



25 October 2016

### **Kalahari Plains & Unique Cultural Bush Walks**

Kalahari Plains starts to come into its own as we head into summer! When the rains arrive, the area is transformed. Bright green vegetation and wild flowers attract enormous concentrations of antelope such as oryx and springbok, who in turn are followed by the renowned black-maned lions and cheetah. Unique mammal species such as honey badger, reclusive brown hyaena, porcupine, bat-eared and Cape fox, suricate or even leopard may be seen plus there is excellent birding. However, it is not only the wildlife and area that make Kalahari Plains so special – it is also the people. Guests visiting Kalahari Plains have the opportunity to spend time with a resident group of Bushmen, joining them on an immersive bush walk where the family will introduce our guests to their ancient 'hunter-gatherer' lifestyle and sometimes traditional dance or ceremonies. Information is shared on plants (from those that are edible and medicinal to those that are used to make poison for arrows), hunting techniques are demonstrated and tips are given on how to survive in an often harsh environment. This is a great activity for children especially as they are shown how to make traps or fire by rubbing sticks and blowing, or learning some words of the unique Bushmen language! Have a read at the following blogs for a little more information on what makes this experience so worthwhile!

<http://www.wilderness-safaris.com/blog/posts/reliving-the-ways-of-an-ancient-culture>

<http://www.wilderness-safaris.com/blog/posts/a-cultural-immersion-with-kalahari-bushmen>

<http://www.wilderness-safaris.com/blog/posts/when-lions-roar-and-bushmen-walk>



### **NEWSFLASH**

#### **Vumbura South Open for Business**

After an unfortunate fire earlier this year, we are pleased to advise that Vumbura South opened as scheduled at the beginning of this month with a beautiful new main area!

#### **Rocktail Dive Package for 2017**

The Rocktail Dive Package for 2017 is now available. Contact your Journey Specialist or refer to the Info Centre for details.

### Bisate Lodge & Rwanda

Information relating to Bisate Lodge and Rwanda in general, such as the Bisate Camp Information Sheet and Rwanda Pre-tour document, have now been added to the Info Centre on the Wilderness Window.

### IMPORTANT

#### Water Activities in Botswana

Southern Africa experienced an unusually dry summer this past year, resulting in low water levels in many areas, including the Okavango and Linyanti river systems. Until such a time as the rains arrive and raise the water levels (the annual inundation is not until March/April next year), the Wilderness camps offering good water based activities in the Delta for the next few months are Little Vumbura, Vumbura Plains, Jacana, Pelo, Jao and in the Linyanti, DumaTau only. At Tubu and Kwetsani it involves transferring to an area with deeper water, and in some cases mokoros only, no boats. Seba and Abu are currently offering mokoro excursions although those may come to end over the next few weeks. Boating will likely stop soon at Xigera, with mokoros being the only alternative.

#### Update on the Victoria Falls

In the same vein, the water levels of the Zambezi River are the lowest they have been for some time. There is still water on the Zimbabwean side of the Victoria Falls, however on the Zambian side it is almost non-existent. However, this does allow for some great viewing of the rock face and lower parts, without it being obscured by water. Some rains have been received in the catchment areas of the Zambezi so once the levels start rising again, we will update all accordingly.

**Remember that until 31 December 2016, guests staying at Toka Leya in Zambia have the opportunity of participating in a Zimbabwean Tour of the Falls at no additional cost, except visa fees.**



### RATES UPDATES

#### Botswana

The child policy notes were updated with reference to Kalahari Plains camp in particular, as the seasons operate in reverse.

- **2016 & 2017** - Linyanti Tented Camp rates added.
- **2017** - Ballooning and helicopter transfers to/from the ballooning added.

#### Explorations

- **2017** - Great Wilderness Journey & Into The Wilderness rates have changed.

## Zimbabwe

- **2017 & 2018** – Transfer rates from Ruckomechi via Chirundu to Lusaka were incorrect and have been rectified.

## WILDERNESS TOURING

### CAPE FEATURED EXCURSION | Private Full Day Cape Town Art Experience Tour

Cape Town was nominated 'World Design Capital' for 2014 and evidence of the city's chosen theme which was "Live Design, Transform Life", may be seen all over the city. The day may start with a walk through Woodstock, one of the oldest suburbs in Cape Town and also one of the hippest, offering an incredible mix of diversity and cultures. Alternatively, visit some of the many home galleries in Langa for an insight into the local township art scene. After enjoying lunch in the city, explore the myriad of art galleries, street art and gardens found in Cape Town, from classical and traditional to avant-garde installations and township art. Galleries such as the Association of Visual Arts, What in the World, SMAC, Greatmore Studios, Goodman, Irma Stern, Stevenson and Everard Read are all in close proximity to the city. For the serious buyer, visits may be arranged to view private collections and meet artists' in their studios. This tour is best done Tuesday to Friday as many galleries are not open on Mondays, weekends and public holidays. Also possible as a half day, these tours are put together to suit particular interests and tastes in art.



### ZAMBEZI FEATURED EXCURSION | Elephant Art Safari

Wild Horizons and Art of Africa have teamed up to create a unique elephant experience in Victoria Falls! Guests transfer to "The Wallow" near Elephant Camp, where on arrival they will enjoy a talk on the elephants and their history. They then make their way down to the adjacent waterhole and mud wallow where under the shade of an enormous Mopane tree they will find a chair and easel - each set up with a fresh sheet of paper. Aprons and palettes with of paint are handed out, allowing everyone to express their surroundings artistically - featuring the skies, the landscape and of course the elephants as "models". Guests return to "The Wallow" for a two-course buffet lunch, followed by a transfer back to their hotel.

## BOTSWANA

### Activities at Linyanti Tented Camp

These include day and night game drives, guided nature walks on request (seasonal and subject to qualified walking guide being available) plus birding. There are no private activities on offer.

## NAMIBIA

### Windhoek Transfer Clarification

Please note the difference in offering and therefore in cost of the transfer options that appear in the Rates Sheets:

- Scheduled transfer: we collect guests from the airport and transfer them to their hotel or vice versa.
- Same day transfer: this applies to situations where guests may return to Windhoek on an early Wilderness Air Namibia flight, but are only flying out in the evening. Should they not want to spend the day at the airport, Wilderness Safaris will transfer them to town for shopping, to have a meal, etc., and then transfer them back to the airport in time for their onward flight.

### Windhoek Welcome/Meet & Assist Clarification

- **WELCOME**: an inclusive service provided to all guests that have booked their full trip with Wilderness Safaris. This is on a complimentary basis and includes assistance in Customs if needed.
- **MEET & GREET/MEET & ASSIST**: the Namibia Airport Services Team will meet and sit with your guests to go through their itinerary and arrangements with them. This service is at an additional cost – please contact your Journey Specialist for details.

## SEYCHELLES

### North Island Information Update

Updated individual fact files and the complete fact file for North Island may be found as follows <http://www.north-island.com/north-island-portal/>.

## SOUTH AFRICA

### Protocols on Turtle Drives at Rocktail Camp

Turtle season has started at Rocktail Camp and there are protocols involved. Turtles use the moonlight to navigate, so using flash photography and torches/flashlights may have a serious impact. As this is a research exercise and guests are there to observe only, the guide will make a call depending on the circumstances of each sighting. The norm is as follows:

- When the turtle is on the way from/to the ocean, no camera flashes or flashlights are allowed.
- During digging and while laying eggs, flashlights may generally be used as the turtle is in trance-like state. However, the guide will first assess the situation before giving the go-ahead.

## ZIMBABWE

### Update for Self-drives to our Camps in Hwange

**Guests wishing to travel on a self-drive basis to Davison's Camp, Little Makalolo or Linkwasha, are now permitted to drive directly into our concession as part of a trial run.** This is only possible in 4x4 vehicles and all guests must arrive at Davison's Camp before 12:00 - the ONLY meeting and parking point. Guests continuing to Linkwasha and Little Makalolo will be met at Davison's and transferred in Wilderness vehicles to the relevant camp.

If travelling in 2x4 vehicles, the meeting point is Hwange Main Camp. Vehicles are parked here at a cost of US\$ 5.00 per day (subject to change), which must be settled direct with the park authorities. The transfer pick-up time from Hwange Main Camp is 12:30. Should transfers be required at any other time, then a private vehicle must be booked and charged for accordingly. Hwange National Park usually opens at 06:00 in summer and 06:30 in winter and closes at 18:30 in summer and 18:00 in winter.

Bear in mind that the official entry point for Hwange National Park is at Main Camp. The Zimbabwe Parks & Wildlife Management Authority keep track of vehicles utilising the national parks plus self-drive guests must pay conservation and vehicle fees directly at the point of entry. It is an offence to use any undesignated entry point into the park, and offenders will be liable for any penalties incurred. Note that parking at Ngweshla picnic site is not an option.

### New Photographic Equipment at Little Ruckomechi

Gimbals have been added to the vehicles at Little Ruckomechi to accommodate photographers.



## AIRLINES & AIRPORTS

### Queues at OR Tambo International Airport, Johannesburg

The capturing of biometric information plus understaffing of immigration and security facilities is often resulting in long delays, particularly on arrival. Collection of baggage has been disrupted with bags being taken off the carousels to allow for the next flight, and on occasion, onward connections have been missed. Tourism bodies are addressing the situation with government, however, until it is resolved, please allow for sufficient connection time when travelling through Johannesburg.

### Samsung Galaxy Note 7 Banned from Flights

With immediate effect, and in the interests of safety, Air Botswana and South African Airways (SAA) have banned this device from all flights. Per SAA, the Galaxy Note 7 device is prohibited completely and may not be carried by travellers on their persons, in carry-on baggage, in checked-in baggage or as cargo. Other airlines may follow suit shortly as the item has been recalled by the manufacturer due to the risk of the battery bursting into flame.

**Trade expects Latam flights to grow South American Arrivals**

Latam Airlines Group started its first service to Africa on 2 October 2016 with three weekly flights between Johannesburg's OR Tambo International Airport and São Paulo Guarulhos International Airport in Brazil. This is the airline's first service outside the continent following the launch of the Latam brand, and allows for good connections with destinations such as Lima, Santiago, Buenos Aires and other Brazilian cities.

**Kenya Airways Suspends Flights to Gaborone**

Kenya Airways will suspend all its Nairobi-Gaborone flights indefinitely, with effect from 15 November 2016.

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Warm regards,  
Tina

**Wilderness Product Manager**

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