

## MASHATU CAMP INFORMATION

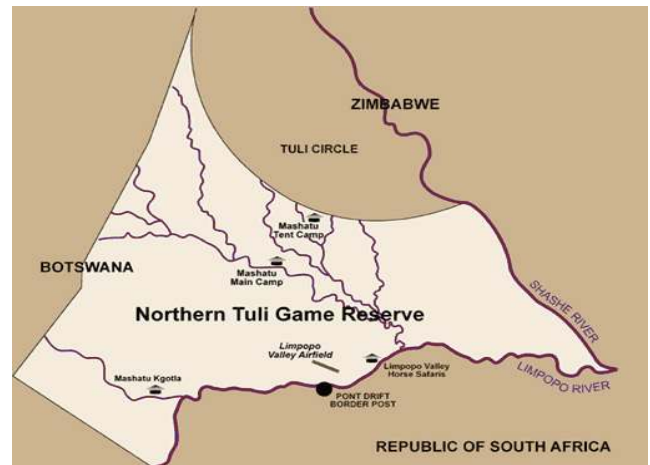
### Tuli Block - Botswana

#### THE LOCATION

##### The Concession:

Our Mashatu Camp is located in the land of Giants in the Tuli reserve of Botswana bordering South Africa. Tuli forms a key part of the proposed **Greater Mapungubwe Transfrontier Conservation Area**. It is an area of outstanding natural beauty with majestic rocks, diverse vegetation, abundant wildlife, a profusion of birds and a rich archaeological heritage.

The Northern Tuli Game Reserve, on the confluence of the Limpopo and the Shashe rivers, in the easternmost corner of Botswana, is the collective name for several privately-owned game reserves including the Mashatu, Ntani and Tuli Game Reserves, covering all the land north of the Limpopo River.



**Temperatures at the camp:** Mashatu camp can reach up to 40 degrees Celsius in summer time, while going down to temperatures of 8 degrees during wintertime. Temperatures remain quite high during day time in Botswana, never really going below 22 degrees, while reaching 39 degrees regularly in summertime.

The climate over most of Southern Africa is temperate. Hot, dry conditions are usually encountered in the Tuli region. Heavy summer thunderstorms of short duration in the late afternoon and evening may be experienced. Rainfall occurs mostly during the summer months (October - March).

**Animals found in the Mashatu reserve:** Beside elephant, lion, cheetah, leopard and hyena, general game such as giraffe, zebra, wildebeest, eland and a variety of antelope, and nocturnal species like springhares, bat eared fox, civet cat, genet cat, honey badger and mongoose, are prevalent throughout the reserve. The bird life is prolific with Mashatu Game Reserve recording over 366 different species. The 4-wheel drive safari vehicles enable the student to leave the road and provide guests with up close game viewing and fantastic photographic opportunities. Night drives, with the aid of powerful spotlights bring the bush to life.



## THE CAMP

**Accommodation:** The camp consists of 10 simple dome tents, each with 2 mattresses with pillows (2 learners per tent). There are shared bathroom facilities and a central communal area overlooking the dry river bed. **Learners bring their own bedding.** There are no mosquito nets at Mashatu.

**Electricity:** **There is no electricity at the camp** – paraffin lamps are used for all lighting and a generator is used to charge batteries. Studying at night with paraffin lanterns can at times be challenging so a headlamp for this purpose is recommended as well as an extra battery operated lamp if you wish to study in your tent at night.

The generator is for camp use so will thus not be switched on for the sole purpose of charging learner cameras or other equipment. Learners are allowed to utilise it when it is running for camp purposes and need to understand that it is used at own risk.

**Soft drinks and alcoholic beverages (beers & ciders):** These are sold from the camp and can only be paid for with cash. There are no credit/debit card or cheque facilities. Cordial fruit juices, tea and coffee are provided.

**Water:** Fresh, drinkable water is available from the taps.

**Laundry:** A laundry service is provided by the camp cleaning person and costs R50 per week for 2010.

**Game viewing vehicles:** The game viewing vehicle is an open Land Cruiser

## WHAT TO BRING

	CHECK
• Appropriate walking shoes (hiking boots). Thorns go straight through sport shoes!	
• Sandals for around the camp	
• Khaki (or neutral coloured) clothing for the bush	
• Warm Jacket and jersey (gloves and scarf as it can get very chilly in the mornings and evenings in winter)	
• Hat for protecting both the head and neck	
• Sunscreen	
• Bath soap and towel	
• Gloves, beanie and scarf as it gets chilly in the mornings and evenings during winter times	
• <b>Torch</b> – very important (a headlamp is very handy as well as a standing lamp for in the tent)	
• Extra batteries	
• Sleeping bag and pillow	
• A camping mattress for the sleep-out (Optional - not applicable for one week courses)	
• Pen / pencil and small notebooks	
• A4 Notebooks / Notepads	

• Small field note books	
• We supply some bedding but please bring sleeping bag and small pillow for sleep outs. (an extra blanket is recommended in winter) (no sleeping bag and pillow needed for short courses)	
• Raincoat / Poncho	
• Insect / tic repellent	
• Water bottles, at least 2 litres. We recommend a camelback, MTB or walking water pouch.	
• Any small snacks / cigarettes etc you would like as there are no shops in the area!	
• Any reference / field guide books you may have	
• Binoculars and a birding book are essential for your birding courses!	
• Camera	
• Rucksack / daypack	
• Any personal medication	
• CASH (in <b>Botswana Pula</b> only) - sufficient cash for 4 weeks if you intend to purchase from the camp shop. The camp does not have easy access to ATMs	
• Battery operated alarm clock (cellphone/mobile batteries run out and students need alarm clocks to wake up at the allocated times)	

- If you have a musical instrument that you would like to bring along, you're most welcome
- **Please note:** radios and C.D. players are NOT allowed.
- Personal MP3's and iPods with earphones can be used, although they must be used with sensitivity to fellow course participants and the environment. If you bring an iPod, please bring your own charging equipment for it, that is, a laptop or appropriate charger.

#### Extra requirements for those attending the EcoTraining Trails Guide / FGASA Trails Guide Course:

- The focus is on walking so bring 6 litre capacity water bottles or bladder bags.
- You need a good sized backpack for the walks as you will be carrying full first aid kits, water, snacks



Join our Facebook group: **EcoTraining ~ Africa's Wilderness calls you** – to get advice and tips from students booked on the same course or to hear about the wonderful experiences of past students.

### RECOMMENDED BOOKS

Purchasing all the books listed below is not expected. The camp has a library with a copy of each book but if shared amongst learners, they may often be inaccessible. **Should you want to purchase your own books, we recommend you purchase at least your own bird book, tree book and mammal book.** That way you can refer to them on drives or in camp without having to wait to use the library copy.

- **Sasol Birds of Southern Africa** – Ian Sinclair; Phil Hockey; Warwick Tarboton
- **The Behaviour Guide to African Mammals** - Richard Estes
- **Game Ranger in your Backpack** – Megan Emmet and Sean Patrick
- **Field Guide to Trees of Southern Africa** - Braam van Wyk & Piet van Wyk
- **Field Guide to Insects of South Africa** - Picker, Griffiths, Weaving
- **Starwatching: a Southern Hemisphere Guide to the Galaxy** - Anthony Fairall
- **A Complete Guide to Reptiles of Southern Africa** – Johan Marais & Alexander

- **Guide to Grasses of Southern Africa** - Frits Van Oudtshoorn
- **Tracks of southern Africa** - Louis Liebenberg
- **Mammal Guide** - Burger Cillie
- **Kalahari** - Michael Main
- **Beat About The Bush Mammals** - Trevor Carnaby
- **Frogs And Frogging** - Vincent Carruthers
- **Field Guide To Plants Of Northern Botswana** - Alison And Roger Heath
- **FGASA Level 1 Manual** (if you are doing the Level 1 Course) - Grant Hine
- **FGASA Trails Guide Manual** (if you are doing the Trails Guide Course) – Grant Hine

**Note:** Books are available at: [www.fgasa.org.za](http://www.fgasa.org.za) (FGASA members only); [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com); [www.kalahari.net](http://www.kalahari.net)

## MALARIA

Malaria is endemic to the Tuli region of the country. Anti-malarial precautions should be taken by people entering these areas.

### PLEASE TAKE PRECAUTIONS AGAINST MALARIA

We are not permitted by law to give advice regarding medical information. However, learners should be aware that malaria occurs in the regions where our camps are situated. A visit to your local doctor/GP will provide you with the best options in terms of medical precautions. It is important that you use a good insect repellent  
A 24-hour malaria hotline is available on:

**Mobile:** +27 (0)82 234 1800  
**Telephone:** +27 (0)11 678 2679  
**Toll Free:** 0861 MOZZIE (0861 66 99 43)

They will be able to give you a detailed explanation on the risks and advice on precautionary measures.

## INTERNATIONAL LEARNERS

**Travel Documents** - A valid passport is obligatory if travelling from outside Botswana with a re-entry visa for South Africa for some nationalities.

### The Following Countries **REQUIRE** a Visa To Enter Botswana:

This list is a guideline only. Visas are ultimately your responsibility, and EcoTraining cannot be held accountable for failure to obtain the necessary travel documentation.

Afghanistan	Korea DPR	Colombia	Oman	Hungary
Albania	Kuwait	Comoros	Pakistan	Indonesia
Algeria	Kyrgyzstan	Congo	Palau	Iran
Andorra	Laos PDR	DRS - Democratic	Panama	Iraq
Angola	Latvia	Republic of Congo	Philippines	Ivory Coast
Armenia	Lebanon	Cote d'Ivoire	Poland	Jordan
Azerbaijan	Liberia	Croatia	Qatar	Kazakhstan
Bahrain	Libya	Czech Republic	Romania	Turkey
Bangladesh	Lithuania	Djibouti	Rwanda	Turkmenistan
Belarus	Macedonia	Dominican Republic	Sai Tome and	Ukraine
Benin	Mali	Ecuador	Pricipe	United Arab
Bhutan	Madagascar	Egypt	Saudi Arabia	Emirates
Bolivia	Marshall Islands	El Salvador	Senegal	Uzbekistan
Bosnia & Herzegovina	Mauritania	Equatorial Guinea	Slovakia	Vietnam
Bulgaria	Micronesia	Eritrea	Somalia	Yemen
Burkina Faso	Moldova	Estonia	Sri Lanka	
Burundi	Monaco	Ethiopia	Sudan	

Cambodia	Mongolia	Gabon	Suriname	
Cameroon	Morocco	Georgia	Syria	
Cape Verde	Myanmar ( Burma)	Guatemala	Taiwan	
Central African Republic	Nepal	Guinea	Tajikistan	
Chad	Nicaragua	Guinea Bissau	Thailand	
China	Niger	Haiti	Togo	
	Nigeria	Honduras	Tunisia	

### Finance

**The Botswana currency is the Pula.** For up to date currency conversions, visit [www.xe.com](http://www.xe.com). Learners can exchange cash at Johannesburg - there are no withdrawal machines at Pont Drift border post or near the camp.

### Medical Information

As with all adventures, we recommend that you consult a physician before spending time in a foreign country. In addition, health information regarding travelling worldwide can be found on these websites:

- The London Hospital of Tropical Diseases <http://thehtd.org>
- TravelDocs [www.traveldocs.com](http://www.traveldocs.com)
- SAA Netcare Travel Clinics [www.travelclinic.co.za](http://www.travelclinic.co.za)

Please ensure that you have plenty of personal necessary medication.

### Adaptors

Please bring adaptors to suit your own plugs and Botswana plugs/plug points

## FGASA

If you are interested in obtaining any of the FGASA qualifications as part of the course, you need to be aware of extra fees that apply for the qualifications being offered. We have a separate information document on FGASA about who it is relevant to and the procedures to register. Registration with FGASA membership and for the theory exam paper must be done independently by you **prior** to starting the course. We do not process registrations at the camp. If you are attending our courses for a career in Field Guiding in southern Africa, then please request this at [enquiries@ecotraining.co.za](mailto:enquiries@ecotraining.co.za)

## COMMUNICATION FROM CAMP

- There is no cell phone reception at the Mashatu Camp. The closest reception is 16kms and more away and a weekly trip will be made to allow learners to phone. Please ensure that you have enough air time as there is no access to shops selling air time.
- Contact with your family/friends via the camp's satellite phone – this is limited to emergency calls only from your family and this would go via the head office first who would contact the camp on behalf of the family. The office number is: +27 (0)13 752 4791.

## GETTING TO CAMP

### Directions from Johannesburg to EcoTraining Mashatu:

1. Follow signboards on N1 from Johannesburg – N1 signs indicate Polokwane, but further north signs have not been changed and indicated Polokwane as Pietersburg. (**Directions through Polokwane:** When arriving in Polokwane do not take the first turn left to Dendron. Rather enter the city centre on Groblers' road and turn left on Market Street. Travel until you see the Game shopping centre on your left (At this point the road forks). Take the left to Dendron (R521) – Stay left)

2. From Polokwane follow the signs on the R521 – You will pass Dendron and Vivo and drive to Alldays. (Rural road – free roaming animals) – Follow directions to Border post). Last unleaded fuel station is located at Alldays (Not operated 24 hours).

**Distances:**

**Johannesburg to Polokwane – 300km**

**Polokwane to Pont Drift - 204 km**

**Notes to keep in mind:**

- The border post between South Africa and Botswana (Pont Drift) opens at 08H00 and Closes at 16h00
- EcoTraining Mashatu Camp is a 6 hour drive from Johannesburg (Toll fees are payable on the N1 to Polokwane)
- The collection time for students at the border post (Pont Drift, Botswana side) is 14h00 (Variations of this time might apply)
- **All guests travelling from South Africa must clear South African Immigration before being met by our staff**
- Transfers of guests and their luggage is done to open 4 wheel drive vehicles – Should the Limpopo river be in flood, transfer across the river is done by cable car (Additional cost one way – 35 Pula per person)
- Estimated travelling time to Camp from border post – 30 Minutes
- **Please note that all transportation before and after the course is to be arranged by yourself. The personnel at our office are available should you need further advice.**

