



26 June 2017

NEWSFLASH

Chapman's Peak Closed for Extended Period Due to Rock Falls

As a result of strong winds and rain over the last week or so, Chapman's Peak Drive near Cape Town has been closed to traffic due to rock falls. The situation could last a couple of weeks only, however, as we are now into the rainy season, Private Journeys predict that the road may well be closed more often if it is deemed that the rock structures above the road are unstable. Our Private Journeys guides will inform guests at the start of any tour and will re-route over Constantia Nek from Hout Bay and then Ou Kaapse Weg towards Cape Point.

Main Area at Busanga Bush Camp is Complete

The new, more inviting and beautiful main area at Busanga Bush Camp is ready to welcome guests. In addition to the revamped main area and the new guest toilet rebuild, Operations have created a new sunset deck which has a stunning view of the plains and will be used for sunsets/sundowners, a fire pit in the evenings or early-morning teas before game drives, as well as for sitting around the fire at night, especially when there is a full moon. The original deck may be used to set up dinner for small groups of four to six guests.

Queen Sylvia Barge at Kings Pool – Back in Operation

The Queen Sylvia barge at Kings Pool will be back in action soon! Operations are in the process of refurbishing/updating the softs and décor to give it a new look. Used for sundowners and private dinners for small groups, the barge should be operational from 1 July 2017. Remember that use of the Queen Sylvia barge is always subject to water levels.

REMINDER

Combining Botswana with Hwange or Kafue – No Overnights Required

When planning multi-country itineraries, remember that it is possible to connect guests between Botswana and Hwange on the same day. Fly with Wilderness Air Botswana ex the Delta to Chobe (Area 3) then on to Kasane and Victoria Falls before connecting with Wilderness Air Zimbabwe from Victoria Falls to Hwange. Likewise, our Wilderness Air circuits also allow you to connect Botswana and the Kafue on the same day through Livingstone.

Self-drive Guests Travelling in South Africa & Namibia

To ensure our Emergency After Hours service is able to contact your guests when needed, please ensure they provide the following:

- Provide cell phone numbers.
- Set the phone up correctly for incoming and outgoing calls plus text messaging, especially if international travellers are using their overseas phones.

North Island 2018

Rates are now available for the 2018 season, valid from 23 December 2017 to 22 December 2018.

TRAVEL REGULATIONS

Botswana Tourism Development Levy Postponed

On 30 May 2017, the Ministry of Environment Natural Resources' Conservation and Tourism through the Botswana Tourism Organisation announced the postponement of an obligatory Tourism Development Levy (TDL), which was scheduled for implementation from 1 June 2017. It may be implemented without a further update, so details of the TDL will remain in all our published collateral as a precautionary measure.

PRIVATE JOURNEYS – CAPE

NEW | Food Experience to Include on a Tour

The Foodbarn Studio is quite simply chef Franck Dangereux's playground! This is where the chef gets to do what he really loves but in the intimate setting of a stunning home with views over Noordhoek. Together with Chef Nicky Gibbs, the Foodbarn team source sustainable products from as close as possible, create delicious dishes, and also make them available in the deli.

FEATURED EXCURSION | E-bikes - Cape Town City & Traditional Food Tour

This has to be the best way to experience the sights and sounds of the city. The widespread downtown area has a number of steep hills, making the electric bicycle the ideal mode of transport to experience the culture, food and unique architecture of Cape Town – all without breaking a sweat! Get acquainted with the bike's controls in just a few minutes

before heading off from the Sea Point promenade for a leisurely cycle to the V&A Waterfront. After browsing the food market stalls we make our way via the quaint De Waterkant area into the Bo-Kaap for our first food tasting hosted by a local restaurant owner. Continue along cobblestone streets into trendy Bree Street for more delectable local offerings, all planned according to your tastes and preferences. Along the way you will gain a real understanding of the history and culture of Cape Town as you effortlessly glide through the Company's Garden surrounded by the Houses of Parliament, St Georges Cathedral and the Natural History Museum, to name but a few. For dessert, we seek out a secret location close to Greenmarket Square for the 'best milk tart in the world' and other yummy treats. With appetites sated, we take an easy route out of town via the 2010 soccer World Cup stadium and back to the Sea Point promenade.

Note: the tour is not strenuous but confidence on a bicycle around city streets is ideal. Other tour options include shorter rides on the Sea Point promenade or further afield in the magnificent Cape Winelands.

WILDERNESS TOURING & TRANSFERS – ZAMBEZI

FEATURED EXCURSION | Tales of an African Night Sky

The evening begins with a transfer from your hotel in Victoria Falls – the vehicle will collect you between 20:30 and 21:00 for a short drive into the African bush. You will be met on the boundary of the Riverwild Estate, for a short walk by lantern light into the property. At a clearing in the bush, there is an idyllic spot to lie back and enjoy the views of the night's sky from the cushions and chairs provided. Your presenter and guide will begin with an introduction to some of the folk tales and stories that form the backdrop of local interpretation and intrigue. This leads into a discussion of some of the more popular constellations of the night, using laser pointers and wide lens binoculars, while enjoying a few light drinks and some snacks. At 22:00 the evening draws to an end and you will be transferred back to your hotel by 22:30.

BOTSWANA

Hairdryers at Mombo Trails

We now have hairdryers in the rooms at Mombo Trails. They run off the generator only so are available between roughly 07:00 and 12:00 in the morning and then again from 15:00 to 19:00 in the afternoon/evening. Guests will be briefed on this during camp orientation.

Water Activities

Water activities are operating as per normal in all the camps, with water levels slightly higher due to the inundation starting to push in.

RWANDA

Health Requirements for Rwanda & Gorillas

Yellow Fever certificates are required for entry into Rwanda, not for gorilla viewing. However, one needs to be in good health to go gorilla trekking and if a person is coughing, wheezing or sneezing etc., then the Park Office has the authority to deny them access to track. Gorilla (chimp) trekking is strenuous and if visitors have any condition that could be triggered by high altitude or strenuous exercise, they should consult their family doctor first.

AIRLINES & AIRPORTS

Airlink Increases Routes from Cape Town

- From 6 June 2017, Airlink now flies daily between Cape Town and Maun, with additional flights operating on Tuesdays and Thursdays.
- From 2 July 2017, Airlink will fly between Cape Town and Victoria Falls every day except Saturdays PLUS add a second service out of Cape Town to Nelspruit, operating daily except Saturdays.

RwandAir to Launch Flights to Brussels

In July, RwandAir will start operating flights three times a week from Johannesburg via Kigali to Brussels. The return will be via London and Kigali.

Cheers

Tina

Wilderness Product Manager



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