



WILDERNESS PRODUCT

GENERAL UPDATES

[NewsFlash](#) | [Regional Updates](#)**November 2024****NEWSFLASH****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 113m² (1,216 sq. ft.) in extent (the old ones were 68m² 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](#).

REGIONAL UPDATES**BOTSWANA****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!

KENYA

Governors' Mugie – new hide

Great news as Governors' Mugie adds a new hide!

- Discreetly sunken into the ground, the hide offers an unobtrusive perspective and eye-level views of animals and birds at the waterhole. Guests can spend any amount of time in the well-designed structure, which has four bunk beds, a bathroom and a wide working bench with charging sockets.
- Being "one-on-one" with wildlife that is completely oblivious to guests' presence allows for some exceptional photo opportunities.
- Located just 200 meters below the main house, an armed guard will escort guests to the hide as part of the walking experience; alternatively, they can drive them down. Once settled in, the guide can keep the guests company or leave them to enjoy this enriching experience alone.
- You can also view or download images on the [WETU](#) page.

Governors' Camp Collection wins at World Travel Awards

Governors' Camp Collection has been named Kenya's Leading Safari Camp Brand 2024 by the World Travel Awards. The properties, set in in the Masai Mara National Park and Laikipia, have consistently received many travel awards and accolades. Add this to 53 years of experience in the business, and the combination is unbeatable.

Governors' Camp Collection – EcoWarrior Awards

- Governors' Camp Collection was honoured to receive two awards at the EcoWarrior Awards ceremony this year.
- First Place went to Governors' Mugie, and First Runner Up went to Little Governors' Camp in the category "Leading Accommodation Facility in Conservation of Terrestrial Ecosystems".
- This awards category aims to highlight the vital role that tourism can play in conservation. These wins were a testament to the continued efforts to preserve the delicate ecosystems in which the camps operate.

Governors' Collection – Stay 4 Pay 3 Extended

The Stay 4 Pay 3 special offer is extended to 15 December 2025. This offer is applicable to Governors' Collection camps in the Masai Mara. Have a look at all Governors' Collection offers [here](#).

RWANDA

Wilderness Sabyinyo – gorilla trekking on last day

Please be advised that if guests do a gorilla trek on the last day of their itinerary at Wilderness Sabyinyo, there is no guarantee they will be able to freshen up or have lunch, as there is no day-use room available.

- If a gorilla trek activity is booked on the last day, please ensure you advise the agent/guests that it is best to book a day-use room at Kigali Serena Lodge.
- It is also important that guests know that should their trek be on check-out day, there won't be any lunch reserved for them. However, if guests return at any time in the morning until latest 11h30, they have enough time to freshen up, have lunch and depart latest at 13h30.
- If the guests' trek turns out to be long, the lodge will not be able to accommodate them upon their return to freshen up, have lunch, and depart, because the new arrivals will already be at the lodge.
- Golden monkey trekking is not affected, and you can still book this on their day of checking out, as the finishing time for this activity is predictable.

TANZANIA

Kusini Airstrip closed for maintenance

Kusini Airstrip will be closing for urgent maintenance, and is expected to reopen in mid-December. All December bookings should transfer to Ndotu Airstrip as a precaution. Transfers take 2–3 hours. Wilderness will absorb park fees and vehicle costs for travel until December 31 2024.

Visa applications

Although the Tanzanian government has circulated a statement that visas can be obtained upon arrival, there have been recent reports of struggles with this, and we therefore urge you to please advise guests to obtain their visas prior to travel, via the online [portal](#).

WILDERNESS AIR

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.
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