



26 July 2016

NEWSFLASH

KAZA Visa – Still Pending

No further change in this regard. The Zambia and Zimbabwe Tourism and Immigration ministries are still working on the necessary paper work and sign off, so the standard visa process remains in place.

New Biometric Requirements

The South African government implemented a new system on 1 July 2016 to capture biometric information of travellers – fingerprints and retinal scans. Supposedly intended for those countries that require visas (such as India, China, some South American countries, etc.), the initial launch tried to capture everyone, which resulted in massive queues at immigration and consequent delays. We believe this has now been revised, however, would recommend allowing for sufficient connecting time between flights and/or onward arrangements, in the event of possible delays as a result of these immigration procedures.

Unabridged Birth Certificates & Permissions

There is still no change – when travelling with children to or from South Africa you need to be in possession of Unabridged Birth Certificates and if children are travelling with anyone other than both parents, consent in the form of an affidavit must be provided. Important to bear in mind:

- Inbound airlines will not allow a minor to board without the necessary documentation. They have to comply with the Immigration Act at the start of the journey as they are held responsible for the deportation of guests who are denied entry into South Africa and could incur fines of up to US\$ 100 000.00.
- According to officials at O R Tambo, travellers are obliged to have this documentation on hand even if they are in transit. The reason behind this is because “flights might get cancelled/delayed or travellers might require medical attention” and therefore there is a possibility they will have to enter South Africa.

August Public Holidays in South Africa

Note the following trading hours for the South African offices – limited services will be available in reservations on both days.

- **Wednesday 3 August** – closed to allow all South Africans to exercise their right to vote in our municipal elections.
- **Tuesday 9 August** – Closed for Women’s Day.

For further access to information, rates and availability over this time, please use the Wilderness Window. For assistance with any emergencies, our After Hours Service will be available:

- Mobile/cell: +27 82 576 9173
- Email: WSAfterHours@wilderness.co.za.

News from the Kafue

Shumba and Busanga Bush both have new vehicles for this season and remember...guests who book a minimum of 3 nights in the Busanga Plains – at either Shumba or Busanga Bush Camp - in the months of August through to October receive a complimentary hot air balloon trip.



IMPORTANT

UPDATE | Vumbura Plains South Re-Opening

Per last month's communique, we experienced a fire in early June at Vumbura Plains South that caused extensive damage to the main area. Contractor availability plus environmental conditions has put us in the unfortunate situation of having to postpone the return to normal operation at Vumbura South to 5 October 2016. As before, we have effectively lost access to three rooms due to their position close to the burnt section and therefore area of construction. Closed in inventory up to and including 4 October 2016, we made alternative arrangements for affected bookings. The remaining three rooms of Vumbura Plains South are available to book and we will host these guests at Vumbura Plains North during this period. The team on the ground have the management of the experience well under control, with positive feedback received from those guests who have already travelled since the fire. For those bookings that have had to move, we thank you for your understanding and support under the circumstances and apologise for any inconvenience caused.

Third Party Flying

For all flying NOT booked through Wilderness Safaris, the following is key:

- Refer to our Camp Information Sheets for specific camps to ensure the correct airstrip is used.
- Provide arrival and departure details/times so that guests may be met and assisted at the airports.
- Provide relevant information to ensure Wilderness Air are informed as to who is in their "air space" or utilising our airstrips, dropping off and collecting guests, and the Operations teams on the ground know who to contact in case of queries, changes, etc.

RATES UPDATES

Added to the Info Centre:

- 2017 rates for Abu & Seba to the Botswana Rates Sheet.
- 2017 Explorations Rates Sheet.
- 2017 Seychelles/North Island Rates Sheet.

INFO CENTRE

Resources Available to You

A vast amount of information on the Wilderness product offering plus operations, policies and procedures is available to you on the Info Centre, on the Wilderness Window. These tools include:

- Our General Information Manual
- Specific Camp Information Sheets
- Country Rates Sheets
- Pre-tour Travel Information
- Stand-alone, topic-specific documents
- Back copies of Product Updates and Newsletters

WILDERNESS AIR

Reminder re: Weight & Gender

- Please always provide passenger weights and guest genders.
- Please adhere to luggage restrictions (dimension and weight) as stipulated in our collateral.

WILDERNESS TOURING

CAPE FEATURED EXCURSION | West Coast & San Cultural Tour

Head to Bloubergstrand for classic picture postcard views of the city and Table Mountain, before continuing up the coast to the West Coast Fossil Park. Five million years ago, this dry coastline's vegetation was lush riverine forest and wooded savannah, home to a huge variety of now-extinct animals, and over the past 40 years the bones of some 200 different kinds of animals, including giant cave bears and four-tusked Anacus elephants, have been uncovered here. Carry on to !Khwatla San Culture and Education Centre where, after lunch, guests learn about the fascinating heritage of the San/Bushmen people as they demonstrate their acclaimed skills, such as animal tracking and the identification of edible and medicinal plants. They also share something of their ancient oral history, teaching us words in their language, and enlightening us about recent achievements to reclaim their rights to land and intellectual property.

ZAMBEZI FEATURED EXCURSION | Bridge Slide

The Bridge Slide offers a remarkable opportunity for sheer fun in front of the Falls. The slide begins on the Zambian bank of the gorge and ends on the Zimbabwean side at the bridge. As you slide from the gorge towards the bridge, you enjoy an incredible view of the Falls and the bridge during this amazing "big air" experience.



Boma Experience Revitalised

"The Boma – Place of Eating" (near Victoria Falls Safari Lodge) has changed to "The Boma – Dinner & Drum Show". This is part of a refreshment exercise focusing on enhancing and modernising both the food and the entertainment.

BOTSWANA

Mombo Inventory & Private Vehicles

Current camp inventory is as follows:

- Until 31 July 2016 – Mombo 7 rooms, Little Mombo 5 rooms
- 1 August to 31 October 2016 – Mombo 9 rooms, Little Mombo 3 rooms
- 1 November 2016 to 30 June 2017 – Mombo only, with 8 rooms total

Revised Private Vehicle situation over this period:

- Current to 31 October 2016 – 1 private vehicle, shared between Mombo and Little Mombo
- From 1 November 2016 to 30 June 2017 – two private vehicles at Mombo. Should the rebuild go ahead, they would move over to Mombo Trails.

Yoga Mats, Weights & Resistance Bands

All rooms at both Classic and Premier camps now have yoga/exercise mats, weights and/or resistance bands. In addition, Abu, Jao and Mombo have separate gym areas with varied equipment.

KENYA

Activities at Segera Retreat

'Walks with camels' is no longer on offer at Segera Retreat.

NAMIBIA

No More Quad Bikes at Kulala Desert Lodge

Going forward, the quad bike activity will be on offer at Little Kulala (and Serra Cafema) only, as one of the activities in the fully inclusive rate. We will no longer offer this from Kulala Desert Lodge.

Possible Delays on arrival in Windhoek

The Namibia Airports Company has implemented a new procedure at Hosea Kutako International Airport, scanning luggage prior to loading on all aircraft, including our circuit flights and private charters. Due to a shortage of equipment and staff, this may result in delays. Operators in Namibia are addressing the situation with the relevant parties and we hope this will be resolved in due course.

SEYCHELLES

Change to Rates for the 2017 Season

Do take note of the important changes in the rate sheets:

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

Water Activity Update for North Island

Those wishing to explore the Island from the water are able to do so using sea kayaks, with all necessary tuition and guidance provided. For the more adventurous guests we offer body boards, surfboards and stand-up paddleboards.

SOUTH AFRICA – ROCKTAIL CAMP

Stretchers, Baby Cots & Babysitters

A stretcher cot is used in cases of triple share accommodation and/or for a family of five (two adults and three children) sharing a family room. The maximum age for these stretchers is 12 years. Baby cots, which comfortably sleep babies and toddlers aged 18 to 24 months, are available on request, as are mosquito nets. Note that babysitter costs are staying the same for 2017.

Breakfast or Lunch Packs for Self-Drive Guests

Available on request for guests travelling on a self-drive basis, these are provided on a complimentary basis – either pre-arranged or directly in camp. They usually consist of a sandwich, fruit, a packet of chips and a muffin or croissant. Please ensure you receive and share the relevant self-drive directions with all guests travelling to/from Rocktail or Coastal Cashews in their own vehicle.

Turtle Drives

These may be pre-booked and guests only pay when in camp, however, we do need to know of these arrangements so that we may advise the camp to collect payment accordingly.

Dive Seats Sold to Outsiders

Note that Rocktail guests do not have exclusive use of the dive boat operated by The Dive Centre, and open dive seats may be sold by The Dive Centre to 'outsiders'.

Activity Times

Although subject to change depending on circumstances, the usual times for the Lake Sibaya excursion, guided forest walks and the visit to the village (extra cost) are 09:30 and 14:30.

ZAMBIA

UPDATE | Private Vehicle in the Kafue

The private vehicle in the Kafue is restricted to Shumba Camp as a Classic camp. Busanga Bush Camp falls into the Adventures category and therefore has no private vehicle offering. Remember that all Adventures camps in wildlife areas have a minimum age limit of 6 years, and while a private vehicle will not be required at Busanga, there is no family room so adults will need to share with children under the age of 16.

ZIMBABWE

Village Visits from the Hwange Camps

- Village visit ex Linkwasha: there is no charge and no private vehicle required.
- Village visit ex Little Makalolo: the camp is located further away from the village so there is a charge - the cost of the private vehicle that must be booked and is subject to availability. Only the guests that booked the vehicle will do the village tour – other guests in camp at the same time who are interested, would need to settle for another day.
- As Davison's is an Adventures camp, there is no private vehicle. However, should a Davison's guest wish to visit the village, your Journey Specialist will contact Operations to see if they can assist with a vehicle - subject to availability and at extra cost.

AIRLINES

Air Botswana Increases Capacity on Johannesburg-Maun Route

With effect from 1 July 2016, Air Botswana added a Wednesday flight to its Maun-Johannesburg service. This flight departs Maun at 13:50 and arrives Johannesburg at 15:50. The return flight takes off from Johannesburg at 11:10 and arrives Maun at 13:10.

Fastjet eyes Cape Town-Victoria Falls Route

African carrier, Fastjet, is looking at launching flights between Cape Town, South Africa, and Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe later this year or early 2017.

Warm regards,
Tina

Wilderness Product Manager

www.wilderness-safaris.com

© Wilderness-Safaris 2016

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