

WILDERNESS PRODUCT
News and Updates

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MARCH 2019

NEWSFLASH

MOMBO CONFIGURATION CHANGE, EFFECTIVE 1 APRIL 2019

From 1 April 2019, additional vehicles on the Mombo concession will allow us to host four guests at a time, instead of six! This exciting development means our guests will have a more exclusive experience and dedicated time with their passionate guide – particularly as we can now stay out an hour after sunset. To accommodate this change, the configuration of the Mombo camps from April onwards will be as follows:

- Mombo – 8 rooms (7 twins and 1 family), with 4 vehicles accommodating 4 guests at a time
- Little Mombo – 4 rooms (4 twins), with 2 vehicles accommodating 4 guests at a time

Although we will no longer have a second private vehicle (existing bookings will be honoured), there will still be one private vehicle on the concession to be shared between the two camps.

What this also means, is that we no longer have to accommodate children between the ages of 6 and 12 years at Little Mombo on a sole-use basis only. Children may now be accommodated at Mombo, preferably in the family room, as we now have the vehicle capacity to allow for sole use. The focus at Little Mombo will then be a more intimate, exclusive experience.

DUMATAU UPDATE

You may have noticed that DumaTau has been closed in inventory from 2 November 2019 through to 31 July 2020. We are excited to announce our plans to reinvent the camp and elevate the offering due to its prime position in the Linyanti. Details on the concept and design will follow in due course, and in accordance with these plans, the DumaTau rates have been adjusted accordingly.

PACKAGES

SPIRIT OF ZIMBABWE 2019

We have put together a great competitively priced Zimbabwe package featuring Victoria Falls Safaris Lodge, Hwange Bush Camp (in a different part of Hwange National Park) and Davison's Camp.

HWANGE – JOURNEY WITH A PURPOSE – EARLY 2020

For those guests who would like to volunteer and get their hands “dirty” doing good works on a trip while still enjoying a remarkable safari, we are once again offering this community focused, life-changing opportunity in Zimbabwe. Experience Hwange National Park in our pristine and wildlife-rich private concessions, and get involved with the income-generating community projects plus our Children in the Wilderness (CITW) programme. Competitive NETT rates apply.

CAMPS & ACTIVITIES

REVISED INCLUSIONS ON GUIDE/PILOT RATE AT THE NAMIBIAN CAMPS

Operations have advised that going forward, a maximum number of drinks is permissible on this reduced rate. With immediate effect, the pilot / guide rate includes accommodation, all meals, park fees, laundry and a maximum of 4 local drinks per day – and excludes premium imported brands and champagne. All drinks over and above this quota must be paid for in camp.

TOURING & TRANSFERS

WILDERNESS SAFARIS – ZAMBEZI

SEASONALITY OF DEVIL'S POOL

Devil's Pool is open during the drier months of the year, usually between mid-August and mid-January, when the Zambezi water levels are low enough for swimmers to take the plunge. It is now closed due to high water levels, however, there is another rock pool called "Angel's Pool" where guests may still swim.

WILDERNESS AIR

HEADS UP | WILDERNESS AIR IN ZIMBABWE & ZAMBIA MOVE TO AREA FLYING

Effective 1 April 2019 for Zimbabwe and 1 June 2019 for Zambia, Wilderness Air will simplify their flying to be based on areas flown to/from as opposed to seats on charter with set routes and times. In addition, there will be more access to third party properties as part of our flying circuits. Revised flyers and updated Rates Sheets will be available on the Info Centre shortly.

NEW HOANIB AIRSTRIP OPENS

Our Hoanib Airstrip is now open, which means there are no longer restrictions as to which aircraft may land there to access Hoanib Skeleton Coast Camp.

- Flights will still operate via Doro Nawas as per the published circuit. On occasion, subject to the movements of other guests, flights may go directly into or depart from Hoanib, however, this will only be determined at the time of scheduling so there is no guarantee.
- The road transfer time between the airstrip and camp is about 20 minutes.
- There is no change to the Mowe Bay excursion.
- Please refer to the Hoanib Camp Information Sheet for updated airstrip details, particularly important for any private, non-Wilderness Air flights that may fly to Hoanib.

RATES

2019 ZIMBABWE TRANSFER & ACTIVITY INCREASES

The following rates have increased in Zimbabwe for 2019 – see published rates sheets on the Info Centre for further details:

- Boat transfer from Chirundu to Ruckomechi & Little Ruckomechi
- The road transfer from the end of the Natureways canoe trail to Ruckomechi
- Road transfers from Hwange Main Camp to the WS Hwange camps
- The sole use boat hire at Ruckomechi for fishing. This fee is paid directly in camp.

2020 WILDERNESS RATES UPDATE

- The Botswana, Namibia, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Recommended Selling Price Rates Sheets are now available on the Info Centre. Take note of the following key points:
- The 2020 season has changed slightly – validity period is 11 January 2020 to 5 January 2021, so the festive season period has also reduced, ending 5 January 2021
- Selected Botswana camps now have an additional season i.e. May.
- Wilderness Air Botswana rates will remain the same for 2020 – no increase from 2019.
- Chikwenya rates are not yet available in the Zimbabwe rate sheet.
- The flights to the Kafue have as yet not been added to the Zambia rate sheets due to imminent changes, which will be communicated soonest – watch this space.
- The LVI & VFA transfers and touring rates for 2020 are not yet available – the 2019 rates are being displayed with notes advising that the 2020 rates are not yet available.
- Rwanda, Segera and Exploration rates will be available in due course.

REMINDERS

TAKE ONLY PICTURES, LEAVE ONLY FOOTPRINTS...

Both Wilderness Safaris and the Botswana government are fervently committed to protecting the wildlife and natural environment of the country. Please be reminded that it is therefore illegal to remove any fauna or flora from its natural habitat. As such, please do not pick up any plant (including seeds), animal material (such as bone, teeth, skins, feathers, quills, shells, etc.) or even a rock or stone whilst travelling in the country. Note that Agricultural and/or Customs Officials will conduct random inspections, of all passengers and/or their luggage, at all airports – whether arriving or departing and regardless of the destination – to ensure that nothing has been removed from its environment and that no alien species are being brought into the country.

BOTSWANA VISAS AT POINT OF ENTRY STILL ON HOLD

There is some confusion in this regard, with conflicting information being given at ports of entry. Until such time as an official announcement is made and confirmation received that the necessary infrastructure is in place, our recommendation for now is that where applicable, visas to enter Botswana must be applied for prior to travel to avoid inconvenience, frustrations and delays.

INFO CENTRE ON THE WILDERNESS WINDOW

There is a feast of Wilderness Safaris collateral on this platform plus easy to use SEARCH functionality.
