

WILDERNESS PRODUCT
News and Updates

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NEWSFLASH

WATER ACTIVITY UPDATE FOR BOTSWANA

Low rainfall thus far has resulted in water levels dropping, particularly down the western side of the Okavango Delta.

- Currently, there are no water activities on the Abu and Jao concessions. The focus here is on game drives and walks where applicable.
- Boating is still on offer from the camps in the Vumbura concession and DumaTau in the Linyanti.
- Mokoro excursions are still possible from Qorokwe.

CAMPS & ACTIVITIES

REFURBS & CHANGES

- The bathrooms at Tubu Tree are undergoing a facelift with new plumbing and tiling, lighter paint plus treatment of all wood.
- When Shumba in the Kafue re-opens in June, there will no longer be a curio shop.

HELICOPTER TRANSFERS IN RWANDA

There is no fixed wing option in Rwanda so all air transfers are in helicopters, operated by Akagera Aviation. Booked through Thousands Hills Africa, there are 4 types of helicopter available - each carrying a different number of passengers with variable weight allowance. One can fly between Kigali and Bisate, Kigali and Magashi or Bisate and Magashi (& vice versa). Note that one of the helicopters may only land at Musanze and an additional road transfer between Musanze and Bisate would need to be arranged.

HOT AIR BALLOON EXCURSION AVAILABLE FROM LITTLE KULALA & KULALA DESERT LODGE

- Around 45 minutes before sunrise, passengers are collected from Kulala Desert Lodge (Little Kulala guests are transferred there) and return approximately 3 to 4 hours later.
- Operating with a minimum of two, the excursion includes the transfer to launch site from one of our pick-up points, approximately 1-hour balloon flight, champagne breakfast upon landing, flight certificate, park entrance fees (if applicable) and the drive back to the pick-up point.
- Flights only happen in perfect weather conditions. Should a flight cancel due to adverse weather, there is no charge.
- Pregnant passengers are not allowed on the balloon flight due to safety reasons, however, they are welcome to follow the balloon and join the breakfast.
- The operator needs to know if anyone is above average weight.

- Children less than 6 years old are only allowed on the balloon flight if taller than 1.2 metres while an adult should accompany a child less than 16 years old. Smaller children may follow the balloon with the ground crew in our transfer vehicle with a babysitter they will provide and share the champagne breakfast at landing – free of charge.
- Note that the company is closed on 25 December and 1 January, and again between 15 January and 15 February every year.

TOURING & TRANSFERS

WILDERNESS SAFARIS PRIVATE JOURNEYS – CAPE

TABLE MOUNTAIN ANNUAL CLOSURE

Be aware that this years' closure is longer than previous years - 6 weeks instead of the usual 2 weeks. Due to additional work as set out by the Swiss Governing Body for Cableways (BAV), they are required to shut down from Monday, 8 July to Sunday, 18 August 2019.

WILDERNESS SAFARIS - ZAMBEZI

LUNAR RAINBOW DATES FOR 2019

We have received the dates for moonlight viewing in the rainforest, when one might see a lunar rainbow over the Victoria Falls. Lunar events for 2019 include a couple of super full moons, blue moons and a partial lunar eclipse. Contact your Journey Specialist for further details.

VICTORIA FALLS ECONET MARATHON 2019 TEMPORARY BORDER CLOSURE

The Annual Econet Victoria Falls Marathon will be taking place on 7 July 2019. Accordingly, the Victoria Falls & Livingstone border will be closed from 10pm on the night of 6 July through to 9am on the morning of 7 July.

RATES & RULES

BOTSWANA VISAS AT POINT OF ENTRY STILL ON HOLD

An announcement was made late last year that Botswana would offer visas at all points of entry (airports and land border posts) with effect from 24 November 2018. However, on 27 November, the Department of Immigration confirmed that the plans were now on hold. We are aware that there now appears to be conflicting information in this regard, with some sources saying it is available – yet on the ground it is not the case. We have been in touch with various tourism organisations in Botswana and there is still no clarity. Until there is an official directive from the Department of Immigration, guests must please continue to arrange the necessary visas PRIOR to arrival.

REMINDERS

WILDERNESS SAFARIS & OLYMPUS – A VISIONARY PARTNERSHIP

Further to previous communiques in this regard, we have put together an easy reference tool for you, highlighting the key features of our partnership with Olympus and how it has been/will be rolled out in our camps. A copy of this may be found on the Info Centre, as well as a copy of the detailed booklet that it is provided to our guests in camp.
