

WILDERNESS PRODUCT

NEWS & UPDATES

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November 2022

NEWSFLASH

Sabyinyo and Thousand Hills Africa (THA) join Wilderness Rwanda

We are thrilled to officially and warmly welcome Sabyinyo and Thousand Hills Africa (THA) to Wilderness Rwanda. Sabyinyo (previously operating under Governors' as Sabyinyo Silverback Lodge) joins our exceptional collection of destinations as Wilderness Sabyinyo. In addition, all Rwanda bookings, tours and transfers will now be made through our Wilderness office in Kigali. We are confident that this exciting next step in the evolution of our business will ensure that we continue to craft the finest experiences for our guests in Rwanda, while growing our positive impact in terms of conservation, reforestation efforts and community upliftment.

About Wilderness Sabyinyo: An impactful combination of world-class lodge and community force driving socio-economic development and conservation, Wilderness Sabyinyo nestles in the foothills of the mist-shrouded Virunga Massif, a chain of eight immense volcanoes, which straddle three countries.

Set on a lush 11-hectare property, Sabyinyo invites you in with its dramatic backdrop of the misty volcanoes which gave the lodge its name – *Sabyinyo* means 'old man's teeth' in Kinyarwanda. Here guests can get close to the stories of the land, the wilderness, and the communities. And venture out to the Volcanoes National Park to encounter mountain gorillas and golden monkeys.

After a thrilling day exploring the park, guests meet in the convivial main lodge, which has been designed to create an intimate space for guests to unwind in and share the day's adventures. The lodge's charming guest cottages are discreetly tucked away in the folds of the hills.

[Wilderness Sabyinyo - WETU](#)

GENERAL REMINDERS

Namibia – Private Vehicle in the Kulala Wilderness Reserve

- With the exception of the Kulala Wilderness Reserve camps, booking a private vehicle is **not** possible from any other camps due to the distances between camps.
- Subject to availability and being booked in the system, guests at Wilderness Little Kulala may book the private vehicle at Wilderness Kulala Desert Lodge without pre-authorisation from Ground Operations.
- The private vehicle at Wilderness Little Kulala is not available for bookings outside of this camp.

Namibia – Wilderness Air C210s Unable to Land at Damaraland Airstrip

- As previously advised, Wilderness Air Namibia – along with all other charters – cannot land C210s at the Damaraland Airstrip. To ensure minimal inconvenience, Caravan C208s are being secured where possible.
- If a Caravan C208 is not available, transfers to and/or from Wilderness Damaraland and Wilderness Doro Nawas may be required. Guests will be well taken care of with refreshments on this 40 minute scenic drive.
- The official NOTAM (notice to air missions) records that damage was caused by rain, and that no C210s can land on the airstrip. Operations are in the process of assessing the damage and working on plans for resurfacing.

REGIONAL UPDATES

BOTSWANA

As expected at this time of year, water levels have naturally receded and therefore, with the exception of mokoro activities still taking place, land activities are the key focus in the Jao Reserve. This includes Wilderness Jao, Jacana, Tubu Tree, Little Tubu and Kwetsani.

ZIMBABWE

- In order to keep our camps at a high standard, upkeep is important. As such, Wilderness Little Makalolo will be closed from 02 to 19 December 2022 (inclusive) for maintenance.
- All confirmed bookings in the system have been duly moved to Wilderness Linkwasha with Wilderness Little Makalolo rates honoured.
- Contact your Travel Designer should you have any potential bookings for Little Makalolo over this period.

ZAMBIA

- Wilderness Busanga Bush Camp has a new Pilot/Guide room. Accommodation includes two beds, on a shared accommodation basis, with one shared bathroom facility – not of the same standard as guest accommodation.

Zambia Waives Visa Requirement for Selected Countries

With effect from 01 November 2022, the Zambia Tourism Authority has waived visa **fees** for travellers from the UK, the USA, Canada, Norway, Australia, China, Japan, South Korea, the Gulf States (Bahrain, Kuwait, Iraq, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates), as well as the European Union. All other visa requirements, including the need to apply for visas before travelling and obtaining visas on arrival, as the case may be, still apply. The only change is now nationals of these listed countries will not pay for their visas.

WILDERNESS AIR

Botswana

- Reminder: We will honour all current bookings affected by the Civil Aviation Authority of Botswana (CAAB) rate increases, **whether on a confirmed or provisional basis.**
- Adjusted rates apply to **ALL NEW BOOKINGS from 01 November 2022.** Please refer to your applicable Rates Sheets for the breakdown in costs.
- The new passenger security charge was introduced to recover the cost of providing airport security services only, and not the costs incurred for general/national security services. As per ICAO's policies, only the following security services have been included in the cost base for security charges: screening of passengers and baggage, security control of cargo and airport security personnel (labour cost), monitoring of restricted areas and training.

Namibia

- In Namibia, all charter bookings with companies not listed on the Preferred Aircraft Operator Supplier Summary (e.g. Desert Air, Scenic Air and Fly Westair Aviation), need to be booked through Wilderness Air Namibia so that they can source the aircraft. Previously, issues with a number of Namibian operators have occurred, where not all their aircraft are approved for service. Thus, Wilderness Air Namibia is best placed to ensure that only approved aircraft are utilised for our bookings.

WINDOW > General Information > Preferred Aircraft, Tours & Transfers Suppliers > Africa > Preferred Aircraft Operator Supplier Summary (Internal Use Only) – 25 October 2022

WILDERNESS TOURS & TRANSFERS – ZAMBEZI

Citing government security reasons, the Airport Handling Company, our special meet-and-greet partner providing immigration assistance at Livingstone Airport, has advised that they are unable to provide this service until further notice. As such, the service line in Tourplan is no longer available.