

ASSOCIATED PRODUCT

GENERAL UPDATES

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August 2024

AIRLINES

Uganda Airlines has announced new routes to Nigeria, Zimbabwe and Zambia. On Tuesday, 17 July 2024, the airline announced on social media that it was starting flights from Entebbe to Abuja from 12 September, and Lusaka and Harare from 25 September. The Abuja flights will be operated every Sunday and Thursday by the airline's flagship A330-800 aircraft, carrying up to 388 passengers, as an extension of existing flights to Lagos. Flights to Lusaka and Harare will operate four times a week, on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday, utilising a CRJ-900 aircraft carrying up to 90 passengers.

The new services, combined with existing services to Bujumbura, Dar es Salaam, Dubai, Johannesburg, Juba, Kilimanjaro, Kinshasa, Lagos, Mogadishu, Mombasa, Mumbai, Nairobi, and Zanzibar, expands Uganda Airlines' coverage to 16 destinations.

FlySafair has launched another route to Kruger Mpumalanga International Airport (MQP) in Nelspruit, this time from OR Tambo International Airport (JNB).

The new twice-weekly service starts on 02 August 2024.

The JNB-MQP flight schedule will be as follows:

Friday and Sunday – Departs OR Tambo International Airport at 11.15am – Arrives in MQP at 12.10pm.

Friday and Sunday – Departs MQP at 12.45pm – Arrives in OR Tambo International Airport at 13.40pm.

Qatar Airways is expanding its operations in Africa with an increase in flight frequency to Entebbe, Uganda by an additional three flights a week to meet summer demand.

From 01 August to 30 September 2024, the carrier moves from a daily service to operate 11 weekly flights between Doha and Entebbe.

The increased flight frequency comes as part of Qatar Airways' aim to improve air connectivity across Africa and forge stronger economic, business and cultural ties.

AirKenya has announced that as from 2025, on the Mara to Entebbe and vice versa route, there will be a minimum requirement of 6 pax for the period 01 April to 31 May 2025 and 01 November to 20 December 2025. For the rest of the year, it will remain at 4 pax minimum.

BOTSWANA

Desert & Delta Safaris is launching its new Tsodilo Hills Sleep-Out Camp, which accommodates guests in three twin/double pods (two adults per pod maximum) and one family dwelling with two pods, accommodating up to two adults and two children (under 16 years old). The maximum capacity is eight adults and two children. The

sleep-out is available for bookings staying three nights or more at Nxamaseri Island Lodge (subject to availability).

NAMIBIA

BLUU Car Rental Namibia presented new season rates applicable from 01 November 2024 to 31 October 2025.

Additions to the Super Package Rate now include a GPS, and BLUU has added a Group O: Toyota Urban Cruiser to their Namibia fleet.

Gmundner Lodge has revised their inclusions on their rates for 2025, and while many activities will still be included, a few will now only be available at extra charge.

Included in the price:

- Airport transfer by car (Hosea Kutako International Airport)
 - Three gourmet meals per day
 - All drinks, cocktails, and wines
 - Game drive
 - Safari sundowner
 - One spa treatment of your choice
 - Activities: horse riding, farm tour, archery, tennis, e-biking
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SOUTH AFRICA

Singita has appointed Marcelo Novais as International Sales Manager for Africa, Mexico, South America, China and Southeast Asia from 01 August 2024, based in the Singita Cape Town office.

Simbambili Game Lodge in the northern Sabi Sands, has re-opened after a major refurbishment. After months of construction, modifications, repurposing and interior design, they have crafted a modern-day classic, but maintaining the essence of luxury safari.

What to Expect:

- New Health and Wellness facilities
- New Bar
- New Library
- New Swimming Pool area
- New Plunge Pools
- Improved Suite Interior
- Boma Upgrade

For **Hermanus & surrounds**, it's not just whale season – it's also the secret flower season in the Overberg region. South Africa's Gold award-winning Chelsea Flower Show display will be showcased in the historic village

of Stanford, just 20 minutes from Hermanus and 15 minutes from Grootbos, from 21 September to 06 October 2024. Ask your Travel Designer about costs should your guests wish to visit during their stay in the area.

Icon Villas in Cape Town has added two new villas to their portfolio, Symphony of Light (in Bishopscourt) and Villa Nouveau (in Fresnaye). Both can accommodate eight guests. Villa stays have become very popular due to the exclusivity and flexibility they present. Icon Villas has an extensive portfolio for all budgets.

The Residence Hotel has completed its renovations and upgrades and is looking stunning. Revitalised guest rooms and enhanced common areas create an atmosphere that seamlessly blends the sophistication of a bygone era with modern luxury.

BLUU Car Rental South Africa presented new season rates applicable from 1 November 2024 to 31 October 2025. Additions to the Super Package Rate now include a GPS, and BLUU has added a Group O: Lead in small manual SUV – Toyota Urban Cruiser – and Group N: comprises SUV models.

Rovos Rail has new running times in 2025, where certain dates will carry the new departure and arrival times; the rest remain the same (at current times). In 2026 all dates will carry the new departure and arrival times.

- **New 2025 and 2026 times**
PRY-CPT > D 10:00 – A 15:00
CPT-PRY > D 09:30 – A 15:00

Kambaku Lodges have removed Kambaku Trails Camp from their portfolio.

ZAMBIA

This year Southern Africa is experiencing unusually dry conditions. Due to this, **Chiawa Camp**, **Old Mondoro** and **Baines River Camp** have suspended canoeing activities in the Lower Zambezi National Park for safety reasons, as low water levels make navigating certain channels nearly impossible. Canoeing may continue in deeper areas on a case-by-case basis. Boat cruises, angling, and river transfers remain available, and wildlife remains healthy. The situation is being closely monitored, and updates will follow.

TANZANIA

Singita will be opening a new property in Serengeti called Singita Kilima in October 2024. Sheltered by a forest of ancient trees on a remote hillside overlooking the Serengeti plains, Singita Kilima is an exclusive-use African retreat accommodating 10 guests. The villa will offer five suites that vary in size. An infinity swimming pool anchors the spacious outdoor areas, and two of the suites offer heated plunge pools. Guests can unwind on the wooden decks or in the various lounges, enjoy watching movies in the media room, tailor-made wine tastings, or stay active in the fitness centre. A full-time dedicated staff, including a field guide, chef, a butler and housekeeping team, is on site to attend to guests. Activities available include daily morning and afternoon game drives with a dedicated field guide, guided walking safaris (for guests 16 and older), stargazing, board games or join in a community visit. The villa also has its own private Boma with outdoor covered kitchen for dining al fresco. Access to Singita Kilima is from Singita Sasakwa airstrip.

Serengeti Balloon Safaris has advised that due to wet conditions in northern Serengeti, the Mara River is currently not crossable at Kogatende and this may well be the case for much of the peak season in 2024. To

ensure guests can still fly, Serengeti Balloon Safaris can offer a service from the Lamai Wedge (north of the river) in two ways:

- Shared balloon flights are available for minimum 6 pax on inducement and subject to availability. Serengeti Balloon Safaris will collate guests to reach the minimum but require 2-3 days flexibility to enable us to collate bookings. This will be for 05 July to 15 November only when Kogatende crossing is closed.
- Private charters are available and we have been operating in the Lamai Wedge for two seasons now. Prices depend on group size, and are available during 30 June – 15 November on request.

When the crossing is open, it is still recommended that all northern Serengeti guests (including those staying in the Lamai Wedge) fly from the usual launch site at Kogatende on the south bank of the river for the best overall flight path.

Park Hyatt Zanzibar has amended their Half Board and Full Board rates and meal plans. In 2024 the option to upgrade from Bed & Breakfast basis to Half Board or Full Board basis was available at an additional supplement charge per person, per night, and included a 3-course set menu meal. From 01 August the set menu meal has changed to be a Dine Around option with a meal credit offered instead. Guests booked on Half Board or Full Board rates will now receive a daily Food & Beverage credit of USD50 per person for Half Board and USD100 per person for Full Board per night to use for meals and drinks at one of the hotel's 3 restaurants. For 2025 set Half Board and Full Board rates are available (no longer as a supplement). Guests will receive a daily Food & Beverage credit of USD75 per person for Half Board and USD125 per person for Full Board per night. The HB or FB rates must be pre-booked and pre-paid, and is not applicable to room service or festive season meals.

RWANDA

One&Only Rwanda Please note that when booking five rooms or more at either One&Only Gorilla's Nest or One&Only Nyungwe House, standard STO rates will not apply. One&Only consider five rooms or more to be a 'Group' and therefore Group rates will apply. There will be an additional surcharge.

MOZAMBIQUE

Azura Benguerra are thrilled to introduce their fresh new website. The new look embodies the same luxury and sophistication you've come to expect from the Azura team. Their refreshed brand captures the essence of their island paradise, offering a seamless blend of modern elegance and natural beauty.