[Template:Use British English](/wiki/Template:Use_British_English" \o "Template:Use British English) [Template:Use dmy dates](/wiki/Template:Use_dmy_dates) [Template:Infobox country](/wiki/Template:Infobox_country)

**Botswana** [Template:IPAc-en](/wiki/Template:IPAc-en), officially the **Republic of Botswana** ([Template:Lang-tn](/wiki/Template:Lang-tn)), is a [landlocked country](/wiki/Landlocked_country) located in Southern Africa. The citizens refer to themselves as *Batswana* (singular: *Motswana*).[[1]](#cite_note-1) Formerly the British [protectorate](/wiki/Protectorate) of [Bechuanaland](/wiki/Bechuanaland_Protectorate), Botswana adopted its new name after becoming independent within the [Commonwealth](/wiki/Commonwealth_of_Nations) on 30 September 1966.[[2]](#cite_note-2) Since then, it has maintained a strong tradition of stable [representative democracy](/wiki/Representative_democracy), with a consistent record of uninterrupted democratic [elections](/wiki/Elections_in_Botswana).

Botswana is topographically flat, with up to 70 percent of its territory being the [Kalahari Desert](/wiki/Kalahari_Desert). It is bordered by [South Africa](/wiki/South_Africa) to the south and southeast, [Namibia](/wiki/Namibia) to the west and north, and [Zimbabwe](/wiki/Zimbabwe) to the northeast. Its border with [Zambia](/wiki/Zambia) to the north near [Kazungula](/wiki/Kazungula,_Zambia) is poorly defined but at most is a few hundred metres long.[[3]](#cite_note-3) A mid-sized country of just over 2 million people, Botswana is one of the [most sparsely populated](/wiki/List_of_countries_by_population_density) nations in the world. Around 10 percent of the population lives in the capital and largest city, [Gaborone](/wiki/Gaborone). Formerly one of the poorest countries in the world—with a GDP per capita of about US$70 per year in the late 1960s—Botswana has since transformed itself into one of the fastest-growing economies in the world, now boasting a GDP ([purchasing power parity](/wiki/Purchasing_power_parity)) per capita of about $18,825 per year [Template:As of](/wiki/Template:As_of), which is one of the highest in Africa.[[4]](#cite_note-4) Its high [gross national income](/wiki/Gross_national_income) (by some estimates the fourth-largest in Africa) gives the country a modest standard of living and the highest [Human Development Index](/wiki/Human_Development_Index) of continental [Sub-Saharan Africa](/wiki/Sub-Saharan_Africa).[[5]](#cite_note-5)[Template:Rp](/wiki/Template:Rp) and the number of new infections in children has also fallen.[[7]](#cite_note-7)[Template:Rp](/wiki/Template:Rp) Despite the success in programmes to make treatments available to those infected, and to educate the populace in general about how to stop the spread of HIV AIDS, the number of people with AIDS rose from 290,000 in 2005 to 320,000 in 2013.[[7]](#cite_note-7)[Template:Rp](/wiki/Template:Rp) Despite these reasons for hope, Botswana has the third highest prevalence rate for HIV AIDS, reported in 2014.[[8]](#cite_note-8)

## Contents

* 1 History[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=1)]
* 2 Geography[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=2)]
  + 2.1 Ecology[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=3)]
  + 2.2 Environmental problems[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=4)]
* 3 Politics and government[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=5)]
  + 3.1 Judiciary[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=6)]
  + 3.2 Foreign relations and military[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=7)]
* 4 Demographics[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=11)]
  + 4.1 Language[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=12)]
  + 4.2 Religion[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=13)]
* 5 Culture[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=14)]
  + 5.1 Music[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=15)]
  + 5.2 Visual arts[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=16)]
  + 5.3 Food[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=17)]
  + 5.4 Sports[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=18)]
* 6 Education[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=19)]
* 7 Tourism[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=23)]
* 8 See also[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=24)]
* 9 References[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=25)]
* 10 Further reading[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=26)]
* 11 External links[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=27)]

## History[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=1)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|left|Starting fire by hand.](/wiki/File:BushmenSan.jpg) [San people](/wiki/San_people) in Botswana. In the 19th century, hostilities broke out between [Tswana](/wiki/Tswana_people) inhabitants of Botswana and [Ndebele](/wiki/Southern_Ndebele_people) tribes who were making incursions into the territory from the north-east. Tensions also escalated with the Dutch [Boer](/wiki/Boer) settlers from the [Transvaal](/wiki/South_African_Republic) to the east. After appeals by the Batswana leaders [Khama III](/wiki/Khama_III), Bathoen and Sebele for assistance, the British Government put Bechuanaland under its protection on 31 March 1885.[[9]](#cite_note-9) The northern territory remained under direct administration as the [Bechuanaland Protectorate](/wiki/Bechuanaland_Protectorate) and is modern-day Botswana, while the southern territory became part of the [Cape Colony](/wiki/British_Cape_Colony) and is now part of the northwest province of South Africa. The majority of [Setswana](/wiki/Setswana)-speaking people today live in South Africa.

[thumb|200px|left|Stamp of](/wiki/File:1960_6d_Bechuanaland_Protectorate_stamp.jpg) [British Bechuanaland](/wiki/Bechuanaland_Protectorate) from 1960

When the [Union of South Africa](/wiki/Union_of_South_Africa) was formed in 1910 out of the main British colonies in the region, the Bechuanaland Protectorate, [Basutoland](/wiki/Basutoland) (now [Lesotho](/wiki/Lesotho)) and [Swaziland](/wiki/Swaziland) (the High Commission Territories) were not included, but provision was made for their later incorporation. However, their inhabitants began to be consulted by the UK, and although successive South African governments sought to have the territories transferred, the UK kept delaying; consequently, it never occurred. The election of the [Nationalist](/wiki/National_Party_(South_Africa)) government in 1948, which instituted [apartheid](/wiki/Apartheid), and South Africa's withdrawal from the [Commonwealth](/wiki/Commonwealth_of_Nations) in 1961, ended any prospect of incorporation of the territories into South Africa. An expansion of British central authority and the evolution of tribal government resulted in the 1920 establishment of two advisory councils to represent both Africans and Europeans. Proclamations in 1934 regulated tribal rule and powers. A European-African advisory council was formed in 1951, and the 1961 constitution established a consultative legislative council.

In June 1964, the UK accepted proposals for a democratic self-government in Botswana. The seat of government was moved in 1965 from [Mafikeng](/wiki/Mafeking) in South Africa, to the newly established [Gaborone](/wiki/Gaborone), which sits near its border. The 1965 constitution led to the first general elections and to independence on 30 September 1966. [Seretse Khama](/wiki/Seretse_Khama), a leader in the independence movement and the legitimate claimant to the [Ngwato](/wiki/Bamangwato) chiefship, was elected as the first President, going on to be re-elected twice.

The presidency passed to the sitting Vice-President, [Quett Masire](/wiki/Quett_Masire), who was elected in his own right in 1984 and re-elected in 1989 and 1994. Masire retired from office in 1998, and was succeeded by [Festus Mogae](/wiki/Festus_Mogae), who was elected in his own right in 1999 and re-elected in 2004. The presidency passed in 2008 to [Ian Khama](/wiki/Ian_Khama) (son of the first President), who had been serving as Mogae's Vice-President since resigning his position in 1998 as Commander of the [Botswana Defence Force](/wiki/Botswana_Defence_Force) to take up this civilian role.

A long-running dispute over the northern border with [Namibia's](/wiki/Namibia) [Caprivi Strip](/wiki/Caprivi_Strip) was the subject of a ruling by the [International Court of Justice](/wiki/International_Court_of_Justice) in December 1999, which ruled that [Kasikili Island](/wiki/Kasikili_Island) belongs to Botswana.[[10]](#cite_note-10)

## Geography[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=2)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|Botswana map of Köppen climate classification.](/wiki/File:Botswana_map_of_Köppen_climate_classification.svg) [thumb|right|A](/wiki/File:Flying-female-Lechwe.jpg) [lechwe](/wiki/Lechwe) in the [Okavango Delta](/wiki/Okavango_Delta) At [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) Botswana is the world's 48th-largest country. It is similar in size to [Madagascar](/wiki/Madagascar) or [France](/wiki/France). It lies between latitudes [17°](/wiki/17th_parallel_south) and [27°S](/wiki/27th_parallel_south), and longitudes [20°](/wiki/20th_meridian_east) and [30°E](/wiki/30th_meridian_east).

The country is predominantly flat, tending toward gently rolling [tableland](/wiki/Plateau). Botswana is dominated by the [Kalahari Desert](/wiki/Kalahari_Desert), which covers up to 70% of its land surface. The [Okavango Delta](/wiki/Okavango_Delta), one of the world's largest inland [deltas](/wiki/River_deltas), is in the northwest. The [Makgadikgadi Pan](/wiki/Makgadikgadi_Pan), a large [salt pan](/wiki/Salt_pan_(geology)), lies in the north.

The [Limpopo River](/wiki/Limpopo_River) Basin, the major landform of all of southern Africa, lies partly in Botswana, with the basins of its tributaries, the [Notwane](/wiki/Notwane_River), [Bonwapitse](/wiki/Bonwapitse_River), [Mahalapswe](/wiki/Mahalapswe_River), [Lotsane](/wiki/Lotsane_River), [Motloutse](/wiki/Motloutse_River) and the [Shashe](/wiki/Shashe_River), located in the eastern part of the country. The Notwane provides water to the capital through the [Gaborone Dam](/wiki/Gaborone_Dam). The [Chobe River](/wiki/Cuando_River) lies to the north, providing a boundary between Botswana and Namibia's [Zambezi Region](/wiki/Zambezi_Region). The Chobe River meets with the [Zambezi River](/wiki/Zambezi) at a place called [Kazungula](/wiki/Kazungula) (meaning a small [sausage tree](/wiki/Sausage_tree), a point where [Sebitwane](/wiki/Sebitwane) and his [Makololo tribe](/wiki/Makololo) crossed the Zambezi into Zambia).

### Ecology[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=3)]

[thumb|Elephant in Botswana](/wiki/File:Okavango_Delta,_Botswana_(2685404064).jpg) Botswana has diverse areas of wildlife habitat. In addition to the delta and desert areas, there are [grasslands](/wiki/Grassland) and [savannas](/wiki/Savanna), where [blue wildebeest](/wiki/Blue_wildebeest), [antelopes](/wiki/Antelope), and other mammals and birds are found. Northern Botswana has one of the few remaining large populations of the endangered [African wild dog](/wiki/African_wild_dog). [Chobe National Park](/wiki/Chobe_National_Park), found in the [Chobe District](/wiki/Chobe_District), has the world's largest concentration of [African elephants](/wiki/African_elephant). The park covers about [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) and supports about 350 species of birds.

The Chobe National Park and [Moremi Game Reserve](/wiki/Moremi_Game_Reserve) (in the Okavango Delta) are major tourist destinations. Other reserves include the [Central Kalahari Game Reserve](/wiki/Central_Kalahari_Game_Reserve) located in the Kalahari desert in [Ghanzi District](/wiki/Ghanzi_District); [Makgadikgadi Pans National Park](/wiki/Makgadikgadi_Pans_National_Park) and [Nxai Pan National Park](/wiki/Nxai_Pan_National_Park) are in [Central District](/wiki/Central_District_(Botswana)) in the [Makgadikgadi Pan](/wiki/Makgadikgadi_Pan). Mashatu Game Reserve is privately owned: located where the [Shashe River](/wiki/Shashe_River) and Limpopo River meet in eastern Botswana. The other privately owned reserve is [Mokolodi Nature Reserve](/wiki/Mokolodi_Nature_Reserve) near Gaborone. There are also specialised sanctuaries like the Khama Rhino Sanctuary (for rhinoceros) and Makgadikgadi Sanctuary (for flamingos). They are both located in Central District.

### Environmental problems[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=4)]

[thumb|upright|A](/wiki/File:Baobob_tree.jpg) [baobab tree](/wiki/Baobab_tree) (*Adansonia digitata*) Botswana faces two major [environmental](/wiki/Natural_environment) problems: drought and [desertification](/wiki/Desertification). The desertification problems predominantly stem from the severe times of drought in the country. Three quarters of the country's human and animal populations depend on groundwater due to drought. [Groundwater](/wiki/Groundwater) use through deep borehole drilling has somewhat eased the effects of drought. Surface water is scarce in Botswana and less than 5% of the agriculture in the country is sustainable by rainfall. In the remaining 95% of the country, raising livestock is the primary source of rural income. Approximately 71% of the country's land is used for communal [grazing](/wiki/Grazing), which has been a major cause of the desertification and the accelerating soil erosion of the country.[[11]](#cite_note-11) Since raising livestock has proven to be profitable for the people of Botswana, the land continues to be exploited. The animal populations have continued to dramatically increase. From 1966 to 1991 the livestock population has increased from 1.7 million to 5.5 million.[[11]](#cite_note-11)[Template:Rp](/wiki/Template:Rp) Similarly, the human population has increased from 574,000 in 1971 to 1.5 million in 1995, nearly a 200% increase. "Over 50% of all households in Botswana own cattle, which is currently the largest single source of rural income." "Rangeland degradation or desertification is regarded as the reduction in land productivity as a result of overstocking and overgrazing or as a result of veld product gathering for commercial use. Degradation is exacerbated by the effects of drought and climate change."[[11]](#cite_note-11) Environmentalists report that the [Okavango Delta](/wiki/Okavango_Delta) is drying up due to the increased grazing of livestock.[[12]](#cite_note-12) The Okavango Delta is one of the major semi-forested wetlands in Botswana and one of the largest inland deltas in the world; it is a crucial ecosystem to the survival of many animals.[[12]](#cite_note-12) The Department of Forestry and Range Resources has already begun to implement a project to reintroduce indigenous vegetation into communities in Kgalagadi South, Kweneng North and Boteti.[[13]](#cite_note-13) Reintroduction of indigenous vegetation will help with the degradation of the land. The [United States Government](/wiki/United_States_Government) has also entered into an agreement with Botswana, giving them $7 million US dollars to reduce Botswana's debt by $8.3 million US dollars. The stipulation of the US reducing Botswana's debt is that Botswana will focus on more extensive [conservation](/wiki/Conservation_biology) of the land.[[12]](#cite_note-12) The [United Nations Development Programme](/wiki/United_Nations_Development_Programme) claims that poverty is a major problem behind the [overexploitation](/wiki/Overexploitation) of resources, including land, in Botswana. To help change this the UNDP joined in with a project started in the southern community of Struizendam in Botswana. The purpose of the project is to draw from "indigenous knowledge and traditional land management systems". The leaders of this movement are supposed to be the people in the community, to draw them in, in turn increasing their possibilities to earn an income and thus decreasing poverty. The UNDP also stated that the government has to effectively implement policies to allow people to manage their own local resources and are giving the government information to help with policy development[[14]](#cite_note-14)

## Politics and government[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=5)]

[thumb|House of the Parliament of Botswana in](/wiki/File:BotswanaParliament.jpg) [Gaborone](/wiki/Gaborone) [Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article)

The constitution of Botswana is the [rule of law](/wiki/Rule_of_law) which protects the citizens of Botswana and represents their rights. The politics of Botswana take place in a framework of a [representative democratic](/wiki/Representative_democracy) republic, whereby the [President of Botswana](/wiki/President_of_Botswana) is both [head of state](/wiki/Head_of_state) and [head of government](/wiki/Head_of_government), and of a [multi-party system](/wiki/Multi-party_system). [Executive power](/wiki/Executive_power) is exercised by the government. [Legislative power](/wiki/Legislative_power) is vested in both the government and the [Parliament of Botswana](/wiki/Parliament_of_Botswana). [The most recent election](/wiki/Botswana_general_election,_2014), its eleventh, was held on 24 October 2014. Since independence was declared, the party system has been dominated by the [Botswana Democratic Party](/wiki/Botswana_Democratic_Party).

### Judiciary[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=6)]

The [judiciary](/wiki/Judiciary) is independent of the executive and the legislature.[[15]](#cite_note-15) Botswana ranks 30th out of 167 states in the 2012 [Democracy Index](/wiki/Democracy_Index).<ref name=index2012>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> According to [Transparency International](/wiki/Transparency_International), Botswana is the least corrupt country in Africa and ranks close to Portugal and South Korea.[[16]](#cite_note-16) It consists of a typical court system of local Magistrates Courts, a High Court and a Court of Appeal. The High Court is a superior court of record with unlimited original jurisdiction to hear and determine any criminal, civil or constitutional cases under any law. Appeals can be heard by the Court of Appeal. The Head of the High Court is the Chief Justice.[[17]](#cite_note-17) The Court of Appeal is the highest and final court in the country and deals with appeals from the High Court and the Industrial Court. The Head of the Court of Appeal is the Judge President.

Judges are appointed by the President of Botswana on the recommendation of the Judicial Services Commission.

Chief Justices

[[18]](#cite_note-18)\*1968–1971 John Richard Dendy-Young

* 1972–1975 [Akinola Aguda](/wiki/Akinola_Aguda)
* 1975–1977 George O.L. Dyke
* 1977–1981 Hayfron Benjamin
* 1981–1987 O'Brien Quinn
* 1987–1992 Livesey Luke
* 1992–1997 Moleleki Didwell Mokama
* 1997–2010 Julian Mukwesu Nganunu
* 2010– Maruping Dibotelo

### Foreign relations and military[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=7)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|Signs at the Botswana-](/wiki/File:Welcome_to_Botswana,_signs.jpg)[Zimbabwe](/wiki/Zimbabwe) border, 2010|alt=Signs at the Botswana-South Africa border, 2010 At the time of independence, Botswana had no armed forces. It was only after the [Rhodesian](/wiki/Rhodesia) and [South African](/wiki/South_African_Army) militaries struck respectively against the [Zimbabwe People's Revolutionary Army](/wiki/Zimbabwe_People's_Revolutionary_Army) and [Umkhonto we Sizwe](/wiki/Umkhonto_we_Sizwe)[[19]](#cite_note-19) bases that the [Botswana Defence Force](/wiki/Botswana_Defence_Force) (BDF) was formed in 1977.[[20]](#cite_note-20) The mineral industry provides about 40% of all government revenues.[[29]](#cite_note-29) In 2007, significant quantities of uranium were discovered, and mining was projected to begin by 2010. Several international mining corporations have established regional headquarters in Botswana, and prospected for diamonds, gold, uranium, copper, and even oil, many coming back with positive results. Government announced in early 2009 that they would try to shift their economic dependence on diamonds, over serious concern that diamonds are predicted to dry out in Botswana over the next twenty years.

Botswana’s [Orapa](/wiki/Orapa_diamond_mine) mine is the largest diamond mine in the world in terms of value and quantity of carats produced annually.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed) Estimated to produce over 11 million carats in 2013, with an average price of $145/carat, the Orapa mine is estimated to produce over $1.6 billion worth of diamonds in 2013.<ref name=Kitco>["Ranking Of The World's Diamond Mines By Estimated 2013 Production"](http://www.kitco.com/ind/Zimnisky/2013-08-20-Ranking-Of-The-World-s-Diamond-Mines-By-Estimated-2013-Production.html), [*Kitco*](/wiki/Kitco), August 20000, 2013.</ref>

## Demographics[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=11)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|A girl in the](/wiki/File:Gathering_food_in_the_Okavango.jpg) [Okavango Delta](/wiki/Okavango_Delta)

The [Tswana](/wiki/Tswana_people) are the majority ethnic group in Botswana, making up 79% of the population. The largest minority ethnic groups are the [BaKalanga](/wiki/BaKalanga), and [San](/wiki/San_people) or [AbaThwa](/wiki/AbaThwa), also known as Basarwa. Other tribes are [Bayei](/wiki/Bayei), Bambukushu, [Basubia](/wiki/Basubia), Baherero and Bakgalagadi. In addition, there are small numbers of whites and Indians, both groups being roughly equally small in number. [Botswana's Indian](/wiki/Indians_in_Botswana) population is made up of many Indian-Africans of several generations, with some having migrated from Mozambique, Kenya, Tanzania, Mauritius, South Africa, and so on, as well as first generation Indian immigrants. The white population speaks English and [Afrikaans](/wiki/Afrikaans) and makes up roughly 3% of the population.

Since 2000, because of deteriorating economic conditions in Zimbabwe, the number of [Zimbabweans in Botswana](/wiki/Zimbabweans_in_Botswana) has risen into the tens of thousands.[[30]](#cite_note-30) Fewer than 10,000 [San people](/wiki/San_people) are still living their traditional [hunter-gatherer](/wiki/Hunter-gatherer) style of life. Since the mid-1990s the central government of Botswana has been trying to move San out of their historic lands.[[31]](#cite_note-31) The UN's top official on [indigenous rights](/wiki/Indigenous_rights), Prof. [James Anaya](/wiki/James_Anaya), condemned Botswana's actions toward the San in a report released in February 2010.[[32]](#cite_note-32)[[33]](#cite_note-33) [Template:Largest cities of Botswana](/wiki/Template:Largest_cities_of_Botswana)

### Language[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=12)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) The official language of Botswana is English although [Setswana](/wiki/Tswana_language) is widely spoken across the country. In Setswana, [prefixes](/wiki/Prefix) are more important than they are in many other languages. These prefixes include *Bo*, which refers to the country, *Ba*, which refers to the people, *Mo*, which is one person, and *Se* which is the language. For example, the main ethnic group of Botswana is the Tswana people, hence the name Botswana for its country. The people as a whole are Batswana, one person is a Motswana, and the language they speak is Setswana.

Other languages spoken in Botswana include [Kalanga](/wiki/Kalanga_language) (sekalanga), [Sarwa](/wiki/Tshwa_language) (sesarwa), [Ndebele](/wiki/Northern_Ndebele_language), [!Xóõ](/wiki/Taa_language) and, in some parts, [Afrikaans](/wiki/Afrikaans_language).

### Religion[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=13)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [Template:Bar box](/wiki/Template:Bar_box)

An estimated 70% of the country's citizens identify as Christians. Anglicans, Methodists, and the [United Congregational Church of Southern Africa](/wiki/United_Congregational_Church_of_Southern_Africa) make up the majority of Christians. There are also congregations of Lutherans, Baptists, Roman Catholics, Latter-day Saints (Mormons), the Dutch Reformed Church, Mennonites, Seventh-day Adventists and Jehovah's Witnesses in the country. In Gaborone, a Lutheran History Centre is open to the public.

According to the 2001 census, the country has around 5,000 Muslims, mainly from South Asia, 3,000 [Hindus](/wiki/Hindus) and 700 [Baha'is](/wiki/Baha'is). Approximately 20% of citizens espouse no religion. Religious services are well attended in both rural and urban areas.[[34]](#cite_note-34) [thumb|left|upright|Dance at a cultural day.](/wiki/File:Southern_Accord_2012_Forces_Experience_Cultural_Day_in_Botswana_(7745454444).jpg)

## Culture[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=14)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|A](/wiki/File:Khutse_Kalahari_Lodge.jpg) [rondavel](/wiki/Rondavel) at a lodge near the Kalahari Desert. Besides referring to the language of the dominant people groups in Botswana, Setswana is the adjective used to describe the rich cultural traditions of the Batswana—whether construed as members of the Tswana ethnic groups or of all citizens of Botswana.

The Scottish writer [Alexander McCall Smith](/wiki/Alexander_McCall_Smith) has written several mystery novels ([No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency](/wiki/No._1_Ladies'_Detective_Agency) series) set in Botswana.

### Music[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=15)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) Botswana music is mostly vocal and performed, sometimes without drums depending on the occasion; it also makes heavy use of string instruments. Botswana folk music has instruments such as Setinkane (a Botswana version of miniature piano), Segankure/Segaba (a Botswana version of the Chinese instrument Erhu), Moropa (Meropa -plural) (a Botswana version of the many varieties of drums), phala (a Botswana version of a whistle used mostly during celebrations, which comes in a variety of forms). Botswana cultural musical instruments are not confined only to the strings or drums. the hands are used as musical instruments too, by either clapping them together or against phathisi (goat skin turned inside out wrapped around the calf area; it is only used by men) to create music and rhythm. For the last few decades, the guitar has been celebrated as a versatile music instrument for Tswana music as it offers a variety in string which the Segaba instrument does not have. It is the outsider that found a home within the culture. The highlight of any celebration or event that shows especially happiness is the dancing. This differs by regime, age, gender and status in the group or if it's a tribal activity, status in the community. The national anthem is [Fatshe leno la rona](/wiki/Fatshe_leno_la_rona). Written and composed by Kgalemang Tumediso Motsete, it was adopted upon independence in 1966. [Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

### Visual arts[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=16)]

[thumb|left|Textile art](/wiki/File:San_apron-Botswana.jpg) [Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) In the northern part of Botswana, women in the villages of [Etsha](/wiki/Etsha) and [Gumare](/wiki/Gumare) are noted for their skill at crafting baskets from Botswana from [Mokola Palm](/wiki/Mokola_Palm) and local [dyes](/wiki/Dye). The baskets are generally woven into three types: large, lidded baskets used for storage, large, open baskets for carrying objects on the head or for winnowing threshed grain, and smaller plates for winnowing pounded grain. The artistry of these baskets is being steadily enhanced through colour use and improved designs as they are increasingly produced for commercial use.

Other notable artistic communities include [Thamaga Pottery](/wiki/Thamaga_Pottery) and [Oodi Weavers](/wiki/Oodi_Weavers), both located in the south-eastern part of Botswana.

The oldest paintings from both Botswana and South Africa depict hunting, animal and human figures, and were made by the Khoisan (!Kung San/Bushmen) over twenty thousand years ago within the [Kalahari](/wiki/Kalahari) desert.

### Food[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=17)]

[thumb|](/wiki/File:Boerewors_raw.jpg)[Boerewors](/wiki/Boerewors) [Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) The cuisine of Botswana is unique but also shares some characteristics with other cuisine of Southern Africa. Examples of Botswana food are [pap](/wiki/Pap_(food)), [boerewors](/wiki/Boerewors), [samp](/wiki/Samp), [vetkoek](/wiki/Vetkoek) and [mopani worms](/wiki/Imbrasia_belina). Foods unique to Botswana include [seswaa](/wiki/Seswaa), heavily [salted](/wiki/Salted_meat) mashed-up meat.

### Sports[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=18)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [Football](/wiki/Association_football) is the most popular sport in Botswana, with qualification for the [2012 Africa Cup of Nations](/wiki/2012_Africa_Cup_of_Nations) being the [national team's](/wiki/Botswana_national_football_team) highest achievement to date. Other popular sports are [cricket](/wiki/Cricket), [tennis](/wiki/Tennis), [rugby](/wiki/Rugby_football), badminton, softball, [handball](/wiki/Team_handball), golf, and track and field.[[35]](#cite_note-35)[[36]](#cite_note-36) Botswana is an associate member of the [International Cricket Council](/wiki/International_Cricket_Council). Botswana became a member of The International Badminton Federation and Africa Badminton Federation in 1991. The [Botswana Golf Union](/wiki/Sport_in_Botswana#Golf) offers an [amateur golf league](http://www.botswanagolfunion.org.bw/page2.html) in which golfers compete in tournaments and championships.

Botswana won the country's first Olympic medal in 2012 when [Nijel Amos](/wiki/Nijel_Amos) won silver in the [800 metres](/wiki/Athletics_at_the_2012_Summer_Olympics_–_Men's_800_metres). In 2011, [Amantle Montsho](/wiki/Amantle_Montsho) became [world champion](/wiki/2011_World_Championships_in_Athletics_–_Women's_400_metres) in the 400 metres and won Botswana's first athletics medal on the world level. High jumper [Kabelo Kgosiemang](/wiki/Kabelo_Kgosiemang) is a three time [African champion](/wiki/African_Championships_in_Athletics).

The card game [bridge](/wiki/Contract_bridge) has a strong following; it was first played in Botswana over 30 years ago, and it grew in popularity during the 1980s. Many British expatriate school teachers informally taught the game in Botswana's secondary schools. The Botswana Bridge Federation (BBF) was founded in 1988 and continues to organise tournaments. Bridge has remained popular and the BBF has over 800 members.[[37]](#cite_note-37) In 2007, the BBF invited the [English Bridge Union](/wiki/English_Bridge_Union) to host a week-long teaching program in May 2008.[[38]](#cite_note-38)

## Education[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=19)]

[thumb|Buildings of the new and old Botswana university. Botswana's economic growth has had a positive impact on the university.](/wiki/File:GABS-UB_Courtyard.JPG) [Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article)

Botswana has made great strides in educational development since independence in 1966. At that time there were very few graduates in the country and only a very small percentage of the population attended secondary school. Botswana increased its adult literacy rate from 69% in 1991 to 83% in 2008.[[39]](#cite_note-39) With the discovery of diamonds and the increase in government revenue that this brought, there was a huge increase in educational provision in the country. All students were guaranteed ten years of basic education, leading to a Junior Certificate qualification. Approximately half of the school population attends a further two years of secondary schooling leading to the award of the [Botswana General Certificate of Secondary Education](/wiki/Botswana_General_Certificate_of_Secondary_Education) (BGCSE). Secondary education in Botswana is neither free nor compulsory.

After leaving school, students can attend one of the seven technical colleges in the country, or take vocational training courses in [teaching](/wiki/Teaching) or [nursing](/wiki/Nursing). The best students enter the [University of Botswana](/wiki/University_of_Botswana), [Botswana College of Agriculture](/wiki/Botswana_College_of_Agriculture), and the [Botswana Accountancy College](/wiki/Botswana_Accountancy_College) in Gaborone. Many other students end up in the numerous private tertiary education colleges around the country. Notable amongst these is [Botho University](http://www.bothocollege.ac.bw/), the country's first private university which offers undergraduate programmes in Accounting, Business and Computing. Another international university is the [Limkokwing University of Creative Technology](/wiki/Limkokwing_University_of_Creative_Technology) which offers various associate degrees in Creative Arts.[[40]](#cite_note-40) However, after Botswana's 2011 census current life expectancy is estimated at 54.06 years.[[4]](#cite_note-4) The prevalence of HIV/AIDS in Botswana was estimated at 25.4% for adults aged 15–49 in 2009 and 21.9% in 2013,[[7]](#cite_note-7)[Template:Rp](/wiki/Template:Rp) exceeded by Lesotho and Swaziland in sub-Saharan African nations. This places Botswana at the third highest prevalence in the world, in 2013, while "leading the way in prevention and treatment programmes".<ref name=Avert>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> In 2003, the government began a comprehensive program involving free or cheap generic [antiretroviral](/wiki/Antiretroviral_drug) drugs as well as an information campaign designed to stop the spread of the virus; in 2013, over 40% of adults in Botswana had access to antiretroviral therapy.[[7]](#cite_note-7)[Template:Rp](/wiki/Template:Rp) In the age group of 15–19 years old, prevalence was estimated at about 6% for females and 3.5% for males in 2013.,[[7]](#cite_note-7)[Template:Rp](/wiki/Template:Rp) and for the 20-24 age group, 15% for females and 5% for males[[7]](#cite_note-7)[Template:Rp](/wiki/Template:Rp) Botswana is one of 21 priority countries identified by the UN AIDS group in 2011 in the Global Plan to eliminate new HIV infections among children and to keep their mothers alive.[[7]](#cite_note-7)[Template:Rp](/wiki/Template:Rp) From 2009 to 2013, the country saw a decrease over 50% in new HIV infections in children.[[7]](#cite_note-7)[Template:Rp](/wiki/Template:Rp) A further measure of the success, or reason for hope, in dealing with HIV in Botswana, is that less than 10% of pregnant HIV-infected women were not receiving antiretroviral medications in 2013, with a corresponding large decrease (over 50%) in the number of new HIV infections in children under 5.[[7]](#cite_note-7)[Template:Rp](/wiki/Template:Rp) Among the UN Global Plan countries, people living with HIV in Botswana have the highest percentage receiving antiretroviral treatment: about 75% for adults (age 15+) and about 98% for children.[[7]](#cite_note-7)[Template:Rp](/wiki/Template:Rp)

With a nationwide Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission program, Botswana has reduced HIV transmission from infected mothers to their children from about 40% to just 4%. Under the leadership of [Festus Mogae](/wiki/Festus_Mogae), the Government of Botswana solicited outside help in fighting HIV/AIDS and received early support from the [Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation](/wiki/Bill_and_Melinda_Gates_Foundation), the Merck Foundation, and together formed the African Comprehensive HIV AIDS Partnership (ACHAP). Other early partners include the [Botswana-Harvard AIDS Institute](/wiki/Botswana-Harvard_AIDS_Institute), of the [Harvard School of Public Health](/wiki/Harvard_School_of_Public_Health) and the [Botswana-UPenn Partnership](/wiki/Botswana-UPenn_Partnership) of the [University of Pennsylvania](/wiki/University_of_Pennsylvania). According to the 2011 UNAIDS Report, universal access to treatment – defined as 80% coverage or greater – has been achieved in Botswana.[[47]](#cite_note-47) Potential reasons for Botswana's high HIV prevalence include concurrent sexual partnerships, transactional sex, cross-generational sex, and a significant number of people who travel outside of their local communities in pursuit of work. The [polyamorous](/wiki/Polyamory) nature of many sexual relationships further impacts the health situation, to the extent that it has given rise to a love vocabulary[[48]](#cite_note-48) that is unique to the region.

## Tourism[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=23)]

[thumb|](/wiki/File:Zebras_chobe_national_park.jpg)[Chobe National Park](/wiki/Chobe_National_Park) The [Botswana Tourism Organisation](http://www.botswanatourism.co.bw/) is the country's official tourism group. Primarily, tourists visit Gaborone due to the city having numerous activities for visitors. Hotels include the [Lonrho Lansmore Masa Square](http://www.lonrhohotels.com/content/lansmore-masa-square), a 5-Star hotel, and the [Gaborone Sun](http://www.suninternational.com/gaborone-sun/Pages/default.aspx), a luxury hotel that also features a [casino](/wiki/Casino). The [Lion Park Resort](http://www.lionpark.co.bw/) is Botswana's first permanent [amusement park](/wiki/Amusement_park) and hosts events such as [birthday parties](/wiki/Birthday_party#Birthday_party) for families. Other destinations in Botswana include the Gaborone Yacht Club and the Kalahari Fishing Club and natural attractions such as the Gaborone Dam and Mokolodi Nature Reserve. There are [golf courses](/wiki/Golf_course) which are maintained by the [Botswana Golf Union (BGU)](http://www.botswanagolfunion.org.bw/). The Phakalane Golf Estate is a multimillion-dollar clubhouse that offers both hotel accommodations and access to golf courses.

[Museums](/wiki/Museums) in Botswana include;

* [Botswana National Museum](/wiki/Botswana_National_Museum) in Gaborone
* Kgosi Bathoen II (Segopotso) Museum in Kanye
* Kgosi Sechele I Museum in Molepolole
* Khama III Memorial Museum in Serowe
* Nhabe Museum in Maun
* [Phuthadikobo Museum](/wiki/Phuthadikobo_Museum) in Mochudi
* Supa Ngwano Museum Centre in Francistown

## See also[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=24)]

[Template:Portal](/wiki/Template:Portal)

* [Commonwealth of Nations](/wiki/Commonwealth_of_Nations)
* [Communications in Botswana](/wiki/Communications_in_Botswana)
* [Cuisine of Botswana](/wiki/Cuisine_of_Botswana)
* [Outline of Botswana](/wiki/Outline_of_Botswana)
* [Postage stamps and postal history of Bechuanaland Protectorate](/wiki/Postage_stamps_and_postal_history_of_Bechuanaland_Protectorate)
* [Transport in Botswana](/wiki/Transport_in_Botswana)
* [Tuli block](/wiki/Tuli_block)

## References[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=25)]

[Template:Reflist](/wiki/Template:Reflist)

## Further reading[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=26)]

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## External links[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=27)]

[Template:Sister project links](/wiki/Template:Sister_project_links)

* [Template:Official website](/wiki/Template:Official_website)
* [Template:CIA World Factbook link](/wiki/Template:CIA_World_Factbook_link)
* [Botswana](http://ucblibraries.colorado.edu/govpubs/for/botswana.htm) from *UCB Libraries GovPubs*
* [Template:Dmoz](/wiki/Template:Dmoz)
* [Botswana](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-13040376) from the [BBC News](/wiki/BBC_News)
* [Template:Wikiatlas](/wiki/Template:Wikiatlas)
* [Key Development Forecasts for Botswana](http://www.ifs.du.edu/ifs/frm_CountryProfile.aspx?Country=BW) from [International Futures](/wiki/International_Futures)

[Template:Coord](/wiki/Template:Coord)

[Template:Botswana topics](/wiki/Template:Botswana_topics) [Template:Countries of Africa](/wiki/Template:Countries_of_Africa) [Template:Navboxes](/wiki/Template:Navboxes) [Template:Navboxes](/wiki/Template:Navboxes)

[Template:Authority control](/wiki/Template:Authority_control)

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