



## ASSOCIATED PRODUCT

# GENERAL UPDATES

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November 2023

## AIRLINES

**Coastal Air** acquired a new Caravan C208 for their fleet on 03 October 2023. As of 01 November 2023 morning flights to Mafia Island will be offered again, and also as of 01 November 2023 the airline is resuming flights to Tanga from Dar es Salaam via Zanzibar.

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## BOTSWANA

**Chobe Safari Lodge** will be undergoing renovations for the period 8 January through September 2024. During this period the hotel will remain open, and every effort will be made to ensure minimal disruption to guests.

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## MOZAMBIQUE

**Anantara Bazaruto** guests now have to fly Nelspruit – Johannesburg – Vilankulo, with a scheduled arrival time of 3.45 pm, after the cancellation of the Airlink Nelspruit – Vilankulo flight, effective from January 2024. This means that guests arriving on this flight will be required to book a helicopter transfer or a private boat transfer, as the shared boat transfer departs for the resort at 3.30 pm. Guests using the same return flight to Johannesburg will be able to get a late checkout at 2.30 pm and use a helicopter transfer.

**&Beyond Benguerra Island** will undergo a refresh during the period 08 January to 15 July 2024. Benguerra Island will remain open at this time, with specific sections temporarily closed to facilitate the lodge enhancements. As part of this exciting upgrade, rooms will be rethatched and new windows installed. Moreover, all room interiors will be refreshed, with the inclusion of expanded air conditioning capacity, for enhanced comfort and luxury.

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## NAMIBIA

**Catamaran Charters** is pleased to note it has broadened its product palette and expanded its service range by introducing its own seal kayaking adventure operation at Pelican Point.

The operations are run with the utmost care to ensure the least disturbance to the environment, while offering a great and interactive encounter with seals from the nearby colonies.

Transport from the Walvis Bay Waterfront to the kayaking site at Pelican Point is by 10-seater stretch Land Cruiser. For larger groups the transfer is by boat from the Waterfront. The tour includes a light breakfast with coffee and tea, as well as fresh Namibian oysters with sparkling wine. The tour can also be combined with an afternoon tour to Sandwich Harbour.

**Onguma Tented Camp** is thrilled to announce plans for an upgrade and will be closing Tented Camp for 2 months, from 01 January through 29 February 2024. Maintaining its intimate tented camp style, it will reopen on 1 March 2024.

**Ongava Game Reserve** has announced new camp closures and rate changes. Both Ongava Tented Camp and Little Ongava will be closed from Thursday 11 January 2024 to Sunday 31 March 2024, inclusive. Ongava Lodge's annual closure is from Sunday 28 January to Saturday 03 February 2024 inclusive. Anderssons at Ongava's annual closure is from Sunday 11 to Sunday 18 February, 2024, inclusive.

#### **Specific Rate changes: 2024 Ongava Tented Camp**

- Rate Season change: December 20 to January 10 is now included in High Demand Season
- Low Demand Season: 01 July 2024 – 30 November 2024 & 20 December 2024 – 10 January 2025
- Demand Season: 11 January 2024 – 30 June 2024 & 01 December 2024 – 19 December 2024

#### **Accommodation and rate basis changes**

- Each Little Ongava reservation includes a sole-use guide and vehicle.
- Full Board – including lunch replaces previous Dinner, Bed and Breakfast rate at Anderssons and Ongava Lodge.
- Ongava 2024 rates include a non-commissionable Conservation Levy inclusive of VAT per person per day.
- The Conservation Levy includes Ongava Research Centre Levy plus Ongava Game Reserve Levy.

**Wolwedans Collection** has announced that Desert Lodge will no longer be the centre of the Hospitality Training Academy. Instead students from the academy will be integrated across all the Wolwedans camps, working alongside experienced team members.

Please note the following changes for the Wolwedans camps:

#### **Desert Lodge**

- Currently closed, and reopening on 1 June 2024 with the same booking terms as Dune Camp
- From 1 June the per-person RACK rate will be R 8 500 (just over 30% lower than the Dune Camp rate)
- Arrivals will be on any day of the week for both FITs and groups
- The minimum stay remains 2 nights
- The old swimming pool will become a vegetable garden, providing organic ingredients for the kitchen
- A new swimming pool will be built at the front of the lodge to take in the view and allow for swimming and sun-lounging
- The main area, rooms and bathrooms are also being refreshed

#### **Dune Camp**

- Due to the high demand, Dune Camp will be closing from 1 June to 15 July 2024 for a kitchen refurbishment
- There are only 2 affected bookings, which will be upgraded by Wolwedans and the consultants in charge of these reservations will be informed accordingly

#### **Mountain View Suite**

- No changes to this suite, which remains open all year

#### **Plains Camp**

- No changes to this villa, which remains open all year

## Boulders Camp

- From 1 December to 28 February, Boulders is sold on an exclusive-use basis, with arrivals on any day of the week. From 1 March and 30 November Boulders has fixed arrival days on Mondays, Thursdays, Fridays and Sundays.

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## SOUTH AFRICA

**One&Only Cape Town** has published its Festive Season line-up. Details of their Christmas Lunch, Festive High Tea, New Year's Eve Party and more can be found on their website.

**MORE Family Collection** has repositioned its exclusive-use properties in the Cape Winelands and welcomes Navarre Residence.

Accordingly, Navarre Residence is now no longer associated with Oldenburg. Reservations for Oldenburg will no longer be facilitated through MFC, but can be booked with Oldenburg direct.

Navarre Residence officially opens on 1 December after a refurbishment from the design team at MORE Family Collection, led by Caline Williams-Wynn of Artichoke Interior Design.

### **MORE Family Collection's Sustainability Levy & Hinkwenu Residence rate increase – effective 15 November 2023**

- The **Sustainability Levy**, which assists MORE Community Foundation to make a difference in communities, will see a nominal increase year-on-year to match inflation
- Increase from ZAR115 to ZAR125 in South Africa
- Increase from USD10 to USD12 at Stanley & Livingstone, and from USD5 to USD6 at Ursula's Homestead
- **Hinkwenu** is making improvements to the kitchen and dining spaces at the residence
- The improved guest experience, which will launch in December, includes welcoming children of all ages, as well as the service of a residence butler and private chef
- Hinkwenu is implementing a rate increase of 8% for any new bookings from 4 January 2024

**Marataba Conservation Camps** has announced that effective from 1 January 2024, both Explorers Camp and Founders Camp will be closing to commercial tourism. The shareholders have made the decision to hand over the sole use of Explorers Camp to a leading conservation organisation, and with the reduced commercial tourism beds they have also decided to revert Founders Camp to a private camp.

They have emphasised that there will be no changes to the existing safari operations managed by MORE Family Collection within Marataba. They will continue to provide exceptional safari experiences at Marataba Safari Lodge and Marataba Mountain Lodge. At the same time, the hands-on conservation activities will also remain available for guest participation in conjunction with a stay at the MORE Family Collection Marataba Luxury Lodges.

**Kapama Private Game Reserve** is thrilled to introduce **Kapama Kruger Homestead**.

Situated within the Kapama Private Game Reserve, this hidden gem offers 3 luxurious en-suite rooms, showcasing the essence of comfort and elegance. Furthermore, this secluded haven goes beyond its accommodation.

Guests can unwind in the elegant lounge space, meticulously curated with a harmonious fusion of modern flair and African allure. At Kapama Kruger Homestead, main areas include a swimming pool, boma, and gym and

access to a private safari vehicle, guide, and assistant guide, as well as a dedicated chef and concierge, catering to your every need.

Among the diverse range of activities, discover a thoughtfully tailored children's programme designed to engage and delight the little ones, allowing adults the opportunity to unwind and enjoy well-deserved relaxation.

Grand Dedale in the Wellington Wine region has ceased operating as a commercial property.

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## ZAMBIA

Minor Hotels has recently renamed the room types at The Royal Livingstone and Avani Victoria Falls Hotels as follows:

- **Old Room Type:** Premier Room / **New Name** - Premier Garden Terrace Room / Premier Garden Balcony Room
  - **Old Room Type:** Deluxe Room / **New Name** - Deluxe Zambezi River Terrace Room / Deluxe Zambezi River Balcony Room
  - **Old Room Type:** Deluxe Corner Room / **New Name** - Executive Garden Room / Executive Zambezi River Room
  - Livingstone Junior Suite – **New Room Type**
  - Livingstone Suite – **No change**
  - Presidential Suite – **No change**
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## TANZANIA

Serengeti Balloon Safaris is launching a new flight route in Tarangire National Park in December 2023. Flights will be available year-round except during April and May.

The launch site is in the north-western corner of the Silale Swamp where the flight takes off in time to catch the sunrise over the Tarangire River system. Using the power of the thermals and prevailing winds, the flight offers views of Lolkisale Hill as it stretches down over the vast open Silale Swamp. From there, the route heads south into the picturesque Tarangire River valley, fringed with towering baobab trees, before landing for a sumptuous breakfast in the shade of a baobab.

With its diverse wildlife and exceptional bird life, Tarangire offers a great alternative flight location to the Serengeti. With an increased number of safari-goers choosing to focus their safari within Tarangire, Manyara and Ngorongoro national parks, these clients won't need to forgo the magic of a balloon safari, as they will now be able to experience it in the heart of Tarangire. Due to the easy access of the launch site location, guests will be able to travel directly from Arusha for a morning flight meaning the flight experience can also work well with day-trippers on a post-Kilimanjaro climb safari.

The Selous Safari Company has rebranded and is now called **Labalaba** – which means butterfly in Yoruba (a West African language). The new name has come about because of the important role butterflies play in nature, helping to increase biodiversity. When you see a butterfly, it is a sign that the area is thriving and healthy. Have a look at their new website at [www.labalaba.com](http://www.labalaba.com).

Zuri Zanzibar will be conducting essential maintenance from 01 – 31 May 2024. The resort will remain open, but some areas and facilities will be temporarily unavailable. The schedule of work is planned as follows:

- 01-15 May: The swimming pool will be temporarily unavailable. Guests are able to enjoy the pristine beach, free from any tidal effects, for a refreshing swim throughout the day.

- 15-22 May: The Bahari Beach Grill & Bar will be receiving its rejuvenating touch. Guests are invited to relish their beachside indulgences at the Dhow Bar.
  - 01-31 May: The reception area will be under construction. During this period guests will be welcomed at the Ocean Front Suite zone's temporary reception area, conveniently located next to Maisha Resto & Bar.
  - 01-31 May: Maintenance activities will also be underway at Upendo Restaurant and Peponi Bar. Buffet style dinners will be served at Maisha Resto & Bar during this period.
  - As a token of appreciation, all guests residing at the hotel during this period will enjoy a 15% accommodation discount, courtesy of Zuri's 'Time to Repair' offer.
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