



WILDERNESS PRODUCT

News and Updates

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BOTSWANA

October 2024

GENERAL UPDATES

Mombo Airstrip Closure

The Botswana Operations team has advised that Mombo Airstrip will be closed from 26 October 2024 to 14 December 2024 (inclusive) for resurfacing as part of routine maintenance. As a result, Vumbura Airstrip will be used as an alternative, followed by a complimentary 10-minute helicopter transfer to or from Mombo and Little Mombo.

Spa Build – Mombo Camp

We are thrilled to share some exciting news – Mombo will be building a brand-new Wellness Spa! During this construction (from 11 January to 13 April 2025), we will be making a few operational adjustments to ensure a smooth process while continuing to prioritise guest comfort.

Wilderness Little Mombo will be closed off entirely during the construction period, in the meantime, Wilderness Mombo will operate with a reduced number of rooms, decreasing from eight to five.

While access to the gym will not be available, we will be setting up some gym equipment and spa treatments in two tents. All massage and therapy services will continue to be available as usual, ensuring your clients enjoy a relaxing stay.

Our team remains dedicated to ensuring guests experience a peaceful and enjoyable visit, with minimal disruption during construction.

Walking Activities in Botswana

As you may be aware, Southern Africa is currently experiencing unusually dry conditions due to below average rainfall. We are diligently monitoring the welfare and behaviour of the wildlife, especially as we approach the drier part of the season. As a precautionary measure, walking activities will be offered at the discretion of our guide in camp. This means guests may or may not have the opportunity to participate in the walking activity, depending on the guide's judgment at time of travel. This decision prioritizes the safety of our guests above all else.

Any specific requests for a walking activity or a particular walking guide should be highlighted to your Travel Designer for necessary action.

Jao Reserve Camp Closures – Botswana Elections

Please note that the Jao Reserve will have camp closures due to the upcoming Botswana elections, scheduled

from 29 October to 31 October 2024 (inclusive). The following camps will be on an "ask for space" status during this period to allow staff to travel and vote:

- Jacana
- Jao
- Kwetsani
- Tubu and Little Tubu
- Pelo

Existing bookings at these camps will remain unaffected, but no new bookings will be accepted during this time. The rest of our camps will operate normally, as arrangements have been made to ensure guest stays are not disrupted.

Additionally, Little Tubu will be closed for an extended period from 22 October to 02 November 2024 (inclusive) for the construction of a pergola on the main deck. (No bookings will be affected during this period, as the camp was already empty.)

King's Pool Camp Closure – Bar Maintenance

King's Pool will be closing from 16 November to 20 November 2024 (inclusive) due to maintenance of the bar counter.

- All existing confirmed bookings during this period will be upgraded to DumaTau at no additional cost.
- New bookings, provisional bookings, and quotes for this closure period will need to be recosted.
- If availability does not allow for this, your Travel Designer will suggest suitable alternatives.
- Please note that DumaTau uses Chobe Airstrip, while King's Pool is serviced by Linyanti Airstrip (costs remain the same).

Water Levels in The Jao Reserve

As of 03 October 2024, Botswana Operations has announced that, due to the high concentration of hippos, all boating activities have been suspended in the Jao Reserve, with only mekoro activities remaining available. Additionally, Tubu and Little Tubu have halted all water-based activities.

Mokete Child Policy

Please be reminded that the child policy for Wilderness Mokete aligns with those of all our camps in the regions we operate. Children aged 6 and older are welcome. For more details, please consult the Wilderness Portfolio and the child policy sections in the Wilderness Policies & Procedures.
