# Botswana

## Summary

### Nodes

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| railway | count |
| null | 403 |
| level\_crossing | 230 |
| switch | 121 |
| buffer\_stop | 33 |
| crossing | 26 |
| station | 6 |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |

Railway tag value and count where name tag value is not null.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| railway | count |
| station | 5 |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |

### Edges

#### All edges – status

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| open | 771 |
| abandoned | 2 |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |

#### All edges – type

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| conventional | 766 |
| other | 4 |
| tram | 3 |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |

#### Named edges

#### Bridge/viaduct

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| null | 728 |
| bridge | 43 |
| platform | 2 |
|  |  |
|  |  |
| null |  |
|  |  |

## Information

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rail_transport_in_Botswana>

<https://www.facebook.com/BotswanaRailwaysOfficial/>

<https://www.sinfin.net/railways/world/botswana.html>

* Run by Botswana Railways (BR)
* 1067 gauge
* Main line from Mafikeng (SA) to Plumtree (Zimbabwe)
* Branch Lines:
  + Palapye to Morupule Colliery
  + Serole to Selebi-Phikwe
  + Francistown – Sowa
* <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Railway_stations_in_Botswana>
  + Lobatse (not named in OSM)
  + Gaborone.
  + Palapye (not on OSM. AT 27.12725,-22.55827, see: http://wikimapia.org/13867320/Railway-Station
  + Mahalapye.
  + Serule.
  + Francistown.
  + Ramokgwebana (no sign of station location).
  + Sowa (terminus) – serves mine Botash (presumably station doen’t exist anymore)
  + Selibe Phikwe (terminus).
  + Morupule (terminus)

### Passenger Services

Just between Francistown - Gaborone – Lobatse (via Mahalapye, Palapye and Serule) Under trading name BR Express. Launched 2015. See: <http://umhambi.blogspot.com/2016/03/botswana-botswana-railways-has-launched.html> and <https://www.seat61.com/Botswana.htm>

In December 2017 a connecting train was introduced between Francistown in Botswana and Bulawayo in Zimbabwe.

However suspended due to COVID

(may be some passenger services run by National Railways of Zimbabwe)

### International Links

South Africa and Zimbabwe

Not believed to be cross border trains to SA currently (see: <https://www.seat61.com/Botswana.htm>, including timetables). Passenger services believed to be currenty suspended due to COVID.

Appear to be some freight trains as far as Mafikeng in SA but not beyond – see: <https://news.thevoicebw.com/br-allays-covid-19-fear/> from 2020.

Are believed to be trains to Zimbabwe. See: https://allafrica.com/stories/202212210378.html

August 12 2022: “SOUTH Africa and Botswana have agreed to repair the railway between the two countries to improve cross-border freight links” (<https://www.railjournal.com/africa/south-africa-and-botswana-to-repair-cross-border-rail-line/>). Repair 126km of line between Mafikeng and Swartruggens allowing trains to reach South African ports of Richards Bay and Durban. Over two year period. [This appears to be within SAA].

### Future Development

Transnet Freight Rail (TFR) (SA) and BR will build a 60km high-capacity connecting line from Mamabula (coal mine) in Botswana to Lephalale in Limpopo, to move export coal to Richards Bay that currently takes a much longer route with restricted capacity.

In 2019, a new bridge across the Zambezi between Botswana and the town of Kazungula in Zambia opened for road traffic. The bridge includes provision for a rail line to be added at a later date, which would provide a direct connection with the Zambian rail network (https://www.sinfin.net/railways/world/botswana.html)

