

WILDERNESS PRODUCT– MAY 2025

BOTSWANA NEWS & UPDATES

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GENERAL UPDATE

Rebuilt Wilderness Chitabe Officially Open

We are thrilled to announce as of 16 April 2025, rebuilt Wilderness Chitabe is officially open.

Set on a beautiful tree island on a private concession, the new Chitabe blends innovation and comfort: guest suites are 66% larger, feature new innovative cooling systems, and offer sweeping views across the floodplains. Interiors draw from organic textures and earthy tones, while the guiding – as ever – is world-class.

Just in time for peak season, Chitabe is ready to welcome guests back to the heart of the Delta – reimagined, but with all the soul they remember.

For the other press releases and images, click here:

[Chitabe All You Need To Know](#)

Additional images, video footage will follow in the coming weeks.

The Okavango Delta Waters Explained

Ever wondered why the Okavango Delta is famous or where the flood waters come from – or perhaps need a refresher on how it all pans out in this UNESCO World Heritage site? Click on this [link](#) for interesting insight.

Wilderness Mombo Spa Rebuild Extension

Please be advised that the completion of the Wellness Spa has been postponed by a further two weeks. It is now scheduled to be completed by 15 June 2025.

Update on Botswana Water Levels

Camp	Mokoro	Boating	Barge
Okavango Delta			
Kwedi Concession			
Little Vumbura	✓	✓	
Vumbura Plains	✓	✓	
Jao Reserve			
Jao	✓	✓	
Jacana	✓	✓	
Kwetsani	✓	✓	
Little Tubu	✓	✓	
Tubu Tree	✓	✓	
Pelo	✓	✓	
Qorokwe			



Qorokwe	✓		
Linyanti Wildlife Reserve			
DumaTau		✓	✓
Little DumaTau		✓	✓
King's Pool			
Linyanti Tented Camp			
Savuti		✓	
✓ - Activities are currently available at these camps			

Triple Share at Wilderness Chitabe

Families travelling with children should ideally be accommodated at Wilderness Chitabe Lediba, as the camp offers two family units. However, in special instances triple share may possibly be accommodated at Wilderness Chitabe (i.e. two adults travelling with one child, 16 years and under).

Chitabe and Chitabe Lediba In-tent Massage Treatments

- As of 01 May 2025, the two camps will be offering in-tent massage treatments, at an additional cost, with an age restriction of a minimum of 12 years.
- Treatments for children/teenagers (12-16 years) will be lighter in pressure, with softer oils used, and may be shorter in duration depending on the needs of the guest.

Wilderness Tubu & Wilderness Little Tubu In-tent Massage Offering

As of 09 May 2025, the two camps will be offering in-tent massage treatments, at an additional cost, with an age restriction of minimum 12 years.

- Treatments for children/ teenagers (12-16 years) will be lighter in pressure, with softer oils used and may be shorter in duration depending on the needs of the guest.
- Therapists use Healing Earth amenities, which are award winning natural skin and body care products.

Wilderness DumaTau & Little DumaTau – In-tent treatments no longer offered

Please note that in-tent massage treatments, which were previously possible at the two camps, have been discontinued. All treatments are taking place at the Osprey Retreat.

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 30 June 2025. During this time, please note 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.

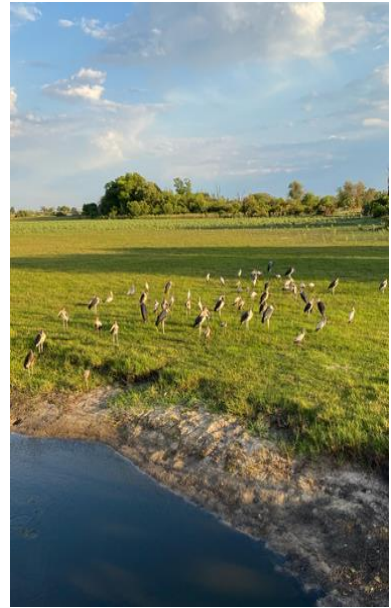


FIRST-HAND FEEDBACK

Destination:	Wilderness Little DumaTau
Participants:	Merryn Haller Verena Altern
Suits which type of traveller:	All travellers
Recommended activities:	<p>Barge brunch – Great opportunity to see elephant crossings, which were spectacular</p> <p>Speed boat – Lovely to explore to the smaller channels off Osprey Lagoon</p> <p>DumaTau main camp visit – for even greater lagoon views</p> <p>Game drives – elephants and lion prides were sensational</p>
Cuisine:	Every morsel was delicious. We especially enjoyed how local flavours were incorporated. All dietary needs were fully catered to. Selection of non-alcoholic beverages (including wine and bubbly) was very inclusive and appreciated.
Highlights during visit/stay:	<p>Game drives. We were extremely fortunate to have witnessed over 10 lions on the move on our first drive, plus more on day 2. Nas, our guide, was incredibly knowledgeable and a great storyteller. He was often the first to a sighting.</p> <p>Surprise barge brunch. Nas informed us of the brunch as a surprise on our way back to Little DumaTau. When we arrived at DumaTau main camp, the entire barge with chef and staff was waiting for us, with an incredible spread of food. We saw elephants crossing the lagoon just metres away from the boat.</p> <p>The friendliness and welcoming energy from the staff were definitely a highlight. Every single staff member was kind, warm, and unbelievably attentive.</p> <p>Of course, the abundance of elephants on the concession was just amazing.</p>



Destination:	Wilderness Jao
Participants:	Merryn Haller Verena Altern
Suits which type of traveller:	All travellers
Recommended activities:	Game drives – even without dramatic sightings, the concession is beautiful. Remarkable birdlife and biodiversity. The land is like an Eden.
Cuisine:	Absolutely delicious – particularly the afternoon tea
Highlights during visit/stay:	<p>We had just one night at Jao but Meshak, our guide, was brilliant in every way. Interpreting the landscape for us, explaining wildlife behaviours and telling us about his background growing up in a nearby village. It was a privilege to speak with him.</p> <p>Wildlife highlights include seeing a sleeping male lion just inches from the vehicle – we would have totally missed it if Mesh hadn't gotten our attention.</p> <p>When enjoying bush sundowners and listening to Mesh's fascinating life stories, he suddenly went dead quiet... He had heard a leopard cough. We looked for the leopard for a while and while we didn't manage to find it, Mesh made the entire process very exciting – predicting where the leopard might be based on lechwe behaviour, bird calls, etc. was so memorable.</p> <p>Siesta time at the villa was naturally a highlight as the space is so luxurious and comfortable – with a great view over the deck.</p>



Destination:	Wilderness Little Tubu
Participants:	Merryn Haller Verena Altern
Suits which type of traveller:	Couples or groups
Recommended activities:	Game drives – our guide made these excursions very special and we saw amazing wildlife Night drives
Cuisine:	Simple yet delicious – the meals had a homely feel with a little touch of fanciness
Highlights during visit/stay:	<p>Thanks to our fabulous guide, Kealoitse or Kelly, we saw two leopards in two days, amongst all the other incredible wildlife. The first leopard was eating a baby warthog. The second female leopard jumped into a tree and lay on one of the branches. Just us and one other vehicle observed this fantastic sighting.</p> <p>The staff are just wonderful. Warm, kind, welcoming, attentive – sweethearts all round.</p> <p>After a prolonged drought in the area, we were blessed to see the beginnings of light rain in the form of a spectacular dust storm. Whilst on a night drive, the sky changed and made for a dramatic event with lightning cutting through dark clouds. Back at camp, it was a beautiful thing to see all the staff celebrating 'Pula' in thanks for the rains.</p>





Destination	Wilderness Qorokwe
Participants:	Merryn Haller Verena Altern
Suits which type of traveller:	All travellers
Recommended activities:	Mokoro Bush brunch Game drives
Cuisine:	Delicious fine dining and traditional food like Sesswa which was served on Boma night. Selection of non-alcoholic beverages also very inclusive.
Highlights during visit/stay:	<p>The family unit – luxurious with great views over the floodplain, where we saw a mother and infant elephant drinking from a small watering hole.</p> <p>Mokoro – we finally got to explore this aspect of the Delta on our last day, which was so memorable and special. One of the polers had been doing this for 15 years. We also had hippos just 10 or so metres from us, which was very exciting, and sunset in that part of the concession was breathtaking. A very peaceful experience.</p> <p>Tsabo, our knowledgeable guide, found us fantastic wildlife. The area along the Gomoti River was especially idyllic. We saw a lion catch a baby lechwe, hippos out of water, and incredible birdlife.</p> <p>Seeing a handful of hyenas and even a jackal was a special highlight.</p> <p>Surprise bush brunch on our way back to camp.</p> <p>Tsabo found us our third leopard in three days – even shifting the vehicle so we could get different exposures for our photographs. This was at sunset, so very beautiful to see the leopard sleeping on a tree branch.</p> <p>On our very last morning, we were told we missed a pack of wild dogs right in front of camp. But not 20 minutes later, they were back. We saw about 20 or 30 wild dogs running across the floodplain in front of camp, watched them roll around in the mud and even saw one of them catch a baby lechwe. A great send-off.</p>

