



Botswana Conservation Program – Equipment List

The following list should contain most of the necessary items for the program. **Please keep extra items to a minimum!** Please look at this list carefully; we assume you will be arriving in Botswana with the appropriate equipment from this list.

Check with your airline to see if your checked baggage will be restricted by weight or size. **The gear you need for the program should fit into 1 large piece of luggage, or 1 large and 1 small piece of luggage, plus a day pack.** We suggest you bring one large, durable duffel bag or backpack, and a smaller bag if necessary (in addition to your day pack). Luggage will be transported in the field in the back or on top of our vehicles; therefore we recommend durable bags with minimal loose straps or wheels that may get caught or broken. You should also carry-on a small backpack or similar bag (i.e. a daypack). We suggest that you carry-on a change of clothes and personal items when you travel (e.g. toothbrush), in case your bags are delayed. You will have access to secure storage in Maun; if you realize you brought too much or have items you don't need for the entire program you can utilize this storage space. **Large canvas tents are provided.**

Please make sure you have the general equipment. Some items are suggestions. **You may have other needs so please do not forget items particular to yourself.**

Books, etc.

- Novels
- Notebooks/paper
- [Grinnell Journal Kit](#) (see Info Packet #1)
- Envelopes for mailing letters
- Map of Botswana (available in Maun)

Camping Equipment

- Sleeping bag (light/compact)**
- Sleeping sheet or liner*
- Towel
- [Travel pillow](#)*
- Sleeping pad (i.e. [Thermarest](#))
- Travel mug*
- Crazy Creek camp chair*
- Pocket knife/leatherman
- Frisbee, soccer ball, slackline, travel guitar, other fun games for around camp*

*Optional

** During March-April, night-time temperatures can dip into the low 40s. During September-October, the weather will be very hot and dry (and night-time temperatures still quite warm). You may wish to have a sheet or liner to use on top of your sleeping bag on hot nights, while having the option to get inside your sleeping bag on cooler nights.

Clothing/Footwear

A typical day in Botswana will have you wearing a tank top or t-shirt, shorts or lightweight pants, and sandals or tennis shoes. The sun can be intense and the days hot, so it is a good idea to have items that are cool and light-weight, but still offer sun protection such as loose fitting t-shirts, long-sleeve button-up cotton shirts, and loose fitting, lightweight pants. When conducting fieldwork, you'll want supportive lightweight hiking shoes and clothing that offers good sun protection. A hat is a must.

Keep in mind that your clothes will get dirty and worn; you might not want to bring a lot of white shirts or your nicest clothes. Also keep in mind that you will be washing your clothes by hand.

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|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Underwear | <input type="checkbox"/> T-shirts (4 or 5) | <input type="checkbox"/> Tank tops |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Socks | <input type="checkbox"/> Long-sleeve shirts (2-3) | <input type="checkbox"/> Skirt* (below the knees) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lightweight pants | <input type="checkbox"/> Shorts (jean/khaki/athletic; 2-3) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hiking boots (lightweight) | <input type="checkbox"/> Sandals (i.e. Chacos) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sweatshirt/hoodie | <input type="checkbox"/> Swimsuit | <input type="checkbox"/> Running shoes (optional) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fleece or sweater | <input type="checkbox"/> Warm hat | <input type="checkbox"/> Comfortable/warm pants |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bandana | <input type="checkbox"/> Baseball cap/visor | <input type="checkbox"/> Raincoat |

*Please bring at least one nice, casual outfit for the potential of visiting community events (skirt below the knees for women and long pants and button-down shirt for men)

General Equipment

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Binoculars!*** | <input type="checkbox"/> Sunglasses! | <input type="checkbox"/> Day pack! |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Watch | <input type="checkbox"/> Camera | <input type="checkbox"/> MP3 player/iPod/portable speakers* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pens/pencils! | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 water bottles! | <input type="checkbox"/> Sewing kit/safety pins* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clothesline* | <input type="checkbox"/> Headlamp ^ | <input type="checkbox"/> Maglite flashlight (LED 2-D Cell)!^ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Laptop/iPad** | <input type="checkbox"/> Extra DD and AAA batteries for flashlight/headlamp! | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Plug converter* | <input type="checkbox"/> Small roll of duct tape | <input type="checkbox"/> Jump drive/memory stick |

! Mandatory

* Optional

^ **We require a headlamp AND a large, powerful flashlight for safety at night.** While many headlamps are bright, their beam does not carry as far and is not as focused as a Maglite, and when you are scanning for wildlife in the dark you will want something bigger! Bring extra batteries, as you will need to replace them at least once during the program (batteries are available in Maun, but are very expensive).

** ***Every student does not need to bring a laptop.*** Most students prefer to have their laptops with them during the program. **Students should communicate with each other before the program to ensure that there is at least 1 laptop for every 2 students.** Laptops are used for writing blog entries, downloading photos, and for writing your final research projects. You can also use a laptop for wireless internet use when in Maun or Kasane. A padded carrying case is recommended to protect your computer from dust and bumps while traveling.

***Each student will need a pair of binoculars; you will use these daily. High quality binoculars are a very good investment, and can last a lifetime. Binoculars should be at least 7x to 10x power. [Eagle Optics](#) and [B&H Photo](#) are good online vendors.

Toiletries

Bring a small supply of personal toiletries. Most toiletry items, except contact solution, are available in most towns – and most items you will need should be available in Maun. **It is not necessary to bring a 3-month supply of everything.** Store things that might spill in Ziploc bags – and remember that the heat in Botswana will melt some toiletries (i.e. chapstick and deodorant sticks). Baby wipes are useful for personal hygiene when camping in areas without showers for extended periods of time (though sponge baths are always an option!). These are available for purchase in Maun.

Medical

We will have first aid kits with us at all times, but you should have a small personal supply. **If you take prescription medications make sure you bring enough for the entire duration of the program.**

- Pain relievers Tweezers Band-Aids Antiseptic solution
- Anti-diarrhea tablets Antibiotic Ointment
- Contact lenses/solution* Allergy medications (if needed)
- Single course of antibiotics* (such as Ciprofloxacin; speak with your doctor about this; a single course can come in handy for infections in remote areas)

* If appropriate

Money and Important Documents

- Passport ATM/credit card Drivers license/ID Cash**
- Money belt/pouch Copies of important documents*
- Travel and medical insurance numbers/cards

* Bring a copy of your travel itinerary, copy of your passport, as well as a list of emergency contacts

** See note under “*Finances*”

This seems like a lot, but try to stick to the essentials and pack light! You will end up needing less than you think. Students will do their own laundry by hand, and usually do so every 1 or 2 weeks. **Feel free to contact Susie with any questions regarding what to bring.**