



27 March 2017

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## NEWSFLASH

### "New" Little Vumbura Re-opens

After an extensive refurbishment, Little Vumbura re-opened on 15 March 2017. Updated images will be available shortly, however in the interim, improvements include:

- Increase in size of all rooms (family room as well) to include an internal seating area and external patio.
- All room showers have new doors, tiles and glass windows looking out onto the floodplains.
- Revamped bar and main area, including expansion and softs.
- New decking throughout the camp.

## IMPORTANT

### AMENDMENT | ZCAA Passenger Tax

This tax is no longer applicable to Wilderness Air Botswana flights travelling **FROM** Kasane **TO** Livingstone – only ex Zambia i.e. from Livingstone to Kasane (US\$ 10.00 per person).

### Possible Delays at Kasane Airport

The baggage scanner at Kasane International Airport is currently out of order. Manual searches of bags are being conducted which take longer and may cause delays, so passengers are encouraged to make their way to the security checkpoint as soon as boarding cards have been issued.

## REMINDERS

### Rate Increase for Wilderness Air Namibia, implemented 15 March 2017

Although a separate communication was sent in this regard, this serves as a reminder that the Wilderness Air Namibia circuit seat rates increased on 15 March 2017. Updated Rates Sheets are available on the Info Centre, Wilderness Window.

### Wilderness Air Luggage Restrictions

Please share our published luggage restrictions for all Wilderness Air circuit flights with your clients, asking them to adhere to these accordingly. Doing so will ensure guest expectations are met, and the inconvenience of re-packing plus subsequent delays or incurring additional costs avoided.

## TRAVEL REGULATIONS

### Electronics Ban on Certain Airlines

The United States (US) and United Kingdom (UK) have issued a ban on certain electronic devices, including cameras, on flights from certain hubs in the Middle East. The ban prohibits most electronic devices, including laptops, cameras, gaming devices and tablets, from being allowed in the cabin of the flight. The nine airlines that operate direct flights to the US from affected airports are EgyptAir, Emirates Airline, Etihad Airways, Kuwait Airways, Qatar Airways, Royal Air Maroc, Royal Jordanian Airlines, Saudi Arabian Airlines and Turkish Airlines. Only a smart phone is allowed in the cabin on flights to and from these hubs on the US leg. The UK restrictions apply to 14 airlines – British Airways, easyJet, Jet2.com, Monarch, Thomas Cook, Thomson, Turkish Airlines, Pegasus Airways, Atlas-Global Airlines, Middle East Airlines, EgyptAir, Royal Jordanian, Tunis Air and Saudia. Medical devices are excluded.

## WILDERNESS TOURING

### CAPE FEATURED EXCURSION | Private Half Day Cape Malay Cultural Tour

Meet your guide, a member of the Bo-Kaap community, at the Bo-Kaap Museum for a unique insight into the origins and history of the Cape Malay people. Visit a bustling spice wholesaler, where you will learn all about spices and their use in Cape Malay cuisine. Experience the colourful nature and architecture of the locals, as you stroll along the cobbled streets of the Bo-Kaap. Learn first-hand how to fold samoosas during a demonstration of the preparation of this traditional cuisine and once you have mastered the art, sit down to enjoy the feast that you have created.

### ZAMBEZI FEATURED EXCURSION | Options for Meals in Victoria Falls

- Ma Robert Dinner Cruise – this two tier boat travels downstream first, allowing you to view the spray of the Victoria Falls, before heading upstream for sunset and an aperitif on the upper deck. While slowly drifting on the Zambezi River, enjoy a candlelit dinner on the lower deck.
- Home Hosted Meals – you will be collected from your hotel in Victoria Falls Town and transferred to Chinotimba township, where you will be hosted by a local family in their residence and served a traditional African homemade meal (for either lunch or dinner).

## BOTSWANA

### UPDATE | Botswana Water Based Activities

- DumaTau & Vumbura – Water-based activities continue as normal.
- Kings Pool – The Queen Sylvia barge is no longer available.
- Xigera – Full mokoro and boating activities.
- Tubu & Little Tubu – Full mokoro and boating activities, using a new jetty about 30 minutes from camp.
- Kwetsani – Full mokoro and boating activities.
- Jacana – Full mokoro and boating activities from camp. Access between camp and airstrip is a 20-minute boat transfer plus a 20-minute vehicle transfer.
- Pelo – Full mokoro and boating activities from camp. Access between camp and airstrip is a 40-minute boat transfer plus a 20-minute vehicle transfer.
- Jao – Full mokoro and boating activities.
- Abu and Seba – Full mokoro and boating activities.

### New Vehicles at Kings Pool

Our new Landcruiser vehicles at Kings Pool seat six - 3 rows of 2 seats, with a middle console in each row to hold personal items. There are also two USB charging points between the driver and passenger seat.

## NAMIBIA

### TEMPORARY | Change to Skeleton Coast Excursion

The Hoanib River is still flowing, thanks to further rain in parts of Namibia, so we are flying guests to and from the coast. The river will eventually dry up but the floodplain will be inaccessible for quite some time as stagnant pools of water and mud left behind dry up. Once this is dry enough for the vehicles to safely proceed to the coast, we will revert to the normal excursion again and advise accordingly. Rest assured that the experience at the coast remains exactly the same, just the driving part in the morning is suspended until further notice and replaced by flying.

## SOUTH AFRICA

### Bookings open for Turtle Season at Rocktail

Inventory is now available to book turtle drives at Rocktail Camp, between 15 October and 15 March.

## ZIMBABWE

### Cash Situation in Zimbabwe

Travellers to Zimbabwe are encouraged to carry some cash in US Dollars, as they may not be able to draw cash from their bank of choice due to a current cash shortage in the country. Credit cards are widely accepted (Visa and MasterCard) so the need for cash would be for incidentals, gratuities and if travelling to remote areas.

### AIRLINES & AIRPORTS

#### Kenya Airways to fly into Victoria Falls from May

From 1 May 2017, Kenya Airways will operate flights between Nairobi and Victoria Falls. Linked to the airline's existing services to Cape Town, this service will operate three times a week on Mondays, Thursdays and Saturdays.

#### Airlink Launches Cape Town-Victoria Falls Flights

On 2 July 2017, Airlink will launch direct flights between Cape Town and Victoria Falls. Along with Kenya Airways, Airlink will be one of only two carriers offering direct services between the two destinations. The flights will operate daily, except on Saturdays.

#### Air Botswana resume Gaborone-Cape Town service

Air Botswana has resumed its service between Gaborone and Cape Town and introduced additional flights between Gaborone and Kasane, flying to Cape Town four times a week on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays.

#### RwandAir to Launch Flights to London Gatwick

RwandAir plans to launch four weekly flights between Kigali International Airport and London Gatwick during this year.

#### Air France to up Cape Town frequency in October 2017

On its' Cape Town-Paris route, Air France plan to increase the number of flights from three to five a week.

#### New Status Paves the Way for Direct US-Kenya flights

Granted Category One status by the United States (US) government in recent weeks following an assessment audit – Kenya hopes to introduce direct flights between Jomo Kenyatta International Airport and the US.

#### Planned Increase in Flights between Nelspruit and Vilanculos

Currently operating four flights a week on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Sundays, Airlink will add Mondays and Saturdays in July with Wednesday flights making it a daily route from August.

#### Eurowings to launch Windhoek service in July

Operating twice weekly, German low-cost airline, Eurowings, will launch a new seasonal route from Cologne Bonn Airport in Germany, to Hosea Kutako International Airport in Namibia from 12 July 2017.

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Cheers

Tina

**Wilderness Product Manager**



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