

WILDERNESS PRODUCT

## NEWS & UPDATES

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### January 2025

#### GENERAL REMINDERS

##### **Wilderness Qorokwe closure**

Qorokwe is closed from 03 January to 27 February 2025 (inclusive) for a softs refurbishment of the rooms and main areas. All affected bookings have moved to alternative camps.

##### **Wilderness Linyanti Tented Camp East refurbishment closure**

Wilderness Linyanti Tented Camp (East) will be closed from 01 January to 31 December 2025. Linyanti Tented Camp (West) will only operate for Groups & Incentives. All affected bookings have moved to alternative camps.

##### **Wilderness Kulala Desert Lodge – Deck maintenance**

Kulala Desert Lodge will be closed from 11 to 23 March 2025 (inclusive) for maintenance of the wooden decks.

- During this time, all confirmed bookings will be accommodated at Wilderness Little Kulala at no extra charge.
- Both Kulala Desert Lodge and Little Kulala use Geluk Airstrip, so there will be no impact on routing or costs for light aircraft transfers with Wilderness Air Namibia.

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#### REGIONAL UPDATES

##### BOTSWANA

##### **Jao Airstrip landing restrictions**

As of December 2024, Jao Reserve has made the operational decision to lift the restrictions for other charter companies (e.g Mack Air, Safari Air) to land at Jao and Hunda airstrips.

- In addition, any landing fees for other charter companies with Jao Reserve will no longer be charged.

##### **Botswana camps water levels**

As of 17 January 2025

- Mekoro – Due to recent rains in the area, mokoro activities are currently available at Jao and Jacana. However, with the rains having since stopped and the water levels dropping daily, they will only be available for a limited time. Operations will offer mokoro activities as applicable, depending on feasibility.
- Boating & Mekoro – At this time no water-based excursions on offer at Tubu Tree and Little Tubu.
- Boating & Mekoro – All water activities remain possible at Vumbura Plains and Little Vumbura.
- Boating & Barge – All water activities remain possible at DumaTau and Little DumaTau.
- Barge – No change at this time and this excursion is currently not operational.

## **KENYA**

### **Governors' Collection Special Offers update**

Please note we have replaced the Stay 10-Pay 8 with a Stay 5-Pay 4 offer.

- The Stay 5-Pay 4 offer includes Loldia House and Governors' camps in the Masai Mara National Park.
- The updated Special Offers document is saved on the Window as per below path.

## **NAMIBIA**

### **Serra Cafema boating activities**

Please note that boating activities at Serra Cafema have resumed, as water levels have returned to normal.

## **TANZANIA**

### **Serengeti Kusini Airstrip maintenance closure**

In November 2024, we informed you about the closure of Serengeti Kusini Airstrip for maintenance and the rerouting of bookings to Ndotu Airstrip.

- We are pleased to announce that as of 15 January 2025, maintenance is now complete, and the Tanzania Civil Aviation Authority (TCAA) has approved the airstrip's reopening.
- Any bookings previously redirected to Ndotu can now be switched back to Kusini with immediate effect.

## **ZAMBIA**

### **Toka Leya – Increased inventory**

Please note that as of 06 January 2025, Wilderness Toka Leya now operates with one additional twin room, bringing the total inventory to 13 rooms.

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## **WILDERNESS AIR**

### **Botswana**

#### **Champagne Stop Experience – Mokete Helicopter Transfer**

Helicopter Horizons, in partnership with Wilderness Air Botswana, has introduced a Champagne Stop Experience on any scenic transfer in and out of Mokete. This is an optional extra and a great start or end of a safari. Please note there is a requirement of minimum two guests to book this activity.

### **Namibia**

#### **Additional Airstrips for Wilderness Air Namibia**

Please note we have added two airstrips to the Wilderness Air circuit, mainly Purros and Sossusvlei Desert Lodge.

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## **WILDERNESS TOURING – CAPE TOWN**

### **Scheduled Peninsula Tour update**

As of November 2024, Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens is no longer part of the Scheduled Peninsula Tour.

- This decision was made due to heavy congestion at the site and time constraints, which made it challenging for guides to visit all the destinations on the tour route, while maintaining satisfactory standards.
- Confirmed bookings that include the entrance were still honoured.

### **Table Mountain Maintenance Closure Dates**

The annual maintenance of Table Mountain will be from 28 July 2025 until 03 August 2025.

- Weather permitting, services resume on Monday 4 August 2025.
- You can find great alternatives for your bookings in the Window.

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## **WILDERNESS TOURING – ZAMBEZI**

### **Royal Livingstone Express Dinner Run Service**

Please note that the Bushtracks – Royal Livingstone Express Dinner Run service is currently unavailable due to the train having a technical fault. This is only on the Zambian side. We will send an update once the train resumes service.

### **New Tour – Shearwater Riversong boat**

The Riversong luxury cruise boat has undergone a complete refurbishment and is now the epitome of luxury on the Zambezi River. The boat offers an unmatched cruising experience, perfect for guests seeking relaxation and indulgence. Whether they choose a breathtaking sunrise cruise or a luxury sunset cruise, the Riversong promises a journey to remember.

### **Reminder – Victoria Falls Canopy Tour**

The Victoria Falls Canopy Tour offers a network of slides, trails and rope-bridge walkways within the canopy of the hardwood forest of the Zambezi gorges. This exciting and scenic activity offers amazing views of the turbulent rapids, the Victoria Falls Bridge and spray of the Falls.

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## **DESTINATION MANAGEMENT COMPANY (DMC) – GENERAL NEWS**

### **AIRLINES**

#### **Airlink additional flights to Nairobi**

Airlink will be adding three weekly night flights to its Johannesburg-Nairobi service from 30 March this year.

- The airline's flight schedule is designed to provide convenient connections through its Johannesburg hub with its domestic and regional services, as well as long-haul flights provided by its constellation of global airline partners.
- The additional flights will be operated as per below schedule.



<b>Flight</b>	<b>Weekday</b>	<b>Aircraft</b>	<b>Depart</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Arrive</b>	<b>Time (local)</b>
4Z 072	Wednesday, Friday and Sunday	E190	JNB	20h30	NBO	01h30
4Z 073	Monday, Thursday and Saturday	E190	NBO	02h15	JNB	05h25