



WILDERNESS PRODUCT

# News and Updates

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## GENERAL UPDATES

**Botswana Weather**

During the cold fronts that came through recently, we had guests who were seemingly unaware of the potential severity of how cold it can get on safari – and not just in Botswana\*. Some guests arrived with very light jackets and no alternative attire, meaning they had to purchase items from the curio shops in camp. This can sometimes prove difficult when it comes to availability and sizes.

- We recommended that guests pack allowing for layers for all activities. In winter a warm layer is essential for the early mornings and evenings. Long-sleeved shirts with roll-up tabs, and zip-off trousers allow one to adapt to local weather conditions as temperatures rise (breathable items are recommended as these can adapt to changing temperatures throughout the day/night). Dressing for ease and comfort is key.

\* In Central and East Africa, the temperature variation is generally less marked in the summer months when it can be quite hot and/or humid; the winters usually do not become as cold. Requirements for a visit to Rwanda are very specific so please contact your Travel Designer for further details.

**Mokete Direct Helicopter Transfers**

As of 11 June 2024, in order to provide a more seamless experience for our guests, please note the change in operational logistics: all Wilderness Mokete arrivals and departures are flown directly by helicopter transfer with Helicopter Horizons.

- Applicable routes include from Maun International Airport as well as certain Wilderness and third-party camps within the Delta and Linyanti.
- All above transfers are direct with no stops en route.
- The estimated flight duration is 40 minutes from Maun International Airport to Mokete, and provides an exceptional aerial safari, adding a unique touch to the overall Wilderness Mokete experience.
- The no-stops exception is to/from Kasane Airport, from where there will be a number of stops en-route with Wilderness Air Botswana per fixed wing to Santawani Airstrip. From Santawani Airstrip, the onward helicopter transfer to Wilderness Mokete is direct with no stops along the way.
- The vehicle transfer from Mokete Helicopter pad to camp is approximately four minutes.

**Water Level — Update**

Based on the information provided by Botswana Operations on 18 July, here is a summary of the water activities available:

- Qorokwe — Mekoro activities on offer
- Vumbura and Little Vumbura — Boating and mokoro activities
- DumaTau and Little DumaTau — Boating and barge activities
- King's Pool — Barge activity is currently **not** operational

**Loldia House**

- Top Cottage at Loldia House is off inventory and is no longer available / bookable.
- There are two new luxury suites at Loldia House set close to the lakeshore.
- Please see photos and description here in WETU  
[https://wetu.com/iBrochure/en/Information/21597/loldia\\_house/Room-Types](https://wetu.com/iBrochure/en/Information/21597/loldia_house/Room-Types).



## Namibia — Water Supply and Solar Heating

Reminder that with Namibia being an arid country, water conservation is essential, particularly in areas where camps and lodges are located. Here are some key points regarding water usage and management at these facilities:

### Water Conservation Measures

- **Saving Cold Shower Water:** Bathrooms are supplied with buckets for collecting cold shower water while waiting for the water to warm up. The saved water is used by the housekeepers to clean the rooms.
- **Short Showers:** Guests are encouraged to keep showers short to conserve water.
- **Efficient Water Use:** Guests are requested to not let the tap water run while brushing their teeth or performing other tasks.

### Water Supply

- **Source:** Water is sourced from boreholes and is safe for consumption.
- **Drinking Water:** Purified drinking water, treated through reverse osmosis to ensure safety and quality, is provided.

### Solar-powered Geysers

- **Heating System:** Water for showers and basins is heated using solar-powered geysers.
- **Weather Impact:** Inclement weather, shorter daylight hours in winter, and seasonally lower sun position can affect the performance of solar panels, leading to variations in energy production.
- **Evening Use:** Hot water temperatures may decrease during the evening as the absence of sunlight stops the heating process, causing the water to cool down.
- **Assistance Reporting Issues:** Guests experiencing a lack of hot water are encouraged to contact a staff member for assistance.

By implementing these practices, camps and lodges in Namibia aim to ensure sustainable water usage and provide a comfortable experience for guests, despite the challenges posed by the arid environment and reliance on solar energy.

## Zimbabwe – Linkwasha Airstrip

Due to increased traffic, there are challenges flying in and out of Bomani Airstrip. Flights will now be landing at Manga airstrip until 31 August – both for Wilderness Air flights and also Wilderness guests who are self-flying in. Manga Airstrip remains the best alternative, with driving distances to Wilderness camps as follows:

- **Little Makalolo is approximately 2h30**
- **Davison's is approximately 2h45**
- **Linkwasha is approximately 2h40**

It's important to highlight that this transfer includes a game drive through exceptionally wildlife-rich areas within the park. Many guests typically explore these areas later during their stay, but this transfer allows them to experience them right from the airstrip to the camp. Now, from Manga Airstrip, guests will cover a similar drive time, but in the form of a game drive through a slightly different area. This ensures they experience both the drive and the wildlife upon arrival, much like a standard game drive tailored to their preferences, complete with drinks, snacks, and stops.



## WILDERNESS TOURING

### WILDERNESS TOURING – CAPE TOWN

#### Recommended Experience – Family Activities in the Western Cape

These are some of the wonderful tour options for families traveling with children, with a bit more detail on each to help parents choose the best activities for their family:

- **Two Oceans Aquarium**  
To raise awareness of the oceans, the Two Oceans Aquarium is designed to showcase the beauty and diversity of the oceans off Southern Africa.
- **Clay Café – City Bowl** (Also available in Hout Bay & Paarl)  
One of the most loved family experiences – and an amazing menu to go with it.
- **Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden**  
The 36-hectare Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden is a fun outing for the whole family. Stop by the café for tea and scones (or milkshakes and waffles).
- **Clay Pigeon Adventures**  
Clay Pigeon Adventures is an experience company, where you get to shoot real bullets in a safe, controlled and fun environment
- **Cycling or E-biking Stellenbosch**  
Choose between a normal bicycle or an e-bike, and join a tour that combines the beautiful scenery and historic sites of Stellenbosch.
- **Scoutours**  
South Africa's first Scoutours Flow Trail with berms, and a bush tunnel.
- **The Tree House & Outdoor Experience at Boschendal**  
Free-range fun for children (5 to 14 years), with activities such as foraging, scavenger hunts, spoor-tracking, fire-making, survival skills and more.
- **Ultimate Putt**  
The newest exciting addition to Lourenford's offering is Ultimate Putt — a brand new 18-hole putt-putt course.
- **The Alpaca Loom**  
On this farm near Paarl, you can walk with alpacas on a halter, feed them, visit the barn where they sleep and tour the weaving studio that produces alpaca wool products on hand looms.

### WILDERNESS TOURING – ZAMBEZI

#### Zambezi Vista Sunset Cruise

This new tour promises relaxation, stunning views, and a touch of luxury, making it an essential part of any Victoria Falls itinerary.

Make the most of your cruise by enjoying the three-course canapé menu paired with premium drinks, all complimentary, enhancing your luxurious experience on the Zambezi River.

#### Highlights:

- **Scenic Transfer:** Begin your adventure with a scenic transfer to the jetty launch site.
- **Zambezi Vista Cruise:** Sail on the Zambezi Vista and enjoy a leisurely two-hour cruise.
- **Luxury Experience:** Relax in exquisite luxury, gliding gently downstream along the tranquil waters and through lush landscapes.
- **Photographer's Dream:** Capture stunning photographs with the glorious sunset as your backdrop.
- **Gourmet Delight:** Savour a three-course canapé menu and a selection of complimentary premium drinks.
- **Convenient Transfers:** Return hotel/lodge scheduled transfers are included within Victoria Falls Town.

<https://wetu.com/Itinerary/DayTour/C5DE6FB9-7D82-4239-8314-8B5175A0B9E9>

**DESTINATION MANAGEMENT COMPANY (DMC) – GENERAL NEWS****AIRLINES**

**Ethiopian Airlines** commenced services to Maun, its second destination in Botswana after Gaborone, on 10 June 2024 with its return flight from Maun to Addis Ababa that includes a stopover in Ndola, Zambia.

The new route operates on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays as below:

- Flight ET833 departs Addis Ababa at 08h30 and arrives in Maun at 12h40
- Flight ET833 departs Maun at 13h30 and arrives in Ndola at 15h30
- Flight ET833 departs Ndola at 16h20 and arrives in Addis Ababa at 21h25

**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
- 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 new flight schedule is as follows:

- LA8059: Departs Johannesburg Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Sundays at 15h15 arriving São Paulo at 20h00.
- LA8058: Departs São Paulo Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays at 22:45 arriving Johannesburg 12:25 (the next day).

**Airlink – Windhoek-Maun with FlyNamibia Update Routing**

As of 03 July 2024, Airlink's franchise partner, FlyNamibia, will launch direct seasonal flights between Windhoek's Hosea Kutako International Airport and Maun, Botswana until the end of October 2024, and again from June to October 2025. The updated flight routing has been designed to enhance connectivity between the two countries and facilitate improved access to key destinations.

The updated flight schedule is as follows:

Wednesday, Friday and Sunday

- Depart Windhoek at 10h15
- Arrive Maun at 11h15

Wednesday, Friday and Sunday

- Depart Maun at 1h55
- Arrive Katima Mulilo at 12h25

Wednesday, Friday and Sunday

- Depart Katima Mulilo at 12h55
- Arrive Windhoek at 14h15

**FlySafair — OR Tambo International Airport (JNB) to Kruger Mpumalanga International Airport (MQP)**

The airline 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 airline launched its Cape Town-Nelspruit service in April.



- As well as serving the local market, the Johannesburg-Nelspruit route will also enable international tourists to reach prime South African tourist destinations more easily, with the Kruger National Park being a firm favourite.

The JNB-MQP flight schedule will be as follows:

Fridays and Sundays

- Depart Johannesburg OR Tambo at 11h15
- Arrive Kruger Mpumalanga at 12h10
- Departs Kruger Mpumalanga at 12h45
- Arrive Johannesburg OR Tambo at 13h40

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## SPECIALS

A reminder that our Wilderness Exclusive Safari Offers have been extended to 2025. Download our PDF with all the offers [here](#).

For clarity on Governors' and Wayo Africa packages, FAQ's have been addressed in the sections below.

### **KENYA**

#### **Governors' Packages**

- Fly For Free deal – Previously this deal was only offered for one route: Il Moran to Mugie. After consideration, this has been revised and can also be booked to start at Mugie first, followed by Il Moran (i.e., vice versa).
- Stay-Pay Deals – Applicable to adult and child rates.
  - Stay at Governors' Mugie for three nights and only pay for two nights.
  - Stay with the Governors' Camp Collection for 6 nights and only pay for 5 nights.
  - Stay with the Governors' Camp Collection for 8 nights and only pay for 6 nights.
  - Stay with the Governors' Camp Collection for 10 nights and only pay for 8 nights.
- Solo Traveller's Offer – No single supplement is charged for Mid and Green Seasons at any properties in the Governors' Camp Collection in Kenya.
- Governors' Camp Family Offer – Come on safari as a family of four or more, and the first child receives complimentary accommodation at Governors' Camp in the Masai Mara.

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### **TANZANIA**

#### **Wayo Africa Packages**

- Stay 5 nights and pay 4
- Stay at one of Wayo Africa camps (Wayo Manyara Green Camp, Wayo Serengeti Green Camp and Wayo Little Green Camp) and get the cheapest night for free.
- This offer excludes park fees.



# CAMP REVIEWS

July 2024

## BOTSWANA

**During May, Aurelie Dubreuil visited Botswana and this is what she had to say about Wilderness DumaTau.**

I recently had the pleasure of staying at DumaTau in the Linyanti Wildlife Reserve, and it was an unforgettable experience. From the moment we arrived, the staff made us feel like family, providing exceptional service and hospitality. We stayed in the family room, which was luxurious and well-appointed, with all the bells and whistles. The private plunge pool and spacious bath added to the sense of indulgence, making it a perfect retreat after a day of adventure.

The highlight of our stay was the fishing excursion on the barge. Although we didn't catch any fish ourselves, our guide did, making the trip exciting and memorable. The camp also offers various game viewing opportunities, although our time was limited due to our educational trip and camp inspections at Savuti and King's Pool. The food at DumaTau was exceptional, with a well-thought-out vegetarian option that catered to all tastes. Each meal was a culinary delight, prepared with care and creativity.

The staff at DumaTau truly stand out. Their warmth and attentiveness made our stay special. Our guide BK was knowledgeable and ensured our comfort during game drives, providing ponchos and hot water bottles to keep us warm during the cooler mornings.

Despite not having much time for game viewing, our experience at DumaTau was one of my favourites. The combination of excellent service, luxurious accommodation, and unique activities made it a standout destination. I highly recommend DumaTau to anyone looking for an extraordinary safari experience in Botswana.



**Mosiwa Mofokeng, Kabelo Mothibeli, Siphokazi Kalo and Alex Rautenbach recently went on a Botswana educational trip and shared some feedback on their stays at Chitabe, Jao, King’s Pool and Vumbura Plains.**

Alex flew in directly to Maun from Cape Town to meet her Johannesburg colleagues. The 2h40 min direct flight on Airlink is a convenient way to link the two tourist destinations. Cape Town International Airport’s Departures is a small and stress-free environment, allowing for an enjoyable start to your travels. On arrival at Maun, we had a swift connection to Wilderness Air and flew in a Cessna 208 Grand Caravan to the Chitabe Concession.

### **Wilderness Chitabe**

Our guide Phinley is the oldest guide at Chitabe and a treasure trove of information. On arrival we were warmly greeted with songs by the staff, and managers Mass and Gloria – so friendly and accommodating, with a good sense of humour. Chitabe is a charming camp, but what really stands out in this area are the amazing game sightings. We saw the cutest hyena cubs playing just outside their den; very curious creatures that came up to the vehicle and started chewing on the tyres! Furthermore, we had a great cheetah sighting with two cubs, saw a leopard resting in the shade of a tree, guarding its prey above, and beautiful blonde lions. The back-of-house visit was very informative; and it was good to see **Wilderness Chitabe Lediba** – a smaller camp with a wonderful private and personalised offering. Besides the game, we can also highly recommend the fig cake which was served during one of the afternoon teas.



### **Wilderness Jao**

Our next destination was Wilderness Jao. The flight from Chitabe to Jao is breath-taking... as you fly over the floodplains you can spot red lechwe crossing the channels, elephants gracefully meandering along, and hippo heads dotted in the lagoons. The accommodation at Jao is next-level luxury, a modern and ultra-chic take on a bush offering. The afternoon boat safari produced great sightings of jacanas, fish eagles, storks, herons, etc., and naturally, hippos. Our guide Gift added a great touch of sophistication to the guiding style, and the staff at the lodge are highly trained, especially the waiters. The afternoon mokoro ride was a wonderfully relaxing experience, which culminated in a surprise bar set-up where we met up with other guests, and the sundowners turned into a festive party with the beautiful African sun setting in the horizon. So special! The vegetarian options at all the Wilderness camps we stayed at were delicious, and varied, with the Jao option being especially delish (a vegetable curry). Gift also took us to visit **Wilderness Jacana**, which is a charming and intimate camp, wild and authentic.



### Wilderness King's Pool

From Jao we continued on to Wilderness King's Pool in the Linyanti (approx 40min flight). We were warmly greeted by Martin, the GM, and Kayla, the Service Standards Manager for Wilderness, who was staying at King's Pool for a few days. King's Pool just seems to have the perfect balance of olde worlde charm, authenticity and modern comfort, and has a magical location overlooking an oxbow lake that has water throughout the year. The elevated rooms offer the best vantage point, especially from the outside sala, from where we saw elephants and even a giraffe crossing the river, crocodiles basking on the banks of the river, and hippos dominating the waters. You can have a full safari experience without having to leave your room. This is the definitely the place for elephant lovers, as you get to see loads of them. The breakfast wraps can be highly recommended, and they had the best fluffy muffins.



We undertook a day of site inspections of **Wilderness Savuti** and **Wilderness DumaTau** with game drives in between. At Savuti we met the very competent GM Sasha, who took us to the camp's log hide – from which we had the closest and most thrilling ellie viewing by the waterhole. There is something about being on foot, and so close which amps up the wild experience. We continued the drive to DumaTau, which has an enviable location on the water. Slick and chic, the Osprey Retreat features a wellness centre, gym and lap pool. DumaTau has very interesting dishes on the lunch menu, local dishes with a modern twist. The Matabele Bowl is a crowd pleaser.





### Wilderness Vumbura Plains

At Vumbura’s airstrip, we were met by Ona, who whisked us off to a surprise welcome tea/coffee station in the bush. Thereafter we continued on a game drive following leopard tracks, and eventually found a big male lounging in a tree. Safely at Wilderness Vumbura Plains we were delighted by a boma evening with a lovely choir, drumming and dance show. We stayed in one of the family tents at Vumbura Plains North. The rooms are exquisitely decorated reflecting the nature and waterlilies, with beautifully curated furniture and accessories. One thing to bear in mind is that the rooms are very open plan apropos the bathroom, so great for couples, but they don’t offer much privacy. Vumbura Plains South is basically an extension, and mirrors Vumbura North. We also got to visit **Wilderness Little Vumbura** which you can only access by boat. It is a cosy and intimate camp, with an authentic bush feel. On our game drive we saw lions (including a sad injured one) and had an ellie that joined our bush lunch (very exciting!).

After another surprise set up – this time a barbeque lunch in the bush, we were treated to yet again another surprise: a helicopter scenic flight with Helicopter Horizons over the Delta. Breath-taking and highly recommended.

Ona, our guide, joined us for dinner and entertained us with some funny “believe it or not” stories about Mandalay Kay (a key legend from that area).

A truly inspiring and enriching educational!



**During April, Carel Loubser visited Wilderness Vumbura Plains South and Wilderness Mombo.**

We left South Africa hoping for two things: my wife wanted to experience her first mokoro ride, and we both hoped to have a memorable leopard sighting. To increase our probability, we booked Vumbura Plains and Mombo. With the Okavango Delta flood starting to come in about a month ago, it was with relief that we saw more and more water as we approached the airstrip at Vumbura Plains. At least we were able to tick off one wish.



Our last morning drive at Vumbura Plains started slowly. It was great not to rush, and to take in the sounds and smells and keep an eye on the animal tracks at a slow pace.

A couple of hours into our drive, an update came across the radio that the pride of six lions we had seen lazing around a few days before had been spotted, and were on the move. With a couple of hours left before our charter flight to Mombo, we slowly made our way to the area of the sighting.

As we arrived, the two lionesses and their four sub-adults were relaxing, and lazing around again. This time, at least, they were in an area underneath a big tree, using the termite mound as their surveyor's point. We managed to get some beautiful photo opportunities of the three young lions on the termite mound. It was not long before a lioness spotted a herd of blue wildebeest grazing a couple of hundred meters away and decided to approach them slowly with the sun perfectly behind her. The script started playing out as many before, with the wildebeest becoming aware of the stalking lioness and scattering off in different directions. And... an unsuccessful hunt.



Only this time, the lioness did not give up and kept approaching, crouching further. We were in pursuit with the cameras, ready to capture a very unlikely lion kill.

The next moment, she sprang into action like Usain Bolt out of the starting blocks, rushing towards the wildebeest. Our slow stalk turned into a rush to get past a large bush blocking our view. As we drove around the bush, we expected a disappointed lioness to turn back to the pride, but instead, there was a cloud of dust as the vehicle came to a stop, and the cameras began shuttering away.

The wildebeest did scatter, but one unlucky one was resting behind the bush. With probably 100 different



safari experiences behind me, I finally managed to experience a successful hunt.

Off to **Wilderness Mombo!** Our first afternoon drive was slow, but there were plenty of giraffe, wildebeest, impala, baboons, and zebra. As expected, many hyenas scavenged the area for something to eat. A leopard sighting would be great, but as the sun started to set, we lost light, making photography much more difficult.

The guides tend to plan the next day together with guests the night before, and our plan was to look for the wild dogs seen late on the drive the night before. Luckily, a call came through early, and we slowly approached a female leopard walking through the woodlands.



We hoped she might jump up as she approached several big fallen leadwood and jackalberry trees. Not only did she pass them all, but all trees worth climbing. After about 30 minutes, she finally entertained us by

climbing a massive termite mound. As an excellent professional photographer friend later said, a leopard on a termite mound is probably more memorable than one in a big tree. He should know, considering he is permanently on safari and has photographed it all...



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## ZAMBIA

**In June Thando Maphosa, Bev De Boer, Neela Naidoo and Bronwyn Lambrecht headed out on a Zambezi educational where they had so much fun (and enhanced experiences, most importantly).**

### Wilderness Shumba

On arrival at Lusaka International Airport, we were met by a Staravia representative and escorted to their lounge for refreshments before our flight out to Kafue. The duration of the flight was an hour and 15 minutes and was relatively smooth for the time and heat of the day.

On arrival at Shumba Airstrip we were welcomed by our guide James and we took a slow drive to camp enjoying the scenery and sightings en route. A highlight for one of the ladies was seeing a puku antelope for the first time. The sunset was just as captivating.

Upon approaching the camp an elephant popped out of the bush, surprising us, and we were thrilled with this welcome to the camp. Once he wandered off, we were welcomed by the camp staff, offered refreshments and settled into our spacious and comfortable rooms, each with great views over the Busanga Plains.

At high tea that afternoon we got to know the staff members better – and they are truly the heart of the camp with their warm and humorous personalities, attending to our every need, not to mention the abundance of delicious food they served us. Our surprise sundowner was nothing short of amazing – this was really special and we will forever cherish the conversations we shared here.

Shumba has an idyllic location overlooking the Busanga Plains and even though they are going through a drought at the moment, the game was plentiful. Shumba means “lion” in Shona, and the area didn’t disappoint – we were treated to a sighting of two lion prides meeting up after a long time apart and we witnessed both the pleasure of them seeing each other again as well a scuffle between the youngsters sizing each other up. Later on in the drive we came across an older female lion with her four cubs and it was delightful watching them get up to mischief. Birding was also plentiful and it was fun to getting to see a few new species on our checklist.



James, our guide, is extremely knowledgeable about the fauna and flora as well as the area as a whole. His calm, patient and kind nature meant our time with him was filled with valuable learnings about everything big and small. This was a very enriching experience overall.

After three wonderful days at Shumba it was time to say goodbye; and after a 90-minute flight we arrived in Livingstone for two nights at Wilderness Toka Leya.

### **Wilderness Toka Leya**

Staying at Toka Leya, set within Mosi-oa-Tunya National Park, is truly an exceptional experience as it feels like you're on a Zambezi River island, but just 20 minutes from Livingstone and the Victoria Falls.

Staff were amazing from the minute we arrived, giving us such a warm welcome. Eunice and her team really made us feel at home. We loved everything, from the food to the activities on offer – each of us also got to plant a tree! On one of the afternoons, we had a relaxing time on the Zambezi enjoying sundowners with the hippos singing melodies for us. We also got to visit the renowned Victoria Falls on the Zambian side – such a cherished moment.

The tents are spacious and luxurious with the most breath-taking views of the famed river; the main areas are most inviting and this lodge is just a perfect starter or end to a safari for honeymooners, couples and families.



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## ZIMBABWE

### Wilderness Davison's

Our journey from Toka Leya to Davison's was remarkably smooth, as if we were still in the same country! The logistics flowed seamlessly from one point to the next. Upon arrival, we were greeted with singing and dancing that echoed a heartfelt "welcome home". Davison's is nestled beautifully under trees, without fences and a modest elevation; it gave us a profound sense of freedom and safety. It was our first experience of communal dining, where the delightful food brought guests and management together, creating a warm atmosphere for sharing safari stories.

The following morning, we had the privilege of being guided by Aminata Jackson, a pioneering female Zimbabwean guide. Her expertise and insights enriched our bush experience as we explored. We couldn't contain our joy when another vehicle approached and discovered it was an all-women group out in the bush! It was a moment of pride and empowerment.

Overall, Davison's provided an unforgettable blend of adventure and hospitality. It left us with cherished memories and the unique beauty of the Hwange National Park wilderness.



### **Wilderness Linkwasha**

In the afternoon, our Linkwasha guide Josh picked us up, and it took us around 30 minutes to reach the camp from Davison's. Josh immediately won us over with his deep passion for the bush and the Wilderness brand. Our afternoon game drive was nothing short of thrilling, as we followed lions on the hunt for buffalo! Despite eventually having to return to camp because the lions took a route we couldn't follow, we cherished the experience. Returning to camp was a delight; Linkwasha felt like a warm sanctuary after our chilly adventure. We enjoyed a lovely braai (BBQ) dinner, gathered around the fireplaces to warm up and share stories, then retired to our tents. This camp has all the comforts you could wish for – including electric blankets!

The next morning was wonderfully relaxed as we spent time in the hide. Although it was too cold for many animals to visit the waterhole early on, we were visited by a lone elephant (bless his heart). Then it was time for us to move on to Chikwenya.



### **Wilderness Chikwenya**

This was our last destination; what a breath-taking area Mana Pools National Park is! This was the ideal location to end our trip as we were very laid back and had no rush to go find another pride of lions or leopards.

Staying at Wilderness Chikwenya offers a unique off-the-beaten-path experience. Nestled in a valley overlooking the Zambezi River, we were captivated by the lodge's beautiful layout and the majestic welcoming tree. The spacious tents, complete with baths as well as expansive decks and seating areas, afforded spectacular views of the Zambezi Mountain Range and the river itself.

The team at Chikwenya was incredibly friendly and attentive. The meals were consistently delicious and flavourful. Causemore, our jolly and well experienced guide took us on a river cruise on the first afternoon, and one of the standout moments was witnessing an elephant crossing the river, as well as the sound of hippos and the beautiful birds flying over us as the sun was setting.

Chikwenya is great for safari lovers who want a genuine wilderness experience. It's also ideal for photographers, as Causemore suggests staying at least three nights to fully appreciate the beautiful sunrises, sunsets, and amazing birdwatching.

