

April 2015

## NEWSFLASH

### Airstrip Updates

- The Abu Airstrip is now open.
- The current closure of the Damaraland Camp Airstrip for maintenance work has been extended to 21 April 2015. In the interim, all guests travelling to Damaraland Camp are routed via the Doro Nawas Airstrip, where they are met by the Damaraland Camp guides and vehicles for their transfer by road to Damaraland – approximately 60 minutes one way.

### The Queen Sylvia Barge & Boating at Kings Pool

Note that the Queen Sylvia barge excursion is subject to water levels. Late last month we were advised that the water levels in the Linyanti River have dropped quite a bit and as a result, Kings Pool has had to shorten the cruise. They may have to stop altogether at the end of April, however, we will keep you updated.

### Wilderness Window

Note that the Wilderness Window has now been migrated onto the cloud, so any speed issues previously experienced by international agents should now be alleviated.

## TRAVEL REGULATIONS

### UPDATE | Yellow Fever Requirements for SA

Apparently the message seems to have finally got through, and immigration officials at OR Tambo International are no longer asking for proof of Yellow Fever vaccinations from those arriving from Zambia!

## REMINDERS

### Specific Drink Requests in Camp

Specific brands or types are subject to availability in all our camps. If a guest has a specific requirement, please do let your Journey Specialist know and the camps will do their best to accommodate the request accordingly or source the closest alternative.

## WILDERNESS TOURING CAPE TOWN

### Renaming of Tour Excursions

Note that the Wine-less Winelands Museums & Architecture tour and the Wine-less Winelands Tastes have been renamed to the Winelands – Museums & Architecture tour and Winelands – Tastes of the Cape respectively.

## BOTSWANA

### Kwetsani Camp Refurbishment Update

Kwetsani has been closed since January to carry out an upgrade of all rooms. Scheduled to re-open on 1 June 2015, the thatch units are being taken down and the square shaped deck has been changed to a rectangle, allowing for a spacious tent to be fitted with a lounge, bedroom and bathroom all facing the floodplains. At the same time, they will be lightening up the room décor plus updating the look and feel, and creating a bigger deck and bathroom. The number of guest rooms is still 5 plus pilot/guide accommodation and the camp layout remains unchanged.

### Seba Family Room Update

The lounge above the family room has become an outdoor deck and the sand pits have been removed from the family rooms.

### Vumbura Plains Refurbishment Update

Over the past few months (and with a couple of weeks to go to complete the thatching), the following has been actioned:

- All rooms have been or will be re-thatched
- There is 1.6 km of new boardwalk
- The plunge pools have all been propped up as they had sagged over time

### Chitabe Camp & Chitabe Lediba Refurbishment Update

Chitabe Camp will be closed for the period of 26 January 2016 to 29 February 2016 (inclusive) for annual maintenance, as well as refurbishment of the main area and the rebuild of the walkways.

Chitabe Lediba will be closed for the period of 16 – 25 January 2016 (inclusive) for annual maintenance.

### **Kalahari Plains Camp Change in Tent Numbering & Type of Rooms**

The recent upgrade of Kalahari Plains Camp from Adventures to Classic has persuaded us to reduce the capacity of the camp from 10 rooms to 8 rooms in order to create a more intimate Central Kalahari experience for our guests. As such Tent #4 which was unfortunately lost to fire earlier this year will not be rebuilt, and Tent #5 will now serve as a pilot-guide tent instead of a family unit.

## **NAMIBIA**

### **Damaraland Cultural Visits**

Cultural visits from Damaraland Camp are limited to Fonteine Pos and DeRiet - Bergsig is too far. Our collateral has been updated accordingly.

### **Fishing at Serra Cafema**

Fishing at Serra Cafema is on request only. Please put a note in WISH should you have guests that are interested in this activity.

## **ZAMBIA**

### **Forthcoming Toka Leya Upgrade**

In line with all the other renovations and refurbishments taking place across the group in camps like Kwetsani, **we will be closing Toka Leya from 21 May to 20 June 2015 inclusive**. During that time we will be reinvesting in the guest experience and comfort to renew and refresh Toka Leya some eight years after opening – reopening just in time for the peak season. We want Toka Leya to serve as a sanctuary to our safari goers at the beginning or end of their trip and as such the degree of comfort and luxury is going to be fine-tuned and polished.

#### Rooms:

- new roofs will be added to each room;
- entirely new vanities will be built into each room;
- all floors and decking will be refurbished;
- on each room deck we will be dropping a portion of the deck to build a bench seating relaxation area with views of the Zambezi; and
- the outdoor showers will be changed into outside baths.

#### Main area:

- Watch this space for further news of the exciting and creative new “salas” and decks built around the existing main area and river frontage for daytime relaxing and outdoor dining; and
- the spa and gym will be completely revamped!

## **ZIMBABWE**

### **Ruckomechi Upgrade for the New Season**

The following have been addressed as part of the annual maintenance and upgrade for the new season:

- Oiling of decks
- Canvas paint for the tents
- Redo the walkways
- Redo the bath area, raised a bit for good views of the river
- Replace all the softs
- Improve the lighting
- New shade net for the roofs
- Resurfacing the swimming pool

## **AIRLINES**

## **GENERAL**

### **SA Fuel Surcharge**

All South African airways tickets issued on/after 15 April 2015 will be subject to a revised SA Fuel surcharge (YR Surcharge). Applicable on all SA Domestic, Regional and International sectors.

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Warm regards,  
Tina

## **Wilderness Product Services Manager**

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For further information on Wilderness product or rates, please refer to the Information Centre on the Wilderness Window or contact either myself [tinak@wilderness.co.za](mailto:tinak@wilderness.co.za) or your reservations cluster/Journey Specialist directly.

[www.wilderness-safaris.com](http://www.wilderness-safaris.com)

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