

Study Abroad Program Handbook
Botswana
July 27-August 18



**BIO2711: Field Studies in Wildlife
Conservation**

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A Note of Welcome

You have an amazing opportunity to engage in field study in Botswana with your professor this summer while you work to earn four credits for the biology course, Field Studies in Wildlife Conservation. Botswana topped Lonely Planet's list of best places to visit in 2016. So, you are not only traveling to the country, but studying wildlife conservation! The official name of the country is The Republic of Botswana, and its capital city is Gaborone. Botswana is a landlocked country in the center of Southern Africa. One of Southern Africa's longest rivers, the Okavango, flows into the north-western part of the country, forming the UNESCO World Heritage Site Okavango Delta, which is one of the locations where the program will take place. Botswana shares borders with South Africa, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe. It's a country of roughly two million people with one of the official languages being English. We look forward to the program and suggest that you are ready for adventure and heightened curiosity and learning.

Debbie Hayward
Program Director

Andrew Stein
Academic Director



Travel Details

Depart 27 July JFK, New York

Return: Depart Botswana 17 August, arrive JFK 18 August

(More detailed flight information will be sent out once reservations have been ticketed.)

Since flight departs in the morning from JFK, a shuttle will leave Landmark College the day before the flight, 26 July, and a shuttle will return to Landmark College on the day we arrive from Africa, 18 August.

Sign up for shuttles is required and details will be provided by Director of Experiential Education, Jessica Lindoerfer.

Travel-Day Questions

Please see for any questions regarding airline travel:

- Transportation Security Administration travel information: <http://www.tsa.gov/traveler-information>
- US State Department travel information: <http://travel.state.gov>

Contact & Emergency Information

In-country Emergency Information

See "Housing" section of this handbook for details of where the program will be staying and contact information for each site.

Emergencies/Fire/Ambulance: will receive during in-country orientation upon arrival

Tourist police: will receive during in-country orientation upon arrival

Medical assistance (emergency & non-emergency) for each location: Contact Program Director on trip.

S.T.E.P. (Smart Traveler Enrollment Program)

Landmark College registers all study abroad programs with the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Consular Affairs S.T.E.P. program. If you are interested in monitoring safety conditions for your particular study abroad location, you can register for updates at <https://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/go/step.html>.

Program Itinerary

Study Abroad programs are dynamic, flexible, adaptable, CHANGEABLE. Plan for adjustments as we travel and learn, together!

Week 1:

We are planning to fly direct from the U.S. via John F. Kennedy (JFK) to Johannesburg, South Africa, then on to Maun, Botswana.

Stay in Maun two nights before traveling south to the Orapa region where we will stay for six nights, camping. We will engage in game drives, meet with community leaders and visit the salt pans and learn about conservation work involving elephants and rhinos.



Weeks 2 & 3:

Travel back to Maun for two nights before traveling to Shakawe with a stop at Tsodillo Hills to view ancient rock paintings. In Shakawe, we catch the ferry before meeting up with ground transportation to head to our camp where we will spend seven nights, camping. Activities include learning about the Okavango Delta Ecosystem, a day trip on dugout canoes called mokorros, field-based activities in game viewer vehicles, cultural meetings, and wildlife counts field exercises. The last night we will stay in Maun wrapping up the program and students will present their final presentations. We will fly from Maun to Johannesburg, South Africa then onto to JFK, USA.



Useful Websites & Books

Websites

- <http://www.independent.co.uk/travel/botswana-tops-lonely-planets-list-of-best-places-to-visit-in-2016-a6710751.html>
- <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-13040376>
- <http://shop.lonelyplanet.com/africa/botswana-and-namibia-travel-guide-3/>

Books

- *Cry of the Kalahari* by Mark Owens, Cordelia Owens
- *Okavango: Africa's Last Eden* by Frans Lanting
- *Okavango: Jewel of the Kalahari* by Karen Rossri
- *Okavango: The Miracle Rivers* by Peter Pickford (Photographer), Beverly Pickford (Photographer)
- *The Lost World of the Kalahari* by Laurens Van der Post
- *Culture Smart!, The Essential Guide to Customs & Culture, Botswana* by Mike Main

Packing Tips

Clothes

You will want versatile, fast drying clothing that you can layer. In the evenings it gets COLD! Gloves-and-winter-hats cold! We will sit around the fire at night and in the morning to keep warm. Bring winter coats or lots of layers!

In the daytime you will want a hat and/or sunglasses.

What NOT to bring

Heavy clothing that takes a long time to dry.

Baggage

A lightweight, rugged backpack type suitcase may be the easiest. Having the opportunity to use straps to attach a sleeping bag and mat is also advisable.

See the packing list on the next page!



Packing List

Essential gear:

- Passport (good at least 6 months beyond end of trip – February 2020)
- Color copy of passport
- Student ID Card
- Sleeping bag (good to 25 degrees F)
- Sleeping Mat
- Sturdy walking shoes
- Water bottle
- Towel

Clothing:

- Jacket for cool nights
- Shoes, open and closed toe
- 3-4 lightweight pants/shorts
- Skirt below knees (for female-identifying students for village day visit)
- 5-6 T shirts (long & short sleeved)
- Underwear / Socks
- Malaria Prophylaxis – bring enough for the entire program. Please consult your physician for the number of pills needed and the type of malaria prophylaxis that is best for you.

Course Supplies:

- Coursepack and course materials
- 2 USB flash drives
- Computer / power cord
- Power converter plug (see below)
- Toiletries / Medicines
- Hats (for cold and sun)

Optional:

- Mosquito net (the type that is freestanding with an internal frame is best; can be purchased online)
- Phone with international capacity
- Sunscreen
- Camera
- Sketch pad and pencils
- Pillow
- Favorite nutritional snacks

Tips for the Traveler

Passports and Visas

Passport must be valid beyond February 2020. Visas will be acquired on arrival in Botswana.

Money Matters and Suggested Budget

Currency in Botswana is the Pula. In Maun, ATMs are accessible. There is an ATM fee charged for each transaction. Be sure to tell your bank that you are traveling to Botswana. Suggested spending budget – US\$ 50. per week.



Water and Food

We will be relying on bottled water during our time in Botswana. Food in Maun is westernized, and you can purchase meals on your own when we are in the town or at the lodge. It is recommended you refrain from eating salads due to the water that they are washed in. In camp we will be preparing our own food with supplies we have purchased in Maun. We will work to have fresh salads which we rinse with bottled water.



Housing

We will be staying in dormitory style housing in Maun. and will be camping at our field sites. Indoor plumbing and warm showers are provided. Details of accommodations will be communicated to students and families. Program Director will have in-country contact information which will be communicated once we arrive in Botswana.



Communication

In Maun, there are cyber cafes with internet access which has varying speeds. Customers pay by the hour for internet access. You should be in contact with your phone provider to determine international phone service access. At our field sites, we will not depend on internet, but may have access via a hotspot.

Useful information about communicating with people of Botswana:
<http://www.intercultures.ca/cil-cai/ci-ic-eng.asp?iso=bw>

Time

Botswana is six hours ahead of New York.

In-country Transportation

We will be traveling in a variety of ground transportation vehicles including vans, open game viewers with bench seats, boats, and SUV type vehicles.



Weather

July & August is considered dry season in Botswana. The average morning temperature is 42°F. Night temperatures can drop below freezing, especially in the dryer Kalahari areas. Afternoons will be milder with temperatures around 78°F.

Maun's climate compared to Botswana's parks

The climate of Botswana's northern parks is similar to Maun, but in the Okavango, temperatures are slightly more moderate due to the abundance of water. Parks located in the drier Kalahari environment will be more extreme - hotter during the day and colder or freezing at night.

Electricity

In Botswana the power sockets used are type D / M and you will need a plug adaptor:



Type D



Type M

*** Type M is most frequently found in the areas where we will be going. Standard voltage in the US is in the range of 100V - 127V. Depending on what appliances you bring, you may need a power (voltage) converter. To be sure, check the label on the appliance. If it states 'INPUT: 100-240V, 50/60 Hz', it can be used in all countries of the world (common for tablets/laptops, cameras, cell phones).

Health and Immunizations

These guidelines are from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

<https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/none/botswana>

Routine vaccines recommended for all travelers: These vaccines include measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine, diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis vaccine, varicella (chickenpox) vaccine, polio vaccine, and your yearly flu shot.

Hepatitis A vaccine: You can get hepatitis A through contaminated food or water in Botswana, regardless of where you are eating or staying.

Typhoid vaccine: You can get typhoid through contaminated food or water in Botswana. The CDC recommends this vaccine for most travelers, especially if you are visiting smaller cities or rural areas, or if you are an adventurous eater.

Malaria Prophylaxis: When traveling in Botswana, you should avoid mosquito bites to prevent malaria. Since we will be spending a lot of time outdoors you may choose to take prescription medicine before, during, and after your trip to prevent malaria. Please consult with your doctor about their recommendation for malaria prophylaxis.



Rabies vaccine: Rabies can be found in dogs, bats, and other mammals in Botswana, so CDC recommends this vaccine for the following groups:

- Travelers involved in outdoor and other activities (such as camping, hiking, biking, adventure travel, and caving) that put them at risk for animal bites.
- People who will be working with or around animals (such as veterinarians, wildlife professionals, and researchers).
- People who are taking long trips or moving to Botswana
- Children, because they tend to play with animals, might not report bites, and are more likely to have animal bites on their head and neck.

Yellow Fever: There is no risk of yellow fever in Botswana. The government of Botswana requires proof of yellow fever vaccination **only** if you are arriving from a country with risk of yellow fever. This does **not** include the US or South Africa. If you are traveling from a country other than the US, check this list to see if you may be required to get the yellow fever vaccine (also includes information about malaria risk): [Countries with risk of yellow fever virus \(YFV\) transmission](#).

Landmark College Conditions of Participation

Health and Safety

In a Study Abroad program, as in other settings, participants can have a major impact on their own health and safety through the decisions they make in preparation for and during the program.

Participants should:

- Read and carefully review all materials issued by Landmark College and any partnering institutions that relate to safety, health, legal, environmental, political, cultural, and religious conditions in host countries.
- Consider your health and other personal circumstances when applying for or accepting a place in a program. Note: Some programs may require students to participate in physically demanding activities. If the student feels that s/he is unable to participate due to health concerns, s/he may consult with program leaders to determine an appropriate alternative activity.
- Make available to the Program Director accurate and complete physical and mental health information that may relate to your ability to participate safely in the study abroad program and any other personal data necessary in planning for a safe and healthy study abroad experience, and for responding to an emergency situation. This is in addition to information already provided to the Landmark College Health Office.
- Assume responsibility for all elements necessary for your personal preparation for the program, and participate fully in all orientations.
- Obtain and maintain appropriate insurance coverage and abide by any conditions imposed by the carriers.

- Inform parents/guardians/families and other relevant people about your participation in the Study Abroad program, provide them with emergency contact information, and keep them informed on an ongoing basis.
- Understand and comply with the terms of participation, codes of conduct, and emergency procedures of the program, and obey host-country laws.
- Be aware of local conditions and customs that may present health or safety risks when making daily choices and decisions.
- Promptly express any health or safety concerns to the Program Directors and/or other appropriate individuals.
- Behave in a manner that is respectful of the rights and well-being of others, and encourage others to behave in a similar manner.
- Accept responsibility for your decisions and actions.
- Become familiar with the procedures for obtaining emergency health and law enforcement services in the host country.
- Follow the program's policies regarding keeping program staff informed of your whereabouts.

Services

The Landmark College Study Abroad fee covers all scheduled program expenses including international air and all required in-country ground transportation, accommodations, tuition, admission fees to scheduled places of interest, and some group meals.

Participants are expected to pay for all personal expenses, including some meals, snacks, laundry, passport fees, and other miscellaneous travel expenses. Students may also be required to purchase textbooks and other course supplies depending on their program.

Independent travel

Participants are expected to use the transportation arranged by Landmark College between the points of departure and return. Participants who choose to travel independently during the program during non-course-related times must inform the Program Director in writing of his/her planned itinerary, including a full itinerary with time and date of departure and return, mode of travel, contact information for housing, phone numbers, etc. Students are generally discouraged from changing plans to travel back to the U.S. independently, but if they choose to do so, they must inform the Program Director and the Director of Experiential Education in writing of their plans not to return on their scheduled flight.

Landmark College and its employees assume no responsibility for the individual once s/he has separated him/herself from the program.

It is strongly recommended that all students inform their parents/guardian when making independent travel arrangements.

Non-sanctioned activities

Students choosing to participate in non-sanctioned activities during their free time at any point in the program release the College from all responsibility and liability associated with such activity. Landmark College strongly discourages participation in dangerous activities, and

strongly recommends parents/guardians be consulted regarding the advisability of any potentially dangerous activities.

Leaving the program

Landmark College Study Abroad students who leave their scheduled program at any time without informing the Program Director in writing and obtaining his/her approval may be subject to disciplinary action, including immediate suspension or dismissal from the program and direction to return to the United States, as detailed in the Intervention Procedures – see below. Landmark College and its employees have no responsibility for the individual once s/he has separated him/herself from the program. All travel expenses associated with an early departure will be borne entirely by the participant.

Air transportation

Landmark College arranges for the ticketing of scheduled international air transportation and program-related in-country air and ground transport for the participant through commercial airlines or travel agents. Participants agree that Landmark assumes no responsibility or liability for death or injury to the participant or for loss of or damage to property (including baggage) resulting from the provision of air transportation and other services. The passenger contract issued by the airlines will constitute the sole contract between the airline and the passenger. Landmark College reserves the right to change the air transportation dates, times, prices, and itinerary, and to make aircraft substitutions. Any additional costs resulting from such changes will be borne solely by the participant.

Landmark College will designate the times and ports of departure for group transportation during the program and will arrange for assembly at the designated times and places. Each participant is solely responsible for any missed connections due to his/her failure to assemble in a timely manner. Landmark College will not be liable for the cost of alternate transportation arrangements, or for any losses resulting from the participant's failure to use the designated transportation.

Travel delays and unexpected layovers

Students traveling to and from the host country will be responsible for all expenses (meals, hotel, transportation, etc.) associated with unexpected delays in travel, including overnight layovers due to, but not limited to, inclement weather, flight cancellations and airport closures. Due to changes in airport security regulations, students may be required to contact the associated airline to book new reservations following an unexpected layover or flight cancellation. In programs where the entire group is returning to the Landmark College campus together, the Program Director may choose to provide hotel rooms for students at the College's expense.

If an unexpected layover results in the student's decision to separate voluntarily from the group, the student will be responsible for making his or her own travel arrangements, and releases the College from any associated potential responsibility.

Identification

Prior to departure for the host country, students are required to submit a color photocopy of

the first page of their passport. The expiration date should be at least 6 months after the group flight is scheduled to return to the U.S. Upon departure, participants must present a valid passport for international travel and other purposes such as accommodations, in-country travel, and positive ID.

Lost passports

Students who lose their passport assume sole responsibility for all action and costs associated with arranging for a replacement passport. If this results in missed travel connections, the student will consult with the program leaders as to the most appropriate course of action. If it is determined that a program leader must remain with the student to assist in securing a replacement passport, the student will be assessed those costs associated with the delay, including those that may be assessed to the program leader as a result of their staying behind. This includes, but is not limited to, airline penalties, ground transportation, accommodations and meal expenses. In such situations, the College will attempt to contact the student's parent/guardian to inform them of the situation.

Fee amounts

Fees, as quoted in Landmark College's program materials, have been established based on all known circumstances at the time of calculation, and no changes are expected. However, Landmark College reserves the right to make adjustments in these fees based on fluctuations in travel costs, including the costs associated with unexpected layovers and fluctuations in the valuation of U.S. currency. In the event of a fee increase, the participant will be provided with a reasonable amount of time, not less than ten (10) days from the date of notice, in which to withdraw. In the absence of notice of withdrawal, the participant will be committed to any adjusted program fees.

Intervention Procedures

Students participating in a Landmark College Study Abroad Program are bound by the same rules and subject to similar intervention procedures and sanctions as outlined in the most current version of the Landmark College Student Handbook. This section states additional or different rules and procedures Landmark College has determined are appropriate in the context of Study Abroad programs. In the case of conflict between the provisions of this Addendum and the provisions of the Landmark Student Handbook, the provisions of this Addendum will control. Program Directors, and in their absence, Academic Directors, have the authority to implement these procedures, including imposing sanctions ranging from an informal warning to the immediate dismissal from a Study Abroad program. Disciplinary sanctions imposed during a Study Abroad program are intended for the duration of the Study Abroad program. In some cases students may be summoned for an administrative hearing or conduct board proceeding upon their return to the Landmark College campus for additional disciplinary action, which additional action may have consequences on the student's general status as a student at the College outside the context of the Study Abroad program. Program Directors have the option of consulting with or deferring judgment to an appropriate Landmark College administrator. Some Landmark College Study Abroad programs are held in conjunction with, and on the campus of a partnering institution. Students are expected to know and abide by the rules and regulations of those institutions, with the understanding that failure to do so may result in interventions by both Landmark College faculty as well as representatives from the partnering institution.

The following are some examples of behaviors that would likely initiate a disciplinary intervention. The Program Director or Academic Director may initiate an intervention at their own discretion for behavioral or safety-related issues that are not listed here.

- Failure to attend and participate in the required program elements, including classes, trips, course work, etc.
- Failure to comply with reasonable directions of the Program or Academic Director
- Cheating, plagiarism, or any effort to pass in work that is not that of the student enrolled in the program
- The use, possession, or distribution of illegal drugs (by U.S. definition) of any kind
- Use of alcohol to the point where medical or behavioral intervention is necessary
- The misuse or distribution of prescription drugs
- Theft of property, money, etc.
- Assault, including sexual assault as defined by the most current version of the Landmark College Student Handbook
- Harassing behavior, including, but not limited to that of a sexual nature as defined by the most current version of the Landmark College Student Handbook
- Any behavior that puts the group or individual at risk, or that could be determined to be offensive, including drunkenness, vandalism, etc.
- Any violation of Landmark College's Code of Conduct as defined by the most current version of the Landmark College Student Handbook
- Behavior considered potentially detrimental to the health (mental or physical) or safety of the participant or other participants in the program or others in the host country
- Any violation of the rules and policies of cooperating institutions
- Any violation of the host country's laws
- Any other behavior considered inappropriate for a study abroad/cross-cultural program

If a student is suspended from a Study Abroad program, the student will be separated from the program and will need to return to the U.S. Participants are solely responsible for any additional travel costs that may be incurred as a result of suspension or dismissal from the Study Abroad program. No refund of tuition, travel or other related costs will be made, nor will academic credit be issued. The College will attempt to contact the student's parents or guardians to inform them of the situation. Following suspension, Landmark College is released from all obligations to and responsibility for the student. Landmark College, at its discretion, may provide assistance, per the student's request, to attempt to arrange for travel arrangements back home.

Landmark College Study Abroad students are solely responsible for understanding and conforming to all the laws of the host country. When you are overseas you are subject to the laws of that country. U.S. or other citizenship gives you no immunity from local jurisdiction. You should make no assumptions about your "rights," since in many countries legal procedures are very different from what we may be familiar with at home. Students should further understand that law enforcement and the judicial process, including penalties for breaking the law, are likely to be significantly different than those of the United States.

Landmark College Safety Statement

Landmark's goal is to maintain student safety at all times and in all aspects of our Study Abroad Program.

At Landmark College, we believe study abroad is one of the most rewarding and life-changing experiences students can have during their college years. An emphasis on safety is a critical aspect of ensuring that the programs can be successful in their educational goals. We want to share with you information regarding the preparations we take to make Landmark College's Study Abroad programs a safe and rewarding experience.

Thoughtful planning, professional leadership, solid preparation, and contingency planning ensure that our study abroad programs are safe, fun, and productive learning experiences. Please be assured we will continue to make safety the top priority in all our Study Abroad programs.

Insurance

Each student and leader is provided with an International Student ID Card which provides insurance coverage in a number of areas which includes but is not limited to the following:

- Medical and Dental coverage, including hospital benefits
- Emergency Medical Transportation – including evacuation, and air evacuation if needed
- Travel Document Replacement
- Baggage and Travel Delay
- 24-Hour Emergency Hotline Services – including medical and legal referral, emergency cash transfer, replacement of medication and eyeglasses, embassy and consular services, and interpretation or translation services

A complete description of the coverage, including contact numbers, how to file a claim, and definition of terms, can be found at: <http://www.myisic.com>

In addition, each student is covered by their Landmark College Student Health Insurance policy (if this was purchased) and/or an individual family policy.

Staffing

Each Landmark College Study Abroad program is staffed by experienced leaders. Study Abroad Directors are Landmark College employees with extensive experience working with students with learning differences. Program Directors, who are primarily responsible for coordinating in-country logistics and activities, typically have experience living or working in the host country. Academic Directors are Landmark faculty with an expertise in their particular academic discipline. Directors are available to provide students with one-on-one support for academic and student-life issues.

Communication

Communication is important for the safety and effectiveness of our programs. Study abroad staff based in Putney, Vermont, remain in contact with Program Directors during each trip. A designated primary contact person working at the Putney campus is responsible for fielding questions, requests for information, and managing any emergency situation. The Program Director provides updates to our staff in Putney including notification of safe arrival at the final Program country destination. Students are also encouraged to contact their parents when they arrive in the Program country, and as needed during the trip. Program Directors are accessible

by phone, and when possible by Skype, to communicate with students and Study Abroad Program staff working in Putney.

Important Information

Study Abroad Program staff and faculty check a variety of sources for information pertaining to Program safety, including government and news media websites for current information about health and safety issues. Each student is requested to complete a Study Abroad Health Form in which they are asked information about their personal health history, current health concerns and medications. This information is essential in providing appropriate support to students on Study Abroad.

Students and their families are provided with essential information documents with flight information and itineraries, emergency phone numbers, and contact information for the places they will be staying. This information is also included in the Program Handbook which is available on the program webpage.

We realize that occasionally students make individual and short-term travel plans during a Program. Students are required to leave their itinerary and contact information at any place(s) they intend to visit with the Program Director. We strongly recommend they inform their families of their individual plans to travel separately from the Program itinerary.

Orientation

During orientation meetings prior to departure, Study Abroad Directors carefully review such topics as Health and Safety requirements, travel tips, local customs, guidelines for appropriate behavior and dress, as well as laws and policies related to alcohol and/or drug use. The Directors also provide participants with specific safety guidelines to follow, including who to contact for special needs or in case of emergency. Orientations, which are mandatory for all students, are considered the start of the academic course.

