

WILDERNESS PRODUCT

NEWS & UPDATES

[NewsFlash](#) | [General Reminders](#) | [Regional Updates](#) | [Wilderness Air](#) | [Wilderness Touring](#)

May 2023

NEWSFLASH

- Wilderness Usawa Serengeti moves with the herds. Discover a Serengeti safari unlike any other with Wilderness, opening July 2023.
 - Wilderness Vumbura Plains has been named by *Condé Nast Traveler* as one of the best new hotels in Africa and the Middle East, and we couldn't be prouder.
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GENERAL REMINDERS

NAMIBIA

Wilderness Hoanib Skeleton Coast Camp

- On a stay of three nights or more, a coastal excursion to The Skeleton Coast is included. This is an extended excursion as the drive to the coast normally involves departing from camp early in the morning for the approximate four- to five-hour drive, one way, to the coast.
- Stops and landmarks en route include Klein Oases Spring, driving through a dune field, visiting seal colonies, and exploring the coastline.
- Following a picnic lunch on the beach, depart by light aircraft around 14:00 for the approximate 20-minute air transfer back to camp (not a scenic flight). This return flight is not possible on a private basis.
- Typically, harsh desert conditions prevail in this area, including heat, fog rolling in from the sea, high winds and flooding rivers. On occasion, these conditions may affect the duration and routing of the excursion, with guests being driven both ways or – as is the case when it rains and the floodplains fill with water – flown both ways.
- In this case, departure from camp will be at 10:00 to allow time for the fog to clear. The return to camp will remain as departure from Möwe Bay at 14:00. At the discretion of the Camp Manager and Duty Pilot, with safety and overall comfort being the major criteria, plus decisions on the format of the excursion on any given day, this will be finalised in camp.
- Being weather dependent, the excursion cannot be guaranteed and should it not take place, no refund is possible.
- Day excursions: Operating within the concession area and on offer to all guests, these trips depart camp early in the morning, include a picnic lunch, returning to camp in the mid to late afternoon (includes Mudorib Springs in the south, as well as the northern and eastern Hoanib area). Subject to private vehicle availability. To guarantee this excursion a private vehicle needs to be booked and paid for.
- Coastal excursions: Included in the rate and available to all guests on a stay of three nights or more. However, should the availability of aircraft, pilots and guides allow, a flying option may be offered to guests staying for less than three nights. This cannot be guaranteed and will be at an additional cost, booked and paid for in camp. Currently limited to a maximum of 10 guests per excursion due to the number of vehicles and aircraft available.

WW Guideline:

[Window](#) > [Information Centre](#) > [Wilderness](#) > [Wilderness Product Information](#) > [Wilderness Information Manuals](#) > [Wilderness Portfolio](#) > [Other Possible Activities](#)

Wilderness Desert Rhino Camp – Self-drive

- Desert Rhino is not accessible on a self-drive basis and vehicles need to be parked at Twee Palms. Further details and GPS co-ordinates have been shared in the Policies and Procedures.

WW Guideline:

[Window](#) > [Information Centre](#) > [Wilderness](#) > [Wilderness Product Information](#) > [Policies and Procedures](#)

BOTSWANA

Wilderness Air

- As advised in the Rates Sheets, seat rates on our Wilderness Air flying circuits may be utilised on a stand-alone basis, and do not have to be booked in conjunction with accommodation or other services through Wilderness.
- Should you book Wilderness camps but your own flying, charging RSP rates less 15% no longer applies in Botswana. In this scenario, standard accommodation rates are applicable.
- **The exception is Wilderness Mombo, Wilderness Little Mombo or Wilderness Mokete – they still have to be booked in combination with another Wilderness camp (in any country) for standard rates to apply. If Wilderness Mombo or Wilderness Little Mombo or Wilderness Mokete are the only Wilderness camps booked, then RSP rates less 10% apply.**
- Flying is to Santawani Airstrip with Wilderness Air, and from here a helicopter flight to camp with Helicopter Horizons.
- As of 12 May 2023, we are pleased to confirm that Wilderness Mokete is now part of the Free Flying Deal with Wilderness Air. However, the helicopter transfer leg with Helicopter Horizons between Santawani Airstrip and Wilderness Mokete will be at a cost. Any existing bookings with Wilderness Mokete, as part of an itinerary and that meets the requirements of the Fly (For) Free with Wilderness Air in Botswana, need to be re-costed in order for the deal to apply.

RWANDA

Suggested Packing List Bisate

- The lodge is able to supply backpacks, rain gear (jacket, poncho and rain trousers, depending on preference and weather conditions), gloves and gaiters. At the start of the trek, the guests will be supplied with a trekking pole or walking stick.

WW Guideline:

[Window](#) > [Information Centre](#) > [Wilderness](#) > [Wilderness Product Information](#) > [Wilderness Information Manuals](#) > [Wilderness Portfolio](#) > [Lodge Facilities](#)

[Window](#) > [Information Centre](#) > [Wilderness](#) > [Wilderness Product Information](#) > [Wilderness Information Manuals](#) > [Wilderness Policies & Procedures](#) > [Suggested Packing List](#)

Kingfisher Journeys – Lake Kivu Cultural Experience

- Lake Kivu offers an authentic local experience compared to a curated tourist experience. Incorporate a few interactions with local people and learn about the culture of the residents here.
- Book with Wilderness Rwanda via Kingfisher Journeys. A number of activities that Kingfisher Journeys run and operate themselves include walking around the volcanoes, Twin Lakes, or Lake Kivu, kayaking on Lake Kivu or canoeing on the Mukungwa River or the Twin Lakes.
- All these activities take guests into the remote countryside, where Rwanda's rural way of life can be discovered through their insightful guides. A walk based on storytelling in Kinigi is also planned.
- Note that booking, arranging or advising on third party activities is not offered by Kingfisher Journeys.

REGIONAL UPDATES

BOTSWANA

- Chobe Airstrip is now fully operational.
- Latest update on water levels:
 - Vumbura Concession – water levels remain constant; boating and mokoro offered
 - Linyanti camps – water levels remain constant; boating and mokoro offered
 - Qorokwe, Kwetsani, Tubu Tree, Jao and Pelo – mokoro only (water levels are still too low for boating to take place)
 - Abu, Seba – no water activities at this time; possibly mid-June as the inundation progresses
- Linyanti Tented Camp (East and West) now have Wi-Fi – note in the main areas ONLY.

KENYA

- Governors' Aviation 2023 & 2024 revised flight schedule timetable and map:

WW Guideline:

Window > Information Centre > Wilderness > Wilderness Product Information > Governors Camp Collection > Aviation > Governors' Aviation Limited – Kenya – Flight Schedule (Valid 2023 & 2024)

• Covid-19

- All information contained herein should not be construed as a representation made by Wilderness. 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.

• Covid-19 update supplied by Kenya Civil Aviation Authority

The following measures apply to traveller's departing and arriving into the country:

- All travellers arriving in the country through any point of entry are no longer required to show proof of either Covid-19 vaccination or a pre-departure Covid-19 test.
- Only travellers arriving at any port of entry into Kenya with flu-like symptoms will be required to fill the passenger locator form on the 'jitenge' platform https://ears.health.go.ke/airline_registration/.
- They will also be required to take a Covid-19 antigen test upon arrival, at their own cost. Those who are positive for the antigen test will be required to take a further Covid-19 PCR test, also at their own cost. Those with severe symptoms will thereafter be allowed to isolate as per the prevailing isolation requirements for mild, moderate and severe disease.
- Passengers travelling out of the country will be required to abide by the specific travel, health and Covid-19 related requirements of the transit and destination countries.
- Pre-departure RDT or PCR testing may be considered at the discretion of any of the airlines departing from or terminating in Kenya.

RWANDA

Wilderness Magashi – Transfers

- We have received a recent update regarding the North Gate shuttle services and gate times, and are in the process of amending the Wilderness Portfolio and Policies and Procedures. In the meantime please make sure that you are aware of the following:
 - Connecting Wilderness Magashi North Gate to Volcanoes National Park area (Wilderness Bisate & Wilderness Sabyinyo).
 - A new road is under construction, and although not completely finalised and certain areas not yet tarred, it is possible to use this new road.
 - This shortens the driving time from the North Gate of Akagera National Park to our lodges in the Volcanoes area in the north-west of the country by 2.5 to 3 hours.

- The driving time from the North Gate to Bisate/Sabyinyo is approximately 4 to 4.5 hours. The transfer does not go via Kigali.
- This means that it is now possible to connect by road in one day (previously only by helicopter or a very long day of driving).
- Guests departing from Bisate/Sabyinyo will leave at around 06:30 to reach the North Gate by 11:00 in time for collection by the Magashi vehicle.
- Guests departing from Magashi will be collected at the North Gate at 11:00 and reach Bisate/Sabyinyo around 15:00/15:30.
- The most comfortable, and still highly recommended, is to connect Magashi and the Volcanoes area by helicopter transfer.

Note that the new road is not yet 100% finalised so guests should expect a few diversions or untarred sections.

Amended – Private Activities: to secure sole use of a vehicle, a minimum of 3 tents needs to be booked. It is currently mentioned twice, it should only be mentioned once. Remove where it is mentioned that a minimum of 2 tents should be booked.

Wilderness Rwanda private transfer services by a local DMC from Kigali/to Wilderness Magashi, or vice versa

- Pick-up by a Wilderness Magashi vehicle at the North Gate of Akagera National Park at 11:00. On request, pick-up by a Wilderness Magashi vehicle at 15:00.
- The North Gate of Akagera National Park is strictly an exit gate only, and misuse* of this will not be tolerated by park management.

Private transfer services by a local DMC from the North Gate of Akagera National Park

- Pick-up by local DMC at the North Gate of Akagera National Park at 11:00.
- The approximate transfer times are as follows:
 - From Kigali to the North Gate of Akagera National Park – between 3.5 hours 4.0 hours.
 - From the North Gate of Akagera National Park to Wilderness Magashi – between 45 minutes and 2.0 hours (depending on wildlife sightings, and scenic/photographic opportunities en-route).
 - Arrival in camp is usually in time for lunch.

Transfer services by a local DMC via the South Gate of Akagera National Park

- If it is not possible for guests to reach the North Gate at either 11:00 or 15:00 (the latter by request only), then guests may arrive by road with their vehicle and driver/guide via the South Gate of Akagera National Park, and transfer from here to Wilderness Magashi.
- Arrival at Wilderness Magashi not before 13:00.
- This needs to be pre-booked, with vehicle fee to be settled at the South Gate of Akagera National Park (park fees for guests included in the booking rate).
- The driver/guide needs to contact Camp Management at Wilderness Magashi in advance, or latest when at the South Gate of Akagera National Park, to discuss route and access to our private concession.
- The approximate transfer times are as follows:
 - From Kigali to the South Gate of Akagera National Park – between 2.5 and 3.0 hours.
 - From the South Gate of Akagera National Park to Wilderness Magashi – between 3.0 to 4.0 hours (depending on wildlife sightings, and scenic photographic opportunities en-route).

Access to Wilderness Magashi by vehicle

- It is an approximate 3.5- to 4.0-hour drive from Kigali to the North Gate of Akagera National Park, followed by a game drive from the gate to the camp (the game drive is between 45 minutes and 2.0 hours, depending on wildlife sightings, scenery, and photographic opportunities along the way).
- African Parks have established a facility at the North Gate of Akagera National Park in Rwanda with secure parking and the opportunity for guests to make use of the bathroom facilities.
- This allows for greater flexibility in the transfer arrangements to and from Wilderness Magashi.

- DMCs may transfer their guests by private vehicle to the North Gate of Akagera National Park, where they will be met by a Wilderness Magashi guide and vehicle for the onward transfer to camp/lodge.
- Should there be a slight delay in connections, guests can relax in the safe surroundings of this facility.
- Do note, however, that tour operators may not proceed further into Akagera National Park
- The North Gate of Akagera National Park is strictly an exit gate only and misuse* of this will not be tolerated by park management.
- To ensure that logistics run smoothly, and guests are not inconvenienced, the standard operating procedure is as follows:
 - There is a set daily arrival and departure time of 11:00 at the North Gate of Akagera National Park. It is extremely important that all tour operators adhere to this time to avoid guests having to wait.
 - Departing guests will be transferred from camp/lodge by the Wilderness Magashi vehicle to be at the gate by 11:00, for collection by the tour operator and onward arrangements.
 - Arriving guests must be dropped off by the tour operators by 11:00 to meet the Wilderness Magashi vehicle for the transfer into camp/lodge.
 - If for some reason, arriving guests are unable to meet the 11:00 collection for Wilderness Magashi at the North Gate of Akagera National Park, it is possible to request a 15:00 collection from the North Gate at Akagera National Park. Available for arrivals only, not departing guests, this must be booked in advance, and is subject to availability and, therefore, confirmation.
 - If guests do make use of this later transfer, note that an afternoon activity at Wilderness Magashi is not guaranteed due to the later arrival in camp.
 - On the day of departure, guests will have a relaxed breakfast before departing camp between 08:00 and 09:30 for an extended game drive to the North Gate for collection.
 - The camp will provide a lunch-pack for the onward transfer to Kigali, arriving in the city at approximately 14:30. Alternatively guests may be collected directly from camp by their driver/guide from any time until 12:30.
 - The vehicle and driver/guide will need to enter the park via the South Gate of Akagera National Park in order to collect the guests from Wilderness Magashi.
 - Guests are required to vacate their tent at 10:30; however, they may enjoy the main area facilities until the latest departure of 12:30.

*** Note: The North Gate at Akagera National Park is an exit gate only for visitors to Akagera National Park, and thus may not be used as an entrance gate by private vehicles. However, special dispensation has been granted to allow Magashi guests, transferred by their local tour operator, to be collected from this facility at the North Gate of Akagera National Park. Accordingly, logistics are strictly managed as detailed.**

WW Guideline:

Window > Information Centre > Wilderness > Wilderness Product Information > Wilderness Information Manuals > Policies & Procedures

ZAMBIA

- **Wilderness Shumba & Busanga Bush Camp open for the season in June, per the following:**
 - 2023 – 01 June 2023 to 31 October 2023 (inclusive).
 - 2024 – 01 June 2024 to 31 October 2024 (inclusive).

ZIMBABWE

- **Mana West Airstrip Closure**
Mana West Airstrip resumed operations on 27 April 2023.

WILDERNESS TOURING – ZAMBEZI

- Note that Livingstone Island is now officially closed due to high water and is expected to reopen on 01 June 2023.

WILDERNESS TOURING – CAPE TOWN

New Tour Added

- Wilderness-Sealand Partnership Experience – Make a difference, be involved, and take in the beautiful coastal scenery.
 - This brand-new tour includes a visit to Sealand (view how our bespoke travel apparel is made from waste materials), then visit the Sentinel Ocean Alliance Team and assist with a beach clean-up. Drive along Chapman’s Peak Drive to Cape Point. En route visit Veld and Sea, and learn from Roushana, a famous Western Cape coastal forager, and enjoy a food-art-nature inspired experience.

WW Guideline:

Window > Information Centre > Wilderness > Wilderness Product Information > Wilderness Touring - Cape Town > Tour Descriptions - Components (Activities) > Wilderness Sealand Partnership Experience

WILDERNESS DESTINATION MANAGEMENT COMPANY (DMC) – GENERAL NEWS

Airlines

- From March 26, **RwandAir** will add two flights on WB111, its route from Cape Town to Harare, on Fridays and Sundays.

On the same date, the airline will also add three flights on WB107, the route from Johannesburg to Lusaka, on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays.

The daily flights from Johannesburg to Kigali remain unchanged.

- **Fastjet Zimbabwe** has opened additional domestic routes to Kariba and Hwange National Park. The Zimbabwean carrier announced that the routes were operational on Tuesday, 04 April 2023.

The flights to Kariba and Hwange National Park are part of the airline’s domestic route development strategy, aimed at improving air connectivity in Zimbabwe.

- Independent regional airline, **Airlink**, will launch flights between Mbombela (Nelspruit) and Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, from 28 November 2023.

This will complement Airlink’s existing service between Mbombela’s Kruger Mpumalanga International Airport (KMIA) and Livingstone on the Zambian side.

The new route provides travellers with a greater choice of itineraries using direct Airlink flights and without having to connect via Johannesburg.

To facilitate the new service, Airlink will adjust its KMIA-Livingstone flights to four per week. The schedule will see the following flights operated with modern Embraer regional jets.

- **Mbombela-Victoria Falls**

Flight 4Z 476 departs KMIA at 11h35 and arrives in Victoria Falls 13h25 on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.

Flight 4Z 477 departs Victoria Falls at 14h00 and arrives at KMIA at 15h40 on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.

- **Mbombela-Livingstone**

Flight 4Z 470 departs KMIA at 11h35 and arrives in Livingstone at 13h30 on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays.

Flight 4Z 471 departs Livingstone at 14h00 and arrives in KMIA at 15h40 on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays.

- **Arusha Airport** in Tanzania, will soon be back to full operation. The airport, located on the outskirts of Arusha, is one of the oldest in the country and work has been carried out recently to extend its runway to accommodate larger aircraft. The expansion includes construction and rehabilitation of the main apron.
 - Also completed is the upgrade of the remote apron and parallel taxiway
 - Upgrade to the parking area
 - The current expansion will also extend the runway
-