



WILDERNESS PRODUCT

# GENERAL UPDATES

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**September 2024****REGIONAL UPDATES****Water Levels**

This is the latest update, as water levels are dropping drastically. We will be kept informed of any further developments from the camps over the coming weeks.

- **Pelo Camp:** Both boating and mokoro activities are still possible.
- **Jao Camp:** Boating is currently available from Randall's Crossing, a 15-minute drive from camp to Hunda Island. However, due to decreasing water levels this route will soon be replaced by a one-hour road transfer from Jao to Hunda Island. Boating will remain possible but its duration will be shortened to approximately 45 minutes. Mokoro activities remain possible.
- **Kwetsani Camp:** Boating is no longer possible; however, there is still sufficient water to offer mokoro activities.
- **Jacana Camp:** Boating is ongoing, and now located 10 minutes away from the camp. Mokoro activities remain possible front of house but will soon be moved to a new location five minutes from camp.
- **Tabu Tree and Little Tabu:** Boating is not possible; mokoro activities are still on offer.

The water levels for the following camps remain unchanged as per our previous update:

- **Qorokwe:** Mokoro activities on offer.
- **Vumbura Plains and Little Vumbura:** Both boating and mokoro activities are possible.
- **DumaTau and Little DumaTau:** Boating and barge activities on offer.
- **King's Pool:** Barge activity is currently not operational.

**Chitabe Camp Closure**

The inventory for Chitabe Main Camp was closed in April 2024 for the following dates: 05 January 2025 to 25 April 2025 (inclusive) for a complete rebuild with regards to accommodation.

Any bookings in the system were contacted at the time and moved accordingly. Chitabe Lediba remains open for business as usual.

**New Zanzibar Mandatory Inbound Travel Insurance (as of 01 October 2024)**

This was previously communicated at the end of August 2024.

The mandatory insurance is effective 01 October 2024, for all foreign visitors to Zanzibar.

- Travellers must have it even if they already have travel insurance from elsewhere.
- The insurance is **obtainable only** from Zanzibar Insurance Corporation through a QR code that will be provided before embarking on guests' journey to Zanzibar.
- The insurance cover will be up to 92 days (multi-entry).
- **Cost per adult is USD 44.00.**
- **Cost per child from 02 years to 18 years is USD 22.00.**
- Cost per infant from 00 years to 02 years is free of charge.
- Groups with 10 or more people will be allowed a **10% discount.**

Policy documents with full details of benefits, conditions and exclusions will be sent to the traveller via email. Anyone can apply for insurance and **the certificate must be presented at the point of entry.**

Please visit [www.visitanzibar.go.tz](http://www.visitanzibar.go.tz) for more details.

### **Bisate Reserve: Room Closures**

A few rooms were recently closed off until 30 September 2024 to finalise the last maintenance snags in rooms during this period. However, Bisate remains fully operational.

### **Busanga Airstrip**

Busanga Plains Airstrip was closed for emergency maintenance for two weeks, initially from 27 August 2024 to 10 September 2024. During this maintenance period, Lushimba Airstrip was used as an alternative. African Parks, however, has completed the maintenance work at Busanga Plains Airstrip ahead of schedule. The completion date was 02 September 2024, making Plains Airstrip operational once again.

### **Governors' Aviation: Extra Luggage Weight Purchase**

Please take note of below statement from Governors' Aviation.

- **Advanced payment** (pre-payment) of extra luggage weight is permitted only by purchasing a FREIGHT SEAT charged at the PREVAILING CHILD RATE.
- If the guest requires **additional luggage weight without a freight seat** then they can pay only at CHECK-IN, depending on availability of space.

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## **WILDERNESS TOURING**

### **Table Mountain Fast-Track Option**

Wilderness Touring in Cape Town emphasises the importance of using the Fast-Track Option as the standard going forward. When Table Mountain reopened on 02 September 2024, the regular queue quickly grew to 300 metres, while the fast-track line remained much shorter. This highlights the value of fast-track tickets for a smoother experience, allowing visitors to avoid long waits, especially in the heat. Early arrival and fast-track access will help guests make the most of their visit.

### **Devil's Pool — Now Open**

Swimming in Devil's Pool is water-level dependent, possible only during low-water season (usually August to January) and subject to the timing of the excursion. It can potentially be included if booking one of the following activities (guests are to bring a bathing suit and towel along):

[Wilderness Touring Zambezi - Livingstone Island Lunch \(Livingstone, Zambia\) \(wetu.com\)](#)

[Wilderness Touring Zambezi - Livingstone Island Tea \(Livingstone, Zambia\) \(wetu.com\)](#)

[Wilderness Touring Zambezi - Livingstone Island Breezer \(Livingstone, Zambia and/or Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe\) \(wetu.com\)](#)

### **Animal Ocean Seal Snorkeling**

Please note that Animal Ocean Seal Snorkeling is currently closed due to the discovery of rabies in seals. This measure is in place to ensure the safety of both guests and staff.

- All bookings in the system were cancelled.
- Please chat to your Travel Designer for a suitable alternative activity.

**DESTINATION MANAGEMENT COMPANY****AIRLINES****Virgin Atlantic Seasonal Service**

Virgin Atlantic will extend its seasonal service between London and Cape Town this season by an extra month, due to popular demand.

- Virgin's seasonal flights usually run from October to March. This season, these flights will continue until 30 April 2025.

**Air Botswana Flight Service Expansion**

The airline announced significant flight services expansion with the introduction of new routes to several destinations within Namibia and South Africa. The expansion is part of the airline's strategic initiative to enhance connectivity across southern Africa, offering passengers more flexibility and convenience.

The new routes will be launched in phases until 01 November 2024.

- Destinations include Durban and Mpumalanga in South Africa and Windhoek in Namibia. Specific routes and commencement dates are as follows:
- Gaborone to Durban and Gaborone to Windhoek: Begins October 1 with three flights per week on Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays.
- Maun to Cape Town, Maun to Windhoek, Kasane to Cape Town and Kasane to Windhoek: All beginning 01 November 2024 with three flights per week on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.
- Kasane to Kruger Mpumalanga International Airport: Begins 01 November with three flights per week on Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays.

The airline is also reinstating services suspended during the COVID-19 pandemic, including routes from Johannesburg to Maun, Kasane and Francistown. The frequency of existing routes, such as Gaborone to Cape Town, Harare and Lusaka, will also increase from 01 November 2024.

**Singapore Airlines To Increase Johannesburg-Singapore Flight Frequency**

The airline will add a thrice weekly service to its already daily schedule, bringing the total frequency up to 10 flights a week for the period 11 December 2024 to 10 January 2025, and from 02 April 2025 to 24 October 2025.

The schedule for the thrice-weekly additional flights for December 2024 to January 2025 is as follows:

- Depart SQ 482 Singapore 16h35, arrive JNB 21h15  
Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays
- Depart SQ 481 JNB 22h30, arrive Singapore 14h55 (+1)  
Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays

The schedule for flights between April 2025 and October 2025 is as follows:

- Depart SQ482 SIN 13h55, arrive JNB 18h35  
Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays
- Depart SQ481 JNB 19h50, arrive SIN 12h15 + 1

**Airlink Direct Flight Cape Town-Gaborone, April 2025**

Independent regional airline Airlink is proceeding with plans to launch direct Cape Town-Gaborone flights from 01 April 2025.

- This follows confirmation by regulatory authorities in Botswana and South Africa that all of the necessary approvals are in place to allow Airlink to serve the route.
- Airlink will deploy 44-seat Embraer E140 regional jets on the route. Fares will include a 20-kg free economy class checked-in luggage allowance plus a 15-kg sporting equipment allowance. Full fare economy (Y class) tickets will include a 30-kg complimentary luggage allowance. On board, customers will be treated to a complimentary light meal and refreshments.

**Airlink's planned flight schedule for the Cape Town-Gaborone route is outlined below:**

- Depart 4Z364 CPT 10h50, arrive GBE at 13h00



Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays

- Depart 4Z365 GBE at 13h45, arrive CPT at 16h00

#### **Airlink Daily Service to Beira**

From mid-September 2024, we will introduce a Wednesday **flight to Beira, Mozambique**, bringing the service to a daily operation.

- Depart 4Z214 Wednesday Johannesburg 10h45, arrive Beira 12h25
- Depart 4Z215 Wednesday Beira 12h55, arrive Johannesburg at 14h55

#### **Airlink Extra Tanzania Flight:**

Beginning 21 September 2024, an additional weekly **flight from Johannesburg to Dar es Salaam** will be available on Saturdays. This flight will be operated with our modern 98-seat Embraer E190 E-Jet.

- Depart 4Z032 Saturday Johannesburg 09h40, arrive Dar es Salaam 14h10
- Depart 4Z033 Saturday Dar es Salaam 14h50, arrive Johannesburg 17h35

#### **FlySafair Announces Another Regional Route**

The twice-weekly Cape Town-Windhoek flights commence on 22 October 2024. They will run on Tuesdays and Saturdays.

#### **British Airways To Expand LHR-CPT Seasonal Schedule**

BA currently operates a daily service from London Heathrow to Cape Town International Airport.

- At the end of October, BA will introduce an additional daily flight.
  - From 10 January 2025 the frequency will increase to three daily services, increasing the total number of weekly flights between Cape Town and London Heathrow to 21.
  - The flight increase between London Heathrow and Cape Town will replace the carrier's three-weekly seasonal flights from London Gatwick to Cape Town.
  - The British Airways London Gatwick service will operate only from 31 December 2024, with the final return flight from Cape Town scheduled for 08 January 2025.
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