



25 April 2016

NEWSFLASH

Jao Camp Rebuild Postponed

The Jao booking sheets are now open from 1 October 2016 to 31 May 2017 (with the exception of 1 to 21 February 2017 when it is closed for annual maintenance). Revised dates for the proposed rebuild are still to be determined.

NO Yellow Fever Requirement for Namibia

An outbreak of yellow fever in Angola has appeared in recent weeks on the news or social media. Although it borders Angola, Namibia has a negative yellow fever status and therefore the vaccination is not required when visiting Namibia.

Renovations at La Petite Ferme

La Petite Ferme near Franschoek will be closed for renovations from 1 August to 5 September 2016. Wilderness Touring Cape will select alternative winelands restaurants over these dates.

White Water Rafting on Hold

Wild Horizons have stopped rafting due to current high water levels in the Zambezi. They will re-open the white water rafting trips once the river has dropped to a safe level again.

Livingstone Island Closed for the Season

Due to the increasing water levels on the Zambezi River, management have closed operations for Livingstone Island visits from Friday 15 April 2016 until further notice.

IMPORTANT

Water Activity Update in Botswana

- Kwetsani - mokoro activities have started, boating is not yet available.
- Jao, Jacana & Pelo - full range of water activities now offered.
- Tubu & Little Tubu - water levels remain too low so no water activities possible at this time.
- Xigera Camp - water levels are increasing and boating is on offer again.
- The Savuti Channel remains dry at this time.
- Kings Pool - the barge activity is not possible for the near future due to low water levels.
- DumaTau - the water levels in the lagoon are high enough to continue with boating and the barge activity.
- Abu Camp - water level is still too low for any water activities to take place.

Hot Air Balloon Excursion from the Vumbura Camps

- Operated by Air Ventures, this excursion commenced on 18 April and will be available until 30 September 2016.
- Applicable to guests staying at Vumbura Plains and Little Vumbura camps only, these bookings must be channelled through Wilderness Safaris.
- It is possible to drive both to and from the activity, however, to further complement the balloon safari, the inclusion of a helicopter flight is possible as follows:
 - Return helicopter flights
 - Drive one way, and fly the other
 - Include a 30 or 60 minute scenic flight on either the one way or return helicopter flights

REMINDERS

Immigration Directive - Machine Readable Travel Documents

In place since 24 November 2015, and to comply with Immigration Regulations, only Machine Readable Travel Documents (MRTDs) will be accepted to enter South Africa. Note that extended passports will no longer be accepted so travellers are advised to check their travel documents.

Accommodation Check-in & Check-out Times

Times may vary depending on the establishment. Generally speaking for hotels, check-in is after 14:00 and check-out is by 10:00. At most safari camps/lodges, the rooms need to be vacated by noon, although this will be confirmed directly at the camp/lodge. Should guests wish to guarantee an early arrival or a longer stay in their room, it is recommended they arrange and pay for this in advance to secure it.

At Wilderness Safaris properties, check-out is usually timed according to onward travel arrangements - scheduled commercial flight times, the flying circuit or private charter arrangements. Use of the room, until such time as the guest is scheduled to depart for the airstrip/airport, will be arranged where possible, bearing in mind this is subject to availability and therefore not guaranteed.

SPECIALS & PACKAGED SAFARIS

EXTENDED | Experience Zambia into 2016

The "Experience Zambia" Package is now available for 2016 and includes two options as follows:

6 Nights – Toka Leya & Anabezi Luxury Tented Camp, valid 1 April to 15 November 2016

- Day 1: Arrive at Livingstone Airport and transfer by road to Toka Leya Camp for three nights.
- Day 4: Fly to the Lower Zambezi National Park for three nights at Anabezi Luxury Tented Camp.
- Day 7: Transfer by air to Livingstone or Lusaka Airport.

8 Nights – Toka Leya, Shumba Camp & Anabezi Luxury Tented Camp, valid 01 June to 31 October 2016

- Day 1: Arrive at Livingstone Airport and transfer by road to Toka Leya Camp for two nights.
- Day 3: Fly to the Kafue National Park for three nights at Shumba Camp.
- Day 6: Fly to the Lower Zambezi National Park for three nights at Anabezi Luxury Tented Camp.
- Day 9: Transfer by air to Livingstone or Lusaka Airport.

NOW INCLUDING HIGH SEASON | A Kenyan Journey

This great programme featuring **Segera Retreat and Angama Mara** is now available year round with low season from now until 30 June, plus 1 October to 15 December 2016 and high season from 1 July until 30 September.

- Day 1: Private charter from Wilson Airport to Segera Retreat, Laikipia for three nights
- Day 4: Private charter to Angama Mara, Maasai Mara for three nights
- Day 7: Private charter to Jomo Kenyatta International Airport for onward arrangements

INTRODUCING | A Great Range of North Island Specials

The following special offers have been developed for North Island – further details available on these links - <http://www.wilderness-collection.com/north-information-portal/> and <http://www.north-island.com/specials/>:

- 7 for 6 - *And kids stay free*
- Sole use - *Exclusively yours*
- Weddings – *Barefoot wedding*
- Honeymoon – *Honeymoon bliss*
- Spa – *Now even more relaxing*

WILDERNESS AIR

New Wilderness Air Namibia Circuit – as of 1 April 2016

The updated circuit flyer is now available on the Info Centre.

Mandatory Information

Taking civil aviation regulations plus legal, safety and operational requirements into account, the following information is required to ensure your guests have a seamless experience when travelling with Wilderness Air:

- Passenger Name
- Proof of Identification – preferably a copy of the passport
- Gender
- Passenger Weight
- Departure Point
- Arrival Point
- Special Needs

WILDERNESS TOURING

ZAMBEZI FEATURED EXCURSION | Horseback Safaris (Livingstone Zambia)

Enjoy an exhilarating horseback ride from the Falls Resort! Led by experienced guides within the confines of a National Park, the trails traverse pristine African bushveld with exceptional views of the Victoria Falls and Zambezi River. Birdlife is prolific and during the dry season, large mammals may be seen. Riders – whether novice or experienced – may choose between a two-hour-long ride and a half-day ride with lunch served at the stables.

BOTSWANA

Booking Massage/Spa Treatments at Jao and Vumbura Plains

These may be pre-booked (send details to your Journey Specialist) or booked by the guest directly when in camp.

Botswana Visa Update

Botswana tourist visas are not required for citizens of Chile and Italy for a stay up to 90 days.

KENYA

Outdoor Movie Screenings at Segera Retreat

Projected onto a wide screen in various different "cinema" settings, these movies range from old-time classics to heart-wrenching contemporary documentaries, each carefully hand-selected to stimulate, educate, challenge and inspire guests at Segera. The venues range from Segera's Paddock House overlooking a commanding stage, to a quiet movie night surrounded by captivating African manuscripts and artefacts in the Explorer Lounge, to a picnic-style screening in the Retreat's lush botanical gardens –

Vaccination & Health Requirements for International Travellers travelling to Kenya

- No yellow fever vaccination certificates are required of all travellers from the East African Community Partner States, Europe, Asia, North America, Australia, North and South Africa.
- Only valid yellow fever vaccination certificates are required of all travellers over one year old, arriving from yellow fever infected countries mainly in central and West Africa, South and Central America, South East Asia, India, Nepal Sri Lanka, Bangladesh. Vaccinations for international travellers are obtainable from all international air and seaports.
- Cholera vaccination certificates are not required.
- Vaccines Recommended - Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B and Typhoid Fever.
- Meningitis - not recommended unless there is evidence of an epidemic.
- Medical Advice: Malaria is prevalent in East Africa's coastal and low-lying areas (below 1800 metres). Due to its high altitude and temperate climate, Segera Retreat is considered malaria-free.

NAMIBIA

Maintenance at Little Kulala

An extensive maintenance project is underway at Little Kulala, scheduled for completion at the end of April. This is not a refurbishment or rebuild, however, it is giving the camp quite a facelift. The walls, floors and pools of the main areas and pools have been painted, while internal and external furniture have been sanded and painted.

Only 3 Staff/Guide beds at Kulala Desert Lodge

Note that going forward we will only have 3 staff/guide beds (single occupancy) available for sale at Kulala Desert Lodge.

Guest Arrivals at Windhoek Airport

Note that the complimentary welcome service and Wilderness Meet & Greet, plus use of the Airport Lounge, is exclusively for guests who have booked their full Namibian itinerary with any of the Wilderness Safaris Travel Shops.

Limited Luggage Storage at Hosea Kutako International Airport (WDH)

Luggage is stored at the airport on a complimentary basis for those guests that have booked their full safari with Wilderness. The space is limited and cannot be pre-booked so it is subject to availability. Accordingly, alternative arrangements may be required to store luggage in town that could incur costs.

SOUTH AFRICA

Rocktail Access & Transfers

IMPORTANT - The Manzengevenya Park access gate into the Maputaland Coastal Forest Reserve is open from 06:00 and closes at 18:00. Due to park regulations, it is not possible to gain entry into the Reserve, nor exit from the Reserve, outside of these operating hours - transfer vehicles or self-drive vehicles. This gate is under stringent control by the National Parks Board and Rocktail Camp has no control over this access point. If delayed for any reason, the only option for guests is to turn back and arrange alternative accommodation for the night.

On 1 April 2016, **two transfer times changed as highlighted in bold below**. Previously 13:00 and 15:00 respectively, they are now at 12:00 and 14:00 from Rocktail Camp back to Coastal Cashews (parking/meeting point):

- From Coastal Cashews TO Rocktail Camp at 10:30, 13:00 and 15:00 daily.
- From Rocktail Camp TO Coastal Cashews at 09:30, **12:00 and 14:00 daily**.

There is no change to the times for the Richards Bay transfers which remain as follows:

- Pick-up Richards Bay Airport at 15:00...arrive camp approximately 19:00 (the ONLY late exception allowed by the gate/parks board)
- Departing Rocktail Camp / Coastal Cashews at 09:30 for drop-off Richards Bay Airport at 13:30.

Reminder...the scheduled transfers between Rocktail and Coastal Cashews are on a complimentary basis while private transfers and those between Richards Bay or Tembe Elephant Park and Rocktail are at a cost.

Rocktail Activity Update

- Village visits include the local clinic, school and church, with the option of joining the service on a Sunday, and possibly meeting the local induna (headman) if he is available. The guide takes guests to his house and shows them how he and his family live, what they eat, growing their own food, the importance of their domesticated animals, how they get their water, power, etc.
- Zulu dancing and quad bikes are no longer on offer.
- While Rocktail may assist with a blessing, they are no longer accommodating actual weddings.
- The pre-paid dives in the Rocktail Dive Package are non-refundable.
- Ten is the maximum number of passengers on the boats for diving or the Ocean Experience.

ZAMBIA

Update | Walking Activities from the Zambia Camps (minimum age 13)

- Nature walk/amble in close proximity of Toka Leya. **There is no charge** for guided nature walks in close proximity to the camp with a camp guide. The experience enables an understanding about the medicinal properties of plants and trees, the ecology, birds and insects as well as to interpret the signs of the wild including animal tracks.
- Rhino Tracking at Toka Leya – **the camp will cover the US\$ 10.00 per party for this activity and there is no longer a charge to guests.** This activity is available on request (subject to the availability of a ZAWA Scout).
- Guided nature walks at Toka Leya, Shumba and Busanga Bush - **the camps will cover the US\$ 10.00 per party for this activity and there is no longer a charge to guests.** These walks are available on request (seasonal and subject to availability of a ZAWA scout and qualified walking guide).

ZIMBABWE

Meet & Assist in Zimbabwe

All light aircraft transfers to and from Harare with Wilderness Air Zimbabwe must include an additional Meet & Assist service (operated by a Halsted Aviation representative) at Harare Airport. Wilderness Safaris handle the Meet & Assist service at Victoria Falls Airport.

AIRLINES

Revised SAA Flight Closure Times

These came into effect on 1 April 2016, at O.R. Tambo International Airport. "Closure time" means that both the check-in counter and the baggage drop counter (for those who have done online check) will close.

- ≈ Flights departing from Johannesburg to Cape Town, Durban, Port Elizabeth and East London will now close 40 minutes prior to departure.
- ≈ All other domestic airports flights close 30 minutes prior to departure.
- ≈ Regional and International flights departing from Johannesburg close 50 minutes prior to departure for all classes of travel.
- ≈ Flights departing from Johannesburg to Luanda, Lagos, Kinshasa and Sao Paulo close 1 hour prior to departure.

Kenya Airways Launches a New Route

Kenya Airways will launch three flights a week from Cape Town to Nairobi, effective July. Flights will operate on Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays and will fly via Livingstone. "Passengers will not need to change aircraft in Livingstone," the airline said in a statement.

Warm regards,
Tina

Wilderness Product Manager

www.wilderness-safaris.com

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Disclaimer: Wilderness Safaris is not liable for any errors or omissions.