



WILDERNESS PRODUCT

GENERAL UPDATES

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July 2024**REGIONAL 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. Please refer to our suggested packing list to ensure guests carry appropriate clothing.

* 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 mekoro 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.



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 11h55
- 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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