

## ASSOCIATED PRODUCT

# GENERAL UPDATES

[Airlines](#) | [Seychelles](#) | [Namibia](#) | [South Africa](#) | [Tanzania](#) | [Rwanda](#)**June 2025****AIRLINES**

**Etihad Airways** will from 15 December 2025 double its weekly flights to Nairobi from 7 to 14.

**Kenya Airways** has announced a strategic codeshare agreement with Safarilink Aviation, expanding domestic connectivity to nine key destinations. According to the airlines, the partnership will offer "seamless travel" by linking the Kenya Airways global network with Safarilink's domestic reach. Under the new agreement, Kenya Airways passengers can book single-ticket itineraries connecting international flights with Safarilink-operated routes to Amboseli, Masai Mara, Nanyuki, Loisaba, Samburu, Lewa Downs, Tsavo, Naivasha, and Diani Beach.

**RwandAir** will from 15 June 2025 increase its Johannesburg to Kigali flights from 7 to 11 flights per week. The airline currently operates a daily return flight on the route.

**Grumeti Air** will be gradually phasing out their scheduled flight service to Kigali, Rwanda to focus on where demand is higher in other areas. All confirmed bookings will be honoured, and the airline is still accepting new bookings for flights on dates where commitments have already been made. The Kigali operations will continue until the end of the peak season, concluding in late October 2025.

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**SEYCHELLES**

**Carana Beach Hotel** has announced a temporary closure from 01 December to 19 December 2025 (inclusive) for essential maintenance work on their main swimming pool, pool deck, and beach bar areas. They have strategically timed this work to minimise booking disruptions. Any confirmed bookings will be relocated to a property of comparable standard.

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**NAMIBIA**

**Mola Mola** is excited to introduce its new golden hour Experience – a 4x4 sunset experience like no other in the breathtaking Sandwich Harbour. Get ready for a once-in-a-lifetime journey where towering dunes meet the Atlantic Ocean, bathed in the golden glow of sunset. Our expert guides will take you through the dramatic landscape, with plenty of time for stunning photos and quiet moments to soak up the magic.

Highlights include:

- access to the best sunset viewpoints;
- comfortable 4x4 dune rides;
- refreshments served amidst the dunes;
- small group experience for a personal touch.

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**SOUTH AFRICA**

**Ellerman House** has launched a new fine-dining restaurant, **Curate**, alongside their One Eighty Restaurant. At the helm of Curate is Ellerman House's Head Chef Kieran Whyte. The new restaurant is situated in the iconic

Wine Gallery at Ellerman House – an immersive space that serves not only as a showcase for fine wine, but as a living art installation in its own right.

**Thornybush Saseka Tented Camp** will undergo a temporary closure from 28 January to 13 April 2026. This planned closure is part of an exciting evolution of the camp as they enhance their offerings to provide an even more exceptional safari experience.

Here's what to look forward to:

- a new dining room and boma;
- beautiful new natural wood decking throughout the suites and main area;
- Little Saseka will be expanded to accommodate 6 guests, making it the perfect **exclusive-use retreat** for families or small groups seeking privacy and flexibility.

**Kambaku Safari Lodge** will close due to refurbishments from 03 February to 16 March 2026. The focus will be on enhancing the creature comforts you have come to expect from Kambaku, creating an even more inviting and elevated experience for our guests.

**Lion Sands Ivory Lodge** will reopen on 22 September 2025 with exciting enhancements featuring several new additions to enrich your stay, including:

- a wine room & deli;
- botanical house reception;
- safari lounge;
- open-air water closet;
- artist residency;
- fire deck.

**Fish Eagle Residence** will reopen on 22 September 2025 with updates that include:

- a third en-suite bedroom;
- expanded viewing and fire decks;
- a new arrival platform;
- wine room and back-of-house kitchen for an elevated, private-dining experience. Looking forward to welcoming you back to a refreshed and reimagined Ivory Lodge.

**Lion Sands Kruger National Park** has the following updates:

- new Mack & Madi kids' facility at Tinga Lodge;
- creative lab for keen photographers at Tinga Lodge;
- planning new three-bedroom residence at Tinga Lodge to open in July 2026;
- a never-before-seen dining venue on the Sabie River.

**Inyati Game Lodge** will temporarily close for refurbishment from 09 April to 30 June 2026. They will be upgrading the facilities to further enhance the guest experience and ensure even more memorable stays in future.

**Londolozi and Mala Mala** have partnered with Federal Airlines to streamline air traffic by coordinating shared use of airstrips. To minimise environmental impact and enhance guest experience, only pressurised aircraft – specifically the Beechcraft 1900, Pilatus PC-12, and King Air 200 – will be used. Cessna Caravans will no longer operate on this route.

Landing Protocol:

- Beechcraft 1900: Lands at Londolozi;

- Pilatus PC-12 / King Air 200: Land at Mala Mala, unless there are no Mala Mala guests – then they land at Londolozi.

**Passenger Grouping:**

Guests traveling to Londolozi and Mala Mala will be grouped together for flight-planning purposes.

**Flight Schedule:**

- Departure from OR Tambo (JNB): 11:30 → Arrival: 12:30;
- Return Departure: 12:45 → Arrival at OR Tambo: 13:45.

**Transfer Times to Lodges:**

- Londolozi: Approximately 5 minutes;
- Mala Mala: Approximately 10–15 minutes.

**Additional Services:**

Lodge hops and flights to/from Kruger Mpumalanga International Airport (KMIA) will continue as scheduled, utilising their respective independent airstrips.

**Kateka Safari & Wellness'** new tarred airstrip is ready for take-off. They're thrilled to announce that the brand-new 1.2km tarred airstrip at Kateka is officially complete.

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## TANZANIA

**Singita** has completed the redesign of Serengeti House – its four-suite, exclusive-use villa in the Serengeti's Grumeti Game Reserve. The redesign includes architectural upgrades such as an enhanced kitchen and a rebuilt wellness area, along with a more open-plan feel and extensive interior design changes. The interior decor has been designed to reflect the Serengeti's landscapes, curated to include beautiful pieces that honour African craft and creativity. Each of Serengeti House's suites features an en-suite bathroom, outdoor shower, and private terrace. Main areas include an eat-in kitchen, fitness centre, fire pit, outdoor sala, and 25-metre lap pool. Services include a private guide, chef, and host.

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## RWANDA

**Singita Kwitonda Lodge** has commenced with building work to increase the number of suites on the property. The lodge is adding 2 x One-Bedroom Suites and 1 x Two-Bedroom Suite, which are due to be completed by November 2025. The construction work will not affect any of the lodge's public areas or the guest experience. The lodge team on the ground is carefully managing this work, and every effort is being made to ensure it doesn't detract from guests' comfort or enjoyment.

**Hemingways Collection** is pleased to announce that Hemingways Hospitality has expanded into Rwanda with the acquisition of Heaven Holdings in Kigali. This includes The Retreat Hotel, Fusion Restaurant, Heaven Restaurant, Heaven Boutique Hotel, and Heaven Experiences, its established tour-operating arm. This marks a significant milestone for Hemingways Collection, introducing a fifth property and, for the first time, extending the brand's footprint beyond Kenya into another thriving luxury tourism destination. Our immediate priority is to ensure a smooth and seamless transition, delivered with the same care and attention to detail that defines the Hemingways experience.

## **Rwanda 3% Tourism Levy**

### **The Retreat**

- New bookings with no payment made and traveling from 1 July 2025 onward will be subject to the 3% tourism tax.
- The 3% Tourism Levy will apply to all existing bookings, even if a deposit has already been paid.
- Fully paid bookings settled before 1 July 2025 will not be affected by the new levy.

### **The Bishops House**

- New bookings with no payment made and traveling from 1 July 2025 onward will be subject to the 3% tourism tax.
- The 3% Tourism Levy will apply to all existing bookings, even if a deposit has already been paid.
- Fully paid bookings settled before 1 July 2025 will not be affected by the new levy.

### **Kigali Marriot Hotel**

- Bookings with deposits already paid:  
If a deposit was made before the levy came into effect (01 July 2025), the 3% Tourism Levy will still be applied to that booking.
- Bookings with outstanding final balance:  
If a deposit was made prior to the implementation, but the final balance remains unpaid, the 3% levy will be applied to the entire booking amount.
- Bookings with no payment made:  
For bookings with no payment received, the levy will be applied in full, in accordance with the updated government guidelines.

### **One&Only Rwanda**

- New bookings with no payment made and traveling from 1 July 2025 onward will be subject to the 3% tourism tax.
- For existing bookings where a deposit has been paid but a balance is still outstanding, the 3% levy will apply only to the remaining balance.
- Fully paid bookings settled before 1 July 2025 will not be affected by the new levy.

### **Singita Kwitonda**

The Tourism Levy is charged as 2.5% of the applicable accommodation rate. The RDB requires that the 3% levy is charged on the accommodation revenue excluding VAT. Singita's accommodation rates are inclusive of VAT so the Tourism Levy is reflected and charged as 2.5%.

#### **2025 Bookings:**

- The 3% Tourism Levy will only be applicable to new bookings travelling 01 July – 31 December 2025). Existing bookings will not be adjusted to include the new levy.

#### **2026 Bookings:**

- The 3% Tourism Levy is only applicable to new bookings made after the 2026 rates were released (April). Existing bookings that were made prior to April before rates were released will not be adjusted to reflect the new levy. The Tourism Levy is already loaded on the 2026 rates (since April) and costed accordingly.

**Volcanoes Safaris - Virunga Lodge**

- New bookings with no payment made and travel from 1 July 2025 onward will be subject to the 3% tourism levy.
- Bookings with deposits paid before 1 July 2025 will not incur the levy.
- Fully paid bookings settled prior to 1 July 2025 will also not be affected by the new tax.