

25 July 2018

NEWSFLASH

GOOD NEWS | Linyanti Tented West - 365 days a year

Previously open from May to November only, Linyanti Tented West is now open year round – so including December to April!

- The May to November period is considered peak season and the rate remains as is, while *December to April is considered low season and is therefore at a lower rate.*
- Remember too that the pricing structure changed recently. *Rates are based on a minimum number of four instead of eight – so it really is good value for money!*
- A pool has been added, ready for the summer season!
- Great for families or small groups travelling together, you still book sole use of the whole camp – whether for one guest or a maximum of eight in the four twin rooms.
- There is no separate guide accommodation - guides, tour leaders or pilots will be in a guest room, leaving three rooms for guests.
- There is only one vehicle so up to eight people on the vehicle at the same time (no private vehicle).
- Access is via the existing Wilderness Air Botswana flying circuit into Chobe Airstrip. Approximately 1hr30, one way, the road transfer between camp and airstrip is treated as a game drive.

IMPORTANT

Travel with Purpose Itineraries

Have a look on the Info Centre under the main menu of Wilderness Product for all the awesome, life-changing Travel with Purpose itineraries available thus far.

REMINDERS

Unabridged Birth Certificates

At this time, there is still no change to the requirement for parents to carry unabridged birth certificates when travelling to/from South Africa and Botswana, and the relevant affidavits if children are travelling without one or both parents.

Rocktail Contact Numbers

Please provide guests with the following details for Rocktail Camp should they need to call while en route to camp:

- Rocktail Camp +27 (0) 74 182 4581
- Rocktail Camp Manager +27 (0) 81 434 7344 (Mr Earnest Chaweke)

Important Information for Rocktail

Providing timeous and accurate information is vital to ensure guest expectations are met and Rocktail is able to function efficiently. This refers to:

- ❖ Coastal Cashew Transfers – required or not and if yes, what time?
- ❖ Self-drive – are guests self-driving, and if yes, expected arrival and departure details, plus contact details?
- ❖ Changes – please communicate any changes to previously advised arrival/departure methods or times prior to arrival.

Situation Regarding Rocktail Transfers

Rocktail still offers scheduled transfers between Coastal Cashews and Rocktail at the same set times. However, Rocktail no longer offer any other transfers i.e. Durban or Richard's Bay - these will need to be booked via third parties.

WILDERNESS SAFARIS PRIVATE JOURNEYS – CAPE

2019 Rates Sheets

The 2019 Wilderness Safaris Private Journeys rates sheet is available on the Info Centre. Be aware that some rates are tentative and are subject to change (there is a note to this effect).

Luxury Vehicle Upgrade

- Competitive rates on the Audi Q5 are now available for full/half day tours as well as City/Constantia/Hout Bay transfers.
- The Mercedes V-Class (upgraded Viano) takes a maximum of six guests, although we recommend five so each person has a window seat.
- Luxury vehicles are subject to availability.

Table Mountain Cableway Updates

- Closed for annual maintenance from Monday 23 July through to Sunday 5 August 2018.
- Rates increase on 1 October 2018 for the 2018/2019 period, and are valid until 30 September 2019.

WILDERNESS TOURING & TRANSFERS – ZAMBEZI

White Water Rafting Update

Due to a drop in water levels on the Zambezi, the high water rafting season commenced on 10 July 2018. Guests are collected from their hotels between 07:30 and 08:00 and transported to the launch site at rapid number 11. After the rafting excursion, guests enjoy lunch at the top of rapid number 24, before transferring back to their hotels in Victoria Falls Town between 14:30 and 15:00.

Angel's Pool on Livingstone Island Re-opens

Opening today, 25 July 2018, guests may once again enjoy a "wallow" in the Angel's Pool on Livingstone Island. They should carry their swimming attire with them when visiting Livingstone Island, as it is part of the activity.

Zambezi Explorer Signature Lounge Dinner Termination

Zambezi Explorer have announced the termination of their Signature Lounge Dinner service with immediate effect. They will continue with the Signature and Luxury Deck Sunset Cruises, plus the Zambezi Reflections Dinner Cruise.

WILDERNESS AIR

Wilderness Air Namibia Circuit Flights

- The norm is that all flights on the circuit operate per the published routings i.e. via various points such as Swakopmund, Damaraland, Doro Nawas or Ongava. This is for the purposes of pick-ups, drop-offs and refuelling - however, there are rare occasions when this is not required, and the flights will then operate directly i.e. Geluk to Doro Nawas with no stop in Swakopmund.
- Reminder - we stopped offering a scenic flight between Geluk and Swakopmund some years back due to the fog and not meeting clients' expectations. Please ensure that your guests are aware of this should it come up.

BOTSWANA

Water Level and Activity Update

Boating and mokoro activities are on offer as normal at all Wilderness camps, including Abu, Seba and the Jao concession.

NAMIBIA

Additional Guide/Pilot Beds at Kulala Desert Lodge

We now have six guide/pilot beds in total at Kulala Desert Lodge. They are not of the same standard as a guest room, and configured as follows:

- Three x single occupancy units, each with en-suite facilities.
- Three x single occupancy units with one shared bathroom and facilities for all three units.

Ban on Plastic Bags in Namibia National Parks

The ban on all single-use plastic bags in the country's national parks is now in place.

RWANDA

No Private Vehicle at Magashi

There is no private vehicle available at Magashi. To secure sole use of a vehicle (whether for activities or because you have children aged between 6 and 12 years), you will need to book and charge for 3 twins/6 beds.

Magashi Access Information

By Road

- Transfers by road are on a scheduled basis only, in a van/bus with a capacity of 8 to 10 people.
- Minimum or maximum numbers do not apply, and additional vehicles will be utilised when necessary.
- Departure from Kigali is 08:00 from an agreed pick up point.
- The pick-up time at Akagera Nyungwe gate is 11:00. Guests will be collected from the park gate by a Magashi open game drive vehicle to continue their transfer from the park gate to the camp.
- Departure from Akagera Nyungwe gate is also 11:00. Departing guests will have breakfast at the lodge after which they depart at 09:00 to do a game drive to the gate. Camp will provide a lunch pack for the transfer back to Kigali.
- Guests arrive in Kigali around 14:00 so it will be possible to transfer by helicopter or road to Bisate Lodge and avoid an overnight in Kigali. If guests do an onward road transfer to Bisate, they will spend most of the day in the vehicle, so we recommend a helicopter transfer on at least one leg.
- Alternatively, guests could do a Kigali city tour on the afternoon of arrival; spend the night, then visit the Genocide memorial after breakfast before transferring by road to Bisate.
- Approximate transfer times are as follows:
 - From Magashi to the Akagera gate, 45 minutes to 2 hours depending on sightings en-route.
 - From the gate to Kigali, roughly 2.5 to 3 hours.
 - From Kigali to Bisate, roughly 3 hours.
 - Total transfer time from Magashi to Bisate by vehicle is 7 to 8 hours. It is a long day of driving as guests will depart Magashi at 09:00 and arrive Bisate late afternoon around 17:00.

By Air

- There are two types of helicopter – with different flight times and rates. Quotes and bookings will be based on guest needs plus availability of helicopters.
- Should guests require a private transfer to/from Magashi, travelling by helicopter is the only option.
- It is possible to do Kigali/Bisate helicopter transfers now. Guests fly to/from Musanze (20 to 30 minute drive from Bisate) or directly to the lodge. Flights and routings are subject to weather conditions, plus type of helicopter.

ZIMBABWE

Self-drive Access via Chirundu for Ruckomechi

Guests travelling on the road/boat transfer between Lusaka and Chirundu and on to Ruckomechi are met and assisted by Go Fish Marine in Chirundu. However, Tiger Safaris will assist self-drive guests travelling to/from Ruckomechi via Chirundu. Please ensure you share our updated self-drive directions with guests as required.

AIRLINES & AIRPORTS

No More Boarding Announcements at SA’s Regional Airports

Along with Johannesburg, Cape Town and Durban, a further six regional airports no longer have passenger boarding calls: Port Elizabeth International Airport; Bram Fischer International Airport (Bloemfontein); East London Airport; George Airport; Upington International Airport and Kimberley Airport. Passengers must check their boarding passes and the flight information displays for boarding times.

Air Botswana Signs Agreement with LAM

Air Botswana has signed a Special Prorate Agreement with Mozambique’s national airline, Linhas Aeras De Mocambique (LAM). The agreement effectively extends Air Botswana’s route network from Gaborone, Maun and Francistown by providing connections in Johannesburg to LAM’s seven destinations in Mozambique – Maputo, Beira, Vilanculos, Pemba, Tete, Nampula and Inhambane.

Cheers
Tina
Wilderness Product Manager



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