

ASSOCIATED PRODUCT

GENERAL UPDATES

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May 2025

AIRLINES

Etihad Airways is planning to boost its services to South Africa from 30 March 2025. The airline will operate four flights per week between Abu Dhabi and Johannesburg, on Sundays, Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. From 01 August 2025, the airline will increase frequencies to daily. The flight schedule is as follows: Flight EY748 departs Johannesburg at 09h55 and arrives in Abu Dhabi at 19h50. The return flight EY747 departs Abu Dhabi at 02h20 and arrives in Johannesburg at 08h35.

Grumeti Air has announced some changes to their scheduled flight operations to/from Kigali (Rwanda), with immediate effect. The route will now be operated with a minimum of 4 full paying passengers (from a previous minimum of 2), which is in line with the conditions applied by other aviation companies operating the route. An extra seat supplement, or "inducement seat", will be charged to smaller parties for each seat below the minimum requirement. The supplement will be refundable in full, should the flight operate with at least 4 full paying passengers per direction (or 8 in total per run). As a result of the new policy, fares have been adjusted, mostly on the down side, and passenger taxes have instead been adjusted to include new fees and levies introduced on the route. The new policy will apply to all new bookings, and any bookings already in place will be honoured on the previous conditions. However, any further amendments to existing bookings will require the application of the new policy.

Uganda Airlines will launch non-stop flights between Entebbe International Airport and London Gatwick, marking the carrier's first direct service to Europe. The new route is set to commence on 18 May 2025 and will operate four times weekly.

Federal Airlines has launched a Londolozi direct service and bookings can be made directly, or through the FedAir online booking system. The flight departs from FedAir's private terminal (hangar), so all arriving guests will be transferred via their shuttle vehicles to the FedAir hanger facilities. The Meet & Assist team will hand guests over to the FedAir team, who will then take them across to their terminal.

Flight Times:

- Depart O.R Tambo (JNB): 11h30 → Arrive Londolozi (LDZ): 12h30
- Depart Londolozi (LDZ): 12h45 → Arrive OR Tambo (JNB): 13h50

SACAA Changes & Federal Air's Commitment. Due to new SACAA Regulation 139 Subpart 5, Federal Air has paused flights to unlicensed or unapproved runways until they meet updated safety standards. While compliance lies with runway owners, Federal Air is actively supporting their efforts and working closely with SACAA, who are now assisting with approvals as soon as they can. Along with others in the industry, they are lobbying in the background to get all runways approved as quickly as possible.

To ensure continued seamless service:

- **Approved runways:** Where available, flights will operate to the nearest licensed runway with road transfers arranged.

- **No approved runway:** Road transfers from Johannesburg to lodges will be provided, maintaining expected comfort and service.

Licensed and Approved Runways

- Ulusaba
- Sabi Sabi
- Singita
- Londolozi
- MalaMala
- Royal Malewane
- Garonga
- Kruger Mpumalanga Intl.
- Skukuza
- Hoedspruit Eastgate
- Phinda
- Thornybush
- Satara
- Ngala
- Arathusa
- Kapama
- Madikwe East
- Madikwe West

Affected Runways which are NOT Approved or Licensed

(subject to change once approved by SACAA)

- Rockfig
- Thabazimbi
- Thabamati
- Hoedspruit Civil
- Manyeleti
- Elephant Plains

LATAM Airlines Brazil has expanded its codeshare agreement with South African carrier Airlink, adding four new African destinations to its network via Johannesburg. Brazilian travellers can now book single-ticket itineraries to Harare (Zimbabwe), Maputo (Mozambique), Windhoek (Namibia) and Dar es Salaam (Tanzania). This extension enables passengers departing from Brazil to travel to up to eight destinations in Africa with checked baggage included.

KENYA

Saruni Properties Update – 2025 Closures

- Basecamp Masai Mara will be temporarily closed from 16 April to 28 May 2025 to undergo structural reinforcement and property enhancements. The camp will reopen on 29 May 2025.
- Saruni Rhino will be closed throughout the period from May to November 2025.
- Basecamp Dorobo Mobile will not operate during April, May, and November 2025.

MAURITIUS

The JW Marriott is transitioning to the St. Regis brand, reflecting their commitment to providing an elevated luxury resort option for visitors to the island, while expanding their offerings and building the resort's reputation among international luxury travellers. Launching as The St. Regis Le Morne later this year, they are currently

evaluating the pricing structure to reflect the transition to the St. Regis brand and current market conditions. The new pricing will be applicable as from the new contracting season.

Four Seasons Resort Mauritius at Anahita is pleased to announce an ambitious transformation project set to take place over seven months, from April to November 2025. The renovation will elevate the resort's overall look and feel, while preserving its distinctive character and iconic location. To facilitate the upgrades, the resort will temporarily suspend operations starting 31 March 2025. This marks the beginning of an exciting new chapter for the property since its opening in 2008.

MOZAMBIQUE

Gorongosa Safaris is one of the most exciting new offerings in Mozambique; the Gorongosa Restoration Project is a remarkable conservation success story, opening ecotourism in one of Africa's last great wild places, Gorongosa National Park. Guests can choose between a stay at the classic Muzimu Lodge or the immersive seasonal Chicari Camp. For the more adventurous, the Mount Gorongosa Community Camp offers an exclusive fly-camp experience, allowing nature enthusiasts to explore the park's remarkable biodiversity while connecting with local communities. Open April to November. This combines perfectly with Azura Marlin Lodge to offer a competitive bush-and-beach combo. Contact your dedicated Travel Designer for more details and specials.

NAMIBIA

Mola Mola Safaris – Journey into epic expedition experiences, which consist of 1-night and 2-night options.

- **1 Night, 2 Day – Namib Sand Sea Expedition**
A Journey into Silence and Sand – This is not just an escape, it's an awakening in the world's oldest desert. Step off the grid and into the surreal beauty of the Namib Sand Sea. This overnight desert expedition is a rare chance to journey through Namibia's shifting dunes, explore the shipwreck-strewn Skeleton Coast, and sleep beneath stars in one of the most secluded places on Earth. It's a transformational experience of stillness, scale, and solitude – a reset for the soul.
 - **2 Night, 3 Day – Namib Sand Sea Expedition**
A Journey into Timeless Silence – This is more than a tour, it's a pilgrimage into Namibia's soul... and yours. Leave the world behind and venture into a realm shaped by wind, time, and wonder. The Namib Sand Sea Expedition is a rare transformational experience into one of the planet's oldest deserts – a 3-day, 2-night odyssey through vast shifting dunes, forgotten shipwrecks, and the thunder of the Atlantic Ocean. You'll sleep beneath star-strewn skies, explore surreal landscapes, and feel what it means to be truly alone with nature.
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SEYCHELLES

The Hilton Group has announced that, effective 1 January 2026, Hilton Seychelles Labriz Resort & Spa will no longer be operated under Hilton management. However, until 31 December 2025, the resort will continue to operate as usual under the Hilton brand, with no changes to service or operations. All existing and confirmed bookings for stays from 1 January 2026 onward will be honoured. Guests who prefer to cancel their future

reservations may do so if they wish. Further updates regarding the new management team will be shared in due course.

Anantara Maia Seychelles are pleased to share plans of their upcoming refurbishment project which consists of back-of-house and garden improvements and refurbishment of two of their Villas, between the period 01 May to 30 June 2025. Please be assured that the noise level will remain minimal, and the designated areas will be closed to the in-house guests, with no disruption to their day-to-day operation.

SOUTH AFRICA

Cape Grace has revealed a new golf partnership with De Zalze Golf Estate in the Stellenbosch region (course is exclusive, by invitation only). Additionally, they keep on enhancing their offering:

- Food & Beverage – Wine dinners; bespoke afternoon tea with creative collaborations; soon to be launched Art & Tea Tours with the Art Curator
- Newly launched Champagne & Oyster Bar in Heirloom – in collaboration with Moët & Chandon
- Bascule: live entertainment on the weekends, new cocktails being developed and launched all the time
- Art collection has been expanded
- Virtual tour – great tool for selling one room over another <https://www.capegrace.com/virtual-tour/>

Cape Cadogan Boutique Hotel is thrilled to announce the opening of its Stable Suites on 27 April 2025. This new room category combines the charm of the property's historic past with modern, luxurious comfort. The name Stable Suites honours the area's history when coach houses and homesteads lined the Kloof Street neighbourhood. The 10 Stable Suites will be the largest at Cape Cadogan, starting from 60m² (646ft²) and offering interleading, triple, and two-bedroomed options ideal for families. Each suite features a separate lounge, bar area, and some offer a private courtyard or Juliet balcony for added charm.

RockFig Safari Lodge is excited to announce the upcoming development of a new luxury lodge, set to open in mid-Jan 2026. The new lodge promises a blend of luxury and natural beauty, providing an unforgettable experience. Please note that the current lodge will close on 07 January 2026 and operations will shift to the new lodge from 16 January 2026. For bookings between 01 to 07 January 2026, guests will still be accommodated at the current lodge at 2025 rates. Located near the current site, the new lodge will offer an enhanced guest experience with unique features, including:

- Expansive indoor and outdoor spaces for relaxation and connection with nature
- Exclusive onsite amenities, including a spa and gym
- Private plunge pools in each suite with views of a nearby waterhole
- Elevated design and comfort with modern, elegant suites that offer stunning views of the African bush

One&Only Cape Town updates:

- Nobu Cape Town restaurant is temporarily relocating to the exclusive poolside, while the iconic space undergoes a transformation. Guests can experience the same world-class Japanese-Peruvian cuisine in a breath-taking new setting. Effective 17 June to October 2025.
- One&Only's new Spa has recently launched with a blend of art and design. It has had a celestial-inspired transformation, drawing from the timeless beauty of the southern skies and the travel-inspired nature of the Southern Cross constellation. One&Only Spa's soothing tones of blues and greys greet guests and twinkling star-like lights has been crafted to create a wellness journey like no other.

TANZANIA

Ngorongoro Lodge, a proud member of The Meliá Collection, has officially joined the prestigious Leading Hotels of the World. This recognition places the lodge among the finest luxury hotels globally, reaffirming their commitment to offering unparalleled experiences in one of the world's most breath-taking destinations.

Serengeti Balloon Safaris offers hot air balloon flights in 5 different wildlife areas across Tanzania. Each park offers something totally unique from the different landscape to the wildlife on show.

The areas of operation and seasons are:

- Central Serengeti – Year-round
- Western Serengeti – Year-round, and minimum 6 passengers*
- Northern Serengeti – 15 June to 15 January
- Southern Serengeti / NCAA – 20 December to 31 March
- Grumeti Reserve – Year-round, booked only through Singita
- Tarangire National Park – Year-round excluding April/May
- Ruaha National Park – June to October

*For Western Serengeti bookings it is possible to book for a minimum of 2 passengers depending on operational flexibility. Confirmation will depend on guests' flexibility on the day for flying and can only be advised one week prior to the activity based on co-ordination of other booking requests in the area to make up a minimum of 6 passengers. Guests will be advised with as much advance notice as possible and should be aware that the date of the activity may change at late notice – considering that arrangements will be handled on the ground.

Gibbs Farm have made some updates and changes to policies regarding their offering.

- The minimum 2-night stay requirement has been removed effective immediately and the property will now accept single-night bookings.
- Going forward the lodge will only offer Full Board (FB) rates, as Half Board (HB) rates have been discontinued. All existing bookings made on HB rates will be honoured. FB rates have been enhanced and now also include afternoon tea, sundowner drinks with entertainment, and a personalised farm tour for all bookings in 2025 and 2026.
- The third adult sharing rate is no longer available. All rates are now per person, meaning a third adult will be charged at the standard per person rate.
- The Stay 4-Pay 3 Special Offers for 2025 and 2026 have been discontinued. Any bookings quoted with the Stay-Pay offer will be honoured. The only ongoing specials are a Honeymoon Offer – to celebrate honeymooners staying for 3 nights, who will receive a complimentary spa treatment, a romantic dinner, a welcome fruit platter with a bottle of wine, and homemade chocolates on arrival for both 2025 and 2026 – and the complimentary transfers from Lake Manyara Airstrip to Gibb's Farm when on a minimum 3-night stay.

ZAMBIA

The Royal Livingstone and Avani will undergo a soft refurbishment in the second quarter of this year. The refurbishment will consist of refreshing the Superior rooms at Avani Victoria Falls Resort and the Deluxe rooms at The Royal Livingstone Hotel by Anantara. The project will be carried out block by block, starting on 01 May

through 30 June with Block 4 at Avani Victoria Falls Resort. During this period, only two suites will be available for booking, and no Superior rooms will be available for booking.

The refurbishment at The Royal Livingstone Hotel by Anantara begin in June, in the following phases:

Blocks 7, 8 and 17: 05 June to 09 July

Blocks 13 and 14: 06 July to 21 August

Blocks 15 and 16: 10 August to 30 September

Blocks 9 and 12: 20 September to 03 November

Blocks 10 and 11: 20 September to 20 December

Please note that only the first floor in Block 12 and ground floor in Block 17 will be closed off for refurbishment.

The Royal Livingstone Express Train dinner service has officially resumed, offering an unforgettable blend of luxury, fine dining, and breath-taking scenery. Guests embark on a nostalgic journey through the heart of Zambia, enjoying a gourmet five-course dinner onboard a beautifully restored steam train. As the train winds through the African bush, guests can savour stunning sunset views over the Zambezi River and spot wildlife along the way. This unique experience combines old-world charm with modern culinary excellence, and operates on Wednesday and Saturday evenings, providing the perfect setting for romantic dinners, special occasions, or a memorable highlight of any Victoria Falls visit.