

June 2014

## NEWSFLASH

### New Child Travel Regulations

Amendments made to the South African Immigration Act have a particular emphasis on travel regulations for children in order to combat child trafficking and kidnapping. From 1 October 2014, parents travelling with children under the age of 18 will be required to produce an unabridged birth certificate for each child. In the case where only one parent is travelling with the child(ren), consent in the form of an affidavit from the other parent registered is required. Alternatively, either a court order granting full parental responsibilities and rights, or a death certificate of the other parent is required. This ruling applies to all nationalities travelling to or from South Africa, including those travellers in transit. We will update our collateral in due course – in the interim, please contact your Journey Specialist should further information be required.

### Introduction of Biometric Visas for South Africa

While processing details and implementation dates are not yet finalised, the South African Department of Home Affairs (DHA) has advised that they will be introducing a new biometric visa as a requirement for all foreign national visitors. According to information received from a spokesperson for the DHA, training and implementation of the biometric visa will be a phased process, and requirements will include digitalised fingerprinting plus facial photography. All indications are that foreign nationals must apply in person for these visas, which will present difficulties for visitors who live some distance from South African embassies, consulates and visa centres, or even in countries where there are no such facilities. We will update you as we learn more.

### South African Passport Holders need Visas for Kenya

The Kenyan High Commission has announced that from 1 July 2014, all South Africans travelling to Kenya for pleasure, business or in transit will need a visa. The processing period for the visas is strictly five (5) working days and all applicants will be required to produce the following documents:

1. Return air ticket
2. Invitation letter from the host in the Republic of Kenya
3. Letter from employer/institution/college/school
4. Proof of funds (bank statement)
5. Applicants must appear in person for biometrics
6. Two passport photographs

### Travelling with Medication

Important/chronic medication should only be carried in hand luggage – and not packed in bags that are checked-in. There is always a risk of lost or delayed luggage and this could have serious consequences if it is life-threatening medication.

### Booking Names & Passports Must Match for Scheduled Commercial Flights

If the details provided to airlines and immigration do not match (especially with electronic visa details having to match PERFECTLY), then the passenger may not travel. Name changes are usually not possible, so new bookings have to be made and tickets reissued - often in a different class or at a higher fare level, if there is even availability on the same flight. This results in inconvenience to the client, a possible knock-on effect to their onward arrangements and incurs expenses. Where possible, please do obtain (and forward as appropriate) copies of your client's passports prior to making any airline bookings.

## IMPORTANT

### 2015 Rates Update

All 2015 Rates Sheets for Wilderness Product are now available on the Agent Portal, with the exception of Explorations – to follow in due course.

Regarding the Zimbabwe rates specifically, the Zimbabwe Government will be implementing a VAT increase of 15% on the hospitality and tourism industry from the beginning of 2015 – similar to what Zambia did at the beginning of 2014. This has been taken into account on our rates as follows:

- All Zimbabwe camps – increase of 7.5% passed on to the consumer, Wilderness is absorbing the other 7.5%
- All Wilderness Touring & Transfers – full 15% passed on to the consumer
- Wilderness Air Zimbabwe flying – full 15% passed on to the consumer

### Wilderness Touring Cape Town Update

Over and above our core touring and transfer operation, highlighted below are a number of great options on offer in and around Cape Town that will enhance any trip:

- **Specialist Guides** – catering for specific interests or able to conduct tours in other languages
- **Getting Active** – viewing the penguins at Boulders from a kayak, cycling in the Peninsula National Park, hiking Table Mountain, surfing lessons with the family
- **Personalised Wine Tours** – meet with the owner or winemaker at smaller, boutique wine estates
- **Authentic Cultural Experiences** – meeting the locals, learning about their lives and history, seeing the great work being done to assist others OR cooking in a Bo-Kaap resident's home where you prepare the meal together with your hosts and sit down to enjoy it afterwards
- **Seasonal Ocean "Safaris"** – to see dolphins surfing, seal colonies, whales with babies, sharks hunting
- **Scenic and "Foodie" tours of the Winelands** – where the emphasis is not just on wine but on learning about the terroir, enjoying picnics in the vineyards or tasting olive oil, coffee, cheese, chocolate and charcuterie
- **And last but not least** – how about a helicopter flight from the Waterfront to Cape Point, where you are met by your guide and vehicle for your tour of the Peninsula, and a hosted lunch at celebrated chef Bruce Robertson's intimate "restaurant" The Flagship - which is actually the top level of his home?

### GENERAL

#### Airlink Skukuza Service in Operation

On Monday 2 June 2014, Airlink commenced operation of their scheduled flights between Johannesburg and Skukuza, and Cape Town and Skukuza. Flights connect with most international flight arrivals, as well as other domestic and regional flights, and generally allow for morning and afternoon activities.

#### Airlink Commences New Nelspruit-Vilanculos Service

Airlink has now officially launched its direct service between Nelspruit and Vilanculos in Mozambique. The service operates on Thursdays and Sundays using Airlink's Embraer ERJ135 regional jet. Flights depart Nelspruit at 11:35, arriving in Vilanculos at 12:50. The return flight departs Vilanculos at 13:45, arriving in Johannesburg at 15:30.

### CONGO UPDATE

#### Revised Gorilla Welfare Protocols – Guest Vaccination Record Requirements

The Odzala Wilderness camps in the Republic of Congo offer guests the unique opportunity to track habituated groups of western lowland gorillas. These close relatives of humans are considered Critically Endangered because of commercial bush-meat hunting, disease epidemics and habitat loss – exacerbated by a slow rate of reproduction. Gorillas are vulnerable to catching human diseases, and we want to take every step possible to minimise any risks to these endangered primates. In accordance with international gorilla-viewing protocols and on the advice of specialist vets, guests will be required to provide evidence that they have been vaccinated against measles and polio, and that they are free of any active tuberculosis (TB) infections. **This updated protocol will come into effect on 1 January 2015** and is in addition to our existing gorilla welfare procedures regarding flu, and other respiratory complaints typically treated with antibiotics. As children are more susceptible to infections, there is a heightened danger of transmission to the gorillas – hence the reason for the minimum age for these camps being set at 15.

We would stress that Congo is a safe destination for our guests with an overall low risk of disease. These requirements are all about protecting the endangered gorillas, and are not due to any increased risk to the guests' health. We recommend that all guests visit their physician or travel clinic well in advance of their travel date, as this will enable them to easily comply with this protocol (by having a doctor certify their completed vaccination record or issue a certificate of health), and use the opportunity to discuss malaria prophylaxis and other sensible health precautions. Note that a valid yellow fever certificate remains an entry requirement for the Republic of Congo.

Please contact your Journey Specialist for further details, including the record of vaccination document that must be completed by a medical practitioner and carried by the guest when travelling.

#### Singles Travelling to Odzala

Regardless of whether a single guest is travelling on their own or as part of a party, all guests staying in single accommodation at Odzala have to pay the single flying rate as per the rates sheets for the return scheduled flight between Brazzaville and M'Boko Airstrip.

### KENYA UPDATE

#### Increase in Kenyan Park Fees

The recent increase in park fees has no impact on Segera rates as the Retreat is not located within a national park.

#### Exclusive Use of Segera Retreat

Rates are now available for the exclusive use of Segera Retreat – please contact your Journey Specialists for details.

## NAMIBIA UPDATE

### Lower Age Limit at Camps in Wildlife Areas

The minimum age limit at all Wilderness camps (Premier, Classic and Adventures) located in wildlife areas is 6 years of age.

### Great Namibian Journey – Sightseeing Day in Swakopmund

Due to safety concerns, Namport have closed the jetty at Pelican Point. Guests on the Marine Dune Day excursion will return to the Waterfront after the full Marine Cruise and start the Sandwich Harbour tour from the Waterfront instead of Pelican Point.

### Hoanib & the Skeleton Coast Excursion

The Skeleton Coast fly-in excursion is included in the rate for all guests staying at Hoanib for 3 nights. It is our recommendation that guests do not stay for less than 3 nights, however, if they insist on only booking 2 nights, the excursion will be subject to the following:

- Preference will be given to those guests staying 3 nights or longer
- No guarantee of taking part in the excursion
- Bookings can only be made in camp, subject to availability
- The excursion will be at additional cost – rate still to be confirmed

### Quad-biking at Kulala

Quad biking is on offer as an activity at our Sossusvlei lodges. It is included in the FI rate at Little Kulala and at additional cost from Kulala Desert Lodge (R 500pp in 2014, R 550pp for 2015). All bookings are made direct at the relevant lodge.

## ZAMBIA UPDATE

### Travelling with Controlled Substances

Certain over-the-counter medications contain ingredients that are on Zambia's list of controlled substances. As a precaution, we recommend that clients do not take unnecessary non-prescription medication with them when travelling to Zambia. For prescription medication, they must carry a medical practitioner's prescription with them and ensure that the medication is in its original bottle. Please contact your Journey Specialist should you require a copy of the guideline, however, Wilderness Safaris cannot be held responsible for the content or changes in regulation on arrival.

### Reminder - Meet & Greet in Lusaka

Wilderness Air does not have a presence at Lusaka Airport. If a guaranteed meet and assist is required, this must be pre-booked and charged for accordingly. Should your clients not wish to book/pay for the meet and assist, please ensure they are aware that on arrival at Lusaka Airport, after clearing customs & immigration, they need to make their own way to the Information counter near domestic departures. The Staravia pilot will meet them here approximately 30 minutes prior to departure and assist them to the Wilderness Air scheduled light aircraft transfer (operated by Staravia).

## ZIMBABWE UPDATE

### Zambezi Water Levels

River levels are dropping daily. The white water rafting season (shortened trip) started on 9 June, while Livingstone Island activities re-commenced on 5 June. Note that this does not include swimming at Devils Pool – very much water level dependent and usually only safe to swim in between the months of August to December.

## RATES UPDATE

### Zambia 2015

2015.01	The transfer and touring rates have been added to the rate sheets.	20/06/14	Pages 8 & 9
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Warm regards,  
Tina

### Wilderness Product Services Manager

For further information on Wilderness product or rates, please refer to our Agent Portal or contact either myself [tinak@wilderness.co.za](mailto:tinak@wilderness.co.za) or your reservations cluster/Journey Specialist directly.

[www.wilderness-safaris.com](http://www.wilderness-safaris.com)

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