

ASSOCIATED PRODUCT

# GENERAL UPDATES

[Airlines](#) | [Botswana](#) | [Kenya](#) | [Namibia](#) | [Seychelles](#) | [South Africa](#) | [Tanzania](#) | [Zambia](#)

July 2023

## AIRLINES

Due to maintenance on one of its jet carriers, **Proflight** has had to cancel some of its Johannesburg – Lusaka flights, as well as ad-hoc Durban – Lusaka flights for the period 10 June 2023 to 15 August 2023.

**Safari Air Link** has launched an updated route connecting Tanzania's northern and southern safari circuits with direct flights between Serengeti and Ruaha, Nyerere, and Mikumi national parks from 01 June 2023. Until now this connection has been challenging due to the requirement of a minimum of 4 passengers per route. The airline will now be operating this route three times a week on Wednesdays, Fridays, and Sundays with a minimum of just 2 passengers, on the basis that onward or prior flights to/from Dar es Salaam, Zanzibar, Mafia and Nyerere NP are also booked with Safari Air Link at the same time. The luggage allowance (including hand luggage) is 23kg as standard on all flights. All flights are timed to connect with third-party flights to/from Kilimanjaro and Arusha airports.

**Airlink** has increased the frequency of its flights from Johannesburg to Vilancoulos to 11 flights a week, starting from 08 January 2024. MQP (Kruger Mpumalanga Airport) – VNX (Vilancoulos) will be discontinued as of 05 January 2024. The passengers already booked on this route will be transferred via Johannesburg. Clients will now need to connect via an indirect route traveling via Johannesburg.

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## BOTSWANA

**Natural Selection** has announced that it will be opening a new camp in the Moremi Game Reserve in 2024 called **Tawana**. Tawana will offer a high level of comfort, luxury and style. Its 8 expansive guest suites (including 2 spacious family rooms) have aircon over the beds, and each has its own lounge, private terrace, plunge pool, outdoor sala and uninterrupted views of the Gomoti River and surrounding game-rich grasslands. The camp will also be 100% solar powered, with 24-hour electricity in the rooms.

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## KENYA

**&Beyond** is excited to announce the expansion of its impact footprint into northern Kenya, with the opening of **&Beyond Sujian Lodge** on the exclusive 44,000-acre Sujian Conservancy in early 2025.

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## NAMIBIA

**Pelican Point Lodge** is pleased to announce the expansion of its partnership with Exclusive Serenity effective 01 June 2023. Exclusive Serenity will assume the responsibility of managing all reservations as well as the sales and marketing.

## SEYCHELLES

LXR Hotels & Resorts would like to highlight that as of 01 July 2023 it will no longer be accepting children under the age of 13 years at **Mango House Seychelles**.

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## SOUTH AFRICA

- **Babylonstoren** has increased its rates for both 2023 and 2024 due to the introduction of new activities, which are included in the accommodation rates. As such, a minimum of 3 nights is recommended to ensure guests will be able to partake in all the activities and experiences that are on offer.
  - **Sabi Sabi Earth Lodge Amber Suite** has officially re-opened after having undergone a full refurb. The new Amber Suite has been transformed into a spacious Villa that boasts two bedrooms and bathrooms, comfortably sleeping up to four guests, while a fifth can be accommodated on request. Amber Villa's guests will also have access to all of Earth Lodge's facilities.
  - **Londolozi Founders Camp** has beautifully refurbished its superior river-facing chalets (Rooms 4 to 10) and converted one of them into a Family Suite, which can accommodate a family of 4. The other family chalets at Founders (Rooms 1 to 3) work well for parents with small children (ages 6-12), while the new family suite can comfortably accommodate parents with teenagers.
  - **Jamala Madikwe** is scheduled to reopen on 01 October 2023 after undergoing a rebuild following last year's fire.
  - **Newmark Hotels** is excited to announce the opening of **The Hazendal Hotel** in October 2023. Located in Stellenbosch, the hotel has 34 rooms.
  - **MORE Family Collection** is excited to share the news that Monwana Game Lodge in the Thornybush Game Reserve has joined its portfolio. Positioned alongside Lion Sands Ivory Lodge as a premium luxury safari property, the collection now offers guests the opportunity for extended Greater Kruger National Park safari adventures. Monwana was previously with **Safari and Retreats** (formerly known as Safari Lodges and Classic Retreats South Africa).
  - Timbavati Game Reserve, which makes up the Great Kruger Area, is thrilled to welcome the opening of new camp called **Walkers Plains Camp**. Located a short 20 minutes from both Hoedspruit Eastgate Airport or Rockfig Airstrip, this new camp boasts just 8 rooms in total, including 2 family rooms accommodation children from 8 years and older.
  - **Tswalu** is excited to announce that **Loapi Tented Camp** is officially open.
  - **Cape Town Helicopters** has joined the Inspirational Places Collection, offering experiences from scenic flights around the Cape Peninsula to curated excursions that include gourmet lunches or mountain picnics surrounded by fynbos, and heli-biking in Stellenbosch. In addition, they also own and operate luxurious day catamarans.
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## TANZANIA

The **Zanzibar Government** has announced an immediate increase to the Zanzibar Infrastructure Tax, from USD1 per person per night up to USD2, USD4 or USD5 per person per night, depending on hotel grading, as of 01 July 2023. This tax is not included in any upfront charges to guests/agents as it is payable directly to the property on check-out. The new tax amounts will affect all guests staying at any Zanzibar hotels.

**Coastal Aviation** has resumed daily flights to Pemba as of 01 July 2023, as well as daily flights to Mafia and Songosongo. The airline has also acquired a brand-new, state of the art aircraft – a C208EX Cessna Caravan. The aircraft has enhanced safety features such as Garmin Electronic Protection and Stability (EPS) and the Advanced Terrain Awareness Warning System (TAWS).

**Gibbs Farm** has launched its “Just for Kids” activities tailored to keep children entertained. From kids’ yoga, art classes, cooking classes, a play tent and story time, to nocturnal animal walks, there is so much to choose from. The property has also introduced a NOHRD gym, as well as a wide range of activities for a pre- or post-safari workout, including swimming in the lap pool, guided bike tours, guided running, yoga classes, meditation with Yoga Alliance teachers, and a variety of guided walks. There is also a new three-day Wellness Package on offer. The property has also installed Wi-Fi boosters throughout so that guests have better connectivity all over the property, as well as conducted a soft refurbishment of the rooms.

## Asilia Africa

Naboisho Camp has been carefully rebuilt to create a heightened feel of space and luxury, without losing the true heart and charm of camp. The refurbished camp is now open for travel and ready to welcome guests. Each of the two new family suites features en-suite bedrooms leading out from a central lounge and dining area, making them ideal for families, couples or friends travelling together. The shared areas in camp have also been elevated, with spectacular spaces for guests to take in even more of the breath-taking views.

Some changes have been made at Asilia’s other camps ahead of the 2023/2024 season.

- Namiri Plains has added one more guest tent, increasing to a total of 11 tents (including 1 family tent).
- As of June, Ol Pejeta Bush Camp and Encounter, have both said goodbye to their bucket showers and are now fully plumbed.
- Usangu Expedition Camp has increased the camp size from 4 to 6 tents and will also have an extended season running from June to January.

Kwihala Camp will be closing from 30 September 2023 for a reinvention; plans for the new camp will be shared in due course.

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## ZAMBIA

The **River Club** has advised that with immediate effect, all 1-night bookings will be subject to a 25% surcharge. Given The River Club’s fully inclusive rates, a 1-night stay causes pressure on Operations to arrange activities within the limited time frame between check-in and check-out; in addition, it does not offer the depth of experience guests need to make the most of everything that is included and on offer at the lodge.

**Green Safaris** is saddened to advise that the main area of **Ila Safari Lodge** has burnt down. Due to this, the lodge will be closed for the immediate future. If you have any questions, please contact your Wilderness Travel Designer directly for more information.

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However, Green Safaris is also delighted to welcome **Sausage Tree Camp** and **Potato Bush Camp** to its portfolio. Sausage Tree Camp and Potato Bush Camp have a global reputation for world-class private guiding, a spectacular variety of wildlife and safari experiences, and skilful private butlers or “Muchindas” who look after every aspect of the guest experience.

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