

18TH ANNUAL NETWORK MEETING 2019

BOTSWANA

28-30 APRIL 2019

INFORMATION



UFO



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Dear UFO Family & Friends,

We are excited to announce that our 18th Annual Network Meeting will take place from 28-30 April 2019 at Gaborone International Convention Centre (GICC) at The Grand Palm Resort in Botswana.

IATA reports that global air freight is growing at its fastest rate since 2010. Last year, Africa posted the strongest growth among all regions, up 24.8%, with Africa-Asia trade increasing by more than 64% following an increase in the number of direct flights between the continents and driven by ongoing foreign investment into Africa.

Despite Africa's robust growth, there is still much untapped potential for exporters, importers and therefore freight forwarders. We want to provide the opportunity for UFO Members to understand, explore and secure business in this rapidly expanding marketplace.

We have an exciting schedule planned with special guests, a Game Drive and Bush Braai Dinner at Mokolodi Nature Reserve and a grand finale at a wonderful outdoor setting adjacent to a picturesque lake where a feast will be enjoyed whilst seated around a blazing bonfire under the African sky.

We look forward to spending this special event with you.

Kind regards,

RACHEL HUMPHREY
President/C.E.O.

Overview

Botswana is considered one of the safest and most stable countries in Africa. Botswana has a small population of 2.2 million; however, it has the potential to leverage its position in the region to serve as a gateway to the southern African market. Botswana is a member of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), a regional intergovernmental organization of fifteen African states. The SADC Trade Protocol provides each member state special treatment on import and export duties.



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Sunday 28 April 2019

18:00-19:00 Welcome Reception
19:00-22:00 Gala Dinner

Monday 29 April 2019

09:00-16:00 Meeting Room
17:00-22:00 Mokolodi Reserve

Tuesday 30 April 2019

09:00-17:00 Meeting Room
19:00-22:00 Dinner at Boma



Welcome Reception & Gala Dinner

Our first chance to meet will be on Sunday evening when we will gather to collect name badges, meet fellow delegates and enjoy a welcome drink before settling down for a spectacular Gala Dinner when we will be entertained by a traditional African band and dancers.

Official Meeting

We look forward to announcing special guests for our Opening Session – watch this space! Plus... all delegates gain access to our online Meeting Manager system, so that private 20-minute business meetings can be arranged prior to arrival. During these important sessions, delegates highlight their specialist areas, discuss cross trade, existing and new business as well as information regarding their country's regulations and requirements. These crucial meetings also provide an opportunity to share key import and export trade information.

Bush Braai Dinner at Mokolodi Nature Reserve

We will start with welcome drinks at the Mokolodi Game Reserve Reception and then enjoy a one-hour game drive in a safari vehicle, followed by a Bush Braai consisting of marinated steak, chicken, boerewors, vegetarian sausages, vegetable lasagne, fresh homemade garlic bread, roast butternut, coleslaw, salad, chakalaka, desserts and finished off with coffee around an open fire. An extra special treat will be an added element of traditional Botswana fair with Ditshwene Traditional Dancers. The evening ends with a slow night drive back to the front gate and then return to the hotel via coach.



Entry Requirements

A passport valid for at least six months and a return ticket is required for all foreign visitors. Citizens from most nationalities do not require a visa and can obtain get a 30-day entry permit on arrival. Entry requirements can change, so please refer to your local Botswana Embassy.



Getting There

To avoid connecting flights, we are organising a luxury coach transfer option from Johannesburg (OR Tambo Int Airport) at 10:00 on Sunday 28 April so that we can travel to Gaborone together whilst taking in some amazing sights on the 4/5 hour journey. The cost is GBP 80 per person return including air conditioning, fridge, on-board toilet, reclining seats, undercarriage luggage storage compartment.

Additionally, if you would rather take a connecting flight to Gaborone, the Grand Palm offers UFO Members complimentary airport transfer from Sir Seretse Khama International Airport (GBE) which is just 12km from the hotel. There are direct flights to Botswana from OR Tambo International Airport (JNB), Johannesburg and Cape Town International Airport (CPT). Please check Skyscanner or Expedia for flight options.



Tuesday Group Dinner at The Boma

We will enjoy a spectacular finale to our special event with an exclusive group dinner at The Boma... a wonderful outdoor setting adjacent to a picturesque lake where a feast will be enjoyed whilst seated around a blazing bonfire under the African sky.

Weather

April is a wonderful time to visit Gaborone! It is start of the dry season, with very little rain and an average temperature of 25.0°C (77°F).





Hotel & Restaurant

The Grand Palm Hotel Casino and Convention Resort contains two Peermont hotels with the following room rates:

Metcourt Inn Room Rates: Approx. BWP 1331.00 (USD 138) inc. Breakfast + Tourism Levy 10.00

Walmont Hotel Room Rates: Approx. BWP 3070.00 (USD 318) inc. Breakfast + Tourism Levy 10.00

The resort contains 4 restaurants; the Mokolwane Bistro, The Beef Baron Grill & Rib Room, Bai Sheng Asian Cuisine and FLAG Café. Additionally, the Fig Tree serves a selection of light meals and cocktails and is situated next to the hotel's Olympic size pool. The Kalahari Bar has both non-smoking and smoking areas overlooking the lush gardens and offers a light snack menu, various cocktails and showcases live entertainment.

Casino

The Casino comprises of 150 slots and 16 tables which include Blackjack, American Roulette, Texas Poker, Raise 'em Poker plus a Salon Privé and an exclusive Tables private room for those serious gamers. Slots are open 24 hours a day and offer the latest gaming products with denominations from 1t to P25 with a variety of progressive jackpots and mysteries.



The Health Club

The facility includes a multi-station gym circuit for hotel residents. It also has a television screen for entertainment while in session.



Swimming Pool

The Grand Palm features a well-lit Olympic size pool surrounded by beautiful landscaped gardens and the Fig Tree Pool Bar.



Shopping

The resort features an African curio shop, Heart of Africa, which specialises in Leather goods, African crafts and jewellery. Located in the hotel lobby, the curio shop offers convenience items to hotel guests and visitors. Operating Hours: 08h00 to 17h00. Around the city, Gaborone offers a variety of shopping malls, shops, banks, business offices as well as arts and crafts centres.

Children's Gym

There is an outdoor children's play gym adjacent to the Fig Tree. Parents can enjoy the tranquil setting watching their children play.



Botswana Wildlife

Botswana has an abundance of big African animals such as the elephant, giraffe, hippo, buffalo and zebra. Wild cats aren't as prevalent, but there are still plenty of lions to spot. The rhino is also making a comeback. If you're keen on seeing rarer animals, you can find endangered antelopes and African wild dogs in some of the country's northern parks, whose water sources are more reliable than those of parks in the south.



Bird and Nature Trails

The Grand Palm Resort facilities include a jogging trail set around a picturesque lake. With a huge diversity of birds, guests can enjoy their stay in a luxurious setting with a true African feel. While walking through the trail, guests can view the lake, birds and a variety of natural tree species. Arrows have been made to show the route through the nature trail. This natural experience is enhanced by animals which can only be seen early in the morning.





NETWORK MEETING
(INFORMATION)
BOTSWANA



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