



WILDERNESS PRODUCT

## News and Updates

[General Updates](#) | [Camp Reviews](#)

**BOTSWANA**

**November 2024**

# GENERAL UPDATES

### **Wilderness Chitabe main camp – rebuild closure**

Set to close on 05 January 2025 for an extensive rebuild of the rooms, Chitabe main camp will reopen on 16 April 2025, with refreshed luxury and a sustainable design that's light on the Earth.

What's new:

- **Spacious comfort:** Light, airy, luxuriously appointed rooms 113m<sup>2</sup> (1,216 sq. ft.) in extent (the old ones were 68m<sup>2</sup> or 731 sq. ft.), featuring insulated walls, ceilings, and floors for better comfort.
- **Eco-friendly room cooling:** Inspired by ancient Egyptian and Persian techniques, rooms now feature advanced evaporative air coolers, which are 90% more efficient than traditional air conditioners in Botswana's dry climate.
  - Key benefits include reduced energy use, continuous fresh air circulation, humidity control for added comfort, and effective cooling with open windows.
  - A key USP of the evaporative coolers is the fact that they are not only over the bed, but there is a conducting system throughout the rooms, where – via ducts and vents – the cool air can reach the lounge and bathroom.
  - New air is pushed into the room and then cooled with evaporation, making the air entering the room slightly more humid than that of an air-con system. The cool air then circulates in the room and the warm air is pushed outside through the open door or window.
  - They are arguably better in ultra-warm/dry environments and especially where the room is not 100% insulated (like canvas or wooden/thatch structures), all common with safari tent designs.
- **Sustainable design:** Steel framework reduces ground impact by minimising contact points; no concrete, extending camp life expectancy.
- **Enhanced culinary experience:** Revamped dining for a memorable taste of the Delta.

For some feel-good extra reading, have a look at [Chitabe wild dogs raise two litters](#) & [Chitabe's resilient cheetah family](#).

### **Wilderness Qorokwe maintenance closure**

Qorokwe will be closed for a soft refurbishment from 03 January 2025 to 27 February 2025 (inclusive), during which time both the rooms and the main area will undergo soft refurb. Given the low occupancy expected during this period, it is a strategic decision to carry out the refurbishment now rather than later in the year. Your Travel Designer will discuss alternative options that are suitable for your guests.



### **Wilderness Savuti maintenance closure**

We previously reported that Savuti would be closed between 20 November 2024 and 07 December 2024. However, the closure has been extended, and the camp will now reopen on 20 January 2025, due to extra time required for the rethatching work.

### **Little Vumbura room closure & decreased availability**

Little Vumbura is currently operating with just five rooms due to damage caused by a fallen tree. Repairs are expected to be completed by 15 January 2025.

### **King's Pool – camp has reopened**

A reminder that King's Pool reopened on 18 November 2024, following a maintenance closure for the bar. We look forward to welcoming guests back to the camp!

### **Botswana and Namibia flying circuits**

We have uploaded the most recent versions for both the Namibia and Botswana flying circuits to the Window. Here are a few points to consider:

- The updated circuits are valid from 06 January 2025 to 05 January 2026.
- Wilderness Air now includes a list of third-party properties it services in Namibia and Botswana.
- The Namibia flying circuit still indicates the arrival and departure times for planning purposes; however, these have been removed from vouchers and itineraries to avoid issues when schedules change.
- Final flight times are shared with camps the night before departure, and guests are informed in camp accordingly.
- Wilderness Air considers connecting international flights (e.g., Windhoek and Swakopmund) and will adjust schedules accordingly, provided arrival and departure details are included on the booking/Window.

# FIRST-HAND FEEDBACK

<b>Destination:</b>	<b>Wilderness Chitabe – Okavango Delta</b>
<b>Participants:</b>	Ella Rambau, Cindy Sewraj, Kelifilwe Molongwa, Naseera Viljoen
Suits which type of traveller:	Families with older children (as there are no family rooms,) honeymooners, single travellers, couples, and groups if taking sole use of the camp
Recommended activities:	Game drives and guided nature walks
Cuisine:	Buffet-style dining with boma evenings on Mondays. Excellent catering for dietary requirements.
Highlights during visit/stay:	Excellent guiding and game viewing Botswana Independence Day celebrations were wonderful with a boma dinner. The camp staff entertained guests with singing and dancing, and everyone was in a celebratory mood.



<b>Destination:</b>	<b>Wilderness Vumbura Plains – Okavango Delta</b>
<b>Participants:</b>	Ella Rambau, Cindy Sewraj, Kelifilwe Molongwa, Naseera Viljoen
Suits which type of traveller:	Single travellers, couples and groups
Recommended activities:	Game drives, boat cruises, mokoro rides
Cuisine:	Wilderness Vumbura Plains offers an a la carte menu with a variety of options for each meal, and caters well to all dietary requirements. All crockery, cutlery and glasses were very pretty, and complement the décor of the lodge.
Highlights during visit/stay:	The rooms are beautifully appointed. The staff are very flexible and made sure we got to experience all the activities. The mokoro was extremely relaxing and the highlight of our stay. We also loved the colours used throughout the lodge as it gave it a fresher and more modern feel (not the typical safari lodge décor).
Caveats:	The shower is very open plan and not suitable for friends travelling together as it offers little privacy.



<b>Destination:</b>	<b>Wilderness King's Pool – Linyanti</b>
<b>Participants:</b>	Ella Rambau, Cindy Sewraj, Kelifilwe Molongwa, Naseera Viljoen
Suits which type of traveller:	Single travellers, couples and groups
Recommended activities:	Game drives, boat cruises, and brunch at the sunken hide
Cuisine:	Wilderness King's Pool offers an a la carte menu with a variety of options for each meal, and caters well for all dietary requirements. They can also offer private dining.
Highlights during visit/stay:	Memorable moments include close-up sightings of lions fighting over a kill, hyena cubs at their den, and a phenomenal sundowner set-up
Caveats:	Unlike Vumbura Plains, there is no elevated walkway between rooms, and hippos do move around camp

