

WILDERNESS PRODUCT

NEWS & UPDATES

[NewsFlash](#) | [General Reminders](#) | [Featured Product](#) | [Regional Updates](#) | [Destination Management Company](#) | [Full Update](#)

NAMIBIA
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!
- 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.

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.

FEATURED PRODUCTS

Camps with Family Accommodation Namibia

Little Kulala • Kulala Desert Lodge • Damaraland Camp • Hoanib Skeleton Coast Camp • Serra Cafema • Doro Nawas

The Wilderness Family Offering

The Wilderness family offering at our camps Namibia incorporate 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:

- **Sossusvlei, Namibia:** Our camps have an exclusive-use access point to Namib-Naukluft National Park, allowing for an early arrival at Sossusvlei and a shorter journey overall — which results in happier children and parents. Large trunks filled with games are available in camp for the children to use.

Speak to your Travel Designer for specific information.

** **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.

REGIONAL UPDATE

Wilderness Air Namibia

- In Namibia, **only soft duffel/tog bags will be accepted** — no frames or rigid structures may be transported, as these cannot physically fit into the aircraft. Wheels on a bag are only permissible if they are not part of a solid frame or rigid structure, i.e. bags cannot have a retractable handle in a structure base. The whole bag needs to be flexible so that it can be stored in the cargo hold compartments, which have restricted space. This applies to camera bags as well. Should bag dimensions not conform, guests will be provided with soft bags to repack at our Wilderness Lounge at Hosea Kutako International Airport, Windhoek. Alternatively, luggage may be stored at our airport lounge or our offices in town.
- 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.

Flexibility on the Wilderness Air Namibia Circuit

- This has been previously communicated; however, we find ourselves in a similar position at the moment.
- Please be aware of the below when making bookings or finalising arrangements utilising our Wilderness Air Namibia circuit. It is really important that guests are made aware to ensure expectations are met.
- If there is a particular concern/need for very specific timing, please contact Wilderness Air Operations.

Our Wilderness Air Namibia Flying Circuits are published with times and routings in order to operate efficiently in a country with vast flying distances. Both departure and arrival times will vary, as well as flying direct, where previously we may have made another stop on the route. Please, therefore, allow for adjustments in timings and scheduling, bearing in mind that regional and international connections will always be considered as per the published flying circuit timings. Rest assured that all movements will take guests' convenience and arrangements into account. If there is a particular concern or need for very specific timing, please contact Wilderness Air Operations before travel date and confirmation of booking.

When the Namibian coastline is fogged in, Swakopmund is inaccessible. As the norm, Wilderness Air Namibia will use Arandis for refuelling on the circuit, instead of Swakopmund. Located inland to the north-east, out of the fog, Arandis is more reliable. If weather conditions are favourable, and guests need to be dropped off or picked up from Swakopmund because of arrangements, then the aircraft will land there to refuel. However, if it is foggy, then the aircraft will fly to Arandis and guests will be transferred to/from Swakopmund by road.

DESTINATION MANAGEMENT COMPANY (DMC) – GENERAL NEWS

Airports

- **Namibia's Airports set for Revamp.**

The Namibia Airports Company (NAC) plans to upgrade the facilities at Hosea Kutako International Airport (WDH) in Windhoek, Katima Mulilo Airport (MPA), Rundu Airport (NDU) and Lüderitz Airport (LUD).

The airport infrastructure developments for the next three financial years include:

- The Windhoek congestion alleviation project, which plans to extend the VIP facilities, VVIP facilities and the Presidential Lounge, as well as parking configuration.
- The apron expansion at Windhoek over a two-year period.
- The construction of Terminal 3 at Windhoek.
- The construction of new terminal buildings at Katima Mulilo Airport (MPA), Rundu Airport (NDU) and Lüderitz Airport (LUD).

Airlines

- **FlyNamibia**, the privately owned domestic and regional airline, is joining **Airlink** to promote its flights and services. They will operate the Eros Airport – Lüderitz route from Monday to Friday on the following schedule:
 - Flight WV942 departs ERS at 07h15 and arrives in LUD at 08h15.
 - Flight WV941 departs LUD at 13h00 and arrives in ERS at 14h30.
- **Qatar Airways** has temporarily suspended passenger services from Namibia with effect from 23 November 2023, citing operational reasons.