

ASSOCIATED PRODUCT

GENERAL UPDATE

[Airlines](#) | [Botswana](#) | [Kenya](#) | [Seychelles](#) | [South Africa](#) | [Zimbabwe](#) | [Zambia](#) | [Tanzania](#) | [Mozambique](#)

January 2025

AIRLINES

Proflight Zambia was excited to have launched the Chunga route in Safari Season 2024. However, despite best efforts, the route did not perform as expected. Even when combined with Busanga or Lufupa, the numbers remain too small to justify subsidising the development of a new remote scheduled route at this time. Therefore, Proflight has made the difficult decision not to continue servicing the Chunga (Kafue) route in 2025. Proflight will focus on strengthening the routes that are performing well and make decisions that are in the best interest of their airline. They remain optimistic that Kafue will have the demand for Proflight Zambia to relaunch scheduled flights in the future.

Precision Air is enhancing its flight offering to Central Serengeti next year. For the June – October 2025 season, daily flights will be available from Zanzibar to Seronera Airstrip, as well as a new daily route from Arusha to Seronera, offering travellers more flexibility for Tanzania safaris.

The Civil Aviation Authority of Botswana (CAAB) recently increased their Domestic and International departure taxes. The impacted routes are all flights departing from Maun, Kasane, Livingstone and Victoria Falls. The new taxes applicable are follows:

USD 25.00 per person for domestic departures out of Maun and Kasane

USD 30.00 per person for international departures – Kasane to Victoria Falls | Kasane to Livingstone

Proflight Zambia launched a direct flight between Livingstone and Cape Town every Thursday and Sunday effective 01 December 2024, with additional Saturday holiday flights.

BOTSWANA

Singita is proud to announce its expansion into Botswana's Okavango Delta with the opening of Singita Elela in 2026. Elela, which means *to flow* in Setswana, will celebrate the Delta's essence of eternal cycles and continuity. Unique to the Elela experience is a sense of unending vastness – the Delta possesses an inherent sense of space, and Singita guests will have exclusive access to one of the largest concessions in the region – 170,000 hectares of pristine wilderness. A year-round lodge, Elela will offer the essence of an immersive safari. Further details regarding booking dates, rates, design, and room configuration will be revealed soon.

KENYA

Borana Lodge is thrilled to introduce *The Wallow*, a brand-new spa experience nestled within the tranquil surroundings of Borana Lodge. With breath-taking views of Mt Kenya and The Hyena Valley Dam, The Wallow offers a perfect escape to relax, recharge, and unwind after an active day on safari.

&Beyond Kichwa Tembo Tented Camp will undergo a partial rebuild from 16 January to 30 April 2025. During this period, the camp's 12 existing Classic Tents will be redesigned as six brand-new Superior Tents. While the renovations are underway, the camp will remain open and operating as per usual.

Angama Safari Camp is now open for the months of February and March 2025. Angama is offering a reduced rate for these two months which must be combined with a two-night stay at Angama Mara. During these two months the camp can also be sold on an FIT basis.

SEYCHELLES

New property **Cheval Blanc Seychelles** on Mahé opened its doors to guests on the 01 December 2024.

Raffles Seychelles are excited to share that their Uplift Project will commence in February 2025 and is scheduled to conclude by December 2025.

SOUTH AFRICA

&Beyond is upgrading the Family Suite at Ngala Safari Lodge to a new Family Villa. The Family Villa will now accommodate a maximum of six guests (four adults and two children) and will still include a private vehicle. During the renovation period from **17 January to 31 May 2025**, the Family Villa will be closed. Along with the build of the new Family Villa, they are taking the time to revamp a few other areas around the lodge, including converting the existing bar into a wine cellar, building a new bar on the tea deck, upgrading the popular boma area, as well as some other general lodge maintenance. While the lodge team remains committed to minimising any disturbance during this period, please be aware that there may be some noise and the presence of construction materials in the affected areas.

&Beyond – Increase in Guests Conservation Contribution (GCC) Levy for the Sabi Sand Nature Reserve

All bookings made before 31 December 2024, for travel between 01 January and 31 December 2025, will retain the current GCC levy rate. The GCC levy increase will apply to new bookings made from 01 January 2025 onwards.

The new rates are as follows:

- **&Beyond Tengile River Lodge** new rate for all guests is ZAR 957.50 per person per night (max 3 nights) – including VAT
- **&Beyond Kirkman's Kamp** new rate for all guests is ZAR 574 per person per night (max 3 nights) – including VAT

It is important to note that other properties in the reserve will also be affected by the GCC increase. Please contact your Travel Designer for information on the increases relevant to our partner properties in the Sabi Sand Nature Reserve.

Shamwari Sarili Private Villa has completed its renovations. The 2 luxurious suites and 4 rooms are beautifully appointed, offering breath-taking views. Indulge in the private spa and state-of-the-art fitness facilities, along with the lap- and plunge pools. The elegant common areas are mindfully designed for socialising, and there is even a

separate children's lounge and play area. With butler service and private safari vehicles, this is the perfect escape for families or close friends seeking a private safari.

Spier Hotel, which is scheduled to open March 2025, has started taking bookings. Their new Spa, which features the signature Cape Herbal Bath House, is currently being completed. It will also offer a mindful movement studio, a resident physiotherapist, 10 treatment rooms, a mani-pedi station, an infrared sauna, a steam room, cold therapy, and a private pool.

Tintswalo Boulders has implemented a new Conservation Fee of R100 pr person per stay, **applicable to new bookings**.

The Pink Door villa in Franschhoek is the latest addition to The Oyster Collection, sister property to La Fontaine and Avondrood. This beautiful new 3-bedroomed villa opened its doors on 22 December 2024 – a great option for families and small groups, at very competitive pricing and centrally located, so walking distance to the many galleries, boutiques and restaurants.

Franschhoek House is the latest addition to La Residence, with six luxurious suites, all designed by founder Liz Biden, decorated with hand-embroidered and printed silks, local tapestries and vintage items. A heated pool, games room, outdoor patios and verandas, interactive kitchen, make the perfect offering for an intimate stay for family or friends. The official opening took place on 01 December 2024.

The Liz McGrath Collection has changed its check-in and check-out times at all 3 hotels: The Cellars-Hohenort Hotel (Cape Town), The Marine Hotel (Hermanus) and The Plettenberg Hotel (Plettenberg Bay). The new check-in time is 15h00 (was 14h00) and the new check-out time is 10h00 (was 11h00).

ROOI Restaurant at One&Only Cape Town is a new culinary destination that celebrates authentic African flavours. ROOI means *red* in Afrikaans, riffing on the theme of fire, and reflecting its innovative, grill-cooked cuisine. Décor highlights include an entrance mural depicting an enchanted African landscape, a copper oven and an inlay rug inspired by the Cape's rich flora and fauna.

The **Winchester Hotel** has opened its brand-new Sanctuary Spa, a beautiful and serene space offering a range of massages and treatments, whilst their Shoreditch Restaurant culinary showcase offers some interesting new flavours in an authentic fusion of local and global elements.

Mosaic Lagoon Lodge, located on the Hermanus Lagoon close to Stanford, has opened its new Family Cottage. Designed with 2 bedrooms (one with twin beds), it also offers its own hot tub. Nestled among ancient milkwood trees, the lodge provides an exclusive, all-inclusive retreat, tranquil spa treatments, and immersive adventures, perfect for nature lovers and families.

Boschendal has introduced a new activity, the Wine & Wander Safari Tour, which for now, takes place once a week on Saturdays from 10h00 – 13h00; however, they can offer custom experiences, as well as on request for groups. The tour explores the scenic Simonsberg slopes in an open safari vehicle, with an expert guide sharing the stories behind the working farm. Enjoy a delicious brunch platter and wine tasting at the View Point, inclusive of a *sabrage* experience.

Hazendal Yacht is the latest addition to the Hazendal offering. Step aboard the ultra-luxurious Hazendal Yacht and experience Cape Town from a different vantage point, sailing from the V&A Waterfront to beautiful destinations along the West Coast or the Cape Peninsula. The Hazendal Yacht is a spectacular 85 ft motorised

luxury yacht. Day cruises and overnight charters can be customised. Instead of staying at a hotel guests can now opt to overnight on the Hazendal Yacht to experience a private and elite stay in the Cape.

ZIMBABWE

Great Plains is excited to announce the addition of their brand-new Mpala Jena Private Villa, which is scheduled to open August 2025. The Villa has 3 bedrooms accommodating up to 6 adult guests sharing, or a maximum of 4 adults sharing with 3 children between the ages of 6 and 15 years. Ideal for families with children and it has a private lounge, indoor- and outdoor dining areas, private pool, private safari vehicle, motorised boat and the services of a private chef, staff and wildlife guide.

The Victoria Falls Hotel has discontinued its partnership with Leading Hotels of the World, with the intention of better aligning their brand with their evolving objectives as a hotel.

ZAMBIA

Sanctuary Retreats has advised that they will be closing Sussi & Chuma for the period 30 January – 13 March 2025 for maintenance.

TANZANIA

The Zanzibar Collection will temporarily close some properties for refurbishments in 2025:

- **Breezes Beach Club & Spa** will close from 03 March 2025 to 31 May 2025 (inclusive) for upgrading and redesigning of the Salama Dining Room. Existing bookings will be offered a complimentary upgrade to the flagship property – Baraza Resort & Spa, Zanzibar. These bookings will be accommodated in a Baraza Villa with Private Plunge Pool on half-board basis, including breakfast & dinner.
- **The Palms, Zanzibar** will be closed from 25 April 2025 to 19 May 2025 (inclusive)
- **Zawadi Hotel, Zanzibar** will be closed from 01 April 2025 to 24 April 2025 (inclusive) for upgrades
- **Baraza Resort & Spa** will remain open for bookings throughout this period

Melia Zanzibar will be partially closing for a renovation from 01 April and 31 May 2025. All Standard rooms including Melia Garden, Melia Terrace, Grand Suite, Family Room, Ocean View Bungalow and Romance Pavilion will be closed, and only The Level room-types will still be available; lunch and dinner will be available at Gabi Beach Restaurant and The Level Restaurant, as will Spa treatments.

Zuri Zanzibar will be conducting essential maintenance at the property during April & May 2025. During this time, the resort will remain open, but some areas will be temporarily closed at times. The maintenance work will occur daily (except some Sundays) between 09h00 – 17h30. The resort will provide signage and maps to ensure a smooth navigation around the property, aiming to complete all work with a minimal impact on guests' comfort. As a gesture of appreciation, and for any inconvenience to guests, Zuri Zanzibar is offering a 25% discount on accommodation for all stays from 28 April to 25 May 2025. The offer is not combinable with any other special deals.

The planned maintenance is as follows:

- Swimming Pool & Pool Deck – Closed from 28 April to 25 May. Guests are invited to enjoy the stunning turquoise ocean on our beautiful, tide-free beach as an alternative.
- Maisha Restaurant – Closed from 28 April to 16 May. Pavement repair work will take place near Maisha along the main beach path. An alternate access will be arranged via the private beach access.
- The beach privacy status will be limited; however, all guests are welcome to enjoy the main beach.
- Private Beach Staircase Repairs – Closed from 07 – 11 April. Alternative access will be arranged via the Main staircase. The beach privacy status will be limited; however, all guests are welcome to enjoy the main beach.
- Indoor Gym – Closed from 07 – 12 April for minor repair works. An alternative outdoor gym remains available to guests.

Entara Camps and Lodges is adding a new property to their portfolio – Koroi Forest Camp in Arusha National Park. Set to open in July 2025, Koroi Forest Camp lies hidden in the heart of a thick forest at the base of Mount Meru, Tanzania’s second-highest peak. Named after the Maasai word for the black-and-white colobus monkeys that call the area home, Koroi celebrates the forest. The camp is nestled among ancient trees and will feature eight forest chalets and a unique tree room with a view of either the open glade or seasonal stream. Visiting guests will have the chance to explore the forests of Tanzania with their unique and seldom-viewed wildlife on day and night drives, and forest and mountain hikes.

&Beyond Ngorongoro Crater Lodge is set to close for extensive rebuild from 16 January 2025. While exact dates are to be confirmed, they have now closed bookings until **mid-January 2027**.

Asilia Africa has made a few updates to their 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 rates. The changes are as follows:
2024-2025 rates:

- At Ol Pejeta Camp, the Concession Fee for the period March-May 2025 has reduced from USD 77 p.p.p.n for adults, to USD 57 p.p.p.n. Child rates have also reduced from USD 38.50 (3-11 years) to USD 28.50 p.p.p.n.
- Rubondo Island Camp and Naboisho Camp now offer in-room spa treatments.
- Rubondo Island Camp - To accommodate chimp trekking, Rubondo now requires a minimum 2-night stay.
- Transfers between Usangu Expedition Camp and Kokoko Camp or Jabali Ridge or Jabali Private House are now included in the rates / free of charge.

2025-2026 rates:

- At Ol Pejeta Camp, the Concession Fee has changed and reduced from being one year-round rate of USD77 p.p.p.n (adults) and USD 38.50 p.p.p.n for children (3-11 years) to having two seasonal periods and rates.
- For June 2025-March 2026 the fee will be USD 57 p.p.p.n adults and USD 28.50 for children (3-11 years), and for April-May 2026 the fee will be USD 67 p.p.p.n for adults and USD 33.50 for children (3-11 years). Ol Pejeta Bush Camp will also have two new additional tents available from 01 June 2025, making the total inventory 10 tents (including two family tents). The exclusive-use camp rate has also been adjusted for this season to include the two new additional tents.
- The operating dates for Kokoko Camp have been extended to include November 2025 so the camp will now be open from June – November 2025 (was previously only June to Oct 2025).
- Rubondo Island Camp – To accommodate chimp trekking, Rubondo now requires a minimum 2-night stay.
- Transfers between Usangu Expedition Camp and Kokoko Camp or Jabali Ridge, or Jabali Private House, are now included in the rates / free of charge.

- **Auric Air** is adding an additional service to its Serengeti to Ruaha route, to increase the flight routing to 3 days per week. In addition to the Monday and Thursday flights, guests will now be able to fly on Saturdays as well. The flight operates on a 4 pax inducement, and departs Seronera at 13h00 arriving in Msembe at 15h05. For the return flight, it departs Msembe at 15h25 arriving in Seronera at 17h30. Coastal Aviation will not operate this route any longer, so the only alternative is Safari Airlink, which carries a 6-seat inducement.

Bushtops Camps is excited to announce that they have found a new location for their Roving camp in the Serengeti. The new location is in the northern Serengeti, and just a 15-minute drive from the Mara River and Kogatende Airstrip. This means that from December to March Roving Bushtops will be in Kusini, and from June through October it will be in the northern Serengeti.

MOZAMBIQUE

&Beyond Benguerra has reduced their helicopter transfer rates for new bookings. The newly negotiated lower rate applies to the helicopter flight that accommodates a maximum of 6 seats, on a scheduled flight basis. Alternatively, for guests who prefer a more exclusive experience, they now offer a private helicopter transfer flight with 4 seats, ideal for smaller groups.
