

WILDERNESS PRODUCT

## NEWS & UPDATES

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**BOTSWANA**  
August 2023

### NEWSFLASH

- Wilderness listed among the [Top 10 Safari Outfitters](#) in *Travel + Leisure's* World's Best Awards 2023 – as voted by the magazine's readers!
- Wilderness Mombo enhances in-camp guest experiences. These include adding a new fire deck, the creation of a series of intimate dining pods and a walk-in wine cellar. These new areas have expansive views over the surrounding plains, and offer exciting options from which to enjoy Mombo's superb food and wine offering.
- Drones: Please note that it is illegal to fly any aerial UAVs/drones or operate terrestrial UAVs/beetle-cams in all of our Wilderness concessions in all areas of operation, unless a permit is obtained from the relevant Government authority.
- We are thrilled to celebrate a decade of Wilderness24 – a pioneering risk and incident-management system that has set the standard across Africa's safari industry. A one-of-a-kind in our industry, Wilderness24 offers a sophisticated, robust and tailored approach to proactive safety, as well as incident response across all of our regions.

Speak to your Travel Designer for more information.

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### GENERAL REMINDER

#### Wi-Fi in our Camps

We firmly believe disconnecting to reconnect is one of the greatest benefits for guests spending time in our remote, beautiful areas. However, Wi-Fi is available in our guest suites for use at their leisure. It is important to note though, that as our internet connection relies on satellites rather than fibre, speed and reliability might not be quite what they are used to. It is best suited to messaging, low data emails, and WhatsApp voice calls (i.e. it is not suitable for downloading movies and high data items). There is no Wi-Fi in the main communal areas out of respect for those guests who prefer to remain disconnected. If you have guests travelling over the next few months who have important work and need a good connection, please do let your Travel Designer know to inform our Operations team.

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### FEATURED PRODUCTS

#### Wilderness Jao

- Perfect for families or small groups, Jao's two supremely luxurious and exquisitely decorated villas each comprise two identical tents (four beds in total). Each has its own en-suite facilities, and a spacious lounge and dining area, a kitchenette (with private chef), fire deck and private plunge pool, as well as a private vehicle, guide and private butler. Large folding doors and mosquito gauze make up the front wall so guests can enjoy more of the wonderful view.
- Watch our Family Safaris video filmed at Jao [here](#).



## Other Camps with Family Accommodation

### Botswana

Chitabe Lediba • Vumbura North • Little Vumbura • Mombo • Qorokwe • Seba • Tubu Tree • DumaTau • Savuti

### The Wilderness Family Offering

The Wilderness family offering at our camps in Botswana incorporates a fun and learning programme designed for younger guests aged 06 to 16 years (inclusive), and includes:

- Family accommodation with different configurations, so that parents can choose a camp best suited to them.
- Well-trained guides and staff, who are professional, friendly and enthusiastic about sharing their knowledge with the next generation.
- Games and activities led by guides to ensure children learn about the natural environment in an entertaining manner.
- Bush Buddies\* – these are key staff members who have been trained in childcare, and the educational aspects of looking after children in the bush. They either have children of their own or they have had previous experience working with youngsters, making them ideally suited to this position. Our dedicated Bush Buddies provide insightful entertainment and special activities just for children.
- Flexibility in activities, allowing for early meals for younger children if required.
- Arts and crafts, offering the opportunity to learn about local culture and customs.

\* Our complimentary Bush Buddy service is available on request prior to arrival for children aged 06 to 12 years. A Bush Buddy joins the family at each camp, offering mentorship and friendship to the children wherever needed throughout the day, and evening for dinner, if required. Children aged 06 to 10 years receive a Kids Bag, while older children, 11 to 16 years, receive a Teen Backpack — providing educational and entertaining items for a safari. For each bag or backpack handed out, a donation is made to Children in the Wilderness\*\*.

Please speak to your Travel Designer regarding the costings, and booking arrangements. While the Kids Bag and Teen Backpack are complimentary, this excludes bookings that feature only Discovery category camps, and SADC bookings.

**The beauty of our family-friendly safaris is that parents are able to spend quality time with their children, as well as pursue their own interests and relax in camp. Or are welcome to join in on the activities!**

### Family Safari Activities

Here are just a few ideas for activities:

- **Okavango Delta and Linyanti Wildlife Reserve, Botswana:** Enjoy boating, game drives, catch-and-release fishing and numerous other exciting activities for the whole family. Large trunks filled with games are available in camp for the children to use.

Speak to your Travel Designer for specific information on the many activities available by region.

\*\* **Children in the Wilderness (CITW)** is Wilderness' life skills educational and environmental programme that focuses on the next generation of rural decision makers. We focus on developing environmental leaders who are inspired to care for their natural heritage so that they become the custodians of these areas in the future. The CITW programme cannot

operate without support and funding of Wilderness, generous guests and travel partners. Please feel free to visit the [CITW website](#) to get involved.

For every family booking at Wilderness camps, the company contributes directly to CITW. An amount of USD 20.00 (or NAD 300.00) per booking is allocated to CITW, to enrich the lives of children in our areas of operation, through Eco-Clubs and other elements of the CITW programme.

### **Pack for a Purpose (PfaP) – Make Your Travels Meaningful**

Guests can make an impact in the communities they visit by simply using a small amount of space in their luggage to pack supplies needed by our community projects. See the PfaP [website](#) where all items required are listed by destination.

Speak to your Travel Designer for more information.

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## **REGIONAL UPDATE**

### **Botswana Water Levels**

Botswana Operations has advised that they can't commit to predicting the water levels in the coming months, but levels this year seem lower.

- Mokoro only (no boating)
  - Qorokwe
- Mokoro and boating
  - Jao • Kwetsani • Jacana • Pelo • Tubu Tree • Little Tubu • Vumbura • Little Vumbura • Jao • Kwetsani • Jacana • Pelo  
Estimated that before the end of August boating may stop, as sand banks are becoming visible – a clear indication. Mokoro will still be doable for some time.
  - Abu • Seba  
Flow levels are lessening and Operations is unsure for how long boating will continue unless additional waters are incoming. Presently, boating is guaranteed until the end of August, with mokoro possible until the end of September.
- Boating
  - Savuti
- Boating and barge
  - DumaTau, Little DumaTau and King's Pool

### **Wilderness Air Botswana**

- Soft bags with a rigid structure at the base – including wheels and/or a collapsible handle – will be accepted. Alternatively, standard soft duffel/tog bags.
- The maximum dimensions of all bags which can be accommodated with Wilderness Air are as follows: 30 cm (11.8 inches) wide x 35 cm (13.8 inches) high and 70 cm (27.5 inches) long.
- The maximum permissible luggage allowance when travelling on a seat rate basis, including carry-on hand luggage and camera equipment, is restricted to 20 kg (44 lb) per person.