



Botswana

Languages: The national language Tswana is widely spoken, although the official language of Botswana is English. Several other languages are also spoken in the country, including Kalanga, Sekgalagadi, Herero, Mbukushu, and Yei.

The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency is a series of novels by Alexander McCall Smith set in Botswana and featuring the character Mma Precious Ramotswe. The series is named after the first novel, published in 1998. Twenty-two novels have been published in the series between 1998 and 2021.

Precious Ramotswe is Botswana’s leading, and only female private detective. She has only just set up shop when she is hired to track down a missing husband, uncover a conman and track down a wayward daughter. The case that really tugs at her heart, and lands her in danger is that of a missing eleven year old boy who is feared to have been snatched by witch doctors.

The country Botswana is named after its dominant ethnic group the Tswana. Before its independence in 1966, Botswana was a British protectorate and was one of the poorest and least developed nations in the world. Since gaining independence it has become known as a peaceful and increasingly prosperous democratic nation. It is 600 miles long and 600 miles wide. Within its borders there is a rich variety of plant and animal life. It is home to the Central Kalahari Game Reserve where you will find lions, elephants, zebras, emus, desert foxes and much more.

Key Term	Definition
Kalahari	The Kalahari Desert is a large semi-arid sandy savanna in Southern Africa extending for 900,000 square kilometres covering much of Botswana, and parts of Namibia and South Africa
The Tswana people	 The Tswana people are a Bantu speaking ethnic group native to southern Africa. The Tswana made up approx. 85% of the population of Botswana in 2011.
Habitation	The general vegetation is savanna grassland. The acacia shrub and thorn trees changes to denser forest and woodland in the north. Animal life is varied with 150 species of mammals and 30 species of bat.
Art and culture	Batswana are noted for their skill at crafting baskets from Mokola Palm and local dyes. The baskets are generally woven into three types: large, lidded baskets used for storage, large, open baskets for carrying objects on the head or for winnowing threshed grain, and smaller plates for winnowing pounded grain.
climate	The annual climate ranges from months of dry temperate weather in Winter to humid sub-tropical conditions in Summer which lasts from October to March and brings winds carrying dust from the Kalahari.