

October 2014

## NEWSFLASH

### 3 More Camps Added to Six Countries

Great News! **DumaTau, Chitabe & Chitabe Lediba** have been added to the Six Countries Summer Special – on the same rate as camps such as Xigera and Savuti. Valid from 1 November 2014 to 31 March 2015, this fantastic deal features 31 camps in southern Africa and the Republic of Congo! Contact your Sales Manager or Journey Specialist for further information.

### Private Guides Accommodated Free of Charge in Zimbabwe - Extended to 2015

- This is applicable to bookings at Little Makalolo, Davison's, Linkwasha (from 1 May 2015) and Ruckomechi
- Minimum stay of 2 nights is required
- Only 1 complimentary guide may be accommodated at any one time
- This offer extends to private guides only (booked by Wilderness Safaris) in staff accommodation - not to escorts/tourleaders/pilots
- A private vehicle must be booked and charged for

## GENERAL

### Family Accommodation Information & Layout

I would encourage you to familiarise yourself with our family accommodation layouts and design to ensure guest expectations are met. Some family accommodation should be sold to families with young children/teenagers only, while others may accommodate 4 adults. A Family **Room** consists of 2 rooms, usually sharing the same bathroom/common area/entrance, while a Family **Unit** consists of 2 rooms, usually with their own bathroom and entrance, separated by a boardwalk or deck. Please refer to the Camp Information Sheets or Family Accommodation Layouts on the Information Centre for further details.

## WILDERNESS AIR

### Using Seat Rates

To clarify, our Wilderness Air flying seat rates may not be sold on a stand-alone basis. The scheduled flying circuits are designed to service our camps and provide capacity to accommodate our guests - hence the very specific routings/times plus published rates. Should you wish to book flying only – whether it is a circuit or one sector – this will be quoted and booked on a private charter basis. A note to this effect has been added to all Nett Rates Sheets:

*The seat rates on our scheduled flying circuits may only be used when booking Wilderness Safaris camps and other services through Wilderness. All requests for flying only with Wilderness Air will be on a private charter basis.*

### New Namibia Flying Schedule – live from 1 November 2014

A new circuit flyer featuring the updated schedule and map is now available on our online Information Centre.

## WILDERNESS EXPLORATIONS

### German Language Explorations

The Explorations team will be discontinuing German language Explorations in Botswana and Namibia as a standard offering. Going forward, should guests require an Explorations trip conducted in German, or another foreign language, this will be quoted on a private basis subject to availability of both guide and the actual trip.

## BOTSWANA

### Kings Pool Refurbishment

Kings Pool is currently undergoing a refurbishment. These include:

- Sanding and varnishing the pool decks
- "Deep cleaning" the rooms and outdoor showers
- Installing new room curtains and shower curtains
- Replacing the sofa with two new armchairs in each room
- New scatter cushions on the bed

### **Queen Sylvia Barge Currently Unavailable**

Due to the low water levels in the Linyanti, it has become increasingly difficult to operate the Queen Sylvia barge. Until such time as the water levels rise, the Queen Sylvia cannot be offered as an activity from Kings Pool. Our collateral has been updated to note that this activity is subject to water levels.

## **NAMIBIA**

### **Update on Windhoek Luggage Storage & Transfers**

Luggage storage at our office in town or the Wilderness Safaris booth at Hosea Kutako International Airport is on a complimentary basis. However, there is a cost involved if luggage is to be transferred between these points and Eros Airport, a Windhoek Hotel or another destination. Please ensure you book and charge for a transfer accordingly – the relevant rates have been added to Tourplan and the Nett Namibia Rates Sheet.

### **Upgrade of the Damaraland Airstrip**

Maintenance work is planned for the Damaraland Airstrip and we may have to close the airstrip for a period of time. In this event, guests will arrive at/depart from the Doro Nawas Airstrip, with a 60 minute (instead of 20 minute) road transfer being carried out by Damaraland Camp as normal. There is no need to change how flights are booked/costed per the flying schedule – Operations will handle the necessary on the ground.

### **Twyfelfontein Excursion from Damaraland**

We do not offer the Twyfelfontein excursion from Damaraland Camp as a standard activity, as the focus is on cultural and elephant activities. For guests wishing to see the rock engravings at Twyfelfontein, the Petrified Forest and the Organ Pipes, Doro Nawas is the better location. However, should a guide and private vehicle be available, then the Damaraland managers will offer this in camp to guests staying 3 nights or more.

## **SOUTH AFRICA**

### **Rocktail Beach Camp Scheduled Transfer Time Change**

From 1 November 2014, two new times for transfers FROM Coastal Cashews to Rocktail Beach Camp will come into effect:

CURRENT: Transfer times valid until 31 October 2014 – From Coastal Cashews to Rocktail at 10:30, 14:00 & 16:00.

NEW: Transfer times valid from 01 November 2014 - From Coastal Cashews to Rocktail at 10:30, **13:00 & 15:00**.

The transfers FROM Rocktail Beach Camp back to the parking area at Coastal Cashews remain unchanged: 09:30, 13:00 and 15:00 daily. Note that the transfer vehicle will wait for approximately 15 minutes. If the camp has not been contacted regarding a late arrival, the transfer vehicle will depart and another vehicle will need to be sent when available - at an extra cost payable by the guest. In addition, the Manzengwenya access gate into the reserve is open between 06:00 and 18:00. It is not possible to gain access to the reserve outside of these hours.

### **Rocktail Activity Reminder & Update**

- Dive courses are conducted in Rocktail Beach Camp's pool in the main area – the dive centre does not have a separate pool.
- Tackle is not provided for surf/rock fishing. Fishing licenses/permits are required for both conventional fishing and fly-fishing. These are not sold in camp nor at the offices of Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife National Parks and must be obtained, prior to arrival and in person, from the nearest Post Office.
- Due to the poor condition of the roads to Black Rock, we are no longer offering this excursion.
- Gugulesizwe is a joint venture between Wilderness Safaris and the community. Transfers to Gugulesizwe are included on the FB4 rate, while activities such as the cultural village experience (on request and recommended only Mondays to Fridays) and quad biking, are priced, booked and paid for in camp.
- Turtle Drives are possible on 01 January (New Years Day), however, quad biking and diving are not.

## **ZIMBABWE**

### **New hide at Madison Pan**

Accessible from Little Makalolo, the new "Star-bed" (sleep-out hide) at Madison Pan in Hwange is up and running!

### **Victoria Falls/Hwange & Return Road Transfer Update**

#### **Scheduled Road Transfer FROM Victoria Falls TO Hwange Main Camp**

- There is one scheduled road transfer per day departing Victoria Falls at 10:00, arriving Hwange Main Camp at approximately 12:30. Guests are met by a camp vehicle and guide, and transferred through the park - Davison's/Little Makalolo is a minimum 3 hour drive and Linkwasha close to 4 hours.
- As guests will be on the road for approximately 5.5 to 6 hours, flying is preferable – 1 hour by air plus approximately 40 minutes by road from airstrip to camp.
- It is not possible to arrive in Victoria Falls after 09:00 and transfer to Hwange the same day on a scheduled

road transfer – guests must overnight in Victoria Falls. Guests can connect the same day using the 14:30 Wilderness Air flight to Hwange.

- Should guests be staying at camps outside the National Park, it is possible for Wilderness Safaris Zimbabwe to collect guests from the scheduled commercial flights in Victoria Falls and transfer them to Hwange Main Camp to meet up with a third party. Note that this is on a request basis only as feasibility, times and costs may vary.

#### **Scheduled Road Transfer FROM Hwange Main Camp TO Victoria Falls**

- There are two departures per day - 09:00 for guests flying out in the afternoon and 12:30 for guests overnighting. The estimated arrival time in Victoria Falls is 12:00 and 15:30 respectively.
- Our camps will do a scheduled transfer to Hwange Main camp to link up with the 12:30 departure to Victoria Falls. However, to connect with the 09:00 transfer from Hwange Main Camp to Victoria Falls, a camp private vehicle...subject to availability...must be booked and charged for accordingly.
- For this early departure, guests would have to leave Little Makalolo & Davison's at 06:00 and 45 minutes earlier at 05:15 from Linkwasha. While this might be pleasant in summer, this is usually not the case in winter as in the early morning, temperatures are close to freezing and guests will depart camp in the dark.

Private road transfers at other times in both directions are possible, however, this is subject to the availability of vehicles and operating within the National Park opening/closing times.

**IMPORTANT: there are costs involved for both the transfers between Hwange Main Camp and our camps, plus the road transfers to/from Victoria Falls – whether on a scheduled or private basis.**

#### **Self-Drive Guests Visiting our Camps in Hwange**

Guests travelling on a self-drive basis may not drive directly into our concession and straight to our camps. Access to Hwange National Park is through Main Camp only as the official entry point. The Zimbabwe Parks & Wildlife Management Authority need to keep track of vehicles utilising the national parks plus self-drive guests must pay conservation fees and vehicle fees directly at the point of entry into the Park (Main Camp). It is an offence to use any undesignated entry point into the park, and offenders will be liable for any penalties incurred.

In addition, *parking at Ngweshla picnic site is no longer an option!* Parking is only possible at Hwange Main Camp at a charge of USD 5.00 per day (subject to change) - settled direct with the park authorities. The pick-up time from Hwange Main Camp to transfer to our camp is 12:30.

#### **Access to/from Mana Pools for a Canoe Safari**

All guests joining the Natureways canoe trail (which departs at 11:00) need to overnight at Ruckomechi Camp the night prior – it is not possible to arrive the day the canoe safari starts – and Natureways will pick up from Ruckomechi the next day at no charge.

On departure:

- As a standard, guests need to overnight at Ruckomechi at the end of the canoe safari. A transfer is booked with Natureways from the end of the canoe safari to the Warden's office (complimentary) for Ruckomechi to pick up and transfer (at a cost) to camp for the overnight/s.
- The only other alternative – strictly subject to availability and on request only – is that Natureways may be able to transfer guests from the end of the canoe trail (at a cost) to Mana West Airstrip (3 to 4 hours). Wilderness Air will not utilise the Chikwenya airstrip due to poor condition so guests have to fly out of Mana West. This is only feasible for the Wilderness Air Mana West/Victoria Falls flight departing at 12:40...not the Mana West/Harare flight departing at 09:00.
- However, this is not ideal as guests will have had a 3 to 4 hour road transfer to Mana West, followed by a 4 hour flight to Victoria Falls. They will not be able to connect with a scheduled flight, and would have to overnight in Victoria Falls anyway. It therefore makes sense, subject to availability, to rather overnight at Ruckomechi at the end of the canoe safari and depart to Harare in the morning.

#### **AIRLINES**

##### **South African Airways at Terminal 2, Heathrow**

Whether flying to or from the United Kingdom or making a connection, as of 22 October, South African Airways is now located in Terminal 2 at London Heathrow – the new home of Star Alliance as well.

#### **RATES UPDATE**

##### **Recommended Selling Prices 2014**

2014.08	The Malawi Camps have been removed from the Rate sheets.	10/10/14	Page 5
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##### **South Africa 2014**

2014.06	Costs for a road transfer from Tembe to Rocktail have been added.	24/10/14	Page 3
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### Recommended Selling Prices 2015

2015.05	Malawi Camps have been removed from the rate sheet.	10/10/14	Page 5
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### South Africa 2015

2015.02	Costs for a road transfer from Tembe to Rocktail have been added.	24/10/14	Page 3
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Warm regards,  
Tina

### Wilderness Product Services Manager

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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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