



WILDERNESS PRODUCT

NEWS & UPDATES

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January 2026**GENERAL REMINDERS****Wilderness Camps | Wilderness Touring | Wilderness Air – Zimbabwe VAT & Rates Increase**

Following the recent communication regarding VAT changes affecting tourism services in Zimbabwe, we would like to share an update on Wilderness Camps, Wilderness Air and Wilderness Touring.

As communicated, the Government of Zimbabwe has amended the Finance Act, increasing VAT from 15% to 15.5% and extending VAT to several tourism services and activities that were previously zero-rated. These changes took effect on 1 January 2026 and are now legally required across the industry.

What this means for Wilderness:**Wilderness camps**

Davison's, Linkwasha, Little Makalolo, Little Ruckomechi, Ruckomechi and Chikwenya) – VAT on accommodation has increased to 15.5%. As our camp rates include activities, which are now also subject to VAT, a 3% rate increase has been applied. This reflects the VAT increase on accommodation and activities, as well as on components such as park fees and transfers that were previously non-vatable.

Wilderness Air

Rates have increased by 15.5%, reflecting VAT now applied to previously zero-rated services. This applies to bookings travelling from 01 March 2026.

We previously stated that all existing bookings and service would be honoured only if full payment was received prior to the vat increase, and that all outstanding quotes had to be re-costed. Please note this has been revised to:

- We will honour the old rates for January and February 2026 bookings
- We will honour all fully paid bookings
- For all other bookings (not fully paid for) as of 1 March 2026 – the new rates apply
- The compulsory Meet & Assist in Harare and the VIP Meet & Assist are not affected
- Please refer to the email shared by Aurelie on the WS Air Zimbabwe booking sheet

Wilderness Transfers & Touring

Rates have increased by 15.5% with immediate effect.

REGIONAL UPDATES**BOTSWANA**

Khwai Airstrip, previously communicated as reopened, has temporarily closed again due to recent rainfall resulting in soft ground conditions. Reopening is now anticipated on 17 February 2026, with a further status update to follow on 10 February 2026.

In the interim, Wilderness Air will continue operating via Khwai Private Reserve, with all onward transfers managed by road.



Water Levels Update

Please take note of activities in relation to water levels as of 19 January 2026.

Camp	Boating	Mokoro
Vumbura Camp	Still available throughout the year	Still available throughout the year
Little Vumbura	Still available throughout the year	Still available throughout the year
Duma Tau	Both boating and barging still available throughout the year	x
Little DumaTau	Both boating and barging still available throughout the year	x

TANZANIA

Wayo Little Green Camp Closure

Following a recent operational review, Wayo Little Green Camp has closed permanently and with immediate effect.

This decision reflects a strategic focus on consolidating resources to deliver an even more immersive and exceptional Wayo safari experience in the Serengeti. As part of this approach, all Wayo Little Green Camp bookings will be upgraded to Wayo Serengeti Green Camp, located in the same area. All travel logistics will remain unchanged. Travel Designers will be in contact on effected bookings.

ZAMBIA

Zambia Visa Fee Update

The Department of Immigration in Zambia has confirmed updated visa fees, effective 01 January 2026.

Below is a summary of the changes in USD:

Visa Type	Previous Fee	Current Fee	Change
Single Entry Visa	USD 25	USD 50	100%
Double Entry Visa	USD 40	USD 80	100%
Multiple Entry Visa	USD 75	USD 80	6.70%
Day Tripper Visa	USD 10	USD 10	No change
KAZA UniVisa	USD 50	USD 50	No change

Some countries, including the UK, most of Europe, and the USA, do not require a visa to enter Zambia, so these changes will not apply to those travellers.

As visa requirements vary by country, we advise agents to always check the latest entry requirements for each traveller before arrival.

Please also note that the Victoria Falls border post between Zimbabwe and Zambia will now operate 24 hours a day going forward. Kindly refer to the Zambian Immigration website for further details

eservices.zambiaimmigration.gov.zm/#/pricing

WILDERNESS AIR

Botswana

From 01 February 2026, Wilderness Air will discontinue seat-rate flights on the Zambezi Triangle routings.

What this means for bookings:

- The preferred alternative will be a road transfer with Wilderness Touring Zambezi
- Should the guests prefer to fly, bookings will be transferred to Mack Air
- Sole-use flights with Wilderness Air Botswana will remain available on request only and must be booked directly with them
- All existing confirmed bookings with Wilderness Air will be honoured and remain unchanged
- All new and provisional bookings need to be booked directly with Mack Air

Flight Schedule Overview:

- Flights operate from Kasane at 13h00 on both routings
- Check-in is 1 hour prior to departure
- An 11h00 departure may be requested directly with Mack Air and is subject to availability and aircraft movements on the day

As always, our team is available should you require any further assistance.

WILDERNESS TOURING

ZAMBEZI

Wilderness Touring Zambezi — Tour of the Falls

In September 2025 it was announced that the Tour of the Falls activity offered to guests during stays at Wilderness Toka Leya would be temporarily shifted from the Zambian side to the Zimbabwe side, due to the notable increase in water volume on the Zambian side of the Falls.

We are pleased to advise that the Wilderness Toka Leya team has now resumed the Tour of the Falls activity on the Zambian side, effective immediately, thereby reverting operations to standard procedures.

- No KAZA UniVisa is required for Toka Leya guests participating in the activity on the Zambian side
- All activity logistics remain fully supported by Wilderness Zambezi

DESTINATION MANAGEMENT COMPANY (DMC) – GENERAL NEWS

AIRLINES

Air Tanzania launches new route to Cape Town

- As of December 2025, flights operate every Thursday and Friday, routing via Victoria Falls. The service is expected to improve tourism, trade and flexibility by linking Cape Town with Dar es Salaam and onwards into East, Central and Southern Africa.
- The development builds on the airline's existing daily direct service to Johannesburg.
- For travellers from Cape Town, the expanded network provides streamlined access to Tanzania's key wildlife areas, including Serengeti National Park, Ngorongoro Conservation Area, Tarangire, Lake Manyara, Ruaha, Mikumi and Nyerere (formerly Selous).

**LATAM's new Cape Town-São Paulo routing**

- Flights will operate thrice-weekly on Mondays, Thursdays and Saturdays from July 2026.
- Flight LA8061 will depart Cape Town at 15h50 and arrive in São Paulo at 20h00.
- Return flight LA8060 will depart São Paulo at 22h45 on Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays and arrive in Cape Town at 10h55 the following day.
- The new service will offer connections from São Paulo to more than 60 destinations in Brazil, and over 120 throughout the region.

SAA and TAAG Angola Airlines codeshare agreement enhances regional and intercontinental connectivity

- The codeshare enables the airlines to expand their networks by sharing routes and offering passengers seamless connections, with Luanda, Johannesburg and Cape Town being the key hubs.
- SAA will add its flight code to TAAG-operated flights from Johannesburg and Cape Town to Luanda, as well as onward connections from Luanda to Lisbon and São Paulo.
- In return, TAAG will gain access to key destinations in SAA's network, including Durban, Gqeberha (Port Elizabeth), Cape Town, Harare and Lusaka.
- Travellers can book flights from this wider selection of destinations, with the convenience of purchasing a single ticket in their local currency and integrated check-in and baggage processes.

Air Europa will launch three weekly flights between Madrid and Johannesburg on 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.
- In October 2025, Air Europa was [granted rights](#) to operate three weekly flights between Spain and South Africa after Spain's Directorate General of Civil Aviation initiated a process to allocate traffic rights between the two countries.

SAA and Turkish Airlines codeshare agreement

- On 05 December 2025, SAA and Turkish airlines formalised a codeshare agreement offering international travellers seamless access to destinations in Southern Africa.
 - Under the new agreement, Turkish Airlines will place its flight code on SAA-operated flights from Johannesburg and Cape Town to Durban, Gqeberha, Windhoek, Harare, Victoria Falls and Mauritius. These ticket sales will commence on 01 March 2026.
 - SAA will place its flight code on Turkish Airlines-operated flights from Istanbul to Frankfurt, Paris and London.
 - As part of the codeshare, both airlines will explore opportunities to expand their networks through strategic route opportunities.
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