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## NEWSFLASH

### **My Botswana Safari Feedback**

Forgive my less than expert images, however, I have just returned from a wonderful week on safari in Botswana – three nights each at Xigera and DumaTau – and wanted to share some of my experiences! While Xigera is indeed a true Delta camp with wonderful channels to explore by boat, we had the awesome privilege of seeing a pride of nine lions doing their thing...sleeping, hunting, on a kill, drinking, playing and climbing trees! A big thrill was seeing both a male and female leopard use the camp bridge on the same evening during dinner.



Wild dog put on a great show at DumaTau – playing, hunting, sleeping and making an impala kill right within the maintenance area of camp – much to consternation of a staff member who was on his way to wash a vehicle! Elephants crossing the channel in front of camp, bat-eared foxes, baboon family antics, hooking a couple of Tigers on a fishing excursion and the most spectacular sunset I have seen in a long time were some of the other highlights!



It was an eating safari too with a superb variety of all things healthy plus special treats! Of course, the seamless journey from arrival to departure with a great team of people allowing you to relinquish all responsibility – whether at the airport, on the flights, in the camps or on activities – is fantastic! Best of all was “disconnecting to reconnect” - truly good for the soul...

## IMPORTANT

### The “Nuts & Bolts” of Mombo Trails Camp

Opening today, 25 April 2017, and as the only camp on the concession during the rebuild of Mombo, I wanted to share some of the key operational details of Mombo Trails with you. The detailed Camp Information Sheet is available on the Info Centre on the Wilderness Window should you require further information, and images will be available shortly.

- There is a central lounge and dining area, with eight twin rooms.
- Each tented room has en-suite facilities (indoor shower only) and an outside deck.
- There is no pool, gym or curio shop, although there will be curios/branded items for sale.
- The camp is on the ground with sandy pathways. Golf carts will be used to move guests at night between the main area and rooms (for safety reasons), although they will be available to guests during the day too.
- No children under 6 years due to the camp being on the ground. Between the ages of 6 & 12 years, sole use of a vehicle is required – whether a private vehicle or booking a minimum of 6 beds. Between the ages of 6 & 16 years, children must share with an adult. There is no family room and triple rooms are possible on request only.
- Guide/pilot accommodation will be back of house in the Mombo staff village (twin room with en-suite facilities), with transfers to and from Mombo Trails by vehicle.
- Activities remain the same, with the focus on game viewing by vehicle in the well-known “Place of Plenty”.

## PACKAGED SAFARIS & SPECIALS

### REMINDER | Stay 6 Pay 5 Deal

Our recently launched Stay 6 Pay for 5 deal at selected Wilderness Camps in Botswana, Zambia and Zimbabwe is valid from 01 October 2017 to 19 Dec 2017 and 11 January 2018 to 31 March 2018. The deal can be booked any time between now and 31 March (end of validity period) for travel between 1 October 2017 and 31 March 2018. Note that the FOC night is applied to the less expensive camp in the itinerary.

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION | Iconic Africa

Valid for travel between April and 31 December 2017, the new Iconic Africa programme features a combination of Governors Camp and Wilderness Safaris properties in iconic areas - the Masai Mara in Kenya, Livingstone in Zambia and Hwange in Zimbabwe. It takes advantage of the Kenya Airways flight connections between Nairobi, Livingstone and Victoria Falls with onward flights to Cape Town allowing for extensions. We have had a great response thus far plus a few queries which I will elaborate on below:

- **Scheduled commercial flights – international or regional – are not included in the pricing.** Relevant light aircraft transfers are included as follows:
  - Governors’ Air: Wilson Airport – Musiara airstrip – Wilson Airport
  - Wilderness Air Zimbabwe: Victoria Falls – Hwange – Victoria Falls
- **The itinerary may be booked in reverse.** Bear in mind that if there are any changes to the set itinerary i.e. additional road transfers/air transfers/overnights required due to flight connections, etc., costs will be adjusted accordingly.
- **Single Travellers – pricing is based on a minimum of two guests.** Please contact your Journey Specialist for an updated quote for a person travelling alone.

- **Children – standard policy applies to the Wilderness camps and pricing must be adjusted accordingly:**
  - No under 6 years in Hwange, unless sole use is booked and charged for (you would need to amend the PCM)
  - Between 6 & 12 years, you must book and charge for a private vehicle at Hwange (except at Davison's)
  - Prices for children (applicable discounts will be applied) and single travellers (i.e. only 1 person) are on request.
  - Standard rates apply to air transfers and road transfers.
- **Governors' Camp and Little Governors' Camp & Aviation Child Policy:**
  - All ages accepted in camp. Children of all ages may join the inclusive camp activities although Governors' try where possible to allocate families with children their own vehicle for game drives.
  - It is possible to book and pay for a private vehicle at both camps.
  - Child rate on accommodation is available for children under the age of 16 years. Infants under the age of 3 years are accommodated free of charge. Adult rates apply to children 16 years and older.
  - Mara Park fees: children under 18 pay a child park fee. Children under the age of 3 years do not pay park fees.
  - Governors' Balloon Safaris – a child rate is available for children under the age of 16 years. Children under the age of 8 years are not permitted on the balloon safari.
  - There are special family tents at Governors' Camp – so the combination of Governors' Camp and Davison's is a good bet for families with younger children.
  - Light aircraft transfers - children below 2 years sit on a parents' lap for the flight. Child rates apply to children between 2 and 11 years old, while children 12 years and older are charged adult rates.

## TRAVEL REGULATIONS

### No Changes to Child Travel Requirements, including Unabridged Birth Certificates

Although the industry has lobbied the new Minister of Home Affairs to review these, the status quo remains at this time and there is no change.

### Mozambique Launches Visas on Arrival

All international visitors to Mozambique requiring a visa may now obtain this on arrival. The visa cost is US\$ 50.00 (€46.00) for a dual-entry visa that is valid for 30 days.

## WILDERNESS AIR

### Namibian Departure Tax Increase

Airport departure taxes in Namibia have increased for the April 2017 to March 2018 period. Previously NAD/ZAR 182.00 per person ex Windhoek International, Eros or Walvis Bay Airports, it is now NAD/ZAR 192.00 per person. Your Journey Specialist will be in touch regarding affected bookings.

### Time Change between Livingstone and the Busanga Plains

We have revised the departure time of the flight from Livingstone to the Busanga Plains, allowing for connections between Botswana and the Kafue. The Kasane flight departs at 13:40, arriving Livingstone at 14:05 while the flight to the Plains departs Livingstone at 14:15 instead of 14:00. Although connections were facilitated on the ground, the impression was that an overnight in Livingstone was required and that is not the case.

## WILDERNESS TOURING

### CAPE FEATURED EXCURSION |Uthando Community Tours

Uthando (Love) South Africa offers authentic, uplifting, fun, inspirational, interactive and meaningful tours for (individual) travellers as well as groups of any size visiting the community projects with which Uthando is working and supporting. These tours cover an extensive discussion on South African history, the legacy of Apartheid as well as in-depth information on the political, social, economic, cultural and local issues confronting South Africa today. The core focus however, is visiting interesting, innovative and inspiring community development projects and the incredible people driving these projects. The tours run as daily scheduled tours or private tours for groups of any size and on any given tour, may visit 3 or 4 diverse community projects. These include urban agriculture; animal welfare; youth development through the medium of art, dance, choir singing, classical music, drumming or sport; special needs education; assistance to refugees; the environment; economic empowerment through skills development; arts and crafts; prisoner rehabilitation and care and protection for children, women and the elderly. Ask your Journey Specialist to see how we can incorporate a community tour into your guests' Cape Town itinerary. Prices are on request and visiting specific projects is subject to availability and logistical possibility.

### 2017 Table Mountain Aerial Cableway Closure Dates

The Table Mountain Aerial Cableway will close for annual maintenance from 24 July to 6 August 2017, and will reopen, weather permitting, on 7 August.

### ZAMBEZI FEATURED EXCURSION | Sunset Cycle Tour

Starting from the esteemed Victoria Falls Hotel, wind your way on bicycles through the local township and market and along Zambezi Drive, with elephant, buffalo, impala, warthog and baboons as possible companions. Stop at a scenic viewpoint alongside the ever-flowing Zambezi River for snacks and drinks, then head to the historic Railway Bridge, briefly entering Zambia for stunning views of the Falls and a rainbow-filled sunset, before returning to the hotel.

### Activities Affected by Rising Water Levels

- White Water Rafting has closed for the season due to current high water levels of the Zambezi River. As an alternative, the Upper Zambezi Canoe Safari is a fantastic option for exploring the River during this time of year.
- Livingstone Island operations closed on 14 April 2017. Both activities will re-open once the levels of the Zambezi River have dropped again.

## BOTSWANA

### UPDATE | Botswana Water Based Activities

- All water-based activities are available at the relevant camps – whether boating and/or mokoros, with the exception of Kings Pool where the Queen Sylvia barge is no longer available for activities.
- A new addition is boat cruises for quests staying at Savuti Camp. Essentially a full day activity, guests drive along the Savuti Channel to the Zibalianja lagoon for a boat cruise, enjoying a picnic before returning to camp later in the day.
- Note that on the Jao concession, boat transfers only are possible between Jao and Hunda Island.

## NAMIBIA

### New Desert Rhino Camp Airstrip

Construction of the new Desert Rhino Camp airstrip is currently underway and we anticipate completion of the project in the next two to three weeks. Bookings in camp over the period have been notified, however, for any new bookings, please note:

- Trucks and equipment will be used during the day
- The new airstrip is 2 km from camp, but noise may be heard on a quiet day
- As our water supply is at the staff village, trucks will drive behind the camp to the new airstrip during the day
- Camp management will discuss the situation with guests and limit construction vehicle movements to when guests are out of camp on activities

## AIRLINES & AIRPORTS

### German Low Cost Carrier to Fly to South Africa

EuroWings, the low-cost fully owned subsidiary of the Lufthansa Group, will enter the South African market with a direct seasonal flight between Cape Town and Cologne, Germany, commencing on 5 November 2017 and operating until 26 March 2018.

### RwandAir Network Expansion

- On 5 April 2017, RwandAir commenced flights between Johannesburg, South Africa and Mumbai, India via Kigali. The service operates four times a week.
- RwandAir will commence flights between London Gatwick and Kigali on 26 May 2017.

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Cheers

Tina

**Wilderness Product Manager**



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

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