



25 August 2016

NEWSFLASH

SPECIAL | Toka Leya Camp & the Tour of the Falls

It is that time of year again, when the levels of the Zambezi River start to drop and the Falls become more concentrated on the Zimbabwe side. The good news is that from 1 September until 31 December 2016, guests staying at Toka Leya once again have the option of participating in EITHER a Zambian or Zimbabwean Tour of the Falls. Aside from visa fees that are for the guests' own account, there is no additional cost involved should guests wish to visit the Zimbabwean side of the falls INSTEAD of the Zambian side. Pre-booking is not required although it will assist the camp if preferences are provided in advance.

Chitabe Rebuild Postponed & Configuration Change

Chitabe was closed from 7 January to 31 May 2017 for a rebuild project. This has now been postponed and the revised operational dates are as follows:

- Chitabe will remain closed from 7 January to 7 February 2017 for annual maintenance.
- Inventory at Chitabe is now open from 8 February 2017 to 5 January 2018 – 8 twins (16 beds). Inventory at Chitabe Lediba has reverted to 2 family rooms (instead of 3) and 3 twins (14 beds).
- The NEW closure dates for Chitabe are 6 January 2018 to 30 April 2018. Over this period, inventory at Chitabe Lediba will increase to 3 family rooms (instead of 2) and 3 twins (18 beds).
- On 1 May 2018, Chitabe will re-open with 8 twins (16 beds) and Chitabe Lediba will revert to 2 family rooms (instead of 3) and 3 twins (14 beds).
- The guide/pilot (staff) accommodation on the Chitabe concession is located at Lediba. When the staff accommodation at Lediba is booked for guests at Chitabe, the occupants are transferred from Lediba to Chitabe by vehicle. During the rebuild, this room becomes the third family room – two separate rooms linked by a boardwalk and of the same standard as the other guest rooms. Guides/pilots/escorts will then be accommodated in room #8 at Chitabe and transferred between Chitabe and Lediba by vehicle.

Yellow Fever Vaccination Valid for Life

The World Health Organisation (WHO) have adopted an amendment to Annex 7 of the International Health Regulations (2005) (IHR), which stipulates that the period of protection afforded by yellow fever vaccination will change from 10 years to the duration of the life of the person vaccinated. This lifetime validity applies automatically to all existing and new certificates, beginning 10 days after the date of vaccination. As of 11 July 2016, revaccination or a booster dose of yellow fever vaccine is not required, regardless of the date that their international certificate of vaccination was initially issued. Valid IHR international certificates of vaccination are now automatically valid for life of the traveller indicated and need not be modified. For new certificates, WHO has encouraged countries to use words that clearly and unambiguously indicate that the validity of the certificate is for the life of the person vaccinated.

RATES UPDATE

Early Bird Deal – Chitabe Added & Validity Clarified

- Good News! In light of the above change, both Chitabe and Chitabe Lediba have been added.
- Apologies – we omitted to mention in our previous communication that the Early Bird deal (valid from October to March) is NOT applicable over our festive season period from 20 December 2016 to 10 January 2017.

INCREASE | Departure Taxes in Namibia

Earlier this month, and with immediate effect, the Namibia Airports Company introduced a new Security Tax of ZAR/NAD 50.00 per person at all Namibian Airports, applicable to both domestic and international departures. Applicable to all confirmed and paid for bookings on our published circuit, Wilderness Air Namibia agreed to absorb this cost for one month from the date of notification, 16 August, up to and including Friday 16 September 2016. Confirmed bookings travelling from 17 September 2016 will be invoiced for the additional amount as relevant. All provisional bookings at the time of increase, regardless of date of travel, will be requoted so that correct amounts are paid on confirmation. Relevant rates have been updated so all new quotes or bookings from 17 August will take the new taxes into account.

North Island Rate Change for 2017

There are important changes to the published North Island Rates Sheets now available on the Info Centre:

- Rates quoted are per villa per night from 23 December 2016 onwards.
- North Island rates are quoted exclusive of 15% Seychelles VAT.

REMINDERS

REVISED | Bush Buddy Offering

Our in-house creative team have written a wonderful new Wilderness Safaris activity booklet for inclusion in the Bush Buddy bags that are handed out in camp to children aged 6 to 12 years! Herewith updated images of the Bush Buddy offering plus the teenage pack given to youngsters aged 13 to 17 years.



WILDERNESS TOURING

ZAMBEZI FEATURED EXCURSION | Victoria Falls Canopy Tour

The Victoria Falls Canopy Tour offers a network of slides, trails and rope bridge walkways within the canopy of the hardwood forest of the Zambezi gorges. This exciting and scenic activity has amazing views of the turbulent rapids, the Victoria Falls Bridge and the spray of the Falls. It offers family fun and a unique bird's-eye view of one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World. The tour consists of nine different slides, varying in length (longest is approximately 85m and the shortest 40m) and one cable bridge walkway. Activity duration is 2.5 hours and there is no set departure time.

White Water Rafting Update

The Zambezi Low Water Rafting Season has started, with the one day rafting trips kicking off from Rapid #1, right below the incredible Victoria Falls, followed by hours of adrenalin-filled fun all the way through to rapid #19.

Cape Touring Snippets

- Updated Cape Town and Winelands restaurant recommendations are available on the Info Centre.
- The Table Mountain Cableway reopened on 7 August after annual maintenance. In addition to the work done on the cable car equipment, they resurfaced the top station pathways, refurbished the toilets and retiled the departure/arrivals platforms at the lower station. The Table Mountain Café also revamped its menu to showcase authentic South African cuisine.
- Cape Point is currently undergoing upgrades costing ZAR34million. The plans include water and sewerage system upgrades plus improved ablution facilities, adding a traffic lane to ease congestion and visitor flow at the main gate, expanding the internal road network and upgrading the Cape Point lighthouse. Some of the projects, such as the lighthouse and ablution facilities, are now complete and SANparks have stated that they are aiming for the summer season of 2016/17 for completion.

BOTSWANA

Vumbura Balloon Excursion – Reminder & 2017 Rates

- We have received the 2017 rates for the ballooning excursion, operational from 1 April to 30 September 2017.
- This activity is only possible from the Vumbura camps – Vumbura Plains or Little Vumbura.
- The balloon excursion and related helicopter transfers from these camps may be booked through Wilderness Safaris only. Transfer options to and from the balloon are as follows:
 - Drive both ways: no extra charge as it is part of the morning activity.
 - Drive one way, helicopter transfer the other: costs apply to both the road and helicopter transfers.
 - Drive one way, helicopter transfer PLUS 30 or 60 minute scenic flight the other: costs apply to both the road and helicopter transfers
 - Fly both ways: either straight transfers to and from the balloon launch and landing sites, or include a 30 or 60 min scenic flight on one of the legs – costs apply.

The Latest on Activities in the Linyanti

- Walking guides are available in the concession so please let us know if you have interested guests
- The Queen Sylvia barge at Kings Pool is still non-operational as water levels are too low
- The log-pile hide at Savuti in front of camp is back in action now that the water has dried up

Images from Recent Jao Soft Refurbishment



NAMIBIA

Coastal Excursion ex Hoanib for Children under 12

Although full private activities are not possible on the coastal excursion, please note the following:

- Bookings with children under 12 still have to book the private vehicle. The drive to the coast is in this vehicle and the lunch set-up will be away from the rest of the group, however, it is still in the same area where other guests on the excursion will have lunch.
- Sight-seeing will be "private" with their guide, however, this is not on an exclusive basis because we are in a public place and there is the possibility of other visitors.
- The flight back to Hoanib Skeleton Coast camp is not private but on a shared basis with other guests.

No Self-drives to/from Desert Rhino Camp

For the following reasons, Desert Rhino Camp is not accessible on a self-drive basis:

- Access is through a private, exclusive use area for Wilderness Safaris only
- The road itself is not a very good one so guests may get lost
- We wish to control vehicle movement due to rhino in the area

For any self-drive itinerary, vehicles need to be parked, at own risk, at Twee Palms (signposted as 'Desert Rhino Camp Pick-Up Point'). For further information, please contact your Journey Specialist.

Possible Delays at Windhoek Airport

Please be aware that all passengers departing on charter flights from Hosea Kutako (Windhoek) International Airport must have their luggage scanned before boarding. Subject to timing (if our light aircraft transfers coincide with the departure of commercial scheduled airlines), we have experienced some delays due to a shortage of staff and equipment. We are monitoring this and engaging with the relevant officials accordingly.

SOUTH AFRICA

Rocktail Camp - Self-Drive Directions & Quad Bikes

- Please ensure you make use of, and share with your guest, the latest version of our self-drive directions for Rocktail Camp.
- Guests in camp still enquire about quad bikes, however, we have not offered this activity since March 2016.

ZAMBIA

Camp Snippets for the Kafue & Toka Leya

- Busanga Bush Camp has had a softs refurb with new curtains in rooms, new carpets in the main area, new cushions for outside deck furniture and new towels.
- We have 5 new Hilux game drive vehicles on the Busanga Plains.
- Toka Leya have added a traditional Zambian massage onto the spa menu – 'Ukuchina' is an age-old massage technique that involves use of deep tissue massage as well as warm cloths on the body.



ZIMBABWE

Camp Snippets for Hwange & Mana Pools

- Awnings are currently being installed at the front of the Linkwasha rooms to provide a little more shade.
- Little Makalolo will soon have new canvas prints for the main area and rooms, plus some new décor items.
- We have new Hilux vehicles at Ruckomechi.



AIRLINES

Iberia is Back

Iberia has resumed services between Madrid and Johannesburg, with three weekly services. Flight IB6051 departs Madrid at 23:45 and arrives in Johannesburg at 09:55 on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays. The return flight IB6050 departs Johannesburg at 20:15 and arrives in Madrid at 06:45 on Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays.

Air Namibia Suspends Flights between Windhoek & Maun

As part of its rationalisation plan, Air Namibia will suspend flights indefinitely between Windhoek and Maun on 30 October 2016. That said, some flights have already been cancelled so we urge you to check ALL Air Namibia bookings travelling on this route before 30 October.

Air Botswana Updates Cape Town-Kasane schedule

Flight BP336 departs Cape Town on Wednesdays and Fridays at 09:30 to arrive in Gaborone at 11:30. Flight BP022 departs Gaborone at 12:15 and lands in Kasane at 13:45. BP023 departs Kasane on Sundays and Mondays at 13:30 and arrives in Gaborone at 15:30. Flight BP333 then departs Gaborone at 16:30 and arrives in Cape Town at 18:30.

Airlink Introduces Second Bulawayo Flight

From 5 September 2016, Airlink will introduce an additional flight on their Johannesburg–Bulawayo route. The new morning flight will depart weekdays, Mondays to Fridays, from OR Tambo International at 06:25 and arrive in Bulawayo at 07:45. The return flight departs from Bulawayo at 08:05 arriving at OR Tambo International at 09:30.

Warm regards,

Tina

Wilderness Product Manager

www.wilderness-safaris.com

© Wilderness-Safaris 2016

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