

WILDERNESS PRODUCT

## NEWS & UPDATES

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**June 2025**

### NEWSFLASH

#### **Wilderness Mara to open in June 2026**

Formerly Little Governors' Camp, this classic East African property is being completely rebuilt to offer a more intimate, lower-impact experience. From 13 October 2025, the camp will be closed for a rebuild including a redesign of the tents to enhance views across the marsh. The camp will also be reduced from 17 to 12 tents, allowing for larger interiors and more privacy.

Wilderness Mara will reopen on 01 June 2026 as part of the Wilderness portfolio—a significant milestone since Wilderness took ownership of the Governors' Camp Collection brand.

Repeat guests will receive a 25% special discount on the new Wilderness property rates, for any new bookings between 01 June 2026 and 31 May 2027, with a booking window between 12 June and 12 August 2025.

#### **Rwanda Tourism Levy**

- All new bookings travelling from 1 July 2025 will include the applicable 3% tourism levy.
- All existing quotes and provisional bookings for travel from 1 July 2025 will be amended to include the 3% tourism levy.
- For all existing bookings where Wilderness needs to issue a balance invoice, the 3% tourism levy will be applicable.
- For all existing bookings that are fully invoiced the 3% tourism levy will not be levied.

#### **Mandatory Travel Insurance for Tanzania**

You may have seen recent reports indicating that Tanzania is planning to introduce mandatory travel insurance, similar to the policy implemented in Zanzibar late last year.

As outlined in the recently gazetted Finance Act of Tanzania, the Travel Insurance Act has been passed, requiring a payment of \$44 per person. While the official implementation date has not been confirmed, there are indications that this requirement may already be in effect and payable directly upon arrival at the airport. Given the lack of clear guidance at this stage, we recommend preparing travellers to have the required amount available, just in case it is enforced upon entry.

We will share further updates as soon as more definitive information becomes available.

Find the full update [here](#).

## GENERAL REMINDERS

### Excursions to Sossusvlei in the Namib-Naukluft National Park and Sesriem

Only Wilderness guests have exclusive access to the park via a private entrance at Kulala. This gate is not open to self-drive visitors or non-Wilderness guides, who will be redirected by park officials to the public Sesriem entrance.

Park hours are from sunrise to sunset, with the best time to explore the dunes being at sunrise when the sand is cooler, the walking easier, and the views at their most breathtaking. We suggest the option to enjoy a personalised, chef-prepared breakfast on the go to make the most of this golden hour experience.

Please note:

- **Sesriem Gate (main public entrance):** opens at sunrise and closes at sunset.
- **Inner gate (closer to the dunes):** opens one hour before sunrise and closes one hour after sunset.

Approximate opening times:

- **Summer:** Sesriem Gate 05:30–18:30 | Inner Gate 04:30–19:30
  - **Winter:** Sesriem Gate 06:00–18:30 | Inner Gate 05:00–19:00
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## REGIONAL UPDATES

### BOTSWANA

#### Water levels

Boating & Mekoro - Water-based activities available throughout the Jao Reserve (Jao, Kwetsani, Jacana, Tubu Tree and Little Tubu, Pelo).

Barge - Water levels remain too low at King's Pool and, thus, this excursion is currently not possible. However, Wilderness Botswana Operations are hopeful that conditions will improve in the upcoming months.

#### Kwetsani Rebuild

Kwetsani will be closed from 1 October 2025 to 31 May 2026 (inclusive) for a complete rebuild. The renovation will retain the much-loved treehouse style and high-apex tented roofs while modernising and refreshing the overall guest experience. Key updates include:

- Refreshed finishes and fixtures throughout.
- Addition of a family unit.
- Maintaining the original look and feel with updated modern elements.

## KENYA

### Governors' Camp New Family Tents – New Images

We are pleased to share images and a short description of the Governors' Camp new family-style accommodation, which opened on 01 June 2025 and now open to book.

- Shaded by riverine forest and offering spectacular views across the open plains, five spacious tents will replace the original eight with enhanced privacy and comfort.
- Two units are wheelchair friendly, with a ramp and supporting grab rails for guests with mobility challenges.
- The image below showcases an overview of our new family unit configurations as well as the Classic Safari Tents, Justus Suite and the Accessible Tent for wheelchair access.

[https://wetu.com/iBrochure/en/Information/15413/Governors' Camp/Room-Types](https://wetu.com/iBrochure/en/Information/15413/Governors'_Camp/Room-Types)

## RWANDA

### Wilderness Magashi Peninsula – Opening Date

Please note that the opening of Magashi Peninsula is now scheduled for mid-September 2025, giving us a bit more time to ensure an exceptional experience from day one.

Managing camp builds over international borders is complex and includes influences that are out of our control, and this has resulted in delays. Some of the supply chain delays encountered are of such a nature that they added extensive time to the logistics and had a knock-on effect on the overall project.

## ZAMBIA

### Wilderness Shumba and Busanga Bush Camp Reopen for 2025 Season

Wilderness [Shumba](#) and [Busanga Bush Camp](#) in Kafue National Park's remote Busanga Plains, have reopened for the 2025 season. From June through October, guests once again have the chance to explore one of Africa's last truly wild places, where safari magic unfolds in enthralling wildlife encounters.

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## WILDERNESS AIR

### Botswana

#### Mombo Airstrip – Flooding Extended Closure

The closure of Mombo Airstrip has been extended by an additional month, with the new estimated reopening date set for 31 July 2025, with a possible extension. During this time, please advise your guests/agents that Wilderness Air will make use of Vumbura Airstrip, followed by a complimentary 10-minute helicopter transfer (operated by Helicopter Horizons) to Mombo and Little Mombo.

## Zimbabwe

### VIP Reduced Rates for Meet and Greet Fees (Victoria Falls and Harare Airports)

We are pleased to announce that Wilderness Air Zimbabwe has successfully negotiated a reduced rate with NHS (National Handling Services) for the VIP Meet & Assist airside service at Victoria Falls and Harare Airports. Please contact your Travel Designer for further information.

## WILDERNESS TOURING

### CAPE TOWN

#### Robben Island Museum – Maintenance Closure

Please note that in preparation for the G20 Summit, Robben Island Museum has suspended all public tours from 16 June 2025 to 31 August 2025 for maintenance and renovations. The island will be ready to welcome visitors from 01 September 2025.

Below are some activities we recommend as alternatives.

- Zeitz MOCAA
- Two Oceans Aquarium
- Duck Co

#### New Tour: Wilderness Touring Cape Town – Botanical Art & Safari Day Tour



Explore the wonders of the Grootbos Private Nature Reserve on a 4x4 flower safari and experience its world-class florilegium showcasing over 922 species of fynbos in the heart of the Cape Floral Kingdom. Grootbos has served as a custodian of the precious region for 25 years. Together with its foundation, Grootbos Private Nature Reserve is continuously researching, innovating and pioneering new ways to conserve and promote the region's natural wealth. The Florilegium (Botanical Art Gallery) is a culmination of efforts to document, conserve and protect the Cape Floral Kingdom. Art has been chosen as a vehicle to instil a passion for South Africa's botanical heritage. It showcases a collection of beautiful, distinctive botanical art pieces intended to inspire people to become ambassadors for conserving and promoting the Cape Floral Kingdom.

#### Good to know

- Duration: 9 hours +
- Minimum age: 12 years
- 1.5 Hours 4 x 4 safari
- Visit to the Hannemarie Wenhold Botanical Art Gallery
- Welcome drinks and 3-course lunch (excludes drinks at lunch)
- Hats, sunscreen, and relevant wet weather jackets in season
- Comfortable walking shoes
- Tours only available on Wednesday, Saturday, Sunday

WW>Info Centre>Wilderness Offerings>Wilderness Touring Cape-Town>Tour Options – Descriptions For Classic Tours, Signature Tours & Unique Tours>Unique Tours—Botanical Art & Safari Day Tour (FD)

#### [Botanical Art & Safari Day Tour Wetu Description](#)

#### **New Tour: The Waterfront Duck Company**



By road and by boat, The Waterfront Duck Company offers you an exciting new way to experience Cape Town. Welcome to Africa's first amphibious bus tour. Onboard "The Waterfront Duck," your "Conductor" will undertake a quirky tour around and through the Waterfront, providing a lighthearted take on its history and surrounding iconic landmarks. Prepare to be "quacked up" by the crew's humour and fun interaction with guests.

#### Good to know

- Great for family
- Duration: 1 hour
- Coffee and refreshments are available to purchase
- Recommended with "Craft your own journey" or "Go as you please" or "City full of culture"

#### [The Waterfront Duck Company](#)

#### **ZAMBEZI**

##### **Victoria Falls Border closure**

Victoria Falls Border will temporarily close on 06 July 2025 from 06h00 to 09h00 to accommodate the Econet Victoria Falls Marathon. No vehicles or pedestrians will be allowed through until 09h00.

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## DESTINATION MANAGEMENT COMPANY (DMC) – GENERAL NEWS

### Update On Visa Requirements – Tanzania

In November 2024, we had received reports of guests encountering difficulties obtaining visas on arrival in Tanzania and communicated an official notice from the Tanzanian government. We strongly advised that all guests obtain visas via the online [portal](#) prior to their travel.

A further update has recently been received from our team on the ground, which advised that if a visa hasn't been issued by the time of travel, guests should keep their reference number handy to present at immigration. Their details, including payment, will already be visible in the system, allowing the process to be completed upon arrival.

### Latest Namibia Visas on arrival Fact Sheet (dated 28 May 2025) updates include:

- Countries that do not require visas to enter Namibia for holidays.
- Countries of organisations that do not require visas to enter Namibia if they are traveling with their organisation's passports.
- Nationals of countries that require visas to enter Namibia can apply on arrival or (e-visas online - preferred option).
- Holders of diplomatic, official and service passports that do not require visas to enter Namibia.
- List of nationals of certain countries in the yellow fever endemic zone that must be in possession of a yellow fever certificate.
- List of ports of entry where e-visas and in-person visa-on-arrival applications are accepted and processed.
- List of e-visas that are accepted at the ports of entry (no visa-on-arrival application allowed).
- Steps to follow visa-on-arrival online applications and how to register on the platform and where to apply, including fees: <https://eservices.mhaiss.gov.na/>
- Steps to follow for visa-on-arrival manual applications.
- Documents required for online applications.

For lists of countries and requirements, find detailed Fact Sheet [here](#).

## **AIRLINES**

### **Zambia Airways Lusaka-Harare**

The airline will begin a three-times-weekly service between Lusaka and Harare from 17 June 2025

- Flight ZN303 will depart Lusaka at 06h00 on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays and arrive in Harare at 07h10.
- Return flight ZN302 will depart Harare at 07h55 and arrive in Lusaka at 09h05.

### **Wilson to Arusha Flights**

Flightlink has announced the introduction of the following route connecting Kenya and Tanzania.

- Daily flights between Wilson Airport and Arusha Airport. Flight YS401 will depart from Arusha Airport at 17h00 and arrive at Wilson Airport at 18h00.
- The return flight YS402 will depart from Wilson Airport at 08h00 and arrive at Arusha Airport at 09h00.

### **RwandAir have increased Johannesburg-Kigali flights**

The airline currently operates a daily return flight on the route.

As from 15 June 2025, the following flights have been added to the schedule:

- Flight WB103, on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, will depart Johannesburg at 03h10 and arrive in Kigali at 07h00.
- The return flight WB102, on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Sundays, will depart Kigali at 22h30 and arrive in Johannesburg at 02h20 the following day.