



WILDERNESS PRODUCT

News and Updates

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FULL UPDATE

June 2024

GENERAL UPDATES

BOTSWANA

Mokete Helicopter Transfers

In order to provide a more seamless experience to our guests, there has been a change in operational logistics – all arrivals and departures will now be flown directly by helicopter transfer with Helicopter Horizons to Wilderness Mokete.

- Applicable routes include from Maun International Airport and/or alternative Wilderness camps within the Delta and Linyanti, as well third-party properties in the Delta and Linyanti.
- The estimated flight duration is 40 minutes from Maun International Airport to Mokete, which provides an elevated aerial experience, adding a unique value-add to the overall Wilderness Mokete experience.
- The vehicle transfer from the Mokete helicopter pad to camp is approximately four minutes.
- Existing rates have been honoured for all current confirmed and provisional bookings with helicopter transfers. Therefore, no cancellation fees are applicable when making the necessary changes.
- Regarding the routing via Kasane Airport, for both legs from and to, guests will continue to fly by fixed wing with Wilderness Air Botswana to Santawani Airstrip. Then from Santawani Airstrip, there is an approximate 15-minute helicopter transfer to Wilderness Mokete.
- New bookings entered into the system are to provide applicable costings on quoting for this service.

Mokete Helicopter Transfer Flying Times

- Kings Pool, Duma Tau & Little Duma Tau, Savuti – 35 minutes
- Little Vumbura, Vumbura Plains South & North, Mombo & Little Mombo – 45 minutes
- Jao, Pelo, Kwetsani, Tubu Tree & Little Tubu – 45 minutes
- Qorokwe, Chitabe – 25 minutes

Important:

- Please make a note of guests weighing more than 90kg in your booking; Helicopter Horizons will then accommodate them in a Bell helicopter.
- For anyone over 125kg, additional charges may apply; however this will depend on the booking as a whole.
- For transfers in and out of Maun, Helicopter Horizons will schedule transfers as a combo, so that no guests need to wait in Maun.
- They can easily transfer up to 12 guests at a time – please advise them of bigger groups.

NAMIBIA

Wilderness Kulala Desert Lodge

Wilderness Kulala Desert Lodge has officially reopened, after being temporarily closed following a fire earlier this year. The main area has been completely – and beautifully – rebuilt, and updated images of the refurbished main area will be shared in a mailer this week.

Rhino Tracking Extended at Damaraland Camp

The first guests at the newly refurbished Wilderness Desert Rhino Camp arrive on 04 July 2024; accordingly, the rhino tracking activity at Damaraland Camp has been extended to 03 July 2024.



Water Levels & Rainfall Update

- River water levels are decreasing, including the Kunene River, where guests staying at Wilderness Serra Cafema do their water-based activities.
- The last row shows that the water levels have dropped by half in comparison to the same time last year.

See the figures in the table below with today’s river level readings from our gauging stations and site informants

River	Site	One Week before	One day before	Today	Last Year
		06-Jun-24	12-Jun-24	13-Jun-24	13-Jun-23
Zambezi	Katima Mulilo	1.98	1.81	1.77	3.55
Chobe	Chobe Water Villa	-	-	-	-
	Ngoma Gate	-	-	-	-
Kwando	Kongola	-	-	-	-
Okavango	Nkurenkuru	-	-	-	-
	Rundu	4.56	4.46	4.44	4.34
	Divundu	3.08	3.00	3.01	3.38
Kuseb	Gobabeb	-	-	-	-
	Schleslen	-	-	-	-
Gaub	Greylingshof	-	-	-	-
Fish/Orange	Seeheim	-	-	-	-
	Tses	-	-	-	-
	Ai-Ais	-	-	-	-
	Blouputs (*)	0.39	0.50	0.59	-
	Sendelingsdrift (*)	0.35	0.38	0.39	-
Cuvelai	Shanalumono	-	-	-	-
	Endola	-	-	-	-
	Shahaingu	-	-	-	-
	Engela	-	-	-	-
Kunene	Ruacana Flows (m ³ /s (=))	187.5	152.6	108.8	216.8

RWANDA

Wilderness 2025 Rates

- Wilderness Sabyinyo will now form part of the 2025 Rwanda rate sheets, i.e. it is no longer a stand-alone rate sheet.
- The Sabyinyo Suite rate will be based on a per person per night from 01 Mar 2025, instead of per room per night.

Child Policy – Wilderness Bisate Reserve

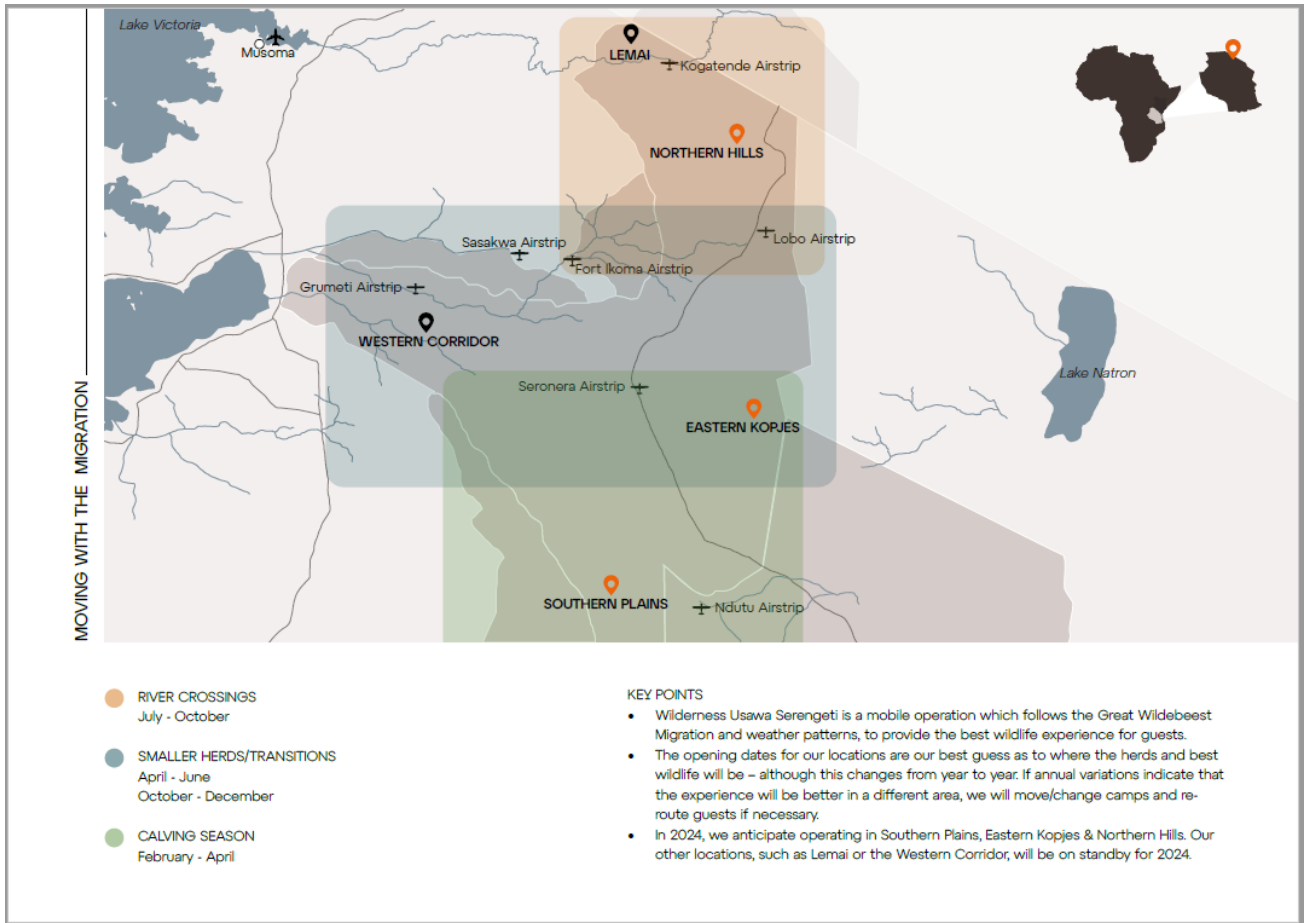
Bisate Reserve accepts children from ages 06 to 15 years; however, gorilla trekking has an age restriction of minimum 15 years. Please familiarise yourself with the child policy for the entire portfolio in the Wilderness Policies and Procedures document saved on the Wilderness Window.

TANZANIA

Wilderness Usawa Operational Dates

Please take note of Usawa Eastern Kopjes operational dates.

While the map shows that the camp is operational between February and April, the team has made a decision to keep the camp open and operational throughout the season.



WILDERNESS TOURING

ZAMBEZI

Victoria Falls Marathon

- The annual Victoria Falls Marathon will be held on 07 July 2024.
- Accordingly, the Victoria Falls Bridge will be closed from 06h00 to 10h00 and guests will not be able to do the guided tour of the Falls in the morning.
- Please note all bookings will be moved to the afternoon.

Rhino Experience in Zambia from Zimbabwe

A reminder that guests staying in Victoria Falls are able to do the rhino experience activity in Zambia's Mosi-oa-Tunya National Park outside Livingstone with Wilderness Touring Zambezi. Guests must just ensure their KAZA visas are in order.

DESTINATION MANAGEMENT COMPANY (DMC) – GENERAL NEWS

AIRLINES

Airlink Increase Seat Availability to Skukuza

- Airlink has increased its seat availability on certain days from both Cape Town and Johannesburg to Skukuza in the heart of Kruger National Park.
- Two flights per week to and from both cities on this route have been upgraded from a 37-seat Embraer ERJ 135 Regional Jet to the comfortable and spacious 98-seat Embraer E190 E-Jet, offering six Business Class and 92 Economy Class seats.

Direct Mbombela – Vilanculos Flights

- Airlink will again offer its peak season service linking Mbombela with Vilanculos in Mozambique.
- Tickets for flights on this route, starting from 01 July 2024 through 05 January 2025, are now available.
- This will allow travellers the ability to combine a safari and beach holiday.
- The schedule is:

Flight No.	Days of Week*	Depart	Time	Destination	Arrival Time
4Z 258	Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Sunday	MBOMBELA	12h20	VILANCULOS	13H30
4Z 263	Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Sunday	VILANCULOS	14h25	JOHANNESBURG	16h10

Airlink flights between Cape Town and Maputo

- Starting this month (June 2024), Airlink customers can travel between Cape Town and Maputo.
- The four-times-weekly flight will be operated using Airlink’s 37-seat Embraer ERJ 135 Regional Jet.
- The new flight times and flight numbers are:

Flight No.	Days of Week*	Depart	Time	Destination	Arrival Time
4Z 379	Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday	CAPE TOWN	16h00	MAPUTO	18H30
4Z 370	Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Sunday	MAPUTO	06h35	CAPE TOWN	09h25

Munich and Windhoek Flights

- Discover Airlines, owned by the Lufthansa Group, will launch a direct flight between Munich and Windhoek on April 1 next year.
- The airline is expanding its long-haul operations from its new base in Munich, and will be the only carrier offering a direct service between the cities.
- The flight will operate year-round on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from Terminal 2 at Munich Airport.

AIRPORTS

Possible Delays at Immigration Checkpoints – OR Tambo International Airport

- As of 10 June, 2024, OR Tambo International Airport is transitioning to a biometric system, which might temporarily affect the processing times for international arrivals and departures.
- Travellers are encouraged to arrive at the airport well ahead of their scheduled international flights to account for potential delays at security checkpoints and immigration.
- While Airports Company South Africa has not yet issued an official statement, any updates or official communications will be provided as they become available.

Airlink Lounge Refurbishments

Please take note of renovations currently underway at select Bidvest Premium Lounges around the country:

- OR Tambo Domestic: Closed from May to July 2024. The SKY Lounge remains available.
- Cape Town SKY International: Closed from May to July 2024. The Premier Lounge is open for use.
- Cape Town International Domestic: Closed from June to August 2024. No alternative lounge is available.



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.
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CAMP REVIEWS

June 2024

BOTSWANA

Our Travel Designers, Gordon Bauerlie-Sims, Suraj Jiva, Anna Tinkler and Leigh-Anne Williams visited our camps in Botswana and this is what they had to say.

Wilderness Savuti

We fell in love with Savuti instantly. The décor and architecture is charming, tasteful and evokes the classic safari experience. It's unpretentious and in tune with Wilderness' purpose. The camp seamlessly meshes with its riverine surroundings, bringing in elements from the channel and surrounding bush, and the effect is lovely.

The communal spaces in camp were warm and inviting, and the staff here were particularly attentive. The tents themselves sit on platforms overlooking the channel and were comfortable. The decks were perfect for just sitting and watching the African jacanas move around on the water.

Wilderness Qorokwe was a lovely surprise. On our way from the airstrip, we were treated to a drinks stop, while watching a herd of elephants.

The lodge is a contemporary design, on raised decks and walkways. The rooms are spacious and well appointed, looking out over the plains in front of camp, which, when the annual waters come in, fill up.

The main area is nice and large, with intimate seating areas scattered around. The boma is quite open, which is actually very nice and is situated in the front of the camp. Close to the bar area are two large floating, swing couches overlooking a water feature with lilies. They are lovely to laze around on when you have some down time. The water feature gives the whole area a very relaxed and laid-back feel. On one side of the main area is a large swimming pool and is great to be in while overlooking the plains in front of camp.

Being in the Gomoti area, it also offers really good game viewing, and one of our first sightings was of wild dogs.

Wilderness Vumbura Plains

The four elements of a safari came together nicely at this camp:

People, Camp, Guide and Safari Experience.

Suraj grew up in the North-West Province of South Africa, and the local language is Setswana, which is also the official language of Botswana! To give some geographical context, North-West Province borders southern Botswana – about 3-4 hours' drive from Mafikeng to Gaborone. Having spent the majority of his life here, he picked up a little Setswana and was really excited to understand what the staff in camp were chatting about.

The main area has a premium feel with artful and contemporary décor. To complement this it overlooks a permanent water channel, which is home to hippos. The camp itself is quite widespread, with the common area at the centre and guest tented suites located to the left and right. The suites are large, each having its own private deck with lounge and plunge pool over the looking the permanent water.

The food was amazing and very well presented. We had a bush boma dinner on one of the nights – be sure to try the Pap & Gravy! We were also entertained with singing and dancing by the staff members, and had the opportunity to participate – a really eventful night!

Our guide, Bame, was undoubtedly one of our best-ever experiences with a guide on all safaris we have ever been on! He is young, energetic, entertaining, attentive and very knowledgeable. He challenged our knowledge and learnings as we went along – everything from the grasses and plants, to birds and guessing animal tracks – we had some great laughs indeed. He fed off our energy and in turn we fed off his energy.



The mokoro excursion is one of the highlights of staying at a camp which offers both land and water activities. Afternoon came and we departed on the game vehicle, heading towards the location of the mokoros. En route, we spotted a pack of nine wild dogs along a water channel. Wild dogs are nomadic and ever on the move, therefore always making them a thrilling sighting. As we made our way closer to them, we noticed the leader was golden in colour, from head to toe, which is rather unusual – an albino wild dog! We were all really amazed and fascinated to experience this rare encounter of the Vumbura Concession's famous Golden Pack, which is known to the guides in this corner of the Okavango Delta for the dogs' distinctive gold patterning.



ZIMBABWE

Karabo Mathe, Nthabiseng Mosia, Sibongiseni Shongwe and Dewald Snyders had the opportunity to visit our camps in the Zambezi region...

Our first stop on this educational safari was at **Wilderness Toka Leya**, situated just a few kilometres from the Victoria Falls on the Zambian side. It's a beautiful camp situated right on the Zambezi River, and our first activity was a sundowner cruise. Although we missed the sunset, the cruise itself was amazing. The weather in Livingstone is nice and warm during April and May. We didn't do any game drives at Toka Leya; however, we did the Tour of the Falls the next day, which was the greatest highlight of our two night-stay.

On the third day we flew to **Wilderness Linkwasha**, where the welcome was amazing. We were met by all the managers and staff in camp. The food offering was tasty and we enjoyed the buffet setup on the deck. The guest tents were very spacious and comfortable. The weather was chilly in Hwange in the mornings, but nice and warm during the day. We saw mostly general game, and a lot of lions on our drives.

Our top favourite in Hwange was **Wilderness Little Makalolo**, which we found very warm and welcoming. It has a great location where the main area overlooks a floodplain, which is great for view the wildlife while

having a meal. The ellies come in numbers to the plunge pool for fresh water, so we had literally armchair game viewing!

Our trip ended off with two nights at **Wilderness Ruckomechi**, where we were nicely welcomed by staff singing and dancing as we approached the camp. We also had the opportunity to do a site inspection of the refurbished **Wilderness Little Ruckomechi**, which was lucky as the camp was opening the following day. The camp is intimate, looks fresh and is ready to welcome guests.

From Ruckomechi, we did morning and evening game drives, and on the second day we had the best sundowner – a full fire setup on the Zambezi River. We sipped on G&Ts, watching the sun set over the river full of hippos. A signature way to an amazing safari!

