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**INFORMATIONAL CHECK LIST**

[**www.2syndicates.com**](http://www.2syndicates.com)

1. Please do not forget to phone Cecelia or SB a few days before departure and advise your **arrival date** and time so that the camps are notified when to expect you. Please do not contact the camp staff directly.

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| Syndicates Administrator | SB | 00267 74988786 or 00267 72898198 | [syndicates1@mashatu.com](mailto:syndicates1@mashatu.com) |
| Syndicates Administrator | Cecilia | 00267 74988786 or  00267 75744714 | [syndicates2@mashatu.com](mailto:syndicates2@mashatu.com) |

1. Access into Botswana is currently via **Pontdrift border post.**

Opening hours: 08h00 – 16h00

Johannesburg to Pont Drift is approx. 520 kms.

As one is coming into Polokwane there is a **new offramp** called Thabo Mbeki Street which you need to take. This will take you back onto the old road through Polokwane.

Continue on the R101 towards town. At the large traffic circle take the 1st exit into Nelson Mandela Drive. Follow the road for about 6kms and turn right onto the R521 toward Dendron on Vermikuliet St. Continue 600 metres and the road changes to Clarence Street. You will see Polokwane Tractors on your left-hand side. Turn left onto Witklip St towards Alldays. Follow the road through Dendron, Vivo, Alldays to Pontdrift.

The condition of the road is fairly good beyond Polokwane with random potholes starting about 30 kms from Alldays. After Alldays, there are bad potholes from the De Beers/Venetia mine turn off until the Pontdrift Border Post.

Should the river be flowing access into Botswana is via cable car – the fee is **P80 pp** per crossing and luggage is **P220** per load per crossing (as at Jan 2024). Please ensure you have sufficient cash for both directions – this can be paid in Pula or ZAR. Cash only.

Please note that should you be arriving on a Wednesday pick up time is from **14h00 onwards and not before**. There are also no game drives available on a Wednesday evening and limited assistance from the staff in camp. Should you arrive on a Thursday or later pick up time can be arranged before midday.

1. Please check with your **Medical Aid** provider ahead of your departure regarding your personal travel insurance cover.
2. The **import restrictions** from the Republic of South Africa into Botswana changes periodically so we suggest contacting Mashatu ahead of your trip for the most up to date information.

Please be careful what items you take through the border as the Botswana Govt has implemented a new set of fines:

**Long term restrictions on importation of selected vegetable commodities.**

1. It shall be recalled that, the Act under Section 96 (8) prescribes that a person who fails to declare goods to the Revenue Service on importation into Botswana commits an offence and shall be liable to

(a) a fine not exceeding P1,000,000.00 or treble the value of the goods in respect of such offence, whichever is greater, or

(b) to imprisonment for a term not exceeding ten years, and (c) the goods and the container in respect of which the offence is committed shall be liable to forfeiture.

2. In view of the foregoing, the following charges in respect of those who are found to have smuggled, aided or abetted the smuggling of prohibited vegetables into Botswana shall apply:

a. For vegetables valued at less than P2,500.00:

i. First offender – P50,000.00 fine and the vegetables and the container in

respect of the offence committed shall be forfeited to the Revenue

Service.

Please download (on the website) the **lists of groceries, fruit and veg, liquor, poultry, and meat** that Mashatu can source for shareholders. This is a very comprehensive service from Mashatu and is strictly to be arranged between the shareholder concerned and the contact people given on the forms. (SB and Cecelia).

Please contact them directly for any order queries. All orders must be placed at least 14 days in advance of arrival. No returns on unused items will be accepted.

If guests pre order and collect directly from the shop **the fee will be P250**, if they pre order and Mashatu delivers to the camp **the fee will be P500**. If you don't pre order and just shop at the shop, there is no "collection/delivery fee" applicable.

The shop is now fairly well stocked and has biweekly deliveries. Mashatu are also trying to source fruit and veg from all the local farmers in the area and hope to be able to ensure better quality and supply.

A suggestion from a shareholder is to follow up on your order on the Monday and Tuesday before you depart to ensure if there are things that they cannot supply you can still purchase in Johannesburg bearing in mind the Botswana restricted list.

**Please plan for the first 24 hours of your visit in case any items do not arrive in time.**

They do not accept cash at the shop.

1. Border crossing and arrival into Botswana

**All vehicles** irrespective of whether or not you are taking them across into Botswana require a certified copy of vehicle registration/vehicle license papers is required and maybe checked by the police. If the vehicle is being financed, this should be accompanied with a letter from the bank giving you authorisation to take the vehicle across the border and should also indicate relevant dates. It is advisable to take a bank letter and your license papers signed by a Commissioner of Oaths on your journey. If you are not the registered owner of the vehicle, please carry an affidavit giving you authorisation from the financial institution or the owner to take the vehicle abroad.

**Parking** in “no man’s land” is available on the South African side of the border under the Mashatu trees along the river. Please do not leave valuables in your vehicles and ensure all windows are securely closed.

Should you be using the cable car you can drive your vehicle up to the cable car station to unpack and then return to park near the main border gate.

If you intend to take your vehicle across the border into Botswana, you will be required to purchase a National Road Safety Fund, Motor Vehicle Insurance and Road Transport Permit – approximate costs P152.00 per vehicle. We suggest you have cash in Pula to pay this in case the card machines are offline. This can be obtained on the Botswana side of Pontdrift.

You may drive your own vehicle through to the camps on the day of arrival, but it cannot be used for game viewing and must remain in the camp until departure.

We do not recommend taking your vehicle through the border during the summer months when the Limpopo River can easily turn from dry riverbed to raging torrent in a matter of hours and will then necessitate you having to exit at Platjan border post.

Should you wish to be picked up on the South African side, arrangements are to be booked through SB / Cecilia. They will also then arrange for the respective camps guide and vehicle plus trailer to collect you.

1. Please also complete the new format Mashatu registration and indemnity forms before you depart. Forms available to download on the website. It is also helpful to download the syndicate camp indemnity and have this filled in prior to arrival – this can be handed to your camp guide. Also available to download on the website.

**General Information**

**Staff gratuities (from Jan 2023)** –Rand/Pula exchange rate to be advised

P250 per night for guides

P125 per night for 2 x kitchen staff and gardener each

**Contact details:**

Should syndicate members have any questions or need any assistance with regards to arrangements for their visit to the Reserve, as well as confirmation of arrival details, please contact SB / Cecilia for assistance:

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| Syndicates Administrator | SB | 00 267 74 988 786 / 00 267 72 898 198 | [syndicates1@mashatu.com](mailto:syndicates1@mashatu.com) |
| Syndicates Administrator | Cecilia | 00 267 74 988 786 / 00 267 75 744 714 | [syndicates2@mashatu.com](mailto:syndicates2@mashatu.com) |

Please note all information is correct as of 04 January 2024 and

may change at any time.

Information is based on personal experiences and may differ whilst travelling.

The author cannot be held responsible for any information that is incorrect.