

TRAVELERS GUIDE

Overview

All persons arriving in Botswana are required by law to unreservedly declare all goods in their possession (including those of another person) being brought into the country to a Customs Official. It is in the interest of both travelers and BURS to facilitate movement through the necessary Customs control and as such BURS has developed minimum Customs formalities for travelers and tourists to grant them faster and simpler Customs service wherever possible.

Travelers are required to co-operate with Customs Official if they are stopped and their baggage is checked

What to Declare

When making baggage declarations, whether verbal or written, you must ensure that you declare all goods in your possession as well as their correct values. This includes: all goods acquired in or outside Botswana in your possession, including items you received as gifts, such as wedding or birthday presents; repairs or alterations to any items or vehicle in your possession, even if the repairs/alterations were performed free of charge; items you bought in any duty-free shop including such items bought duty-free on aircraft or ship; items you are carrying for someone else and; items you intend to sell or use for commercial purposes.

Please note that failure to declare goods and their correct values can lead to seizure of your goods and can result in criminal prosecution or the imposition of severe penalties of up to three times the value of the goods.

To avoid delays with Baggage Declarations please produce all receipts and sales slips for goods purchased outside Botswana. If you are unsure of the goods and values that you should declare, please ask for assistance from a Customs & Excise officer.

Travelers/tourists should note that Customs duties and/or VAT will be payable at the applicable rates and should check if their goods will be subjected to any payment of customs duties and taxes or to any prohibitions or restrictions prior to importation or exportation.

Duty Free Allowance

The following articles and consumables (excluding any goods the importation of which is prohibited), declared at the place where the traveler enters Botswana and not imported on behalf of other persons or by way of trade, may be imported free of duty and where applicable VAT:

Wines	2 litres
Spirituous and other alcoholic beverages	1 litre
Cigarettes	200
Cigars	20
Cigarette or pipe tobacco	250 grams
Perfume	50 milliliters
Toilet water	250 milliliters
Other new or used goods of a total Value not exceeding (from outside SACU)	R5000.00
Other new or used goods of a total Value not exceeding (from SACU)	R500.00

Additional goods imported from outside SACU, new or used of a total value not exceeding R12 000.00 per person, excluding the consumable items detailed above, are admissible at a flat rate of 20%, if the owner so elects.

RESTRICTIONS AND PROHIBITIONS

There are goods, whose importation require a permit issued by a Regulatory Authority or are subject to quantitative restrictions. From time to time, the Ministry of Trade and Industry publishes [Restricted Imports and Exports Regulations](#) detailing restricted imports and exports as well as the manner in which the restrictions are to be applied. The Regulations may change in a very short time, especially with respect to agricultural goods, and it is therefore essential that if a traveller or trader is in any doubt of whether the importation or exportation of a specific group of goods is prohibited or restricted to please contact any BURS (Customs & Excise Division) office before travelling.

Foodstuff

The following consumer goods may be imported for private use without an import permit provided they do not exceed the maximum allowable quantities. The list below is not exhaustive and travelers are advised to consult the [Restricted Imports and Exports Regulations](#) for a more exhaustive list.

Products	Maximum Quantity
Red meat, goat/lamb	25 kg per family
Poultry meat	5 kg per person
Tinned poultry meat	20 kg per person
Eggs	36 eggs per person
Fresh milk	2 litres per person
Maize and maize products	25 kg per person
Wheat	25 kg per person
Pulses (beans, peas, lentils)	25 kg per person
Sorghum and sorghum products	25 kg per person
Cabbage	1 bag per person
Onions	1 bag per person
Potatoes	1 bag per person
Oranges	1 bag per person
Tomatoes	1 box per person
Choumollier	2 kg per person

Rape	2 kg per person
Spinach	2 kg per person
Bread loaves	6 loaves per week
Sugar	12 kg per person

Domestic Animals

Importation and exportation of domestic animals is closely regulated for public health reasons and the wellbeing of the animals. Pets and livestock may be imported into Botswana subject to an Animal Health Certificate issued by the Director of Animal Health and Production, Private Bag 0032, Gaborone, Botswana.

(Note: A valid Certificate of Identity, Rabies Vaccination and Movement Permit issued in Lesotho, Malawi, South Africa, Swaziland, Namibia or Zimbabwe will be accepted at the time of importation into Botswana).

Wild Animals and their Products

Importation and exportation of wild animals or their products (trophy or meat) is prohibited unless accompanied by an export permit issued by the Department of Wildlife and National Parks, P.O. 131, Gaborone, Botswana.

Plants, Seeds, Fresh Produce and Bulbs

These may be imported subject to plant health restrictions. Details in this regard can be obtained from the Chief Agricultural Research Officer, Private Bag 0033, Gaborone, Botswana.

(Note: South African transit permits may also be required in respect of plants shipped through South Africa. Details may be obtained from the Director of Plant Control and Quarantine, Private Bag X179, Pretoria, South Africa)

Soil

Soil is considered the loose surface material of the earth in which plants, trees and scrubs grow. In most cases the soil consists of disintegrated rock with an admixture of organic material and soluble salts. The importation of soil is prohibited unless accompanied by an import permit from the Director of Crop Production and Forestry, Private Bag 003, Gaborone, Botswana.

Boats

No boat, mokoro or aquatic apparatus may be imported into Botswana unless the owner is in possession of an Import Permit issued by Department of Water Affairs.

Firearms and Ammunition

- i. Firearms and ammunition may only be imported into Botswana upon production of a Police permit issued by the Central Arms Registry, P O Box 334, Gaborone, Botswana.
- ii. The issue of firearms licenses in Botswana is strictly controlled and all firearms imported under the authority of an import permit must be licensed immediately upon arrival in Botswana.

- iii. The importation of firearms, which do not have the manufacture's serial number or other number by which they can be identified, stamped or engraved on a metal part of the weapon, is totally prohibited.
- iv. It should also be noted that Police permits for firearms are issued on a limited quota basis and there can be a considerable delay in obtaining a permit, particularly on first importation. It is advisable for importers to make application well in advance of dispatch so that unnecessary inconvenience and expenses are avoided.

Prohibited Goods

The importation and exportation of the following goods in Botswana is completely prohibited:

- i. Narcotic, habit-forming drugs and related substances in any form
- ii. Military firearms, ammunition and explosives
- iii. Indecent and obscene material such as pornographic books, magazines, films, videos, DVDs and software
- iv. Semi-precious stones such as agate, amethyst, Botswana pink, jade, rose quartz, carnelian, chalcedony, crystal quartz, tourmaline, jasper, tanzanite, garnet, moss agate, tiger's eye, sodalite, aquamarine, azurite and malachite.

N.B It is important to note that possession of prohibited goods is illegal and may result in seizure of such goods and prosecution of the person importing or exporting such goods.