

ASSOCIATED PRODUCT

GENERAL UPDATES

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March 2024

AIRLINES

Auric Air will introduce a new flight schedule from the 1st of June on the current Dar – Iringa – Ruaha route, to address the inconvenience faced by passengers. There will be a tourist flight from Dar Es Salaam to Nyerere National Park and Ruaha National Park that will no longer stop in Iringa. Dar – Iringa – Dar will be a separate flight to enhance the travel experience.

KENYA

Asilia Africa's Rekeru Camp in the Masai Mara National Reserve is closing earlier than usual this year to embark on a refurbishment to redesign the tents and main areas. The main areas are being upgraded and will almost double in size, with a new wraparound deck to maximise views of the river. A library is being added, which will double as a private dining area, creating a cosy space where Rekeru's history will be told through a collection of photographs. The standard tents' overall layout will remain the same, but will be redecorated. The bathrooms are being upgraded to offer additional privacy through dividers and wooden screens. The two-family tents are being completely replaced with a new design that offers more comfort for families and is now also suited to those travelling with older children. The main en suite bedroom will be very similar to the standard tents, joined to the second room by a communal living area. The second room has two single beds that can be made into a double, or even a triple if needed, and, crucially, will also have its own bathroom. The orientation of the family tents will remain as before, with only the main bedroom facing onto the river. It is, therefore, suitable for adults travelling together as well as adults with children, but it is important to note that the bedrooms are not identical. Rekeru will re-open in June for the new season and remain a "Classic" camp tier. The aim is to retain its well-loved character and history, maximise its unique position, and make it a tranquil and comfortable haven for guests.

Asilia Africa has advised that the Narok County Government has implemented a new Narok County Bed Levy, which will be applicable when staying at Rekeru Camp. The new fees will be applied to new and existing bookings at Rekeru Camp from the 1st of June 2024. And, at Naboisho Camp, fly camping now requires a minimum 3-night stay.

NAMIBIA

Zannier Omaanda has advised that the extension works at Zannier Hotels Omaanda have been completed. Their total inventory count is now 12 x 1-bedroom Huts and 3 x 2-bedroom Huts.

Pelican Point Lodge, close to Walvis Bay, has advised of a few changes:

- The Dinner, Bed & Breakfast (DBB) rates have been discontinued, and in future only Fully Inclusive rates will apply.
- Introduction of a Suggested Programme for 1-, 2- and 3-night stays
- Escorted 4x4 self-drive on arrival is a complimentary service adding to the guests' experience (departs from meeting point at 15h00); co-ordinates: 22°58'18.86" S, 14°29'14.81" E
- For self-drive guests arriving in a 4x2 vehicle, a pick-up has to be pre-booked (vehicle parked at own risk)
- For fly-in guests, a complimentary pick-up is arranged from Walvis Bay airport, subject to pre-booking; pick-up at the airports of Swakopmund and Arandis can be arranged at an additional cost

SOUTH AFRICA

Marataba Residence has been unveiled by MORE Family Collection; it is a family retreat in the Marakele National Park, that can accommodate 8 adults and 2 children.

Last Word Franschhoek reopened on the 1st of March 2024 after extensive renovations following last year's devastating flood. In a departure from the muted Provençal look, guests will encounter a vibrant expression of South Africa's celebrated wine terroir.

The Blue Train's annual infrastructure maintenance shutdown will take place in October 2024. The shutdown involves the rehabilitation and maintenance of the railway line between Kimberley and De Aar, and no rail operator (passenger or freight) will be allowed thoroughfare on these affected lines. As a result, the following departures for The Blue Train have been cancelled: Pretoria to Cape Town – 14 October 2024 & 21 October 2024; Cape Town to Pretoria – 17 October 2024 & 24 October 2024.

ZIMBABWE

Wild Expedition's Camp Hwange has a new 1200m airstrip. Shumba Airstrip is only a 15-minute drive from camp and is operational year-round. Going forward the camp will no longer need to use Giraffe Springs Airstrip. The camp is also busy with renovations to guest tent bathrooms, as well as new open-front canvas panels (floor to ceiling), as well as updates to the main area. All work is expected to be completed by early May 2024.

TANZANIA

Burunge North Tented Lodge, the newest addition to the Tanganyika Wilderness Camps portfolio, opens its doors on the 1st of June 2024. On the shores of Lake Burunge, it is conveniently located just a short distance from the existing Burunge Tented Lodge. The 25 rooms are elevated on platforms and offer breath-taking views of Lake Burunge and Tarangire National Park. The lodge will also feature a well-appointed mess area with lounges, a restaurant, and a refreshing swimming pool.

Kula's, the main restaurant at Four Seasons Safari Lodge Serengeti, will be closed until the 1st of May 2024, while a complete revitalisation project is underway. The goal for the extensive enhancement is to deliver a brighter and more elevated dining experience. No inconvenience to guests is anticipated over this period and dining will continue to be available at Maji Bar and Terrace, Boma Grill, in the villas, and various other sites in and around the lodge.

Usangu Expedition Camp in Ruaha National Park (part of Asilia Africa) is now only open for the season from the 1st of June to the 30th of November 2024, and not until the 31st of January 2025 as planned. The camp has also introduced a new minimum 3-night stay for bookings going forward. At Jabali Ridge and Jabali Private House, fishing has been added as a charged activity.

One Nature Nyaruswiga has added a new Astral Observatory to its offering, featuring a cutting-edge telescope, to offer guests an amazing stargazing and astronomical adventure.