



ASSOCIATED PRODUCT

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**ZIMBABWE**

**June 2024**

## GENERAL UPDATES

**The Victoria Falls Hotel** has announced that Rodney Meiring has joined the hotel as the new General Manager as of 01 June 2024. Rodney has over 20 years' experience in the hospitality industry and in similar positions. Farai Chimba who has been acting General Manager is leaving the hotel after 15 years of service.

**Ilala Lodge Hotel** has renamed their Standard rooms to better reflect the timeless elegance of the property. From 01 April 2025, Standard Rooms will now be called Classic Rooms and Standard Suites will now be called Classic Suites. All other room types remain as is, and the amenities, and inclusions/exclusions remain the same.

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## SPECIALS

**Matetsi Victoria Falls** has announced that it is including the month of September 2024 in the "Stay 3 nights and only pay 50% for the last night" special offer, which is already available in October, November and early December 2024. The special will also be available in 2025 during mid-season from 08 January – 31 March, and 01 October to 15 December. In 2026 the special will be available from 08 January – 31 March.

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## FIRST-HAND FEEDBACK

**ZIMBABWE**

**Samantha Botes, Simone Solomons, Portia Mphothe and Kelefilwe Molongwa, recently went on an educational trip to Zimbabwe, and shared this feedback on the Associated Product property they stayed at.**

What an amazing way to start an epic educational... at **Victoria Falls River Lodge** in Victoria Falls. The lodge is close enough to see the spray of the magnificent Victoria Falls, yet far enough to escape the noise of town. Access to the lodge is via a short boat ride on the Zambezi River or game drive through Zambezi National Park. Located on the banks of the Zambezi River, each room has a view of the river and a private plunge pool – this is a great choice for honeymooners. We were served wholesome meals with a variety of options for breakfast, lunch and dinner, and on a fully inclusive basis we did not need to worry about booking any of the popular activities in Victoria Falls, as they are all included in the rates. We also had time to relax on the decks of our rooms, enjoying cocktails and watching the birdlife on the banks of the Zambezi. From our rooms, we also enjoyed watching all the game that comes into camp, especially the elephants.

An optional daily transfer from camp (typically departing at 10h00 and returning at 15h00) is available to Victoria Falls town. We enjoyed doing the Tour of the Falls (part of the daily transfer to town) and only the entry fee into the rainforest was for our own account. Two game activities are included per day – a choice of either a morning or afternoon game drive in Zambezi National Park, and a sunrise or sunset river cruise per person per day (subject to availability). Snacks and local drinks are included on the game drives and/or the sunset river cruises. Afternoon tea is also served daily, and there is complimentary access to the Fitness Centre, and complimentary WI-FI.

The Luxury Tents and Luxury Family Tents are well-suited for families – or for a multi-generational group the Hippo Creek Villa and Rapids View Villa are ideal. The Island Treehouse Suites (no under 12 years) are perfect for couples or honeymooners seeking tranquility and exclusivity.



**Naseemah Isaacs and Debray Mugnaioni joined a post-Indaba agent educational trip in May hosted by Africa Albida Tourism, and shared this feedback on their properties.**

Located just 4 kilometres from the renowned Victoria Falls and town, Victoria Falls Safari Lodge Estate is an ideal setting for guests seeking a safari lodge experience away from the bustling town. The lodge rooms and main areas overlook an active waterhole frequented by elephants, buffalo, kudu, and other species.

The main property, Victoria Falls Safari Lodge, has 72 rooms, the renowned MaKuwa-Kuwa Restaurant, the iconic Buffalo Bar, and a striking two-tiered swimming pool. The Siduli Hide is a lovely activity and opportunity to observe animals at the waterhole up close. Despite the size of the property, all staff are very attentive to all guests and ensure you are warmly welcomed to their lodge.

We enjoyed the unique the Vulture Culture Experience and The Boma – Dinner & Drum Show. The Vulture Culture Experience educates guests about the endangered vulture species and offers insight into conservation efforts, including a chance to witness the supplementary feeding programme.

The Boma – Dinner & Drum Show is an immersive cultural and culinary experience. Guests are treated to a delectable four-course meal, vibrant dance performances, interactive drumming sessions, and traditional storytelling. The infectious energy of the staff performers sets the stage for guests to showcase their own dancing skills, culminating in an evening of unforgettable camaraderie.



We were fortunate to enjoy a guided tour of the Falls, an absolute must! Our guide delved into the formation, history, and discovery of the Victoria Falls. Following the informative session, we embarked on a walking tour, exploring this breath-taking World Heritage site, gaining a deeper understanding and appreciation for this natural wonder. Given the current season, with the Falls in full flood, raincoats were essential. Along the way, we encountered various lookout points offering spectacular views, while at others, excessive spray limited visibility.

Experiencing this spectacle both from ground level and an aerial perspective is truly a must! The Livingstone's Angels Flight lasts 15 minutes and offers incredible photographic opportunities. The pilot navigates a figure-eight pattern, ensuring all passengers have the chance to view the Falls from various angles before returning to the helipad.

Also on the estate, is the Victoria Falls Safari Club with 20 luxury rooms. Each room, including the suite option, offers spacious accommodation. With exclusive access granted to club patrons, dining and facility usage are imbued with an unparalleled sense of exclusivity. The Safari Club lounge deck is a great setting to unwind, enjoy cocktails and canapés while enjoying sunset views. The talented chefs at the Club Restaurant treated us to an exquisite fine dining and food tasting experience for dinner. The meticulously crafted six-course menu was a feast for the eyes as well as the palate, with each dish presented beautifully. Throughout the evening, our senses were further enchanted as we were serenaded by the soulful melodies of an a cappella group, regular performers at the venue and shining examples of local talent.

The Victoria Falls Safari Spa is tucked away in a tranquil area surrounded by trees. They offer a range of treatments, splash pool and café. They served the best iced tea and we indulged in an hour-long massage treatment. It is a great way to end off your safari experience before taking a long-haul flight back home.

No visit to Victoria Falls would be complete without the serene experience of reclining, indulging in canapés and drinks, and witnessing a stunning sunset over the majestic Zambezi River. We embarked on a sunset cruise onboard the Zambezi Explorer, an exquisitely finished vessel boasting three decks that ensures a memorable outing. The two lower decks, known as the Luxury Decks, offer comfortable lounge seating, while the uppermost Signature Deck provides a premium experience for guests seeking an elevated perspective.

