

27 February 2018

## NEWSFLASH

### Improvements at DumaTau

We have implemented a number of changes to improve the experience at DumaTau. New images will follow in due course, but the camp is looking wonderful and you can definitely sell it with confidence!

#### Rooms

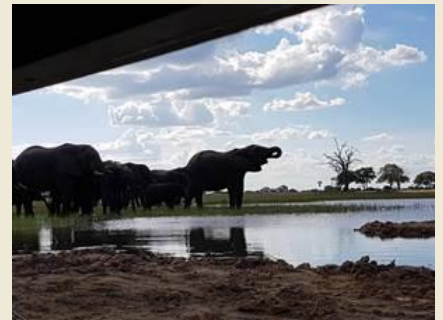
- Installed - a gauze panel with a sliding canvas door on the back wall, separate to the door for entry. When open, airflow through the gauze wall keeps the tent cooler and when closed, it forms part of the greater canvas wall of the room.
- Added - a bathroom divider (sliding fabric wall), providing more privacy when closed.

#### Main Area

- New - decking in the dining, bar and lounge areas plus fly-outs with extra steel support for protection when it rains.
- Moved - the bar to the side of the main area, creating a better view for guests utilising the lounge. Where the bar used to be, there is now a new seating area overlooking the lagoon.
- More space - the Rocktail grill has moved out of the main dining area to the side, creating more space for dining.
- Plans - to install a second swimming pool at the main area in the coming months, we will advise when it is in place.

### New Linkwasha Hide Operational

Situated at the waterhole in front of camp, the sunken hide is within walking distance of the main area. Accompanied by a guide, it accommodates a maximum of six guests. Equipped with tea and coffee making facilities, a mini-bar fridge and charging points, it is a great place to hang out and see who comes to visit the waterhole, both large and small.



### New Arrival at Abu – Therefore No Walking with Elephants

You may have heard that one of the Abu Herd, Lorato, had a little boy on 20 January 2018. Both mother and baby are doing well, and the new calf has been welcomed into the Herd. Guests have the opportunity to meet Motlotlo (meaning "pride") in camp during two strictly controlled interaction periods – 06:00 to 08:00 in the morning and 17:00 to 18:30 in the evening. However, to avoid any danger of stress to the calf or other Herd members who are very protective over the new calf, there is no walking with the Abu Herd until 1 April 2018.

## IMPORTANT

### Zimbabwe Announces New Visa Regime

The Government of Zimbabwe has announced a revised visa regime, with 29 countries moved from Category C to Category B. Visas are issued on arrival instead of being obtained prior to travel, and the relevant countries include Chile, Costa Rica, India, Mexico, Peru, Romania and Panama. Contact your Journey Specialist for the full list.

### Water Situation in Cape Town

Cape Town is operating as normal, welcoming all tourists. Residents have halved their average daily water consumption since the start of summer and farmers in the region have diverted some water supplies to the city. Restrictions are still in place however, and residents (plus visitors) are encouraged to continue using water sparingly and in a sustainable manner.

## REMINDERS

### Repeat Visitors

Please find out from your current and future clients if they have travelled to Wilderness Safaris camps before and if yes, where to, when and how often. Let us know, so that we may do something special to welcome them back!

### Linyanti Tented Camp

Operating between 1 May and 30 November, Linyanti Tented Camp (West) is a great alternative in the Linyanti concession for families, small groups travelling together or parties with a specialist guide. Bookable on a sole use basis only, with a nightly camp rate, four twin rooms accommodate a maximum of eight people in one vehicle. Good news too is that each camp should have a swimming pool by 1 June 2018. Contact your Journey Specialist for more information.



## WILDERNESS SAFARIS PRIVATE JOURNEYS – CAPE

### Park Fee Increase for Cape Point & Boulders Beach

South African National Parks have implemented a significant rate increase (almost double) for Cape Point and Boulders Beach, effective 1 November 2018.

### Annual Maintenance of the Table Mountain Cableway

The Table Mountain Cableway will be closed from Monday 23 July to Sunday 05 August 2018 for annual maintenance - reopening on Monday 06 August 2018, weather permitting.

## WILDERNESS TOURING & TRANSFERS – ZAMBEZI

### The Zambezi Tram Returns on 1 March 2018

This vintage-style diesel tram seats 32 passengers, and provides the rare opportunity to relive the Victorian era i.e. how engineers travelled during the construction of the Victoria Falls Bridge between 1903 and 1905. The journey begins (ends) at the Victoria Falls railway station – travelling through the Ilala loop marshes past the rainforest entrance via the border (formalities are done while guests relax on board) and onto the majestic bridge. The scheduled run is on Wednesdays and Saturdays, departing at 09:00 and returning by 11:00. Excursions on other days are possible, subject to availability and if bookings are made and confirmed 24 hours prior. A rack rate of US\$ 55.00 per person applies, based on minimum 2 and including a selection of complimentary soft drinks. Children 3 to 11 years pay half the adult rate and infants are free as long as they will sit on a parents' lap. The tram is also available for group charters or special events. Note that transfers to/from the railway station are extra.

### Bushtracks Train – No Longer Has a Child Rate

Children now pay the adult rate on all Bushtracks train excursions.

## BOTSWANA

### Water Activity Update

- Vumbura Concession - boating and mekoro still on offer
- Abu/Seba - no boating/mokoro excursions
- Kings Pool - no barge
- Xigera - only mokoro excursions at the moment
- DumaTau - boating all year round
- Qorokwe - only mokoro excursions at the moment
- Jacana - mekoro directly from camp, and boating from Kubu lagoon
- Kwetsani & Jao - mekoro from Pelo, and boating from Kubu lagoon

### **Abu Star Bed Closed Temporarily**

With immediate effect, we have closed the Abu Star Bed until 30 April 2018 to refurbish the whole structure. Accordingly, and to ensure expectations are met, please advise all clients travelling to Abu over the next two months. As always, thank you for your support and understanding - it is important to us that this experience continues to be of a high standard and is in top form before the start of peak season!

## **KENYA**

### **News from Governors**

- An extensive refurbishment of Loldia House is on the cards for later this year.
- Il Moran Camp is introducing new game drive vehicles. The Landcruisers have five seats (including one next to the driver), camera rests, charging stations and a fridge. Three have arrived, with more to follow.

## **NAMIBIA**

### **Skeleton Coast Excursion ex Hoanib**

Although complimentary on a three-night stay, an additional cost (which cannot be waived) applies to this excursion on a stay of only two nights at Hoanib Skeleton Coast camp.

### **Connection Times**

Please allow for sufficient connection times between Wilderness Air flights and arriving or departing scheduled commercial air. Due to the influx of airlines into Windhoek, there are delays with security, immigration and luggage. In some cases, the times of flights arriving or departing around midday will not connect with our circuit and overnights may be required.

## **RWANDA**

### **Change Regarding Bisate Arrivals & Departures**

Standard arrival time for Bisate Lodge is 14:00 and departure is before 10:30. Should guests do an activity (gorilla/golden monkey/Dian Fossey/Bisoke) on the day of departure, note that check out is between 6:00 and 6:30 when guests are collected for the activity. Please ensure arrangements are booked accordingly and clients advised prior to arrival.

#### **Arrivals:**

- Should guests arrive Rwanda early in the morning, Thousand Hills Africa (THA) can either book a day room (rates have been negotiated at the Kigali Serena Hotel, valid until 31 December 2018) for them to rest/freshen up OR take them a city tour of Kigali, which includes a key and insightful visit to the Genocide Memorial. There will be an opportunity to enjoy a cup of delicious Rwandan coffee or a light lunch at a local restaurant before departing for Bisate on the guided road transfer – approximately 3 hours' drive. An alternative to spending time in Kigali is a stop en-route in Musanze for lunch and an introduction to Dian Fossey and her legacy, the Karisoke exhibit to learn about gorilla conservation or a visit to the Twin Lakes, formed by volcanic activity.

#### **Departures:**

- If guests are not doing a gorilla trek or other activity on the day of departure, they may enjoy breakfast at Bisate with views of Bisoke before departing at 10:30 on the road transfer back to Kigali or other onward arrangements. Should guests have time on their hands in Kigali before the flight, our suggestion is to book a day room.
- If guests are doing a park activity or trekking on their day of departure on their day of departure, they will need to be packed and ready to vacate their room by 06:00. After the gorilla trekking, they will continue to Kigali directly for onward arrangements, and if time allows, our suggestion is to book a day room to freshen up before departure.

### **Guest Information**

Please ensure you ask for and provide information relating to guest ages, capabilities and fitness levels so that they may be assisted/accommodated accordingly at Bisate Lodge. It is built on the side of the hill and some walking is required while in camp, plus when gorilla trekking, visiting Dian Fossey's grave or the other excursions available. Bear in mind too, that the higher altitudes play a role when it comes to comfort.

## **ZIMBABWE**

### **Revised Operational Dates for Little Ruckomechi**

The opening date for Little Ruckomechi has changed to 1 May, instead of 1 June. Applicable to both 2018 and 2019.

### **Log-pile Hide at Davison's Camp**

Located at a small mud wallow not far from tent #1, this hide can accommodate six guests. It is within walking distance from camp, but with active wildlife in the area, guides normally drive guests there.

## AIRLINES & AIRPORTS

### Upgraded Kasane Airport Ready to Welcome Visitors

Kasane International Airport's upgraded terminal building opened officially on 22 February 2018. The original terminal building, built in 1991, has expanded substantially, as have the runway and surrounding airport areas.

### RwandAir to Launch Harare-Cape Town Flights

RwandAir will commence Kigali-Harare-Cape Town flights on 16 May 2018, operating four times a week - Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays.

### Kenya Airways

- Direct flights to New York from Nairobi - scheduled to commence on 28 October 2018, Kenya Airways will be the first carrier to offer non-stop flights between East Africa and America.
- Early morning Johannesburg flights - from 6 June 2018, Kenya Airways will reinstate early morning flights on Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays to South Africa.
- Direct service to Cape Town - in conjunction with the above, Kenya Airways will fly direct to Cape Town on Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays.

### SAA Scales Back Operations

- Reduced capacity on the Johannesburg/Washington route from 25 March 2018.
- Cancelled flights on certain days between Johannesburg and Perth during February, March, May and June 2018.
- A single daily flight from Johannesburg to Heathrow, from 20 April 2018, replaces the current double-daily service.

### Qatar Airways Increases Windhoek Service

Between 3 July and 30 August 2018, the airline will fly between Doha and Windhoek seven times a week, up from its current frequency of five weekly flights.

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Cheers

Tina

**Wilderness Product Manager**



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