



25 July 2017

NEWSFLASH

IT'S BACK| Toka Leya Camp & the Tour of the Falls Special

It is that time of year again, when the levels of the Zambezi River start to drop, resulting in higher volumes on the Zimbabwe side of the Victoria Falls. The good news is that from 1 October until 31 December 2017, 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 (for guests' own account), there is no additional cost involved if guests wish to visit the Zimbabwean side of the falls INSTEAD of the Zambian side. This does not have to be pre-booked although it will assist the camp if you let us know in advance whether your guest has a preference, alternatively, it will be discussed with guests in camp.

INFO | Connecting Zambia

We have put together a useful tool for travel in Zambia, detailing "How to get Around" with Wilderness Air (operated by Staravia) and Proflight, specifying days of operation, with suggestions of "Where to Stay". The easy link to the Ruckomechi camps in Mana Pools, Zimbabwe is included, making use of air and boat transfers, plus the airlines that fly to/from Lusaka. Have a look on the Wilderness Window – Info Centre/Wilderness Product/Product Information/Product Categories & Selling Tools/How to Sell Wilderness (lots of other useful information found in this section too)!

CHANGE | No More Pilot/Guide Accommodation at Shumba

With immediate effect we no longer have separate pilot/guide accommodation available at Shumba. Guides/pilots/escorts/tour leaders will be accommodated in standard twin guest accommodation (subject to availability) at both Shumba and Busanga Bush Camp. The lower guide / pilot rate still applies, although for guaranteed single room use, minimum 2 will be charged. If a standard room is not available at the same camp as the guests, a room may be booked at the other - the transfer time is about 10 minutes by road between the two camps.

IMPORTANT

The re-furbished Queen Sylvia is on the water at Kings Pool



Forthcoming Refurbishments

Davison's Camp in Zimbabwe – scheduled for completion at the end of July 2017:

- New interior tents for the rooms are being installed, while the existing exterior flysheet and shade net remain. Floors are being resurfaced and new softs, furniture and fittings will be added.

Savuti Camp in Botswana – planned for mid-September 2017:

- Main area – new bar, new sofas, desks, lamps, décor, etc.
- Dining area - new tables and chairs and lighting.
- Fire deck-has been extended, new tables and chairs added, plus umbrellas at the pool.
- Rooms - new wardrobes, lighting, new desk and chair and sitting area, outdoor chairs will be re-upholstered.

REMINDER

Yellow Fever

- Rwanda Clarification - while yellow fever is not required when visiting Rwanda only, it is required if onward travel includes Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia, and others.
- The government of Tanzania requires proof of yellow fever vaccination upon arrival if you are traveling from a country with risk of yellow fever. This is important to bear in mind if combining Kenya and Tanzania i.e. Masai Mara and Serengeti, as yellow fever is required for Kenya.

Correct Names for Scheduled Commercial Air

Please obtain copies of the relevant page from your guests' passports to send to your Journey Specialist. This is vital for all flight bookings to check that the passenger name matches the passport – especially if there are multiple names, double-barrelled surnames or actual names vs nicknames. Boarding will be denied if the name in the issued ticket does not match the passport.

TRAVEL REGULATIONS

NO CHANGE | Botswana Tourism Levy Delay

Status quo remains - no levy currently but subject to implementation anytime. The US\$30 (€27) levy will be payable at all ports of entry, including airports and border posts, through electronic payment machines, cash, and debit and credit cards. The levy will not apply to children aged nine years and younger – only to all tourists aged 10 years and older, with the exception of residents and citizens of the Southern African Development Community (SADC).

Translation Requirements for Children travelling through South African Ports of Entry

The requirement for unabridged birth certificates and affidavits/letters of consent for children is still in place, although we are aware there have been some issues where the necessary documents are not in English. The notice on the South African Department of Home Affairs site (link below), infers that translations are requirements for visa applications specifically i.e. sworn translations must be submitted with the visa application. However, as a precautionary measure, travellers should carry sworn translations of all documentation where the original is in a foreign language.

<http://www.dha.gov.za/index.php/statements-speeches/621-advisory-new-requirements-for-children-travelling-through-south-african-ports-of-entry-effective-1-june-2015>

PACKAGED SAFARIS & SPECIALS

Iconic Africa 2018

We have extended our 2017 Iconic Africa programme into 2018. Updated flyers have been added to the Info Centre on the Wilderness Window – one with nett rates for you, and one with no rates to share with your client base. This great itinerary features a combination of Governors Camp and Wilderness Safaris properties in iconic areas - the Masai Mara, Livingstone and Hwange – and takes advantage of the Kenya Airways flight connections between Nairobi, Livingstone and Victoria Falls (with onward flights to Cape Town allowing for extensions).

PRIVATE JOURNEYS – CAPE

Table Mountain Cableway to Close for Maintenance

The Table Mountain Cableway will be closed from 24 July until 6 August 2017, for scheduled annual maintenance. Apart from mechanical and component work, specific maintenance includes replacing the lifts at the lower station and switching exit platforms around to ensure a better flow of foot traffic. The top station pathways will be resurfaced and the seating area in the Table Mountain café will be reconfigured. The visitor centre will be revamped and the cable cars rebranded. Between 24 August and 23 October 2017, only one lift would be operational at the lower station, which will result in delays.

FEATURED EXCURSION | Scheduled Cape Town Jazz Safari

Cape Town is an incredibly musical city. Partly due partly to the natural environment, encouraging creativity, but mainly because of the history of the city and the diversity of people, cultures and sounds that have ended up here. On this special music journey, travel deep inside the jazz music of the city, by visiting local jazz musicians in their homes.

Part one is a visit to the home of a jazz musician for dinner, with music and conversation, and part two is a visit either to the home of a second musician for a nightcap, or to a jazz venue for the late set. The experience is intimate and deep, full of music, engagement and fun. It is a unique opportunity to meet local musicians away from club stages, and an excellent way to discover more about Cape Town and the lives of the people that live in it – through music. Hosts include Cape Town musicians young and old, all of them composers and performers. These are the musicians defining the sound of the city.

The Jazz Safari may be booked on a scheduled basis 4 nights a week or on a private basis. Other great music venues in the city include Café Roux, The Crypt, The Piano Bar and Asoka.

WILDERNESS TOURING & TRANSFERS – ZAMBEZI

FEATURED EXCURSION | Rhino Walk in Mosi-oa-Tunya National Park, Livingstone

This walking safari (available in the morning or afternoon) with white rhino in the Mosi-Oa Tunya National Park allows for close up encounters with the endangered white rhino. Clients are also shown some historic sites such as the Old Drift where the original white settlers lived before 1904. There is much to learn and experience whilst in the bush, with knowledgeable guides sharing information on the flora and fauna, including their medicinal properties and application in the lives of the local peoples.

WILDERNESS AIR

Wilderness Air Zimbabwe – Increased Capacity

The introduction of an additional C208 into the Zimbabwe fleet has given us increased capacity. We now have 28 seats instead of 20 on all sectors in inventory.

Connections between Kalahari Plains & Livingstone or Victoria Falls

Please be careful of booking clients from Kalahari Plains to Kasane (and on to Livingstone, etc.) on the same day, especially if they intend to cross the border. For those going to the Zambezi Queen, the border closes at 16:30 in Kasane and 18:00 for those using the Kazungula border. All circuit flights ex Kalahari Plains go to Maun, and the onward afternoon flights from Maun are susceptible to delays due to airline as well as immigration and customs delays. Should you need a connection of this nature, we will recommend booking and charging for a sole use flight.

BOTSWANA

Ballooning at Vumbura in 2018

This will continue in 2018, operational between 1 April and 30 September, as an optional activity from Vumbura Plains or Little Vumbura.

Water Level Update

All water based activities continue as normal. The annual inundation does appear to be less than expected so there is a possibility we will have to stop some activities in a few months' time, however, we will keep you updated should there be any changes.

RWANDA

Requirements for Gorilla Tracking

Bisate Lodge provides gaiters (protects the shoe and lower leg from the environment) and gloves, while walking sticks are provided at the headquarters of the gorilla tracking. Guests must bring their own firm (waterproof if possible) hiking boots, as the lodge does not provide gumboots (per one of the original communications).

SOUTH AFRICA

Activities that are NOT possible at Rocktail Camp

Rocktail Camp is situated in a protected marine reserve and accordingly, the following activities are prohibited:

- Water sports such as boardsailing
- Launching of any form of boat (except the boats for the dive centre who have the necessary licence)
- Lighting of fires
- Driving of vehicles on the beach (except to launch dive boats and do turtle drives, again because we have the necessary permission to do so)
- Removing, capturing or harming any fauna, flora or marine life
- Fishing (whether conventional or fly-fishing) without the advance purchase of a fishing licence from a South African Post Office)

Transfers between Rocktail & Phinda

- Phinda transfers are done between 08:30 (first transfer from Rocktail Camp to Phinda airstrip) and 15:30 (last transfer from Phinda airstrip to Rocktail Camp).
- There is only one scheduled transfer between Rocktail and King Shaka International Airport. The pick-up (and drop-off) time is 12:00. The vehicle departs Rocktail at 06:00 (breakfast packs can be arranged) and it takes between 4.5 to 5 hours.

ZAMBIA

2018 - Proflight into Kafue

Proflight plan to fly into the Kafue in 2018, utilising the Lufupa Airstrip. The Cessna Caravan will carry 8 passengers with a combined luggage allowance of 20 kg (15 kg checked baggage and 5 kg hand luggage). The flight time between Lusaka and Kafue and Lusaka is 1 hour 10 minutes. Wilderness Safaris will do a road transfer (3.5 hours one way) between Lufupa Airstrip and Shumba or Busanga Bush Camp for guests utilising this flight, and rates are now available.

Shumba Gin Stops & Bush Brunches

Shumba is doing lovely gin and snack set-ups in camp for those guests that land late and arrive in camp at the end of the day. We are also doing bush breakfasts or brunches on the longer excursions - to the papyrus area to find the elusive Sitatunga or if there is an early start to the Musanza area to look for leopard and lion.



AIRLINES & AIRPORTS

Kasane Airport Opens New Terminal

Completed at the end of June, the new terminal building is phase one of the construction, and now measures 7 800sqm compared with the original airport at 1 300sqm. The next phase of construction involves the blending and refurbishment of the existing terminal and other buildings, and is due for completion in November 2017.

SA Airlink Commences Cape Town/Victoria Falls Flights

At the beginning of July, SA Airlink commenced the first flights on its new Cape Town-Victoria Falls route. Flights operate daily, except Saturdays.

Air Seychelles Suspends Durban Service

Effective 27 July 2017, Air Seychelles will suspend its twice-weekly flights between Durban and Seychelles, saying that the volume of traffic from Durban did not meet company expectations.

Austrian Airlines Relaunches Cape Town-Vienna Service

Austrian Airlines is expanding its long-haul network with the relaunch of a twice weekly Cape Town-Vienna service in winter 2018/19.

Latam Airlines Increases Johannesburg-São Paulo flights

For this coming summer, Latam Airlines will add two flights to its Johannesburg-São Paulo route between 17 November 2017 and 24 March 2018, increasing the number of flights operated from three to five per week.

BA-Comair Announce Additional Flight to Victoria Falls

With effect from 28 July 2017, BA Comair will operate an additional flight into and out of Victoria Falls. BA6283 arrives Victoria Falls at 13:40 and the outgoing flight BA6284 departs at 14:30.

Cheers

Tina

Wilderness Product Manager



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