

*Love...it surrounds every being
and extends slowly to
embrace all that shall be.*

- Kahlil Gibran

THE GREAT PLAINS BOTSWANA WEDDING EXPERIENCE

BOTSWANA
GREAT PLAINS
CONSERVING AND EXPANDING NATURAL HABITATS



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EXCHANGE VOWS, RINGS AND PRECIOUS MEMORIES IN THE AFRICAN BUSH - BOTSWANA

We invite you to confirm your love for each other in some of Africa's most idyllic and romantic hideaways. Africa is the birthplace of human kind and let this be the birth of where your romance begins.

There is a way to make your marriage vows last. Come to Africa. With the call of a fish eagle heralding your vows to each other and the breath of Africa's breeze running her fingers over the tops of the grasses, let your love be recognized under the eternal African sky.

With Botswana's Okavango as your witness and a choir singing in the background your wedding vows carry some extra weight. We will do the champagne and the canoe trip in the. Want a little something extra special? No problem.

Your ceremony is of unique importance and will be delivered by the local elders or a priest from a nearby church. Celebrate your nuptials with either a simple ceremony set out in the middle of an African plain or set against our finest Relais and Chateaux camps.

Instead of having you guests pile up gold wrapped gift boxes with toasters and wine decanters, tell your friends you want to buy a rhino's freedom. Have your guests all chip in and pay for a rhino to be relocated and released into the wild in Botswana. A gift of freedom, a gift of love not just between two people or between friends but between our species and theirs. A gift to the wild.

Imagine making your marriage about a start of something beyond us, a symbol of the way you live your lives together, unselfishly, about giving rather than taking and about making the world better...

Imagine knowing that you make your promise to one another in the place where Man was born...

Imagine knowing that what you took away was at least equal to what to left behind...

COME TO GREAT PLAINS CONSERVATION TO EXCHANGE YOUR BUSH MARRIAGE VOWS.

We arrange weddings in all of our Botswana camps and many a celebrity couple have elected to sneak off with a dozen or so close friends for a private and authentic African wedding.



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MARRIAGE REQUIREMENTS

To enable foreigners register a marriage in Botswana, they need to apply for and obtain a Special License from the District Commissioner in order for them to have a wedding in the 'bush'.

To apply for a Special License the couple which intend to get married must provide complete and clear copies of the following documentation before travel:

1. Valid passports-copies with minimum of a 6-month validity;
2. Birth certificates-copies;
3. Full residential address of both partners
4. Certificate of no impediment to marriage from their respective countries in the case of single persons (bachelor and spinster);
5. Death certificate and former marriage certificate (if relevant) in the case of a widowed person;
6. Divorce decree absolute in the case of a divorced person;
7. Return air ticket for the couple; and
8. The couple must be physically present before the Registrar of Marriages when the application for the Special License is made. Guests should plan to stay in Maun for up to 2 days for all arrangements to be confirmed. The processing of requests takes place from Monday to Friday except Public Holidays during which is the period of time the registrar of marriages needs to prepare and issue the Special License.
9. Once the Special License is issued by the District Commissioner, the couple may they celebrate their wedding in the 'bush' with a commissioner, pastor or priest.
10. Details of occupation for both partners
11. Father's name, full address and occupation
12. Affidavit stating that neither of you have been married previously. This must be prepared in your country of residence prior to arrival.
13. All documentation must be officially translated into English and accompanied by original copies.
14. Dutch couples must first apply to the Dutch Council for clearance to wed.

Original copies of the above must be brought with to Botswana in order to ensure the successful and smooth processing of the license.

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