



ASSOCIATED PRODUCT

GENERAL UPDATES

[Airlines](#) | [Kenya](#) | [South Africa](#) | [Tanzania](#) | [Zimbabwe](#)

September 2023

AIRLINES

Airlink has withdrawn from the Johannesburg-Entebbe route, effective 28 August 2023.

The airline's CEO and Managing Director, Rodger Foster, attributes the move to the commercial non-viability of the route due to thin traffic volumes.

Foster said: "Prior to Covid, Airlink operated the Johannesburg-Entebbe route exclusively six times a week with sustainable viability. In September 2021, after Uganda and South Africa re-opened their markets for intra-African travel, Airlink resumed services with four flights a week on the route. Despite best efforts to promote traffic between the two cities, the post-Covid demand in both directions has remained weak, and traffic volumes are too thin to support competing airlines". Airlink has contacted ticket-holders and is offering to refund in full or re-route on one of its daily flights to Nairobi with onward connections to Entebbe. Foster said the airline will monitor the market and will be ready to return to serving the route when traffic volumes can sustain two competing airlines.

KENYA

The Narok County Government recently announced that the **Masai Mara National Reserve Fee** is no longer valid for 24 hours; it is now only valid for 12 hours (6:00am to 6:00pm), irrespective of the time of entry. Essentially, guests will now pay "per day" park fees and not "per night".

Tawi Lodge has advised that as of 1 September 2023, any payments for park fees are now required to be paid through the E-Citizen platform, and the lodge will no longer be able to organise payments on behalf of guests booking.

Guests will be able to apply for a Kenyan visa and open an E-Citizen account by following the below steps.

Step 1: To open an E-Citizen account and apply for a Kenyan visa go to <https://kws.ecitizen.go.ke/>

Step 2: Select "National" on the menu

Step 3: Select "Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Heritage"

Step 4: Select "State Department for Tourism and Wildlife"

Step 5: Select "Park Entry"

Step 6: Select "National Park Entry – Apply Now", to directly pay park fees. Payment options are provided in this section.

SOUTH AFRICA

Radisson Hotel Group confirms that Radisson Blu Hotel & Residence, Cape Town, has ceased to operate as part of Radisson Hotel Group from 31 August 2023. The hotel will continue to operate under a Radisson equivalent brand from the Accor stable of brands, and all current reservations and rates will be honoured.

Camissa House in Cape Town will be closed for the month of October for maintenance.

Thornybush Game Lodge is delighted to announce the launch of its newest addition, the Thornybush Africology Spa and Wellness Centre. This expansion introduces Wellness Safari Experiences into their offering.

MORE Family Collection has updated their rates effective from 1 September 2023, for their Cape Cadogan Boutique Hotel, for travel from 4 January 2024, realigned to its enhanced offering at a 15% increase.

Tanda Tula's new Sustainability Levy for 2024, payable per person per night at Tanda Tula, ensures transparency and support for conservation and community initiatives in the Greater Kruger Region. The levy consists of four components:

TIMBAVATI CONSERVATION LEVY
TANDA TULA FOUNDATION FEE
LAND MANAGEMENT LEVY
BUSHBUCKRIDGE LOCAL COMMUNITY LEVY

Adult levies are applicable per person per night for ages 13 years and older; child levies are now applicable per person per night for ages 6-12 years. Every cent of the levy goes towards the projects and initiatives, and makes a lasting difference in the ecosystem, as well as supporting the wellbeing of the region. Please contact your Wilderness Travel Designer should you require more detailed information on this.

Ecce Lodge at Kwandwe Private Game Reserve has undergone a fabulous facelift of the interiors, and upgrades to the bathrooms. All bedrooms have been redesigned in a soothing colour palette of natural African tones, patterns and textures, and softs have been upgraded. Ecce is ideal for families, with three of the six suites sleeping two adults and two children. Families at Ecce are also assigned a private vehicle and guide.

Walkers Beach is a new boutique hotel in Plettenberg Bay, part of the Inspirational Places portfolio, which opened on 1 September 2023. It boasts 11 beautiful suites (most with sea views). This is a beautiful, contemporary hotel with direct walking access to Central Beach. The sought-after location is the very definition of barefoot luxury.

TANZANIA

Asilia Africa has sold Matemwe in Zanzibar to Attitude Hotels, effective 1 December 2023 (subject to conditions, including approval by the government and local authorities). Until then Asilia will continue to operate and manage Matemwe Beach House, Matemwe Lodge and Matemwe Retreat. Attitude is a collection of eco-focused hotels in Mauritius, offering responsible travellers an exceptional holiday experience. The lodges will be closed from 1 December 2023 for renovations and will re-open in 2024.

ZIMBABWE

MORE Family Collection have updated their rates effective from 1 September 2023 for their Stanley & Livingstone Hotel. At an 18% increase, this only affects the high season rate period of 1 April to 31 October 2024, reflecting the seasonality of the destination. Then, at a 15% increase, Ursula's Homestead rates (for travel from 1 November 2023) have returned to 2019 pre-Covid rates in anticipation of a strong recovery in Victoria Falls.