



WILDERNESS PRODUCT NEWS & UPDATES

[NewsFlash](#) | [General Reminders](#) | [Featured Product](#) | [Regional Updates](#) | [Wilderness Air](#) | [Wilderness Tours & Transfers](#)

March 2023

NEWSFLASH

Wilderness Johannesburg Office Move

Our Wilderness Johannesburg team is thrilled to be moving into beautiful new premises in Paulshof on 3 April 2023. The new office is well suited to the company's new hybrid working environment, offering staff a more modern and contemporary space to work from, and meet colleagues and partners. We look forward to welcoming you to our new offices soon.

New address: Glenmorangie Building, Kildrummy Office Park, Cnr Witkoppen & Umhlanga Ave, Paulshof, 2056, South Africa

Contact numbers: All direct numbers remain the same, as does our central reception contact: +27 (0)11 257 5000.

GENERAL REMINDERS

ZIMBABWE

Wilderness Mana Pools Camps open from 1 April 2023

We are thrilled that in a few short weeks our Mana Pools camps – Wilderness Chikwenya and Ruckomechi (1 April) and Little Ruckomechi (1 June) – will be reopening for the safari season here. Being private wilderness reserves directly on the Zambezi River means that our concessions offer guests the finest safari experience in the Mana Pools area. With over 7km of exclusive river frontage on each private reserve, our two concessions, which flank Mana Pools National Park, offer a combination of spectacular scenery and exclusive activities on land and water, set within one of the most productive wildlife zones of Mana Pools along the riverine belt.

ZAMBIA

Kafue season opens 1 June 2022

In June, the seasonal waters of the remote and untamed Kafue will have receded and our much-loved Shumba and Busanga Bush camps will re-open for the season. Operational for just five months each year, before the rains return to inundate the floodplains once more, Wilderness Shumba and Busanga Bush Camp epitomise 'off the beaten track', offering one of the most remote and wild safaris on the planet. Aptly named the 'Plains of Plenty', the Busanga Plains' exceptional biodiversity means the area teems with wildlife and birds.

FEATURED PRODUCT

STAR BEDS & SLEEP-OUTS

Definitions

A Sleep-Out – This is either on the rooftop area, top deck or standard deck of a room. A Sleep-Out Deck doesn't need to be booked in advance as it is forms part of the accommodation.

A Star Bed – This is an overnight facility away from the tented accommodation, either in-camp or further away and accessed by vehicle only, with ablutions available. The offering may be directly under the stars or with some form of covering, in the canopy of a tree or an exposed platform.

Please advise your Travel Designer if guests wish to experience this wonderful offering during their stay. Alternatively, guests may advise camp management on check-in.

Wilderness Jao – Star Bed

Approximately 20 minutes' drive from camp • Queen-sized bed with a mosquito net, long-drop toilet sited away from the platform down the stairs and an approximately 10-metre walk away • Radio available to call the guide as an escort • Torch and flasks of tea and coffee available • Due to the location and inaccessibility during high-water levels, this offering is seasonal and possible only when water levels are low • Offered at the discretion of the camp manager on a minimum three-night stay; booking a private vehicle not required • Guests are transferred by vehicle to the platform after dinner in camp; however, dinner at the platform may be arranged if requested in advance • Guests return to camp in time for the early morning game drive (with other guests in camp sharing the vehicle) • To allow for flexibility, booking of a private vehicle is recommended for the entire duration of the stay (subject to vehicle availability, which needs to be booked and paid for) • Should the Star Bed offering not be possible, the private vehicle cost is not refundable • Maximum of 02 pax • Guests are accompanied by a guide who sleeps in a pop-up tent nearby

Wilderness Tubu Tree – Star Bed

Approximately 20 minutes' drive from camp • Queen-sized bed with a mosquito net, long-drop toilet sited away from the platform down the stairs and an approximately 10-metre walk away • Radio available to call the guide as an escort • Torch and flasks of tea and coffee available • Due to the location and inaccessibility during high-water levels, this offering is seasonal and possible only when water levels are low • Offered at the discretion of the camp manager on a minimum three-night stay; booking a private vehicle not required • Guests are transferred by vehicle to the platform after dinner in camp; however, dinner at the platform may be arranged if requested in advance • Guests return to camp in time for the early morning game drive (with other guests in camp sharing the vehicle) • To allow for flexibility, booking of a private vehicle is recommended for the entire duration of the stay (subject to vehicle availability, which needs to be booked and paid for) • Note that should the Star Bed offering not be possible, the private vehicle cost is not refundable • Maximum of 04 pax • Guests are accompanied by a guide who sleeps in a pop-up tent nearby

Wilderness Little Tubu

Star Bed approximately 20 minutes' drive from camp • Queen-sized bed with a mosquito net, long-drop toilet sited away from the platform down the stairs and an approximately 10-metre walk away • Radio available to call the guide as an escort • Torch and flasks of tea and coffee available • Due to the location and inaccessibility during high-water levels, this offering is seasonal and possible only when water levels are low • Offered at the discretion of the camp manager on a minimum three-night stay and booking of a private vehicle not required • Guests are transferred by vehicle to the platform after dinner in camp. However, dinner at the platform may be arranged if requested in advance • Guests return to camp in time for the early morning game drive (with other guests in camp sharing the vehicle) • To allow for flexibility, booking of a private vehicle is recommended for the entire duration of the stay (subject to vehicle availability, which needs to be booked and paid for) • Note that should the Star Bed offering not be possible, the private vehicle cost is not refundable with guest numbers as a maximum of 02 • Guests are accompanied by a guide who sleeps in a pop-up tent nearby • Sleep-out in the sala on the deck of Tent 01 (only possible at this tent due to the height off the ground)

Wilderness Savuti – Star Bed

Overlooking the Savuti Channel and facing Zibadianja Lagoon to the west • Approximately 3.0 – 3.5-metre platform elevation from ground level • Approximately 1.5 hours' unique 'Follow the forgotten channel' game drive between the camp and the Star Bed • Non-convertible double bed with a mosquito net, under a wooden roof, two single beds may be added as required (under the stars) on the elevated deck to the side, each bed has a mosquito net • Open-air dining area, sunken lounge area and a bathroom with toilet, cold water shower and wash basin • Fire pit on the banks of the channel, weather permitting • Operated subject to the discretion of the camp manager and available inventory • To be pre-booked for the period 01 April to 30 November

• Whilst the offering is available during the summer season for the period 01 December to 31 March, it cannot be pre-booked in the inventory system • Minimum three-night stay and booking of a private vehicle required

Wilderness Linkwasha – Star Bed

Overlooking Scott's Pan, approximately 15 minutes' drive from camp • Equipped with bedrolls, mosquito net, flush toilet and hand basin with running water • Weather permitting and operated subject to the discretion of the camp manager • No minimum-night stay and booking of a private vehicle not required • To allow for flexibility, booking a private vehicle is recommended (subject to vehicle availability, which needs to be booked and paid for) • Note that should the sleep-out not be possible, the private vehicle cost is not refundable with guest numbers as a minimum of 01 and a maximum of 04 being family members or close friends • Guests are accompanied by a guide who sleeps in a pop-up tent nearby

Wilderness Little Makalolo – Star Bed

Overlooking Madison Pan • Approximately 15 minutes' drive from camp • Equipped with bed rolls, mosquito net, pizza oven, wash basin and a flush toilet • Weather permitting and operated subject to the discretion of the camp manager • No minimum night stay and booking of a private vehicle not required • To allow for flexibility, booking a private vehicle is recommended (subject to vehicle availability, which needs to be booked and paid for) • If sleep-out not be possible, the private vehicle cost is not refundable • Minimum of 01 pax and a maximum of 04 pax • Guests are accompanied by a guide who sleeps in a pop-up tent nearby

Wilderness Ruckomechi – Star Bed

Located at Parachute Pan • Approximately 400 metres from camp • King-sized bed with a mosquito net, wash basin and flush toilet • Weather permitting and operated subject to the discretion of the camp manager • No minimum-night stay and booking of a private vehicle not required • Guests are transferred by vehicle to the platform after dinner in camp; however, dinner or breakfast at the platform may be arranged if requested in advance, with guests returning to camp in time for the early morning game drive (with other guests in camp sharing the vehicle) • Maximum of 02 pax • Guests are accompanied by a guide who sleeps in a pop-up tent nearby

Wilderness Little Kulala – Sleep-out Deck

Private rooftop area for sundowners, “African Tapas” rooftop dinners and star gazing • Equipped with beanbags and a coffee table, including a shaded sala (without bed or mosquito net) • For siestas during the day or for sleep-outs under the stars (both weather-permitting and on request), camp staff will move the roll-out bed from under the shaded canopy on the ground-level deck • Sleep-outs on the spacious wrap-around bottom deck of each suite allow for easy access during the night • Equipped with bedrolls and a mosquito net • Weather permitting and subject to the discretion of the camp manager

Wilderness Kulala Desert Lodge – Sleep-out Deck

Private rooftop area for sleep-outs accessed by wooden stairs behind the room • Equipped with a mattress, but no mosquito net • Weather permitting and operated subject to the discretion of the lodge manager

REGIONAL UPDATES

BOTSWANA

Updated Water activities:

As is typical, we expect water levels to start rising again in April in the Okavango Delta. In the meantime, see below update on water activities in camps.

Wilderness Jao, Pelo and Kwetsani: Currently only mokoro available

Wilderness Qorokwe: Water levels are still low, no water activities

Wilderness Vumbura: Still offering boating, mokoro and catch-and-release fishing (commenced on 1 March)

Abu and Seba: Water remains low, no water activities

Kings Pool: Barge still operational

DumaTau: Barge and catch-and-release fishing operational

WILDERNESS AIR

Botswana

Maintenance of the **Mombo Airstrip** is underway, and between 28 February 2023 and 07 March 2023, complimentary helicopter transfers will transport guests from Vumbura airstrip to Wilderness Mombo.

The **Chobe Airstrip** will be closed for resurfacing between 15 March and 26 April 2023.

- All guests booked into **Wilderness King's Pool** will be transferred by game drive to Linyanti Airstrip, which is equidistant to Chobe Airstrip, therefore with little impact on guest experience.
- A complimentary helicopter transfer will be offered to DumaTau guests to the Linyanti Airstrip, with an approximate two-hour scenic drive to camp.

WILDERNESS TOURS & TRANSFERS – CAPE TOWN

Table Mountain Aerial Cableway has advised that the cableway will be closed for maintenance from 24 July 2023 until 6 August 2023. Weather permitting, the cableway will re-open on 7 August 2023. Wilderness Touring will offer an alternative drive (weather permitting) to Signal Hill, for postcard views over the city and along the Atlantic Seaboard.

Affected bookings have no financial implications and will be managed on the ground by Wilderness Touring – Cape Town.

DESTINATION MANAGEMENT COMPANY (DMC) – GENERAL NEWS

Durban's King Shaka International Airport Refurbishment

Durban's King Shaka International Airport will be undertaking maintenance works on the canopy structure above the drop-off area (elevated roadway) from 03 March, for completion by the end of July.

The work will be executed in phases. Painting of various elements of the structure will be undertaken in the current phase.

AIRLINES AND AIRPORTS

CemAir will begin daily flights between OR Tambo (JNB) and Maun International Airport (MUB) as from 01 May 2023.

The schedule is as follows:

JNB 12h15-14h00 MUB

MUB 14h30-16h05 JNB

Emirates will add a third daily flight to Johannesburg from Dubai starting on 01 March. The existing two daily flights, both currently using Airbus A380s, will downsize to the Boeing 777-300ER.

The airline will also commence a new direct flight between Addis Ababa and Harare from March 26, three times a week (on Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays). The new direct flight is in addition to the triangular route, Addis Ababa-Lusaka-Harare, which the airline currently operates.

The schedule is as follows:

Flight ET893 will depart Addis Ababa at 22h00 and arrive in Harare at 01h30 the next day.

Flight ET892 will depart Harare at 02h15 and arrive in Addis Ababa at 07h45.

SARS Traveller Declaration

SARS has introduced a new online Traveller Declaration system and is now ready to start rolling out to more airports and border points across South Africa – please refer to the links for further information:

SATSA - <https://www.satsa.com/sars-tourism-industry>

SARS - <https://www.sars.gov.za/travellerdeclaration/>