



25 January 2017

NEWSFLASH

COMING SOON | Sleep-outs ex Linkwasha Camp

From 1 March 2017, we will be offering hide sleep-outs from Linkwasha at Scott's Pan in Hwange.

- **WHAT IS ON OFFER:** Located approximately 15 minutes from camp, the raised platform will be equipped with bedrolls and mosquito nets, a flush toilet and hand basin with running water. It will accommodate a maximum of four guests (family or close friends) at one time (1 x queen size and 2 x ¾ beds OR 4 singles), while the guide will stay in a tent not far from the platform.
- **HOW IT WORKS:** Subject to vehicle and platform availability, the camp will liaise with guests on the ground re: the hide sleep-out. There is no charge for the actual sleep-out, although to "guarantee" the excursion, a private vehicle should be booked and paid for. Note that the sleep-out is weather-dependent and operated at the discretion of the camp manager. The minimum age for the sleep-out is 13 years, sharing with an adult.

UPDATE | Summer Rains & Water Based Activities

Parts of Botswana have had some good rain lately, making the bush lush and green. Birdlife is prolific with all the migrants "in town" and wildlife have welcomed the abundance of food and water. There have been great sightings such as lion, leopard and 31 wild dog at Chitabe plus a pumping Kalahari Plains –at its' peak in summer. Have a look at this blog from a recent visit - cheetah, lions, elephants, bat-eared foxes and of course, babies of all shapes & sizes http://www.wilderness-safaris.com/blog/safari-albums#gallery-2167_The%252BKalahari%252BBedazzeld!

However, be aware that there has not been enough rain yet to make major changes to our water based activities at the Botswana camps and the current situation is as follows:

- **DumaTau & Vumbura** – no change, water-based activities continue as normal.
- **Kings Pool** – still no Queen Sylvia barge.
- **Xigera** – No boating. We are still able to do mokoro activities, departing from a different mokoro station an hours' drive from camp.
- **Tubu & Little Tubu** – Due to extremely low water levels, there are still no boating or mokoro excursions.
- **Kwetsani** – Guests are driven about 40 minutes to deeper channels and a lagoon for boating, and 5 to 10 minutes to the mokoro station.
- **Jacana** – Mokoro excursions and boating from camp.
- **Pelo** – Seasonal closure until 1 March 2017.
- **Jao** – Boating is from the back of house jetty at camp, and guests are driven about 30 minutes to the mokoro station.
- **Abu and Seba** – no boating nor mokoro excursions.

TRAVEL REGULATIONS UPDATE

IT'S BACK | KAZA Univisa Relunched

The KAZA Univisa for Zambia and Zimbabwe was relunched on 21 December 2016:

- Costs US\$ 50.00, valid for up to 30 days as long as visitors remain within Zambia & Zimbabwe and applies to those who visit Botswana on day trips.
- Available on arrival at Harry Mwaanga Nkumbula International Airport (Livingstone), Victoria Falls land border, Kazungula land border, Kenneth Kaunda International Airport (Lusaka), Victoria Falls International Airport, and Harare International Airport.
- Citizens of 40 countries are eligible. Refer to the website for further information: <http://www.kazavisa.info/>
- Although not finalised, the plan is that the KAZA Univisa will include Angola, Botswana and Namibia in future.

HEADS UP | Inspections at Kasane Airport

An outbreak of a quarantine pest in various districts in Botswana (tomato leaf miner which damages tomato and related crop species) means inspections will be conducted at Kasane International Airport at Domestic Arrivals, Security Checkpoints, International Arrivals exit search benches and on hold baggage. Wilderness Air pilots will forewarn guests

on flights into Kasane, and our team on the ground at the airport will advise those arriving by road. Implemented on 16 January 2017, this will be in place until 5 January 2018.

LATEST | Unabridged Birth Certificate Requirement

Minor changes made recently apply to South African citizens and specifically, those who reside overseas who may not have an unabridged birth certificate (UBC) in their possession. This is to enable them to travel to South Africa to obtain a UBC. There is no change as far the international market is concerned. Travellers with children should continue to err on the side caution and carry all the necessary documentation.

"The Department has decided that minors, who are South African citizens travelling to South Africa with South African passports, may be accepted by airlines for travelling purposes without presenting birth certificates (containing parents' particulars). Immigration Services will assist such minors upon arrival at South African ports of entry. The status quo will remain in respect of minors who are South African citizens departing from South Africa with South African passports to provide the required documentation as specified in the advisory on the Department's website."

NEW | Visa Requirements for New Zealand Nationals visiting SA

Revised visa requirements, incurring additional costs, came into effect on 16 January 2017. All New Zealand nationals requiring visas must apply in person at the South African High Commission in Wellington.

- Turnaround time for visa issuance is between five and seven working days. Applicants must submit their applications in person and meet the requirements as detailed on the Department of Home Affairs website i.e. visa application, valid passport, ticket or itinerary for travel, bank statements and any other document required at the time of application.
- If transiting through OR Tambo International Airport, Lanseria, Cape Town or King Shaka airports, New Zealand nationals do not need transit visas. If transiting through other ports then transit visas are required.
- Contact the South African High Commission in New Zealand via email using the email addresses: wellington@foreign.gov.za or consular@sahcwellington.co.nz.
- Visit www.dha.gov.za for more details on documents required to apply for a South African visa.

RECOMMENDATION | Yellow Fever & In Transit

South Africa requires a valid Yellow Fever certificate from all citizens and non-citizens over one year of age when:

- Travelling from a Yellow Fever Risk country; or
- Having been in transit exceeding 12 hours, through the airport of a country with risk of yellow fever transmission.

Although still to be confirmed, it would appear that SAA have said this requirement also applies to travellers flying to South Africa via yellow fever countries, even when transiting passengers stay on board the plane (e.g., flights stopping in Dakar, Senegal; Accra, Ghana; or Nairobi, Kenya). As a precaution, it is recommended that all travellers to or through South Africa should carry their card – also in the event of the aircraft making an unscheduled landing in a yellow fever country. Although immigration processes may not be consistent, travellers who cannot present an original and currently valid yellow card upon request may be refused entry into or transit through South Africa. **Remember though, Yellow Fever vaccinations are now valid for life!**

REMINDERS

Kosher & Halaal Requirements

Please let your Journey Specialist know if you have clients with Kosher or Halaal needs. This will allow them to assist accordingly with the relevant arrangements and pricing, ensuring that we meet the expectations of your client/our guest.

Revised Elephant Experience at Abu Camp

We no longer offer elephant back riding at Abu. The focus going forward will be:

- Walking with the Abu herd elephants
- Physically interacting with the herd
- Observing – or even participating in – activities such as mud bathing, training and veterinary care
- Learning more about elephant conservation, behaviour and care

Restaurant Recommendations for Johannesburg, Pretoria & Surrounds

The latest version for Gauteng is on the Info Centre - Wilderness Window/Info Centre/Product Information/Southern Africa/Sightseeing & Restaurants.

WILDERNESS AIR

Last Minute Bookings or Changes

Wilderness Air will not carry out any last minute changes or bookings for private, sole use or seat rate charter flights unless costs are covered – whether in cash, by credit card (transaction must be processed or credit card authorisation form completed and signed) or on account i.e. a voucher has been submitted.

WILDERNESS TOURING

ZAMBEZI FEATURED EXCURSION | Bushtracks Express Dinner Run

The Bushtracks Express Dinner run is the latest Bushtracks Africa venture, joining the existing train, the *Royal Livingstone Express* that operates from the Livingstone side of The Victoria Falls in Zambia. This luxurious steam train will travel to the Victoria Falls Bridge and then out to Jafuta Siding, serving light snacks, followed by a gourmet meal and drinks courtesy of the prestigious Victoria Falls Hotel. The train can run at any time, any day of the week out to Jafuta Siding, and every day onto the Victoria Falls Bridge except for Wednesday and Saturday evenings when the Royal Livingstone Express occupies the space.

Rafting on the Zambezi

Heavy localised downpours have resulted in a sudden rise in water levels of the Zambezi River. High Water Rafting is therefore the only option currently available.

Livingstone Island Update

Due to high water levels, the Devil's Pool is closed. As an alternative, visitors can still enjoy a swim on the edge of the magnificent Victoria Falls in the 'Angels Pool'.

Change in Rate due to VAT Increase in Zambia

As of 1 January 2017, 16% VAT now applies to some activities that were previously exempt from VAT. Revised rates, including helicopter flights and river excursions, are now available.

SOUTH AFRICA

IMPORTANT REMINDER | Access to Rocktail Camp

All arrangements – whether by road or air – must please fit in with a) the hours of the national park gate operation and b) the transfer details listed below.

- **The Manzengwenya access gate into the reserve is only open between 06:00 and 18:00. It is NOT possible to gain access to the reserve outside of these hours – for either entry or departure.**
- Guests travelling in 2x4 vehicles must make use of our scheduled transfers to/from camp, utilising Coastal Cashews as the pick-up and drop-off point (where parking is at guests' own risk). There is no extra charge if scheduled transfers are booked in advance although private transfer charges will apply if they are not.
- The scheduled transfer times are as follows:
 - From Coastal Cashews TO Rocktail Camp at 10:30, 13:00 and 15:00 daily.
 - From Rocktail Camp back TO Coastal Cashews at 09:30, 12:00 and 14:00 daily.
- Guests travelling in their own 4x4 vehicles may drive directly to the lodge, bearing in mind the strict gate times.
- The drive between Coastal Cashews and the camp is about 40 minutes.
- Please provide guest contact numbers plus arrival/departure details and times prior to travel.
- Should guests opt to fly in, the road transfer between the camp and the Manzengwenya Airstrip is complimentary and is about 10 minutes one way.

AIRLINES & AIRPORTS

RwandAir to launch Mumbai service in April

The governments of Rwanda and India have signed a Bilateral Air Services Agreement, paving the way for RwandAir to introduce long-haul flights to Mumbai from 5 April 2017. Flights from Mumbai will depart every Sunday, Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 01:45 and arrive in Kigali at 05:15. Return flights from Kigali will depart every Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday at 23:55, and arrive in Mumbai at 11:25 the following day.

Airlink - Increased Frequencies & New Routes

- From 6 February 2017, a new daily return flight between Pietermaritzburg and Cape Town.
- From 6 February 2017, a third daily flight operating midmorning between Cape Town and Windhoek.
- From 26 March 2017, a daily service between Nelspruit KMIA and Livingstone.

Cheers

Tina

Wilderness Product Manager



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