



Travelling with Minors

Important: Travel Documentation for Minors (Under 18)

1. Botswana (Mandatory Requirements)

Botswana remains very strict regarding the entry of minors. You must carry the following original or certified copies of documents. Failure to produce these will result in being denied entry:

- **International/Unabridged Birth Certificate** (*Internationale Geburtsurkunde*): You must carry a version that lists the names of both parents.
- **Parental Consent Affidavit:**
 - If travelling with only one parent: A signed and officially certified affidavit from the non-travelling parent giving consent for the trip.
 - If travelling without either parent: Certified affidavits from both parents.

2. South Africa (Recommended Requirements)

For citizens of visa-exempt countries (such as Germany), South Africa has relaxed its laws. Legally, a valid passport is usually sufficient for entry. However, the South African Department of Home Affairs strongly recommends that you carry the same documents listed above.

Border officials still have the authority to request proof of relationship or parental consent if they deem it necessary. To avoid any potential delays or questioning at the airport, we advise keeping your documents easily accessible in your hand luggage.

Summary Checklist

| Document | Botswana | South Africa |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|
| Valid Passport | Mandatory | Mandatory |
| Unabridged Birth Certificate | Mandatory | Strongly Recommended |
| Parental Consent Affidavit | Mandatory (if applicable) | Recommended |

Practical Tips:

- **Certification:** All copies of documents and affidavits should be officially certified (e.g., by a local town hall or a notary) within the last six months.
- **Language:** As these documents are for international travel, ensure you use the international version of the birth certificate, which is already translated into multiple languages.
- **Hand Luggage:** Always keep these documents in your hand luggage, not in your checked suitcases, as you will need to present them at the immigration counters.

