

## WILDERNESS PRODUCT

# NEWS & UPDATES

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June 2023

## NEWSFLASH

### Emergency Evacuation Cover

- Wilderness accesses evacuation providers on a fee-per-service basis, as and when needed in an emergency.
- To avoid duplicated evacuation cover (travel insurance and our evacuation policy) we will no longer include the evacuation membership fee on quotes for Wilderness, Wayo Africa & Governors' camps. However, should a third-party property include the service in their quote to us, we are obligated to include this in our quote proposal.
- Should a guest specifically request that an additional evacuation fee is included (with any evacuation provider), we will gladly add this to their booking.
- We do require that all guests travel with specific insurance or sufficient funds for emergency medical care during their travels (this is a term in our agent policy manual).

### Special Introductory Offer for Wilderness Usawa Serengeti

- Based on a 20% discount off the nightly rate.
- Validity: from opening date (17 July 2023) until the start of the festive season (17 December 2023).
- The cost for the nightly rate varies between high and low season.
- Minimum 2-night stay is required.
- Inclusions and exclusions remain the same (note that park fees are excluded).
- Please contact your Travel Designer for more information.

### Wilderness Shumba and Busanga Bush Camp Open For 2023 Season

- On 1 June, Wilderness Shumba and Busanga Bush Camp welcomed guests back to Zambia's renowned Kafue National Park, one of Africa's largest national parks and a UNESCO Biosphere Network reserve.
- Our Wilderness camps, situated in the supremely remote Busanga Plains area, offer guests front-row seats to a wildlife extravaganza for just five months each year, from the beginning of June to the end of October, before the return of the seasonal rains.

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## FEATURED PRODUCT

### A few USPs worth noting about our Botswana camps.

#### Wilderness Mombo and Wilderness Little Mombo

- Four guests on a game-drive vehicle, as opposed to the usual six.
- Skimmer Hide and Kubu Kaya Hide (seasonal).
- Wildlife highlights from May –
  - Resident leopard Marothodi seen frequently with her playful two-month-old cub
  - Five cubs at the hyena den
  - Moporota Breakaway Pride (lionesses with four three-month-old cubs seen at Sambwembwe Lagoon in the north)
  - Two previously unknown male lions seen mating with two females from the Mathata Pride; guides have named the males the Tattoo Boys
  - Wild dogs, buffalos, elephants seen in front of camp

### **Wilderness Vumbura Plains and Wilderness Little Vumbura**

- Catch-and-release fishing (our Vumbura Private Wilderness Area is considered one of our best fishing areas in the Delta, as there is permanent water all year round).
- Wildlife highlights from May –
  - Rare sable antelope seen
  - 60+ herd of buffalos
  - Kubu and Eastern prides of lions; resting and on kills
  - Leopard on an ostrich kill
  - Aardvark
  - Unknown lone cheetah
  - Side-striped jackal
  - Wild dog (pack of 3) on a warthog kill
  - Marang (leopard) feeding on a giraffe carcass
  - Great sighting of a female lion that had killed an impala and left it to fetch her two cubs to feed

### **Wilderness Chitabe and Wilderness Chitabe Lediba**

- A full team of qualified walking guides available almost all year round (taking into account the seasons and annual rainfall).
- Day and night game drives
- Wildlife highlights from May –
  - Recent encounters with the Mestery wild dog pack
  - Mosadinyana lion mother and son sighted
  - Great sightings of rare antelope like roan

### **Wilderness DumaTau and Wilderness Little DumaTau**

- Home to the highest density of elephant in Africa.
- Barge excursion for lunches, picnics and sundowners (water levels permitting).
- Citizen Scientist Programme offers guests the chance to contribute to wild dog monitoring in the Linyanti.

### **Wilderness King's Pool**

- One of the best areas in Botswana to see rare sable and roan.
- Queen Silvia barge excursions for sundowners and private dinners (water levels permitting).
- Sunken hide at a waterhole.
- Guests contribute to our reforestation programme by planting an indigenous tree sapling.

### **Wilderness Jao**

- Year-round access to Hunda Island by boat or vehicle.
- Day and night game drives.
- Star Bed sleep-out (weather permitting).
- Wildlife highlights from May –
  - Amazing daily lion and leopard sightings
  - Cheetah seen regularly
  - A pack of wild dogs is denning on Hunda Island
  - The annual waters are filling the channels, and general game is exploding
  - The otherwise elusive Pel's fishing owls are seen on our main island; also African snipe
  - Thrilling lesser flamingos have also been sighted

### **Wilderness Qorokwe**

- Offers an array of all year-round activities, including seasonal mokoro outings on channels close to camp.
- Full day excursion to Gomoti Plains, including a picnic lunch (on a minimum two night stay).
- Wildlife highlights from May –
  - Sightings aplenty, with guests having returned to camp seeing more than 50 different lions in our concession
  - Great leopard sightings, including mother and cubs
  - Two different wild dog packs
  - A mother cheetah with 7 cubs seen hunting along the Leadwood floodplains and Gomoti River

## REGIONAL UPDATES

### BOTSWANA

- Linyanti Airstrip closed for maintenance on 29 May 2023, and is expected to reopen on 20 June 2023.
- During this period, we will be making use of Chobe Airstrip, which entails an approximate 2 hour and 20 minute road transfer one way, to and from Wilderness Linyanti Tented Camp (East and West).
- The camps will pack drinks and snacks, and offer an afternoon tea where applicable, so that guests have the option of going directly on a game drive from the airstrip when they arrive.
- While Wilderness King's Pool is usually serviced by Linyanti Airstrip, there will be no impact on guests as Chobe Airstrip is actually situated closer to camp.

### NAMIBIA

#### Hot Air Ballooning – Vehicle Transfer Logistics

##### Wilderness Kulala Desert Lodge

- Self-drive guests from Kulala Desert Lodge need to make their own way directly to the office of Namib Sky Adventures for the onward courtesy vehicle transfer to the launch site.

##### Wilderness Little Kulala

- Self-drive guests will be transferred by a camp guide to and from the offices of Namib Sky Adventures on a complimentary basis. Onward courtesy vehicle transfers provided by Namib Sky Adventures will then depart to the launch site.
- In both of the above cases, should self-drive guests not wish to make their own way to the offices of Namib Sky Adventures, vehicle transfers by Namib Sky Adventures are available at an additional cost, both to and from Wilderness Kulala Desert Lodge. These can be booked directly with Namib Sky Adventures. Naturally this primarily applies to self-drive DB1 guests staying at Wilderness Kulala Desert Lodge.

Additional information pertaining to the above is available in the Wilderness Portfolio and Policies & Procedures.

### RWANDA

- With immediate effect, the Government of Rwanda has removed all requirements for guests to present negative RT-PCR COVID-19 and Rapid Antigen COVID-19 tests when visiting the country's national parks.
- However, do note that all travellers visiting primates in Volcanoes National Park, Nyungwe Forest National Park and Gishwati-Mukura National Park are required to wear face masks.
- Please also note that it remains the sole responsibility of the AGENT and/or GUEST as their absolute duty to verify all current protocols directly with the relevant governmental health authorities at the time of creating an itinerary.

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## WILDERNESS TOURING – ZAMBEZI

- Livingstone Island officially opened on 01 June 2023.
- Please note though, the swimming experience at Angel's Pool will commence once the water levels are lower.

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## DESTINATION MANAGEMENT COMPANY (DMC) – GENERAL NEWS

### Zambia Airways

- From 01 June 2023, there will be five flights weekly between Lusaka and Johannesburg – on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays. From July, these will increase to daily.

- On Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, ZN0305 departs LUN at 07h00 and arrives JNB at 09h00. The returning flight, ZN0304, departs JNB at 09h45 and arrives LUN at 11h45.
- On Fridays, ZN0305 departs LUN at 13h30 and arrives JNB at 15h30. The Friday return flight, ZN0304, departs JNB at 16h15 and arrives LUN at 18h15.
- When daily flights commence on 01 July 2023, the Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday flights will follow the morning departure times, and the Friday, Saturday and Sunday flights will follow the afternoon departure times.