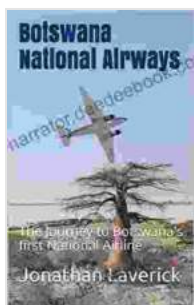


# The Journey to Botswana's First National Airline: A Century of Flying in Botswana

Botswana's aviation industry has come a long way since its humble beginnings in the early 20th century. Today, the country has a thriving commercial aviation sector, with several airlines operating both domestic and international flights. But it all started with a single airline: Botswana Airways.



## Botswana National Airways: The Journey to Botswana's first National Airline (A Century of Flying in Botswana Book 1) by Jonathan Laverick

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 22942 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 279 pages
Lending	: Enabled



Founded in 1972, Botswana Airways was the country's first national airline and played a pivotal role in the development of the country's aviation industry. The airline's early years were marked by rapid growth and expansion. In the 1980s, Botswana Airways launched its first international flights, connecting Botswana to neighboring countries such as South Africa and Zimbabwe.

In the 1990s, Botswana Airways became a major player in the regional aviation market. The airline expanded its network to include destinations in Europe and Asia. In 2000, Botswana Airways was privatized and became a publicly traded company.

Today, Botswana Airways is a modern and efficient airline. The airline operates a fleet of modern aircraft and offers a wide range of services to its customers. Botswana Airways is also a member of the International Air Transport Association (IATA) and the African Airlines Association (AFRAA).

## **The Early Years**

The history of Botswana Airways can be traced back to the early 20th century, when the country was still a British protectorate. In 1919, the Royal Air Force (RAF) established a base in Botswana. The RAF base was used to provide air transport for the British administration and to support military operations in the region.

In the 1950s, the British Overseas Airways Corporation (BOAC) began operating flights to Botswana. BOAC's flights were initially used to transport British officials and businessmen. However, as Botswana's economy began to grow, the demand for air travel increased.

In 1972, the government of Botswana decided to establish a national airline. The new airline was named Botswana Airways and was headquartered in Gaborone, the capital of Botswana.

## **Rapid Growth and Expansion**

Botswana Airways' early years were marked by rapid growth and expansion. The airline's fleet grew from a single aircraft in 1972 to a fleet of

six aircraft by the end of the decade. Botswana Airways also expanded its network to include destinations in neighboring countries such as South Africa, Zimbabwe, and Namibia.

In the 1980s, Botswana Airways launched its first international flights. The airline's first international flights were to London, England, and Johannesburg, South Africa. In the 1990s, Botswana Airways expanded its international network to include destinations in Europe and Asia.

### **Privatization and Public Listing**

In 2000, the government of Botswana decided to privatize Botswana Airways. The airline was sold to a consortium of private investors, which included the Botswana Development Corporation and several other local investors.

In 2004, Botswana Airways was listed on the Botswana Stock Exchange. The listing of Botswana Airways on the stock exchange was a major milestone for the airline and for the country's aviation industry.

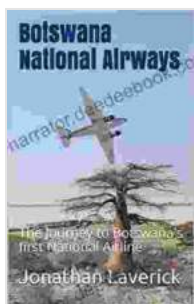
### **Modernization and Expansion**

Since its privatization, Botswana Airways has continued to modernize and expand. The airline has acquired a new fleet of modern aircraft and has expanded its network to include new destinations in Africa, Europe, and Asia.

Botswana Airways is now a major player in the regional aviation market. The airline is a member of the International Air Transport Association (IATA) and the African Airlines Association (AFRAA).

Botswana Airways has come a long way since its humble beginnings in 1972. Today, the airline is a modern and efficient airline that plays a vital role in the development of Botswana's economy and tourism industry.

Botswana Airways is a proud symbol of Botswana's progress and development. The airline is a testament to the country's commitment to providing its citizens with access to safe, reliable, and affordable air travel.



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