is served typically under the stars in the open Boma.

You will overnight in a luxury safari tent.

Day 6: Boteti Tented Safari Lodge, Maun (Wed, 10 April)

Basis

Fully Inclusive - Bed, All Meals, Fees and Activities

Wake to another magnificent sunrise followed by a light breakfast before setting off on a full day open vehicle safari in the Moremi/Khwai game reserves.

Full day Moremi safari:

Moremi is the home to nearly 500 species of bird (from water birds to forest dwellers), and a vast array of other species of wildlife, including buffalo, giraffe, lion, leopard, cheetah, hyena, jackal, impala, and red lechwe and African wild dog. Experience this in an open game vehicle specially converted, allowing one to absorb and experience sightings with all your senses when up and close to wildlife. Your experienced game ranger will teach you about all aspects of nature and interpret wildlife behaviour in a unique way. He will also receive updates from other rangers in the area determining animal movements. Return time is estimated at 16h00 but could be delayed depending on the roads, time of year and sightings.

A packed lunch will be served in style by your guide at one of the beautiful rest camps along the way.

Your day on safari will end with sundowners on the wooden deck overlooking over the Boteti River followed by dinner typically under the stars in the open Boma.

You will overnight in a luxury safari tent.

Day 7: End of Itinerary (Thu, 11 April)

Basis

Bed and Breakfast

A more relaxed morning after the full day of safari and travelling giving you the chance to enjoy the lodge and its facilities once again after a bush breakfast, winding down before a transfer back to Maun airport or your choice of drop off point within Maun.

Transport

Flight Information

Date	Flight	Airline	Departure Airport	Time	Arrival Airport	Time	Class	Ref
8 Apr	Scheduled		Kasane Airport [BBK]		Maun International Airport [MUB]			

Transfers

Date	Company	Pick Up	Drop Off	Time	Vehicle
5 Apr		Victoria Falls International Airport [VFA]	Shearwater Explorers Village		Transfer
8 Apr		Shearwater Explorers Village	Kasane Airport [BBK]		Transfer
8 Apr		Maun International Airport [MUB]	Boteti Tented Safari Lodge		Transfer
11 Apr		Boteti Tented Safari Lodge	Maun International Airport [MUB]		Transfer

Travel Information



A nation of spectacular natural beauty, friendly people and rich culture, Zimbabwe's status as one of Africa's leading safari destinations was dampened for years by its political instability. But now that the country is transcending its strife and returning to a state of equilibrium, it is once again emerging as a vacation highlight of the continent. Victoria Falls – known to locals as 'The Smoke That Thunders' – is one of the seven natural wonders of the world and the sheer power of this massive body of water plunging into the Zambezi Gorge is awe-inspiring and unforgettable. Lake Kariba, with its game-rich shores and islands, is an idyllic safari spot featuring mind-blowing sunsets; Hwange National Park is known for its huge herds of elephants; and a kayak trip down the Zambezi through the Mana Pools National Park will appeal to the intrepid traveller, providing close encounters with crocodiles, hippos and a host of other wildlife.

Banking and Currency

Currency

US dollars are universally accepted as well as South African rands, euros and pounds sterling.

The official currency of Zimbabwe is the Zimbabwe dollar (ZWL). This currency is in the form of *Bond Notes and **RTGS (real time gross settlement). The currency consists of bond coins and banknotes, with denominations including 1, 2, 5, 10, 20, and 50 bond coins, as well as 2, 5, 10, 20, 50, and 100 dollar banknotes. The currency was reintroduced in 2019 and even though the Zimbabwean dollar is still accepted and in circulation, the US dollar is the dominant currency.

It's important to note that exchange rates and the use and value of the Zimbabwean dollar can fluctuate, so it's advisable to check with official exchange bureaus, banks, or financial institutions for the most up-to-date information and rates for travel to Zimbabwe.

Banking

Banks in Zimbabwe are open for business Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 08h00 to 15h00, on Wednesdays from 08h00 to 13h00 and Saturdays from 08h00 to 11h30. They are closed on Sundays and Public Holidays.

Only VISA and MasterCard are accepted in Zimbabwe, however it should be noted that very limited facilities will have credit card machines, and the connection is not always reliable so it is advisable to carry cash as back up.

Travel, Transport and Getting Around

Taxis are safe and reliable, and can be booked through your hotel front desk. Taxis in cities travel within a 40km radius of the city. Always take a taxi at night.

Major airlines fly into Victoria Falls, Harare and Bulawayo. Charter flights are available to most attractions and camps.

Zimbabwe has a good road infrastructure, by African standards, although potholed. Between major towns, there are frequent road blocks. Traffic drives on the left side of the road.

If you are driving yourself around Zimbabwe, be sure to check on fuel availability in advance. If you are covering long distances within the country, ensure you carry extra fuel in 5 or 10lt metal containers in case of emergency. Fuel is generally available, but supply can fluctuate. Fuel is only available for cash.

Food, Drink and Cuisine Advice

Zimbabwe's native cuisine is based on sadza, a cooked porridge made from ground maize which is normally accompanied by some tasty relish, perhaps made of meat and tomatoes, or dried fish. Safari camps will often prepare sadza if requested, and it is almost always available in small restaurants in the towns.

Camps, hotels and lodges that cater to overseas typically serve a variety international fare, and the quality of food prepared in the most remote bush camps is usually excellent.

If you are driving yourself around and plan to cook, then get most of your supplies in main towns. There are a number of South African shopping chains operating in Zimbabwe which will generally have all that you will need.

Water in the main towns is usually purified.. The locals drink it, and are used to the relatively innocuous bugs that it may harbour. If you are in the country for a long time, then it may be worth acclimatising yourself to it. However, if you are in Zimbabwe for just a short period of time, then try to drink only bottled, boiled, or treated water available in towns and from all camps, lodges and hotels.

Climate and Weather

In Zimbabwe, the rains come principally in **December, January, February** and **March**; the further north you are, the earlier the precipitation arrives and the later it leaves. Zimbabwe's higher eastern areas usually receive more rainfall than the lower-lying western ones.

By **April** and **May** most of the rain is gone, leaving a verdant setting, which is starting to dry out. Especially in more southerly and higher locations, the night-time temperatures start to drop.

The nights in **June, July** and **August** become much cooler, so don't forget to bring some warmer clothes, in case you want to spend an evening outside; the days are still clear and warm. For Zimbabwe, this is the start of the 'peak season' – days are often cloudless and game sightings continually increase.

Into **September** and **October** the temperatures rise once again: Zimbabwe's lower-lying rift valley – Mana Pools – can get very hot in October. During this time, you'll see some fantastic game, as the Zimbabwe's wildlife concentrates around the limited water sources.

November is unpredictable; it can be hot and dry, it can also see the season's first rainfalls – and in this respect it's a very interesting month, as on successive days, you can see both weather patterns.

Clothing and Dress Recommendations

When in Zimbabwe the cardinal rule is to wear casual, comfortable clothes during the day as temperatures can get very hot. It is advisable to wear light loose-fitting clothing, such as cotton or linen, as they are cool and easy to wash. Warmer clothes are advised for the evenings and rainwear for the wet season.

A brimmed hat and sunglasses are a good idea year-round. Long-sleeved shirts and long trousers will also guard against the scorching sun rays. It is recommended you wear light shoes, especially if your itinerary entails a lot of walking.

For safaris, please remember to wear appropriate clothing and shoes. Earth colour clothes, such as browns, greens and tans are advisable.

Internet Availability

Internet availability is very limited especially outside of the major cities.

Most holiday accommodation venues offer internet and/or WiFi (free or paid) to their guests but there are often disruptions in service.

Electricity and Plug Standards

Electrical sockets in the Republic of Zimbabwe are Type G (BS-1363) and Type C (CEE 7/16 Europlug) and Type D (BS-546). If your appliance's plug doesn't match the shape of these sockets, you will need a travel plug adapter in order to plug in. Travel plug adapters simply change the shape of your appliance's plug to match whatever type of socket you need to plug into. If it's crucial to be able to plug in no matter what, bring an adapter for all types.

Electrical sockets usually supply electricity at 230 volts AC / 50 Hz frequency. If you're plugging in an appliance that was built for 230 volt electrical input, or an appliance that is compatible with multiple voltages, then an adapter is all you need. If your appliance isn't compatible with 230 volts, a voltage converter will be necessary.



Situated in the southern reaches of Africa, Botswana is renowned for its pristine wilderness areas characterised by deep lagoons, wetlands, lush palms, rugged hills and desert plains. The country's primary tourist drawcard is undoubtedly the vast red expanse of the Kalahari Desert and its remarkably beautiful Okavango Delta, the largest inland delta in the world. These natural wonders provide a tranquil haven for an abundance of African wildlife to thrive. Other highlights include the impressive Makgadikgadi Salt Pans, where visitors are privy to massive zebra migrations during the flood season; the Savuti plains, which host a significant pride of lions; and the Tsodilo Hills, where 4500 rock paintings form a unique record of human settlement over many millennia.

Banking and Currency

Currency

Botswana's currency is Pula (which means 'rain' in Setswana). It is divided into 100 thebe (which means 'shield' in Setswana). Travellers' cheques and foreign currency may be changed at banks, bureaux de change and authorised hotels.

The US dollar, Euros, British Pound and the South African Rand are the most easily convertible currencies (and accepted by some establishments - but, generally, then an inflated rate of exchange will be applied).

Banking

Seven main commercial banks, as well as a number of foreign exchange bureaux, operate in Botswana. Operating hours are Monday to Friday 08h30 to 15h30 and Saturday 08h30 to 10h45.

Full banking services are available in major towns, although ATMs are sprouting up all over the country. Most credit cards are accepted at hotels and restaurants. Cultural sites and community art and craft outlets usually only accept cash.

Travel, Transport and Getting Around

Public transport in Botswana is geared towards the needs of the local populace and is confined to main roads between major population centres. Although cheap and reliable, it is of little use to the traveller as most of Botswana's tourist attractions lie off the beaten track.

Driving off the main roads in Botswana is only recommended to experts in 4x4 vehicles, that are equipped correctly. Most lodges offer transfers or they can be arranged. If, however, you will be driving in Botswana: your home driving licence will be accepted (with an official English translation if necessary; driving is on the left side of the road; and the national speed limit is on tarred roads is 120km/h and 60km/h in towns and villages.

Be sure to watch out for wild animals on the roads!

There are major airports in Maun, Kasane and Gaborone, while smaller charter flights are used to get to the other top attractions and camps.

Food, Drink and Cuisine Advice

Safari lodges and camps serve international-style cuisine, generally of an extremely high standard, along with local beer and imported wine and spirits. Good restaurants and bars can be found in main towns, often within hotels. Beef and goat are very popular meats. Elsewhere, food is more basic: millet and sorghum porridge are the local staples.

Tap water is considered safe to drink, although outside main cities and towns, visitors are advised to check first and sterilise water if in any doubt. Bottled water is available in most tourist centres. Filtered water is available at most camps and shops offer bottled water - it is advised to be well stocked of bottled water if you are travelling off the beaten track. Milk is pasteurised, and dairy products, local meat, poultry, seafood, fruit and vegetables are generally safe.

A discretionary five-to-ten-percent tip is typical for restaurant bills. In many places, a service charge is automatically added. It is customary to tip the game guide and lodge staff while on safari.

Climate and Weather

Botswana's climatic pattern is typical of southern Africa, although its rainfall is less than countries further east. The rains in Botswana come mostly between December and March, when average minimum temperatures are in the low 20°s. Some days will be bright and sunny, some will have afternoon thunderstorms, and some will just be grey.

As with Namibia, April and May in Botswana are generally lovely, with the sky clear and the landscape green. Night temperatures start to drop during these months, especially in the Kalahari. Note that places in and around the Okavango tend to have less extreme, more moderate temperatures than the drier areas of the Kalahari.

From June to August the night-time temperatures in drier areas can be close to freezing, but it warms up rapidly during the day, when the sky is usually clear and blue. It's now very much 'peak season' for most safari areas: the land is dry in most areas so the animals congregate around the few available water sources.

This continues into September and October, when temperatures climb again, drying the landscapes and concentrating the game even more. This is the best time for big game safaris – although October can feel very hot, with maximum temperatures sometimes approaching 40°C.

November is difficult to predict, as it can sometimes be a continuation of October's heat, whilst sometimes it's cooled by the first rains; it's always an interesting month.

Clothing and Dress Recommendations

In summer, lightweight, lightcoloured cottons are preferable. Avoid synthetic materials and black clothing, as they increase perspiration and discomfort. In winter, wear trousers, longsleeved shirts / blouses and jerseys. From May – August, night temperatures can fall below zero degrees celsius, so warm jerseys and jackets are vital, especially on morning and evening game drives. Garments of neutral colours that blend with the bush and forest are advisable for safaris and game viewing. Bring a lightweight jacket and/or jersey for unexpected temperature changes or rain. Closed, comfortable walking shoes or gym shoes are a must in all seasons. Special attention should be given to protection from the sun. Bring a sunhat, good quality sunscreen, sun lotion and polarised sunglasses. Wide brimmed sun hats are essential.

Internet Availability

Some hotels, lodges and guest houses offer internet access or WiFi (free or paid), and there are internet cafe's in Gaborone and Maun. Internet access in more remote rural areas is often hard to come by.

Electricity and Plug Standards

Electrical sockets (outlets) in Botswana are the 'Type M' South African SABS1661 ('Large' 15 amp BS-546) sockets. This is actually an old British standard. The 'Type M' South African plug and socket is not to be confused with the 'Type D' Indian plug and socket. In pictures, they look very similar, but the South African type is much larger than the Indian type, and they are physically incompatible. If your appliance's plug doesn't match the shape of these sockets, you will need a travel plug adapter in order to plug in. Travel plug adapters simply change the shape of your appliance's plug to match whatever type of socket you need to plug into.

Electrical sockets (outlets) in Botswana usually supply electricity at between 220 and 240 volts AC. If you're plugging in an appliance that was built for 220-240 volt electrical input, or an appliance that is compatible with multiple voltages, then an adapter is all you need.

But travel plug adapters *do not change the voltage*, so the electricity coming through the adapter will still be the same 220-240 volts the socket is supplying. If you need to use appliances that are not compatible with 220-240 volt electrical input, you will need a voltage converter.
