

[Newsflash](#) | [Camps & Activities](#) | [Wilderness Air](#) | [Touring & Transfers](#) | [Reminders & Regulations](#)

JUNE 2019

NEWSFLASH

Upgrade of Maun Airport

Construction works have begun in and around the existing terminal building. Following a phased approach, the hope is that the project will be completed in April 2020. There will be some challenges as passenger circulation will be affected, resulting in congestion and possible delays. However, the expansion and upgrade is much needed, and will ultimately benefit all travellers.

Keeping Warm on Safari

While daytime temperatures are generally very pleasant during our winter (May to August), it can get quite cold at night and in the early mornings...especially when out on drive. Please do share our suggested packing list (available on the Info Centre) with your guests prior to travel to ensure they are prepared.

CAMPS & ACTIVITIES

Activity Update for our camps in the Okavango Delta

A recent blog on the Jao Concession shares some great insights and information plus highlights why this is such an interesting and exciting year <https://wilderness-safaris.com/blog/posts/the-dynamic-delta>. The same can be said for the Abu Concession and others down the western side of the Okavango Delta. Now is the time to visit and witness some these changes, enjoying new experiences with wildlife moving into areas they are not often seen in, and lots of action around water sources!

- Vumbura Concession: no changes, boating and mokoro excursions continue as normal.
- Abu Concession: the area is dry so there is some dust about, while wildlife have been congregating at the lagoon in front of camp.
- Jao Concession: the water is coming in slowly. It has reached Jacana (still shallow) and is about halfway to Jao, in the channel only. Boating is not an option at the moment with over 40 hippo in the largest lagoon, Kubu. The activity situation is follows:
 - Mokoro excursions only from Jacana and Pelo.
 - No boating or mokoro excursions from Jao, Kwetsani and Tubu Tree/Little Tubu.
 - Game drives and trips to Hunda Island will be the order of the day. From Jao it is about a 70 minute drive and from Kwetsani, 20 minutes. Game viewing is really good on Hunda at the moment so definitely a worthwhile excursion.
 - Guided nature walks, subject to the availability of a qualified walking guide. Pre-booking is essential though, so if your guests are interested, please contact your Journey Specialist.

Massages at Qorokwe, Botswana – Change to Offering

The massage offering at Qorokwe is now subject to availability and the “four hand” massage option is no longer available at all.

Access to/from Third Party Properties or Excursions from our Namibian camps

Airstrip/inter-camp transfers and third party activities usually take place during standard activity hours. As our guides and vehicles are busy with camp activities for in-house guests, we do not have the vehicle capacity to accommodate additional movements. Please liaise with your Journey Specialist should special arrangements need to be made.

Transfers to/from Magashi, Rwanda

- The standard shuttle transfers between Magashi and Kigali depart at 08:00 in both directions. On a request basis only, it is possible to do a 12:00 shuttle transfer from Kigali to Magashi.
- The drive from Kigali to the entrance of the park is roughly 3 hours. The timing of the onward transfer in a game drive vehicle to camp is dependent on sightings en route.
- It is possible to depart from Bisate (or another property in Volcanoes National Park) and continue to Magashi on the same day, when booking the 12:00 shuttle departing from Kigali.

Meet & Assist Options at Livingstone Airport, Zambia

- Normal Meet & Greet (complimentary) – guests will be met by a Wilderness Safaris representative with a name board at the front exit/entrance of the airport terminal, after they have cleared immigration formalities and collected their luggage, and assisted to their onward arrangements.
- Special or Xpress Meet & Greet (at a cost) – guests will be met by a Wilderness Safaris representative with a name board just before the immigration counters in the Arrivals Hall. They will be assisted through immigration/customs and with collecting their luggage before proceeding to their onward arrangements. A variable cost applies, depending on the size of the party (1 to 10 vs 11 upwards).

Update on Wi-Fi in Zimbabwe

Little Makalolo is now online, so all three Hwange camps are live. The Mana Pools camps should be up in the latter half of June.

WILDERNESS AIR

Increase in Botswana Departure Tax for 2020

Applicable to all new bookings placed from 1 June 2019, this increase is in effect from 11 January 2020. Departure taxes are built into the Wilderness Air rates we quote but to give you an indication:

Previous per person rates:

US\$13.00 – Domestic

US\$22.00 – International

New per person rates:

US\$15.00 – Domestic

US\$24.00 – International

TOURING & TRANSFERS

Wilderness Safaris Private Journeys – Cape

Robben Island Rate Change

Further to the recent implementation of a two tier rate system for Robben Island, it would seem rates will reduce slightly after pressure from the trade. As soon as we have confirmation, our rates will be adjusted accordingly.

New Transfer Costs for Livingstone Island Activities

The Livingstone Island Activity re-opened on 6 June 2019. Note that the pick-up point has changed so additional costs apply to Royal Livingstone or Avani guests, where previously there was no transfer cost as the jetty was right there. Effective Monday 17 June, this is applicable to all new bookings at these hotels, while transfer costs from other properties are already in place.

REMINDERS & REGULATIONS

Travel Insurance

Some travel insurance policies are not recognised by private hospitals – whether travelling to southern Africa or countries like Rwanda. We recommend that all travellers check with their travel insurer to see if their product is accepted before travelling, and seek alternative coverage where necessary. It is vital that they have adequate travel insurance and accessible funds to cover the cost of any medical treatment or assistance abroad. Even with fully comprehensive travel insurance, some private hospitals may insist on a deposit (cash or credit card) before starting treatment. They may also insist the traveller pays up front, reclaiming from their insurer at a later date. Private hospitals have found that certain travel insurers do not honour their terms of payment and therefore incur a bad debt with the hospital. Based on these experiences, many private hospitals only accept guarantees of payments from travel insurers whom they have set up on their preferred agents' lists and who honour payments. It is the responsibility of the traveller to ensure they understand their policy terms and whether or not the travel insurers have a relationship with key hospital groups in Southern Africa (i.e. Medi-Clinic, Netcare etc.) and elsewhere that they might be travelling.

Kenya – Ban on Single-use Plastics in Protected Areas

Coming into effect 5 June 2020, Kenya will not allow single-use plastic on beaches, in forests, conservation areas and national parks. Visitors to beaches or national parks will be banned from carrying water bottles, plastic plates, plastic cups, and plastic spoons and forks.
