

February 2014

NEWSFLASH

Developments at Chitabe – effective 1 February 2015

A new guide room is going to be built at Chitabe Lediba, accessible to bookings at both Main and Lediba from early next year. This has allowed us to add an additional twin/2 guest beds to Chitabe Lediba. Note that in conjunction with the new room configuration, there will only be one private vehicle available on the concession for both Chitabe Main & Lediba – similar to Mombo. Our inventory is in the process of being updated and will show the following with effect from **1 February 2015**:

- Lediba - 2 family rooms, 2 twins, 1 double/honeymoon, 1 guide room with two separate beds.
- 1 private vehicle on the concession for both Chitabe camps, located under Lediba.

Revised Vehicle Configuration at Davison's

We are pleased to advise that we have been able to review the vehicle scenario at Davison's Camp and where currently we accommodate between 7 and 9 guests per vehicle (as per the norm at Adventures camps), **from 1 March 2014** we will only put a maximum of 6 guests on a vehicle, thereby improving the experience for guests. Remember that as an Adventures camp, private activities are not on offer as a standard, however, we may be able to assist with exceptions on a request basis.

New Doors at DumaTau

Taking guest feedback into account, the "flowing flaps" at the front of the rooms have been replaced with aluminium doors with "clearview" netting – see before and after pictures below. In addition, the flaps at the back of the main lounge area have been raised, providing a free flow of air and cooling it down.



Abu Activities

Further to the recent loss of Kiti, the elephant activity at Abu has been revised and all collateral updated accordingly. A maximum of 10 guests can be accommodated on the elephant activity at any one time. This number is comprised of 4 guests maximum riding the elephants (2 guests on each of two elephants) and 6 guests maximum walking alongside the elephants. If one of the elephants is pregnant or nursing a young one, this number may reduce for a period, however, the overall experience will be managed on the ground by the camp.

Note too that different ages may participate in different activities.

- Children between the ages of 6 and 16 years may participate in a sleep out on the outdoor star-deck, provided they are accompanied by an adult.
- Children between the ages of 6 and 12 years may participate on an elephant ride, provided they are accompanied by an adult.

River Club Rate Adjustment

The rates for River Club have reduced slightly due to a VAT adjustment. Updated rates have been added to the Zambia Nett Rates Sheet.

Hoanib Activity Update

To ensure expectations are met, note that the shipwrecks seen on excursions and scenic flights on the Skeleton Coast are not shipwrecks in the traditional sense. Very little actual structure remains as a result of the harsh conditions, so the focus is more on the stories of how they came about, not rib-like casings, weathered wooden keels, towering masts and hulls, etc. While private activities are available on request for drives, it is not possible to do the fly-in Skeleton Coast excursion on a private basis.

Xigera Airstrip has re-opened

Following the recent brief closure to upgrade the airstrip after high levels of rain, Xigera Airstrip is open for business once more.

Revised Zimbabwe Package Rates

The costs for the Zimbabwe Summer Special (valid until end March) and the Zimbabwe Highlights programmes have increased slightly due to Changa revising their rate to include park fees and a US\$ 15.00 internet voucher. The Zimbabwe Nett Rates Sheets have been updated accordingly.

IMPORTANT

Yellow Fever Requirements

In recent months there have been some queries in this regard and we would like to advise that the situation remains unchanged. Persons arriving in South Africa from a country designated by WHO as yellow fever risk area ([Click here for the country list](#)) will require a valid yellow fever vaccination certificate or a waiver letter as prescribed by the South African authorities, unless the traveller was only in transit in that country; in which case, a yellow fever vaccination certificate or waiver is not required. In transit is defined as a period less than twelve hours with the traveller remaining in the airport terminal.

The Port Health and Customs authorities in South Africa are extremely strict in this regard and will deport persons who do not comply. A yellow fever certificate or waiver is NOT required for persons travelling on flights that will just refuel in Africa en route to South Africa. Despite Zambia being at low risk for yellow fever, all travellers, other than those in transit as defined above, entering South Africa from Zambia, will require a valid yellow fever vaccination or waiver certificate.

Table Mountain Closure Reminder

The cableway will be closed from Monday 28 July to Sunday 10 August 2014 for annual maintenance. It will re-open, weather permitting, on Monday 11 August 2014.

Launch of eVisa in Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe has launched an online facility that travellers can use to pre-apply for visas. Although we have not had much feedback to date, apparently this will be faster and efficient. Once a traveller has uploaded his/her details, they will get a confirmation regarding the visa approval and the visa fees he/she will be expected to pay at the port of entry. For further information, please refer to the website www.evisa.gov.zw.

BOTSWANA

Village Excursion ex Vumbura Plains & Little Vumbura

Allowing for a maximum of 6 "seats" per visit, the village excursion continues in 2014 as a standard offering from Vumbura Plains or Little Vumbura. Access is by helicopter - about 18 minutes flight one way - and it is possible to visit the village from one of the other camps in the Delta or Linyanti area, however, the helicopter price/access will be different. Please contact your Journey Specialist for details.

Helicopter Scenic Flights & Transfers

A great way to add value to an itinerary in Botswana is by booking a helicopter transfer between two camps or a helicopter scenic flight from the camp. For a nominal fee, and as a surprise if preferred, a champagne stop can be added to a transfer or scenic flight, and guests will land somewhere in the delta for about 15 minutes to enjoy some French champagne in the wild. Another interesting excursion is to Tsodilo Hills, a World Heritage site, where a Bushman guide will show guests around and talk to them about the 4500 rock paintings that have been found here, some as old as 26 000 years. It is preferable to pre-book these arrangements in advance so both the experience and rate can be guaranteed, however, it is can also be arranged on the ground in camp. Please contact your Journey Specialist for more details and rates.

KENYA

Scenic Flying Excursions from Segera

Segera Retreat has introduced a range of scenic flying excursions either by light aircraft or helicopter. Options include the Kenya Lakes, Mount Kenya, Samburu and the Aberdares. All excursions include a picnic, either breakfast or lunch depending on the time of day, plus beverages, and depart from and return to Segera Retreat. Details have been added to the Kenya Rates Sheets, alternatively, please contact your Journey Specialist for further information.

NAMIBIA

Reduction in Activity Rate for Adventures Camps

From 1 March 2014, new **lower** rates will apply to the extra activity rates for morning and afternoon drives as well as walks at Kulala Desert Lodge, Doro Nawas and Andersson's Camp - specific to bookings on a dinner, bed and breakfast basis.

Sunken Hide at Andersson's

The sunken hide at the waterhole in front of Andersson's Camp is now complete and has been receiving some amazing feedback from guests.



ZAMBIA

Park Fee for Fishing at Toka Leya

From 1 March 2014 and per instruction from ZAWA – the Zambian parks authority - guests staying at Toka Leya and wishing to fish will be required to pay US\$ 5.00 per day, settled direct in camp.

Princess Mary Suite at The River Club

To clarify:

- The suite does not operate on a minimum number basis but as nightly rate per person.
- Although the suite can accommodate up to 6 people, it is important to note that the beds for guests 5 & 6 are in the living area - impacting on space, without privacy and their own en-suite facilities. The Princess Mary suite should only be sold to 4 adults paying normal adult rates (2 upstairs in the main room & 2 downstairs in the second room in twin beds which can be converted to a double), and 1 or 2 children who are 16 years and younger. The children would pay the discounted child rate and be accommodated on extra beds brought into the main lounge/dining area.

WILDERNESS AIR

Scenic flight ex Serra Cafema

A scenic flight on departure from Serra Cafema is included as part of the new Wilderness Air Namibia flying schedule. On departure from the Serra Cafema airstrip, the flight follows the course of the Kunene river to the mouth at the Atlantic, before heading inland and southwards to the Damaraland region and the hub at Doro Nawas.

Landing at Ruckomechi Airstrip

Should other air charter operators wish to land at our airstrip (Mana West) for Ruckomechi or the canoe safari, they will be required to sign the Wilderness Safaris airstrip indemnity forms. Per National Parks, operators may not use the Mana West airstrip to access any other property apart from the afore-mentioned.

Changes to Times on Scheduled Circuits

Note that on occasion, the times given on the scheduled flying circuits in Botswana, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe will vary slightly as a result of unforeseen circumstances. Wilderness Air will always endeavour to rectify the situation to the best of their ability, however, the late arrival/departure of scheduled airlines, delays with the customs & immigration process, aircraft technical and maintenance requirements or diversions due to adverse weather conditions, can and do have an impact on the schedule.

RATES UPDATE

Kenya

2014.03	Various options of activities with rates have been added to the rate sheet.	07/02/14	Page 2
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Seychelles

2014.02	The rate for the Meet & Assist services at Mahe will be reducing from 01 May 2014.	07/02/14	Page 2
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Zambia

2014.09	Further rate updates for touring has been made due to VAT increases.	28/01/2014	Page 7
2014.10	The River Club rates have decreased.	24/01/2014	Page 1

Zimbabwe

2014.07	Due to the recent introduction of the park fees at Changa Safari Camp, the Zimbabwe Highlights packages rates have increased.	03/02/2014	Page 4
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Warm regards,

Tina

Wilderness Product Services Manager

For further information on Wilderness product or rates, please refer to our Agent Portal or contact either myself tinak@wilderness.co.za or your reservations cluster/Journey Specialist directly.

www.wilderness-safaris.com

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