

ASSOCIATED PRODUCT

GENERAL UPDATES

[Airlines](#) | [Kenya](#) | [Namibia](#) | [South Africa](#) | [Zimbabwe](#) | [Tanzania](#) | [Mozambique](#)

September 2024

AIRLINES

Singapore Airlines will increase the frequency of flights between Johannesburg and Singapore in December. The airline will add a three-times weekly service to its already daily schedule, bringing the total frequency up to 10 flights a week for the period 11 December – 10 January 2025, and from 02 April 2025 – 24 October 2025. The flights will be operated by an Airbus A350-900.

South African low-cost airline, **FlySafair**, has announced another regional route to its line-up – Cape Town to Windhoek. It's the airline's first regional route out of the Mother City, and the twice-weekly flights commence on 22 October 2024. They will run on Tuesdays and Saturdays.

Federal Airlines is excited to announce the addition of its first Pilatus PC-12NG to their fleet, enhancing their private charter network. This eight-seater aircraft offers fast, pressurised service for small groups, high-end leisure clients, corporate travellers, and individuals visiting South Africa's luxury safari lodges and other destinations. The PC-12NG's versatility and performance make it ideal for both domestic and regional travel across Africa, featuring a modern interior and onboard lavatory for added comfort.

Federal Air – Fastjet's leisure product flies between Vic Falls (VFA) and Johannesburg (JNB), twice and sometimes three times per day.

2025 VFA and Kruger (MQP) Schedule:

- Jan – March 2025 will only operate if they have groups booked
- April – May x3 per week: Mon, Wed, Fri
- June – x4 per week: Mon, Wed, Fri, Sun
- Jul – September: daily
- October – x4 per week: Mon, Wed, Fri, Sun
- Nov – December x3 per week: Mon, Wed, Fri

KENYA

Asilia Africa's Ol Pejeta Camp has made a change to their service offering with immediate effect – the electric vehicle that was based at the camp and formed part of the safari vehicle fleet, is unfortunately no longer available. After assessing impact and viability, it was concluded that the Ol Pejeta electric safari vehicle is no longer meeting the expected sustainability goals. Asilia remains committed to the use of electric vehicles, but further research and testing is required, and the company plans to introduce electric vehicles in the future for their city transfers. There is no change to activities or any inclusions offered; guests just won't have the opportunity to use an electric safari vehicle.

NAMIBIA

Otjiwa Collection has advised that The Nest Villa is now closed for tourism business. Instead the Savanna Luxury Villa is being built, to open in April 2025. This villa will have four spacious en-suite bedrooms, accommodating 8 adults and 2 children. Otjiwa Thorn Bush Tented Camp is scheduled to open on 1 July 2025, and will consist of 10 tented chalets.

SOUTH AFRICA

Radisson Blu Hotel Waterfront's current renovations have been delayed and the new completion date is 31 October 2024 (was end September). Work is undertaken between 10am and 4pm during weekdays only, with minimal disruptions during this process.

Camissa House in Cape Town has advised that the rooftop bar has permanently closed in anticipation of an exciting new project. While there will be no construction taking place during this period, we look forward to sharing more details with you as the development progresses. In the meantime, guests can still enjoy breathtaking views of the Mother City from the pool deck and terrace.

One&Only Cape Town has officially opened ROOI restaurant to all inhouse guests for breakfast. Filled with new favourites and old classics, from free-flowing oysters and mimosas, extensive and vegan offerings, individual olive, jam and honey bars, a fresh-focused a la carte menu, and a beautiful setting, there is no better start to the day.

Blackheath Lodge in Sea Point has 2 beautifully renovated villas, Villa Gareloch with 3 bedrooms, and Villa Lauren with 2 bedrooms, both perfect for longer stays and family travel, and represent good value for money; with its modernised Victorian style, this makes for an authentic Cape stay.

AtholPlace Hotel & Villa in Sandton has been reimagined and refreshed, opening its doors on 1 August 2024. For those of you who remember the pre-pandemic days, this marks a return to the property's roots as a luxurious 9-roomed boutique hotel, ready to welcome back guests with open arms and a reinvigorated spirit.

54 on Bath in Rosebank, Johannesburg, is undergoing renovations. The project took a bit longer than expected due to some unforeseen work, but they are working hard to minimise any impact. Originally planned for 5 weeks, renovations are now expected to be completed by the end of September 2024.

The Residence Hotel in Johannesburg recently completed an extensive renovation and upgrades, and is looking stunning.

Makakatana Bay Lodge in St Lucia, KwaZulu-Natal has completed an extensive renovation over an intense but rewarding eight weeks. Enhancements were made across the lodge, with the main building beautifully refreshed. Guests are now greeted by a new entrance and stunning landscaping. The boma and rooms have been enhanced with tasteful interior décor improvements, and the pool area decking has been meticulously redone, with the surrounding area redesigned to provide a serene and reinvigorated environment.

Rhino Sands Safari Camp welcomes their fifth tent to the family, bringing the capacity up to 10 people. The area is currently feeling very optimistic as KwaZulu-Natal continues to recover its tourism numbers.

The Oyster Box Hotel (Umhlanga) – The Chef’s Table Experience is an immersion in culinary artistry at The Oyster Box Hotel. Begin your evening with pre-dinner drinks, then enjoy a fascinating tour of the kitchens. As you take your front-row seat, savour champagne and an amuse bouche while the Executive Chef and his talented team craft a five-course feast showcasing their signature dishes. This extraordinary dining journey is designed for small groups of 6-10 passionate food lovers, available for dinner from Monday to Sunday.

Serondella is excited to share the official unveiling of its new spa, Matlakusa, meaning “to raise”. Equipped to deliver a variety of massage techniques, body wraps, mineralised skin therapies, and refreshing facials, guests will find the spa menu encapsulates both detoxifying and boosting treatments, right from the heart of nature. Pair a spa therapy of choice with a soak in the riverbed hot tub, which is their equally-as-healing wood-fired warm bath under the stars.

Makumu Private Game Lodge has won multiple Haute Grandeur Global awards!

Rovos Rail passengers have the unique opportunity to visit the private station at Capital Park, Pretoria, the heart of Rovos Rail. Once a vibrant steam locomotive hub, it features an expanding railway museum with an impressive collection of train memorabilia. The museum aims to be the world’s premier working train museum, complete with carriage and locomotive sheds for meticulous maintenance. The facility boasts a 10,000m² workshop covering 15 railway lines, modern laundries, kitchens, and storerooms, showcasing world-class efficiency and attention to detail. Rail enthusiasts will enjoy the extensive maintenance operations and state-of-the-art provisions that keep the trains running smoothly.

ZIMBABWE

Palm Hospitality Group has announced that Caroline Uys, Trade Marketing Manager is leaving the group on 30 September 2024 after a successful 20-year journey. Caroline has been a driving force behind its growth from modest 34-room Ilala Lodge to the duo of thriving hotels in the group today. Kylie Gates, who joined the Marketing team in May 2023, will be stepping into the role of primary contact for trade partners.

TANZANIA

The Government of Zanzibar is introducing a new Zanzibar Mandatory Inbound Travel Insurance which will apply to all visitors (excludes residents) entering Zanzibar from 01 October 2024. All foreign visitors will be required to purchase this travel insurance at a cost of USD44 per person, prior to arriving in Zanzibar. The insurance can only be obtained through Zanzibar Insurance Corporation (ZIC) and a QR code. All travellers will be required to purchase this insurance regardless of whether they have obtained travel insurance elsewhere. The basic cover provided is the cost of emergency medical expenses and repatriation expenses (body and medical), personal accident, baggage delay, theft and lost, legal expenses, and personal liability for a maximum of 92 consecutive days.

Gibbs Farm has partnered with Thalia Beauty and set up a new salon in the old stables venue next to the new art gallery. Thalia’s Salon offers guests hair treatments, and manicure and pedicure nail treatments. The Artist in Residence programme has been operating at Gibb’s Farm for over 20 years to support Tanzanian artists. The artists who participate in the programme stay at Gibb’s Farm for 6–8 weeks and work and exhibit their paintings and carvings for sale to guests. The artists rotate regularly to provide more exposure and opportunities to the art community. Paint-and-sip classes are offered with easels with paint and canvas set up around the grounds, and

while the artist provides guidance, staff serve wine with a selection of farm-made cheeses. There are also painting classes for younger guests, served with hot chocolate and marshmallows.

MOZAMBIQUE

White Pearl Resorts has initiated a significant renovation project aimed at restoring the resort to its renowned glory and international acclaim. The comprehensive renovation, which began in July 2024, is part of a broader effort to revive, renew, and revitalise the resort, affectionately known as the Pearl of the Indian Ocean.

The renovation is being carried out with meticulous attention to minimising any disturbance to guests. The project has been strategically planned to coincide with periods of low occupancy, ensuring that the resort's operations remain as seamless as possible. By October 2024, 36% of work is expected to be completed. As the high season approaches, the project will temporarily pause, resuming mid-January 2025. The renovations are projected to reach 75% completion by Easter 2025, with full completion anticipated by August 2025.
