



WILDERNESS PRODUCT

NEWS & UPDATES

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ZIMBABWE
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

Zimbabwe

Linkwasha • Little Makalolo • Davison's • Chikwenya • Ruckomechi

The Wilderness Family Offering

The Wilderness family offering at our camps in Zimbabwe 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 by Region

Here are just a few ideas for activities:

- **Hwange and Mana Pools, Zimbabwe:** A full schedule of guided children's activities, games and crafts is available, giving parents the time for a guided walk, or simply to make the most of their siesta.

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.

Other Family Activity Options

- **Elephant Art of Africa – Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe**
 - This collaboration between Wild Horizons and Art of Africa is certainly one for the bucket list. Spend time with a herd of Africa's gentle giants, elephants, minutely observing their characters and behaviour.
 - Easels and palettes await beneath the trees in front of the wallow where the herd descends to splash and play in the cool mud.
 - A private tutor is provided to guide guests through an interactive and fun painting workshop, using their sketch pads and brushes to capture amazing moments.
 - The experience includes return transfers from the guests' hotel in Victoria Falls.
 - After lunch on the deck guests are transferred back to their hotel. Children aged 5 and older are welcome if accompanied by a parent.

Speak to your Travel Designer for more information.

REGIONAL UPDATE

Wilderness Air Zimbabwe

- In Zimbabwe, 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.

DESTINATION MANAGEMENT COMPANY (DMC) – GENERAL NEWS

Airports

- The expansion of **Robert Gabriel Mugabe International Airport** in Harare has been completed, and the revamped facility officially opened on 13 July 2023.
 - The government's airport expansion project, run by Airports Company of Zimbabwe, started in 2018.
 - It included developing a VIP pavilion, gyms, salons, coffee bars and children's play-centres. Additionally, two new aprons were constructed to accommodate four air bridges, one of which is in the domestic terminal. This allows the airport to accommodate seven aircraft in the international terminals at a time.

Airlines

- **FlySafair** has added four regional routes – Harare, Livingstone, Victoria Falls, and Maputo.
 - On 02 October 2023, operations will start between Johannesburg and Harare, and Johannesburg and Livingstone.
 - The Harare flights will operate daily while Livingstone flights are scheduled for four times weekly – Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Sunday.
 - From 03 October 2023, Johannesburg to Victoria Falls will operate three times a week.
 - On 05 October 2023, the route Johannesburg to Maputo will begin operations four times per week.