



ASSOCIATED PRODUCT

GENERAL UPDATES

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June 2024

AIRLINES

Airlink has increased its seat availability from both Cape Town and Johannesburg to Skukuza. Two flights per week to and from both cities on the routes have been upgraded from a 37-seat Embraer ERJ 135 Regional Jet to a more comfortable and spacious 98-seat Embraer E190 E-Jet, which offers six Business Class seats and 92 Economy Class seats.

Auric Air has a new scenic flight over Mount Kilimanjaro. Each passenger is guaranteed a window seat, offering an unobstructed view of the world's highest free-standing mountain. On board, guests are equipped with Bose noise-cancelling headphones and tablets loaded with an engaging Flight Audio Tour, ensuring you're fully immersed in the experience. Morning flights are available from 07h00 to 08h00, and evening flights from 17h00 – 18h00.

BOTSWANA

Kwando Safaris has announced the opening of the 4 Rivers Airstrip, which is located a short 15-minute drive from the camp; guests no longer need to fly into the Kwara Airstrip and transfer into camp via helicopter.

Natural Selection will be closing North Island Okavango for the period 5 January to 14 March 2025 as they will be adding an additional 2 standard units and 1 family unit.

KENYA

Asilia Africa is adding an extra tent to Ol Pejeta Bush Camp, located on the Ewaso Nyiro River, in central Kenya's Laikipia region. The main area of the camp is also being redesigned to create more space, and a large deck with comfortable seating is being added on the river side. Ol Pejeta Bush Camp is an ideal destination from where to encounter the last two remaining Northern white rhinos and learn about the efforts to save the species.

Finch Hattons Luxury Tented Camp, located in Tsavo National Park, will be the latest addition to the Virgin Limited Edition brand from 1 July 2024. The camp offers 17 luxury tents and is set to become the ninth property within the collection, and its fifth footprint in Africa, complementing Virgin's other world-class properties across the continent.

NAMIBIA

Strand Hotel will no longer be offering Dinner Bed and Breakfast rates from 01 July 2025 onwards. Only Bed & Breakfast rates will be available, though dinner can still be booked additionally.

Namibia Tracks & Trails no longer offers transfers from Swakopmund to Pelican Point. An alternative supplier, **Oshili Namibia**, can offer this service, with a minimum of 3 guests. Children under the age of 12 years booked on transfers in and around Swakopmund in a group of 3 or more passengers, will qualify for a discount, valid until 31 December 2024.

O&L Leisure is delighted to announce the addition of a spa facility at Chobe Water Villas, further enhancing the world-class experience for guests. Rates from 1 July 2024 – 30 June 2025 do not include the spa offering. Rates from 1 July 2025 onwards include the spa offering. Should guests wish to include the spa offering from 1 July 2024 to 20 June 2025, an additional charge will be applicable.

SOUTH AFRICA

Simbavati Lodge Collection has introduced a new sleep-out activity on the Shilope Sleep-Out Deck. The sleep-out is available to guests staying at **Waterside Lodge** in the Klaserie Reserve, and will be booked in conjunction with a room at Waterside Lodge (no children under the age of 16 allowed).

At **Simbavati River lodge**, from January 2025 the luxury safari tents will have a private plunge pool on the deck, and the 2-bedroomed family chalets now require a minimum of 3 guests. A surcharge will apply for single or double occupancy.

ZIMBABWE

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.

TANZANIA

Asilia Africa's Ubuntu Migration Camp has packed up its southern location and specific look, and will open in its northern setting with an entirely new look. Both the main area and guest tents will be replaced, and the main area is being upgraded with recycled deck flooring. The designs centre around the shared feeling of community, in line with the meaning of "ubuntu". Tent interiors have been locally designed and locally built, with old furniture upcycled in new designs, and sustainable, recycled materials used for additional pieces. Bucket showers will be replaced with fully plumbed showers. The fresh new look will be launched when the migration camp is in the Lamai area of the northern Serengeti from mid-June to the end of October. From mid-November to March the camp will be in the Kusini area in the southern Serengeti.

Chem Chem Safaris has launched three specialised wellness walks at Chem Chem Lodge as a new immersive experience. These include their signature Nature Walk, and two new offerings, being the Silent Walk and the Power Walk. The Nature Walk offers guests a morning or late afternoon walk with local Maasai to interact and learn about their incredible knowledge and history, and the surrounding landscape, before ending with a delicious bush breakfast or a striking sundowner experience on the shores of Lake Manyara. On the Silent Walk, feel the senses come alive while soaking up the sights, smells, and sounds that surround you. As the walk comes to an end, break the silence with a Maasai guide over some freshly brewed baobab tea. The Power Walk is designed to get the blood pumping. This brisk and invigorating walk is led by a Maasai guide and charts a 6-10km course through Chem Chem's exclusive-use wilderness protected area.

Onsea House & Machweo Wellness Retreat in Arusha have closed indefinitely after 18 years of operation. The property will be undergoing major renovations over the next few months.

The Zanzibar Collection has announced changes to arrival and departure timings at all properties. Effective 1 June 2024, check-in will change to 3 pm and check-out will change to 12 noon.

Labab Fanjove has launched new accommodation categories: The Coral Manor (a private villa), 2 Coral Villas, 2 Family villas, and the stunning Villa 16. The property has also opened a new Kids Club, as well as a spa

overlooking the ocean, and added a host of new water activities to cater for guests looking to fully experience the island's 11km intact coral reef. A reminder that while Coastal Air has an inducement of four passengers per booking, the resort will cover the cost of 2 of these seats. **Laba Jongomero** has unveiled a new bush thermal spa, built on the site of natural hot springs, offering their guests unique bush and spa combinations.

Foxes Safari Camps has launched a new excursion to visit an isolated sandbar directly from Lazy Lagoon Island Lodge. The excursion, called Mwamba Kuni, takes guests on a local dhow to the sandbar, which only emerges from the water for a few hours during low tide. Guests can sunbathe, snorkel and stand-up paddleboard while a seafood barbeque lunch is prepared. Lazy Lagoon Island Lodge is located on a natural, secluded, mangrove island. This off-the-grid destination is only a short journey from Dar es Salaam by road, and then a short boat ride to the island.

RWANDA

Akagera National Park has banned single-use plastic items with effect from 01 June 2024. This includes any of the following items:

- Drinks bottles and straws
- Food wrappers and bags
- Plastic cutlery, cups, and plates
- Plastic bottle caps and lids
- Cigarette butts
- Drink stirrers
- Single-use take-away container