

WILDERNESS PRODUCT

NEWS & UPDATES

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ZIMBABWE

September 2023

NEWSFLASH

- Wilderness Air Zimbabwe has introduced a VIP Meet & Greet service on the air side, for departures and arrivals from both Victoria Falls Airport and Robert Gabriel Mugabe International Airport.

This includes the following options (depending on which service you select):

- VIP Arrival Meet & Assist:
Includes assistance through Immigration and Customs with optional baggage handling service (collecting luggage from the baggage carousel).
- VIP Departure Meet & Assist:
Includes check-in assistance with international scheduled commercial flights, as well as assistance through Customs and Immigration, and Security.
- Wilderness Usawa Serengeti wins in *Architectural Digest 2023* Best New Hotels Awards!

FEATURED PRODUCTS

Livingstone Island Picnic Lunch

On offer from August through January, this activity takes advantage of the Zambezi River's low level to allow guests to picnic on the famous island David Livingstone camped on while researching the Victoria Falls. Bring a swimsuit and towel too, as a thrilling swim in Devil's Pool, at the lip of the Falls, is also an option. Learn [more](#) or chat to your Travel Designer.

Tour of the Victoria Falls – Zimbabwean side

This approximately 2-hour tour explores the rainforest of the Victoria Falls and the abundance of birdlife. Here, guests learn about the geographical formation of the Falls, and can amble along the scenic pathway, stopping at spectacular vantage points along the way. Learn [more](#) or chat to your Travel Designer.

Wilderness Chikwenya – Mana Pools National Park, Zimbabwe

Included activities

- Guided nature walks – available throughout the season
- Water-based activities in 05 x 02-seater canoes and 02 x 08-seater pontoon boats (both water levels permitting)
- River cruise (usually sunset cruise and water levels permitting)
- Fishing (whilst not a predominantly fishing camp) is possible on a catch-and-release basis from the bank or by boat for leisure (not the sole purpose of the safari) and is included as a standard camp activity (water levels permitting and at no extra cost), dependent on boat availability and guest numbers
 - Basic fishing tackle is available from the camp (rods/reels/line sinkers/hooks/steel trace, as well as worms, which can be used to fish for bream (tilapia), barbel (catfish) and tigerfish
 - Fly fishing equipment is not stocked in camp and for serious fishermen requiring sole use of a boat (subject to availability), a per-hour per-boat cost (subject to change) will be levied, payable direct
 - Note that priority for the camp boats is game-viewing activities for all guests
- Birding
- Stargazing with a laser pointer
- Picnics on Chikwenya Island in the river

- Private activities on offer (subject to vehicle availability, which needs to be booked and paid for) may be requested in advance

Wilderness Ruckomechi – Mana Pools National Park, Zimbabwe

Included activities

- Guided nature walks available throughout the season
- Water-based activities in 02 x 08-seater pontoons, 01 x 04-seater speed boat and 01 x 09-seater Pelican motor boat, as well as 05 x 02-seater canoes (water levels permitting)
- River cruise (usually sunset cruise)
- Fishing (whilst not a predominantly fishing camp) is possible on a catch-and-release basis from the bank or by boat for leisure (not the sole purpose of the safari) and is included as a standard camp activity (water levels permitting and at no extra cost), dependent on boat availability and guest numbers
 - Basic fishing tackle is available from the camp (rods/reels/line sinkers/hooks/steel trace, as well as worms, which can be used to fish for bream (tilapia), barbel (catfish) and tigerfish)
 - Fly fishing equipment is not stocked in camp and for serious fishermen requiring sole use of a boat (subject to availability), a per-hour per-boat cost (subject to change) will be levied, payable direct
 - Note that priority for the camp boats is game-viewing activities for all guests
- Birding
- Star Bed at Parachute Pan
 - Approximately 400 metres and a 40-minute drive from camp
 - King-sized bed with 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 guests, accompanied by a guide who sleeps in a pop-up tent nearby
- Stargazing with a laser pointer
- Private activities on offer (subject to vehicle availability, which needs to be booked and paid for) may be requested in advance
- Note that there is one private vehicle on the Ruckomechi Concession, shared between Wilderness Ruckomechi and Wilderness Little Ruckomechi

WILDERNESS TOURING

ZIMBABWE

Wilderness Touring Zambezi has notified us that as of 01 September 2023, the Zambezi Sunset Cruise will return to its summer schedule. Cruises will now depart at 16h30 and return at 18h30.

Water levels

Our Zambian driver-guides have advised that the Victoria Falls' water level on the Zambian side has dropped noticeably. They anticipate that the Zambian side will be dry by the end of the month. From the Zimbabwean side, there are still significant flows from the mouth to Livingstone Island, but the flow has decreased markedly from Horseshoe to Eastern Cataract, and we estimate it will be dry by early October.

DESTINATION MANAGEMENT COMPANY (DMC) – GENERAL NEWS

fastjet moved its check-in services from Terminal A to Terminal B at OR Tambo International Airport on 15 August 2023.

- The primary reasons for this change are to provide our passengers with improved convenience, streamlined check-in procedures, and closer access to essential facilities within the airport.
- Terminal B is closer to fastjet's ticket desk, making the airport process more efficient for passengers and staff, helping reduce travel time and enhancing the overall flow for customers.

- Terminal B has more amenities and facilities to elevate passengers' travel experience further. With more dining options and relaxation zones, customers will have a more comfortable and enjoyable pre-flight experience.

Qatar Airways officially opened its Zimbabwean office in Harare this month.

- This follows the launch of the **airline's linked service** between Doha and Lusaka and Harare, with thrice-weekly flights from Doha on Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays.