

ASSOCIATED PRODUCT

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July 2024

AIRLINES

Air France will inaugurate a three-times-weekly route from Paris-Charles de Gaulle to Tanzania's Kilimanjaro International Airport, as an extension of the Zanzibar flight, from 18 November 2024.

The route will operate on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays, using Airbus A350-900 aircraft. The flight replaces the Paris-Zanzibar-Dar es Salaam route operated by Air France until now.

Dar es Salaam will remain accessible via Amsterdam, with partner airline KLM operating flights to the port city seven times a week, as an extension of Kilimanjaro (five flights), and Zanzibar (two flights).

Flight times

- AF874: Departs Paris-Charles de Gaulle at 10h10 on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays, arriving in Zanzibar at 21h10. Departure from Zanzibar at 22h55, arriving in Kilimanjaro at 23h55 (same day).
- AF874: Departs Kilimanjaro at 01h25 on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays, arriving at Paris-Charles de Gaulle at 08h50 (same day).

LATAM Airlines will increase its Johannesburg-São Paulo frequency from three flights a week to five, starting 01 November 2024.

The airline will continue to deploy a Boeing 787-900 in a three-class configuration on the route.

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.

BOTSWANA

Ker & Downy are excited to announce the opening of their new property, Maxa, which is located overlooking the permanent Maxa Lagoon, on the South-Eastern Panhandle within Botswana's Okavango Delta. Maxa is scheduled to open on 20 March 2025 and will accommodate up to 12 guests in tented rooms, each comprising an en-suite indoor bathroom as well as full outdoor open-air bathroom. The Maxa family tent has two bedrooms and a shared en-suite bathroom along with an outdoor bathroom.

KENYA

Cottar's is excited to announce that they are planning a redesign of the classic style luxury double tent (Swala), as well as the family tented suites at Cottar's 1920s Camp early next year, and will therefore be closing the camp from 28 March to 10 May 2025 for the renovations to begin.

&Beyond has announced an upgrade to the Classic Tents at &Beyond Kichwa Tembo Tented Camp in Kenya. The Classic Tents that will be undergoing the partial rebuild will be closed off from 16 January to 30 April 2025. During this period, the camp's 12 existing Classic Tents will be redesigned into six brand-new Superior Tents. While the renovations are underway, the camp will remain open and operating as usual.

NAMIBIA

Hotel Heinitzburg has just been renovated with beautiful new softs and furniture, and is in the process of renovating its iconic Leo's at the Castle Restaurant. The restaurant will be completed by the end of June 2024.

Nooishof now offers the option of a 1-night stay, whereas previously a minimum stay of 2-nights was required.

The Paragon Meet-and-Greet Service is a service that most of our guests use. It offers great convenience as it fast-tracks our guests through the airport's most congested sections. This specific service has proven most effective on two routes: from an international flight upon arrival through to our Wilderness Lounge; and from our lounge through to the 'doorstep' of an international flight at departure.

Regarding domestic movements, we still see consultants booking this same service (our lounge to our Wilderness aircraft and vice versa). However, this specific transfer does not require the Paragon service, because the guests will be accompanied by their pilot as well as a security official who assists with luggage or mobility issues. If extra assistance is required, then an Airport Rep will step in to assist as well. Therefore, we are confirming that booking this service with Paragon is not needed at all.

Ongava Game Reserve will have their annual deep maintenance and camp closures for 2025 as follows:

- Ongava Tented Camp: 06 January – 19 January 2025
- Anderssons at Ongava: 22 January – 10 February 2025
- Little Ongava & Ongava Lodge: 12 February – 03 March 2025

Wolwedans Collection is delighted to announce that the Desert Lodge at Wolwedans has re-opened and each of the 10 tented rooms now boasts a chiller, indoor and outdoor en-suite bathrooms, and spacious verandas.

Quick Facts: Desert Lodge

- Min 2 night stay required
- Children 7 + years welcome

SOUTH AFRICA

Future Found Sanctuary, which is part of Newmark Hotels, is all about wellness and holistic rejuvenation. Surrounded by mountains, fynbos and beautiful gardens in the Hout Bay area of Cape Town, it offers a luxurious retreat and combines perfectly with the new African Retreat at Motswari Game Reserve (also Newmark), for an extended African Wellness Experience.

African Retreat, located in the Motswari Game Reserve, is Newmark's latest offering: a wellness retreat that promises a holistic and rejuvenating experience, focusing on spa treatments, yoga sessions, tai chi, bush bathing and nutritious gourmet cuisine. With four beautiful suites, it pairs perfectly with Geiger's Camp to offer the best safari and wellness retreat experience.

Table Bay Hotel has been rebranded as an InterContinental Hotel (owned by IHG Hotels & Resorts) and will continue to be managed by Sun International. It will close next year from 01 February 2025 until the end of the year for extensive renovations.

ZIMBABWE

The Victoria Falls Hotel has advised that their swimming pool will be closed from 01 July to 30 September for restoration work. During this time, in-house guests will have access to the swimming pool at sister hotel, Elephant Hills Resort, and will include a complimentary beverage offering and shuttle service to and from the hotel.

Camp Hwange's refurbishment has been completed. The main area of the camp has been expanded with the addition of a new thatched area at the front looking towards the waterhole, and with new furniture, lighting and flow. Just off the main area a small pool and elevated pool deck have been added. The public area also has a newly built history library and museum. The guest tents have been lightened and brightened with new 'open view' panels on the tent front maximising views to the waterhole, and new fabrics, furniture and decor (from local Zimbabwean artists) have been added to update the rooms' overall feel. The guest bathrooms have been completely redone with new showers, new dual vanities, new cupboards and cabinetry, new lighting and a new range of amenities. The new airstrip is fully operational now and just 15 minutes' drive from camp.

ZAMBIA

Time + Tide has announced that King Lewanika Camp (Liuwa National Park) is no longer part of the Time + Tide portfolio. The camp has been taken over by private owners; however, we do not have details for them or information on whether they are going to re-open the camp. It has been removed from the system.

TANZANIA

Temporary airstrip closures – In April there was notice of the temporary closure of some airstrips. These were Serengeti South (SGS) Airstrip closed until 20 May 2024, Lobo Airstrip closed until 01 July 2024 and Lamai Airstrip closed until 01 August 2024. Lamai Airstrip was temporarily re-opened from mid-June until 04 July 2024.

The Lobo Airstrip closure has been extended and is now only scheduled to re-open from mid- to end of July. There has been no update yet on South Serengeti Airstrip as this is taking longer than initially anticipated. All our preferred air partners have advised that they continue to re-evaluate and re-confirm all flight routings 2 days prior, based on the current situation.

Singita Milele is now open! Sophisticated yet luxuriously comfortable, this unique property is set high on Sasakwa Hill with uninterrupted views of the endless plains below. Ideal for groups of friends or families travelling together, the property has five elegant, spacious guest suites accommodating 10 guests. Multiple outdoor spaces include a boma, outdoor sala and an infinity pool with an adjacent spa pool. Two of the suites also have private outdoor spa pools. Guests can explore the Serengeti on private game drives, or relax at the villa and enjoy wellness treatments. There is also a fully equipped fitness centre, a 10-person cinema room, fully stocked 'bar-delis' with freshly made delicacies all day, private fine dining and meals prepared on request, tailor-made wine tastings, and a remarkable cellar with an extensive collection of award-winning wines.

One Nature Mara River Lodge officially opened on 12 June 2024 and welcomed its first guests. Located in the northern Serengeti, and just a 30-minute drive from Kogatende Airstrip, the lodge is in close proximity to the Mara River offering front-row seats to the spectacular Great Migration river crossing. Each of One Nature Mara River's seven luxurious villas offers a full savannah view as far as the eye can see. Staying here is an experience that offers the highest-end furnishings and amenities from leading luxury brands, with modern comforts such as air-conditioned rooms and the finest attention to detail. Every villa includes a solar powered air-conditioner, indoor & outdoor showers and a bathtub, private sundeck with a private heated pool, in-room fire stove, mini bar, and fridge, and personalised butler service.

Zanzibar White Sand Luxury Villas & Spa has unveiled their new Beach Restaurant & Bar offering stunning views of Paje Beach. The restaurant offers a casual 5-star dining experience, with fresh seafood and a blend of international and Swahili fusion cuisine. The new Garden Villas recently added are powered entirely by solar energy and offer a private hot tub or pool. As a reminder, a wide range of activities are on offer and guests can enjoy complimentary yoga classes, a signature garden tour, Swahili lessons, night-sky gazing, cooking classes, beach e-bicycles, stand-up paddleboards, transparent kayaks, snorkeling, tennis, games room or the infrared sauna and steam room at the spa.
