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MAY 2019

NEWSFLASH

King's Pool & Linyanti Helicopter Scenic Flights

With the opening of the new King's Pool just around the corner (16 June to be precise), we would like to introduce two exciting new offerings!

The King's Pool Suite

- Due to the style, size and position of what was the family unit, the decision has been taken to change it to a suite instead. Still bookable by families, it will be ideal for parties of four adults travelling together or a couple wanting more space and luxury.
- While not the same as the Jao Villas with private vehicles, guides, butlers and chefs – the suite (4 beds) has two separate rooms, each with their own bathroom, while sharing a spacious deck with a private plunge pool (none of the other rooms have a plunge pool). The one bedroom is slightly smaller and does not have an outside shower, but it is a standard guest room in all other respects – not a child only room.
- It will be priced as a whole i.e. one rate applies regardless of the number of guests (1 to 4) and whether that includes children or not. Note that as there is no longer a family unit, child rates will no longer apply at King's Pool.
- Existing bookings in the family unit remain as is, at rates previously quoted. The name will simply change in inventory to suite.
- All NEW bookings placed in the suite as of 21 May 2019, will be at the revised single suite rate, split between the number of travellers.

Scenic Helicopter Flights in the Linyanti

- Available from all the Linyanti camps, this is a fantastic way to add value to an itinerary. Operated in a Robinson carrying three passengers, the helicopter will fly along the line of the Great African Rift, with the Linyanti swamps on one side and riverine forests on the other. From Zibadianja Lagoon, the flight follows the Savute Channel to the end of the headwaters, where guests land and enjoy a drink before heading back to camp. On a recent recce flight, massive pods of hippos, huge crocodiles, sitatunga and of course elephants in their hundreds were seen!
- There are 30, 45 and 60 minute options available, which will happen between 11:00 and 15:00 when animal densities are high. Not only will it be great for game viewing and witnessing some amazing scenery but having the helicopter in the area will assist with monthly wildlife counts and monitoring activities – ensuring the wildlife pathways and corridors are safe and open for free movement!

Countdown to the Kafue Season

Kafue, one of our most remote, beautiful and unique areas opens for business on 1 June. Ramp your itinerary up a notch or two by adding Shumba or Busanga Bush Camp on either a Botswana itinerary via Livingstone, or combining the Kafue with Ruckomechi in Mana Pools via Lusaka... connected by a scenic air, road and boat transfer. Experience new vistas, different fauna and flora as well as a balloon excursion - operational in August, September and October.

Remember too, that if the flying schedule does not work for your dates, it is possible to book a sole use charter so please contact your Journey Specialist for assistance.

CAMPS & ACTIVITIES

Ongoing Roll-out of Wi-Fi

- Toka Leya, Shumba and Busanga Bush Camp are now connected and guests have access in their rooms.
- Linkwasha and Davison's are live – Little Makalolo and the Mana Pools camp will be live by the end of May.
- Update to follow in due course on the Namibian camps, upgrade at Abu and installation at Seba, plus the Jao and Chitabe camps.

TOURING & TRANSFERS

WILDERNESS SAFARIS PRIVATE JOURNEYS – CAPE

Robben Island Entrance Fee Increase

After 22 years of the same pricing model, and effective 1 June 2019, Cape Town's Robben Island Museum (RIM) will implement two-tier pricing for international and South African visitors. Based on an annual financial analysis and in consultation with relevant stakeholders, their management has decided to introduce a two-tier pricing structure for the tour – which includes a return ferry trip, transport on the island, a guided island tour, and a guided prison tour by an ex-political prisoner.

RIM believe that this decision will have a positive impact on long term financial sustainability plus contribute to an increase in domestic visitors. The additional funds will allow the museum to protect and preserve the island's history as a World Heritage Site, plus the fees play a big role in conserving Robben Island's complex eco-system of indigenous reptiles, mammals and birds, which visitors are able to experience while taking a tour.

Your Journey Specialist will be in touch regarding affected bookings with Wilderness Safaris Private Journeys and Rates Sheets will be updated accordingly.

WILDERNESS SAFARIS TOURING – ZAMBEZI

Airside Meet & Assist no longer available

Unfortunately the special Meet and Assist (M&A) Service that we introduced in Victoria Falls and Harare to provide assistance airside before immigration, is no longer available with immediate effect. Per instruction from the Civil Aviation Authority, the supplier may no longer carry out this service.

All existing bookings will be cancelled and refunded or credited accordingly, bearing in mind there is no alternative at this time. Wilderness Safaris Zimbabwe and Wilderness Air Zimbabwe, still provide their normal M&A service once guests are through immigration, and the compulsory M&A as part of Wilderness Air flights to and from Harare, remains in place.

Abseiling Temporarily Suspended in Victoria Falls

Abseil Victoria Falls (AVF) has temporarily suspended their abseiling activity in the Batoka Gorge due to high water levels on the Zambezi River, which makes it dangerous to abseil. It will resume once the water levels drop.

RATES

Reduction in Little Vumbura Rates

Rates at Little Vumbura have been reduced for 2020. All existing bookings will be or have been re-priced to reflect the new lower rates.

REMINDERS & REGULATIONS

Service Charge in Zambia

Tipping is not compulsory at any of our camps but per Zambian law, a service charge must be included in the camp rate. Our tipping and gratuity guidelines for the Zambian camps therefore state the following:

Please note that service charges are included in your stay with us and are paid out to the staff on a monthly basis. Therefore, please do not feel compelled to tip any of our service staff.

Please do inform your clients re: this statutory law regarding tipping, as it is illegal for us to have a tip box on display. There is a sign in the reception areas advising guests that their accommodation rate includes a tip which is paid over to the staff.

UPDATE | Child Travel Regulations for South Africa

Per IATA, airlines have finally changed their policy with regard to requiring children travelling to SA to have a birth certificate. Check-in staff no longer need to request birth certificates from minors who have visas, or who are exempted from visas, if travelling with their parents with the same surname.

The South African Department of Home Affairs (DHA) issued a third revised travel advisory on 2 April 2019 regarding children under 18 entering SA. It is clear and unambiguous and the airlines have aligned their documentation requirements for minors accordingly.

This [latest advisory](#), clearly states that *only a passport is needed for children under 18 if they travel with parents on a visa-exempted passport*. The DHA advisory also makes clear that, as children from countries that do require a visa need to present their birth certificate when applying for their visa, they do not have to have it with them when travelling. However, do take note of the following specifics:

- Children not accompanied by both parents will need to carry their birth certificate. If both parents' names appear in their passport, they do not require a birth certificate.
- Minors travelling on an SA passport either must have new passports with names of both parents or their birth certificate.

BE AWARE | Child Travel Regulations for Namibia

Just as South Africa finally eases its unpopular inbound unabridged birth certificate (UBC) requirements for minors, Namibia is now reinforcing the [implementation of UBC requirements](#) for minors travelling to and from its borders. In a new official release sent out on 24 April, the Namibian Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration warned that children under the age of 18 travelling to and from Namibia must carry an original or certified full birth certificate in addition to their passports. The Namibian release also states:

- Adults travelling internationally with children who are not their biological offspring are advised to provide an affidavit giving consent for travel from the child's biological parents or legal guardians.
- If a child is travelling with only one parent, the other parent must provide consent for the child to travel with the parent in question. If one parent is deceased, a copy of a death certificate of the deceased parent should be provided.
- An unaccompanied minor travelling to or from Namibia is also required to produce a letter or affidavit as proof of consent to travel, from one or both parents or legal guardians. A letter from the person who is to receive the child, containing the residential address and contact details where the child will be residing; a copy of the identity document or valid passport and visa or permanent residence permit of the person who is to receive the child; and the contact details of the parents or legal guardians of the child must also be provided.

Paying for a Kaza Uni-Visa

The Kaza Uni-Visa is only available at ports of entry, not online - Harry Mwanga Nkumbula International Airport (Livingstone), Kenneth Kaunda International Airport (Lusaka), Victoria Falls International Airport, Harare International Airport, as well as the Victoria Falls Land Border and Kazungula Land Border. Payment can be made using either cash (US Dollars) or Mastercard or Visa credit cards. Diners Club and American Express are often not accepted, nor are Travellers Cheques. It is advisable, however, due to potential operational or connectivity problems at these ports of entry, that guests carry the necessary amount in cash to expedite the process. Please refer to the following website for further information – bearing in mind that Wilderness Safaris is not responsible for the content thereof: www.kazavisa.info.
