



ASSOCIATED PRODUCT

GENERAL UPDATES

[South Africa](#) | [Botswana](#) | [Zimbabwe](#) | [Namibia](#) | [Kenya](#) | [Tanzania](#) | [Seychelles](#) | [Airline](#)

January 2026

SOUTH AFRICA

Cape Grace has created a unique Kids' Room, designed to spark imagination and give children a space that feels entirely their own. Styled as a playful "safari sleepover," the room features twin beds with an upper bunk hideout, a cosy teepee for make-believe adventures, and activities tailored to every age, from toddlers to teens. Thoughtful touches such as milk warmers and baby baths, bicycles for exploring the Waterfront, PS5 downtime, biscuit decorating, and soft bedtime lighting ensure both comfort and independence. With a discreet interleading door to the parents' suite, it's ideal for families and multigenerational stays — and a portion of each booking supports local wildlife conservation efforts.

21 Nettleton in Cape Town has renamed their suites to capture the essence of its surroundings:

- The Penthouse (formerly Presidential Penthouse Suite)
- Grand Oceanfront Suite (formerly Steinway Suite)
- Premium Oceanfront Suite (formerly Emperor Suite)
- Superior Oceanfront Suites (formerly King Suite & Queen Suite)
- Mountain View Retreat (formerly Lion's Head Room)

Montreux Jazz Festival, a world-renowned event, comes to Franschhoek in 2026 from 27 to 29 March. The village will come alive for an entire week of music, culture, performance, and celebration. We recommend booking accommodation soonest to avoid disappointment.

Taj Cape Town Hotel has changed the name of the Luxury Mountain Facing room to Heritage Mountain Facing room. The One Bedroom Suite can no longer be booked on static nett rates, but only on dynamic BAR rates.

Toro River Lodge is the latest addition to the Newmark Hotels & Reserves portfolio. Located in the Makalali Game Reserve (part of the Greater Kruger region) and open since 01 December 2025, the lodge features five river-facing suites, each offering privacy and uninterrupted views of the wilderness.

&Beyond Kirkman's Kamp and Tengile River Lodge: To ensure a smooth and seamless handover during the upcoming transition of operational management, please note the following timeline:

- All confirmed and provisional reservations made prior to 01 December 2025, regardless of the travel date, will continue to be managed by &Beyond.
- New bookings travelling from 01 December 2025 to 28 February 2026 will be managed by &Beyond
- New bookings travelling from 01 March 2026 onwards will be managed by the Saad Family's management company.

&Beyond Phinda Vlei Lodge, situated within the &Beyond Phinda Private Game Reserve, will be temporarily closed for refurbishment from 11 January to 30 June 2026. All affected bookings have been offered alternative accommodation within Phinda Game Reserve. The lodges have been briefed and all bookings will be recalculated and charged according to the alternative accommodation provided.



Kapama River Lodge introduces the new Tamboti Superior Suites, which complement the existing Deluxe Suites, creating a more cohesive and refined design throughout the lodge.. With interleading room options, these suites are ideal for families, offering flexibility and privacy while maintaining a luxurious safari experience.

As part of this enhancement, the current Spa Suites will undergo a full refurbishment to align with the modern aesthetic, while the four Family Spa Suites will be replaced by the new interleading Tamboti Superior Suites.

From July 2026, Kapama Southern Camp will be transformed into an exclusive boutique, villa-only lodge, offering a more intimate and personalised safari experience within Kapama Private Game Reserve. The current Standard Suites will fall away, allowing Southern Camp to focus exclusively on its 10 private villas, offering guests enhanced privacy, a tranquil atmosphere, and a more personalised safari experience.

Morukuru Updates: Ocean House will close from 01 June 2026 to 31 July 2026. This includes the recurring annual closure of Morukuru Ocean House and Morukuru Beach Lodge in June. Morukuru Ocean House will re-open with a fresh new look on 01 August 2026.

The Morukuru Ocean House soft refurbishments will not affect guests staying at Morukuru Beach Lodge.

BOTSWANA

Xigera Safari Lodge is no longer operated or managed under the Red Carnation Hotel Collection. It now functions as a stand-alone, independently run lodge, with management and reservations handled by a team based in Maun, Botswana – ensuring every interaction is guided by those who know the Delta best.

The Zambezi Queen has had to extend upgrade closure to end of February 2026.

Natural Selection: New Expeditions Camp opening 01 April 2026, with eight Meru tents pitched in the northern reaches of the Okavango Delta. Open seasons is from 01 April to 09 January.

NAMIBIA

Okonjima and AfriCat are launching two new experiences, and with them comes a refreshed AfriCat brand identity and a renewed commitment to conservation science.

1. Brown Hyaena Tracking
2. Into AfriCat – Behind the Science (from 01 July 2026)

Namushasha River Lodge will be closed from 01 January to 02 April 2026 for renovation work in the main guest areas, to align with the recently upgraded guest rooms. Namushasha River Villa, Camping2Go, and the campsite will also be closed during this period.

ZIMBABWE

Zimbabwe's standard VAT rate increased from 15% to 15.5% from 01 January 2026, with tourism activities and transfers reclassified from zero-rated to standard-rated VAT. Pricing for certain services has been affected, and our Travel Designers are currently working through impacted bookings and will be in touch with specific details where applicable.



The Victoria Falls Hotel restoration and transformation project begins in the first quarter of 2026 with a complete redesign of the Jungle Junction Restaurant and a refreshed hotel pool area. From mid-year, the North Hammerhead wing will undergo refurbishment, while the Stables Signature Wing rooms will be renovated later in the year and into 2027. The hotel will remain open, with every measure taken to ensure a comfortable stay for guests. Full details regarding timelines and scope will be communicated in subsequent updates

KENYA

Angama Amboseli has announced an increase to the Kimana Conservation Levy, which will rise from \$60 to \$80 per adult guest per night, and from \$30 to \$45 per guest under the age of 18.

- The adjustment follows the completion of the private corridor road linking Kimana Sanctuary to Amboseli National Park which serves as an essential wildlife corridor for animals moving between Tsavo West, Chyulu Hills, Kimana Sanctuary, and Amboseli National Park, and is the primary route used by all Angama guests accessing Amboseli National Park.
- All funds generated from the Kimana Conservation Levy go directly to Big Life Foundation, supporting their ongoing efforts to conserve the landscape, protect wildlife, and uplift the surrounding communities through employment, education, and coexistence programs.
- The updated levy applies to all new bookings for 2026 onwards and is effective immediately.

Bushtops has extended their fleet of specially adapted Toyota Land Cruisers so that each set of guests can have a private game vehicle, for added exclusivity.

TANZANIA

Ubuyu, a new Banyan Tree Escape in Tanzania will be open for stays from May 2026.

- Located in Ruaha National Park, the property will feature six one-bedroom villas, as well as a two- and three-bedroom villa all overlooking the park's Great Ruaha River.
- Ranging in size from 245-425 square metres, each of the villas will feature a private pool, viewing decks and open-air showers. The three-bedroom villa boasts a courtyard with a firepit, five decks, an infinity pool and a rooftop relaxation area. Shared spaces and amenities will include an open-air living area and kitchen, a rooftop bar and restaurant, a spa and a swimming pool with a deck.
- Guests will have a dedicated Escape Host to organise activities and tailor stays. Activities include game drives, walking safaris, hot air ballooning, traditional cooking classes, outdoor dining experiences and rock art tours.

Zanzibar White Sand underwent significant enhancements in 2025, reinforcing their position as Tanzania's only Relais & Châteaux property and recent Michelin Key status.

- Each villa has been refreshed and repainted, and the beachfront villas have undergone balcony renovations.
- The Senses Spa has been completely renovated to create an open, expansive environment that emphasises the natural beauty surrounding it.
- The air-conditioned Fitness Centre has been refurbished with state-of-the-art Technogym equipment for strength and cardio training. The facility is designed to accommodate different fitness levels and goals.
- Wheelchair accessibility has been enhanced throughout the property, with accessible pathways around the resort and access to the pools.
- The resort now features a new padel court in addition to the existing tennis court.
- A new yoga platform has been constructed on the beach, comfortably accommodating 8-10 participants for wellness sessions in an oceanfront setting.



The Zanzibar Collection has advised that The Palms & Zawadi Hotel will be closed during the 2026 low season as part of their annual closure process for enhancement and refurbishment.

- The Palms will be closed from 06 May to 04 June 2026 (re-opens on 05 June 2026)
- Zawadi Hotel will be closed from 05 April to 04 May 2026 (re-opens on 05 May 2026)
- During this time Baraza Resort & Spa, the flagship property, as well as Breezes Beach Club & Spa will remain open and fully operational.

Nomad Tanzania's new Kusini Serengeti Camp welcomed its first guests in December 2025.

- Located in the Southern Serengeti, the area is perfect to experience the migration from December to March but see resident game in the dry season.
- The camp is set in among granite kopjes, offering six large, open plan canvas tents on raised platforms with en-suite bathrooms including flush toilets and showers, and with a private veranda.
- The camp offers game drives, walking safaris straight from camp or into further afield areas of the park, sundowners, cookout bush breakfasts and dinners, and climbing the huge kopjes for sundowners and stargazing.
- The Southern Serengeti Airstrip is 15 minutes from camp for easy access.

SEYCHELLES

Hilton Seychelles Labriz Resort & Spa based on Silhouette Island will be officially rebranded to Niva Labriz Seychelles, effective 01 January 2026. Additional information regarding the rebranding will be communicated in due course.

Constance Ephelia has extended renovations. Work is now tentatively scheduled for completion on 16 December 2026. Sales are closed for this period for Senior Suites and One Bedroom Beach Villas.

Raffles Seychelles' enhancements continue. The upper and lower sections of the main pool remain fully open for guests, while preparations for the new swim-up pool bar are ongoing off-site. The lower pool area will experience limited access for a short period (approx. 2- 3 weeks) during final installation.

Curieuse Restaurant and The Sushi Room are undergoing revamps, however, dining operations remain uninterrupted, with alternatives in place: The Sushi Room has relocated to another venue with a terrace, while Curieuse food is served in the Pool Restaurant and Bar in the evening. Daytime drinks can be ordered at the pool and lunch is served in Losean Restaurant. Updates will be shared.

Four Seasons Resort Seychelles (Mahe)

single bedroom villas enhancements, with works always starting after 8am to minimize the guest disturbance. Pizzeria project close to the Kannel Restaurant. The area of interest is away from the guest villa and should not be cause of significant disturbance to our guests. The works typically happen every day outside of delicate hours such as early morning and after sunset.

Updates on timelines will be communicated when received.



AIRLINES

AirKenya has terminated the Wilson to Kilimanjaro (and return) flight service, introducing a new Wilson to Arusha (and vice versa) route as of 01 January 2026.

- Fares and timings will remain the same for the Arusha schedule as for the Kilimanjaro schedule.
- This flight remains a daily service and will still require a minimum of 4 pax per sector to operate.
- The Arusha service is non-operational between 01 April to 20 May and 01 November to 15 December.
- Wilson to Arusha departs at 13h30 and arrives 14h25, and Arusha to Wilson departs at 14h40 and arrives at 15h35.

Auric Air has announced the resumption of flight operations to Siwandu Airstrip in Nyerere National Park. Following a period of inactivity, this reopening restores direct air access to Laba Siwandu Camp, supporting efficient safari transfers and greater flexibility in itinerary planning.

Air Europa will launch three weekly flights between Madrid and Johannesburg from 24 June 2026.

- Flights will depart Madrid on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 15h05 and arrive in Johannesburg at 01h10 the following day.
- Flights will depart Johannesburg on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays at 03h10 and arrive in Madrid at 13h20. The service will be operated by the airline's Boeing 787 Dreamliner fleet.

Federal Airlines is expanding its Shuttle Business Unit with a new daily six-aircraft Lowveld schedule launching mid-May 2026.

- Faster, seamless connections with maximum two stops to MQP, Skukuza & Hoedspruit.
- Two new Cessna Caravan EX aircraft and upgraded lounges.
- Existing routes remained unchanged: Singita, Londolozi, MalaMala, Ulusaba, Arathusa, Phinda, Madikwe, Marataba.
- Value-for-money zonal fares — flexible pricing to suit clients' budgets.
- New X-Class Fare includes one large hard-shell bag (up to 32kg) for a small.