

WILDERNESS PRODUCT

## NEWS & UPDATES

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**July 2025**

### FEATURED PRODUCT

#### **Stories of Change: Lion Conservation & Communal Herding**

CLAWS (Communities Living Amongst Wildlife Sustainably) is an NGO that Wilderness works in partnership with to promote coexistence between lions and communities on the edge of the Okavango Delta. Learn more about this impact project [here](#).

#### **Wilderness Impact Challenge Finalists & Winner**

Meet the finalists and winner of the inaugural Wilderness Impact Challenge: visionaries tackling conservation in powerful new ways [here](#).

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### GENERAL REMINDERS

#### **Akagera National Park Webinar**

In case you missed it, please watch Craig Glatthaar (Head of Sales – Americas)'s [webinar](#) as he outlines what makes Akagera the most underrated savanna safari in Africa.

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### REGIONAL UPDATES

#### **BOTSWANA**

##### **Qorokwe Water Activities**

We are excited to share that water levels have risen significantly, opening wonderful opportunities for water-based activities, from mekoro excursions to scenic boat safaris.

**Mekoro Activity** - The mekoro experience is available year-round at Qorokwe. Depending on the flood levels during a specific time of year, the activity is conducted either on the Santandadibe River or across the floodplains fed by the Matsibe River. Both rivers lie west of the camp and are easily accessible.

**Boating Activity** - Boating will begin during the course of this week, which typically falls within the season from June through the end of September, depending on annual flood levels. This year, the Gomoti River is at one of its highest levels, making it possible for us to launch directly from there.

The river offers a breath-taking boating experience, with the Qorokwe Concession on one side and the Moremi Game Reserve on the other. The Gomoti is known for its rich wildlife, ensuring excellent game-viewing opportunities that guests are sure to enjoy.

#### **KENYA**

##### **Wilderness Mara Peak Season Adjustments**

Please note that we have updated Wilderness Mara peak season months. January and February are now part of shoulder season. This now allows long stay discounts to apply across Wilderness Mara and Wilderness Usawa for January and February.

The split-out seasons are as follows:

- 16 December 2026 - 01 January 2027 - Peak season
- 02 January 2027 - 28 February 2027 - Shoulder season

## RWANDA

### Wilderness Magashi Peninsula - Opening Delay

Please note the updated operational dates for Magashi Peninsula Twin rooms, which will now open on 26 September 2025 (revised from mid-September). The Villa remains scheduled to open on 01 October 2025. We appreciate your patience and understanding as the on-site team completes the final preparations. We will continue to share updates as we receive them from our Operations team.

### Update on Rwanda Tourism Tax

Our Rwanda accommodation rates were updated to reflect the new Rwanda Tourism Tax on the nightly rate, from 01 July 2025 onwards. All *new* bookings travelling from 01 July 2025 will include the applicable 3% tourism tax. Existing bookings that are *fully invoiced* the 3% tourism levy will not be levied. Please reach out to your designated Travel Designer for any queries on your bookings.

## ZAMBIA

### Boating Activity Suspended at Busanga Bush and Shumba Camp

As of 15 July 2025, boating is not possible at Wilderness Busanga Bush Camp and Wilderness Shumba. Despite the good summer rains, the heavy precipitation has been rapidly absorbed into the floodplains due to the drought experienced in 2024. As a result, channel water levels remain too low for boating until the end of the 2025 operational season [15 July 2025 to 31 October 2025 (inclusive)].

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## WILDERNESS AIR

### Botswana

#### Saile Airstrip - Wilderness Air Operations

African Bush Camps has announced that the new Saile Airstrip, which serves its Linyanti camps, is officially open and operational as of 14 July 2025.

*Please note that although African Bush Camps is a 3<sup>rd</sup> party (Associated Product Service) it affects our Wilderness Product Operations.*

#### Wilderness Air Botswana – Flying Circuit

- For these African Bush Camps – Linyanti Expeditions, Linyanti Bush Camp, and Linyanti Ebony – Wilderness Air Botswana will continue to service these third-party camps on the scheduled flying circuit (on a seat rate basis) i.e. fly into Saile Airstrip.

#### Wilderness Air Botswana – Sole Use Flying Times (Based on a C208)

- Please note that Wilderness Air Botswana continues to service the following African Bush Camps on a Sole Use Charter basis: Linyanti Bush Camp, Linyanti Ebony, and Linyanti Expeditions.
- However, please be advised of a change in airstrip, i.e. all flights previously operating through Linyanti Airstrip (LIN) will now operate through Saile Airstrip (SAI).
- Please note that due to high traffic and limited parking at Vumbura Airstrip, overnighting of charter aircraft will not be possible.
- As such, all private charters under own arrangements will need to reposition to Maun.
- Kindly note at present that Vumbura Airstrip operates strictly as a pick-up and drop-off point only.

## Zambezi

### Wild Expeditions Africa: New Landing & Service Fee for Shumba Airstrip

Wild Expeditions Africa will be charging a new landing and service fee for the use of Shumba Airstrip.

*Please note that although Wild Expeditions Africa is a 3<sup>rd</sup> party (Associated Product Service) it affects our Wilderness Product Operations.*

- All new bookings from 01 August 2025 will now include a landing and service fee of USD30 (excl VAT) per disembarking or embarking passenger.
- This fee will be included in the seat rate and will be collected by the various charter companies that use the strip: including MackAir and Wilderness Air.
- There will be no impact on existing bookings, this additional charge will only come into effect for new bookings from 01 August 2025.
- With regards to Wilderness Air Zimbabwe, Camp Hwange will now be serviced to and from Shumba Airstrip (i.e. no longer through Hwange Airstrip).

## WILDERNESS TOURING

### CAPE TOWN

<b>New Touring Activity: Museum of Dogs</b>	<p>The Museum of Dogs celebrates the myriad ways in which dogs impact our lives. Read more about this tour on <a href="#">WETU</a></p> <p>Good to know</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Duration: 1 - 1.5 hours</li> <li>• Recommended with Craft your own Journey, Go as you Please or City Full of Culture</li> </ul>
<b>New Touring Activity: Desmond &amp; Leah Tutu Legacy Foundation</b>	<p>One of Cape Town's most iconic historical buildings, The Old Granary, has been restored and now hosts the Desmond &amp; Leah Tutu Legacy Foundation. Read more about this tour on <a href="#">WETU</a></p> <p>Good to know</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Duration: 1-2 hours</li> <li>• Recommended with Craft your own Journey, Go as you Please or City Full of Culture</li> </ul>

## DESTINATION MANAGEMENT COMPANY (DMC) – GENERAL NEWS

### AIRLINES

#### Kenya Airways to Launch Direct Nairobi-Beijing Flights in 2026

Kenya Airways will introduce direct flights between Nairobi and Beijing Daxing International Airport in 2026, strengthening air links between the two countries. The route is set to enhance convenience for travellers, supporting Kenya's expanding aviation and tourism sectors.

*Source: ATTA*



### **Proflight Expands Seasonal Schedule**

Proflight Zambia is adding a third daily flight to its Johannesburg schedule on peak travel days from 27 September until the first week of January 2026.

- The new evening flight will depart Johannesburg at 20h30 and arrive in Lusaka at 22h30 on Saturdays and Sundays.
- The return flight will depart Lusaka at 16h30 and arrive in Johannesburg at 18h30 on the same days.
- The flight will also operate on selected weekdays for the peak holiday season, between 01 December 2025 and 03 January 2026.

*Source: Tourism Update*

### **Proflight - Change to Cape Town Flights**

Proflight Zambia will continue to operate its direct flights between Cape Town and Livingstone, as well as Cape Town and Lusaka via Livingstone, on Thursdays and Sundays. However, in response to market feedback, it will move to a later morning departure time from Lusaka from 07 August 2025.

- Cape Town - Livingstone: Flight will depart Cape Town at 12h35 and arrive in Livingstone at 15h25. The return flight will depart Livingstone at 08h40 and arrive in Cape Town at 11h40.
- Cape Town - Lusaka via Livingstone: Flight will depart Cape Town at 12h35 and arrive in Lusaka at 16h50. The return flight will depart Lusaka at 07h15 and arrive in Cape Town at 11h40.

*Source: Tourism Update*

### **FlySafair Launches New Cape Town - Hoedspruit Route**

FlySafair has announced a new domestic route connecting Cape Town to Hoedspruit, launching on 02 October 2025.

- The flight will operate three times weekly – on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays – offering improved access to South Africa's central Kruger region and adjacent private game reserves in Limpopo.
- This new link complements FlySafair's existing Cape Town - Mbombela service, which is now being increased to daily frequency.

*Source: ATTA*

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