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6 September 2022

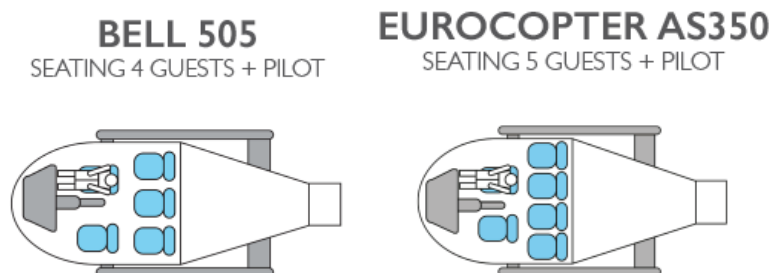
NEWSFLASH – SCENIC HELICOPTER FLIGHTS & EXPERIENCES WITH HELICOPTER HORIZONS, BOTSWANA

Include a thrilling scenic helicopter flight from our camps in Botswana for an exceptional addition to your itineraries.

Note that all bookings with Helicopter Horizons (transfers, excursions, scenic flights) should be made directly with the relevant Wilderness camp or Associated Product property. Advanced bookings from any Wilderness camps can also be secured through your Wilderness Travel Designer.

Additional fleet series to Helicopter Horizons ...

- Bell 505 Pilot + 04 x Seater (03 x window seats + 01 x middle seat, three seats in the back row and one seat up front next to the pilot)
- Eurocopter AS350 Pilot + 05 x Seater (03 x window seats + 02 x middle seats, four seats in the back row and one seat up front next to the pilot)



BOTSWANA – CONSERVATION & CO-EXISTENCE CULTURAL EXPERIENCE

Culture and conservation are merged in this enriching and scenic helicopter experience where guests fly over some of the most picturesque scenes of the panhandle en-route to visit two community projects located in a particularly remote part of the Okavango Delta:

- A visit to CLAWS (Communities Living Among Wildlife Sustainably). Human-wildlife conflict is a daily concern for many people living in the remote villages of the Okavango Delta, where farmers often lose livestock to predators such as lions. A herding programme has been established by CLAWS and is run by the community to reduce carnivore conflict, and benefit livestock owners with veterinary assistance and improved rangelands. The experience includes a talk with the head herdsman of the project and a guided tour of the bomas used for confining and protecting cattle.

- “Life With Elephants” tour in the traditional Hambukushu village of Eretsha. The tour group was set up by the conservation NGO, Ecoexist, in an effort to increase benefits coming back to communities that co-exist with elephants. Guests are guided on a tour of the village to experience all aspects of village life, including visiting the local school and a typical farmer’s household. The day-to-day challenges of living amongst elephants are described by village elders, followed by traditional song and dance.

Helicopter Horizons offers this experience from Vumbura Plains, Little Vumbura, Abu, Seba, Jao, Kwetsani, Jacana, Mombo, Little Mombo, Tubu Tree, Little Tubu, Pelo, Chitabe, Chitabe Lediba, Qorokwe, King’s Pool, Savuti, DumaTau, Little DumaTau and Linyanti Tented Camp. This excursion is approximately 4 hours in total, depending on camp location, and typically replaces the morning activity, with an ETD around 07:30, returning to camp in time for lunch.

REGIONAL AND OPERATIONAL UPDATES

BOTSWANA

The latest on wildlife and water levels.

Abu

- While the water levels are decreasing, boating activities are still taking place where water levels are high enough.
- Sightings remain exceptional, with leopards, different lion prides, eight wild dogs and eight pups, another pack of 16 wild dogs and loads of general game seen over the past few weeks.

Seba

- Water levels are dipping; however boating activities will still take place where water levels are high enough.
- Recent sightings include prides of lions, leopards, and a on a few occasions, cheetahs. General game remains good, including many sightings of elephants, zebras and giraffes.

Chitabe & Chitabe Lediba

- The water levels are holding and there is still permanent water around both camps, with many waterhole levels remaining high.
- Many sightings of lions, leopards and cheetahs – including two packs of wild dogs. Abundant general game with buffalo seen around the concession.

Qorokwe

- The water level of the Santantadibe is dropping, which is perfect for mokoro excursions. The Gomoti River is still rising; as soon as they are high enough, boating activities will resume.
- Game viewing includes many leopards, cheetahs and an abundance of lions and wild dogs. Elephants have been seen in the concession.

Jao Reserve

- Water levels are still good, however as the new season progresses, we foresee boating routes slowly becoming less accessible until the next inflow. Mokoro activities will continue for a while longer.
- Currently, boating between Jao and Tubu is exceptional, with great sightings of bull elephants feeding on the vegetation along the channel.

Kwetsani

- Water levels are currently still high enough to do boat transfers to the Jao Airstrip as well as to Hunda Island.
- Exciting sightings of leopards, lions and wild dogs have been seen while travelling between Jao Island and Kwetsani. Sitatunga and Pel’s fishing-owl have also been spotted a number of times.

Jao

- Boating and mekoro are still on offer, however dipping water levels are making fishing more challenging.
- Game drives have been super, with good leopard, lion, and wild dog viewing – plus good elephant and buffalo photo opportunities. Birding continues to be fantastic.

Jacana

- Water activities are still being enjoyed.
- Sightings have been very good – from lions and leopards, to hippos, wild dogs, buffalo, and sitatunga. Interesting birdlife spotted in the area.

Pelo

- Water levels are dropping; however, boating and mokoro activities are still possible.
- Sitatunga have been seen on many occasions, as well as many elephant herds.

Tubu & Little Tubu

- The water levels at Tubu Tree have dropped; however, mokoro and boating excursions have been re-routed and are still possible.
- The floodplain in front of the camp is slowly drying, attracting different species to the drier conditions.
- Game sightings are excellent, with continuous sightings of leopards, lions with cubs, and general game – lechwe, zebra, impala, warthogs, giraffe and elephant herds now congregating at the waterholes as water levels drop.

Vumbura Plains

- Water levels are slowly dropping and the boat launch site has moved.
- Game has been fantastic, with three wild dog packs, lots of leopards and their cubs, plus plenty of new lions in the area. Tons of general game being sighted on a regular basis.

Little Vumbura

- Water levels remain high and therefore Paradise Boat Station is being used for pick-ups, as Little Vumbura's main road and Spurwing Marogo Road are still under water.
- Sightings include wild dogs, lions (as well as two unknown brothers seen around the area), leopards and even the occasional cheetahs. Elephants have been seen with their calves, and huge herds of buffalos have been in the area.
- The resident Pel's fishing-owl has been spending time in the large jackalberry tree in front in the Staff Village, which has encouraged guests to visit and take a Back of House tour.
- The lesser striped swallows have built their little village of nests under the main area.

King's Pool

Game viewing has been exceptionally good with leopard kills, as well as sightings of lions, wild dogs, elephants and buffalos.

Savuti

- Water levels are good and boating is still on offer.
- Good game viewing of lions on kills, as well as sightings of leopards, cheetah and wild dogs.

DumaTau & Little DumaTau

- The water level is high and water activities are being enjoyed by guests.
- Four different prides of lions have been seen, some with very young cubs. Various leopards, cheetahs as well as charismatic wild dogs seen.

Mombo

- Still a fair bit of water around, even with receding levels.
- Sightings continue to amaze, with many species interactions. Lions are an ever-present predator.
- Marathodi and her cub are doing well, and offering countless photo opportunities for guests.
- The wild dogs have denned and have around 13 pups. Visits are being limited and monitored to alleviate any stress on these young pups, which have only just started exploring outside the den.

- A few sightings of a mother cheetah and her three cubs! As well as a big male cheetah in the area.
- Plenty of plains game roaming in front of camp in the floodplains, with red lechwe and elephants enjoying the water.
- Multiple viewing of more than one predator in the same sighting – one with wild dogs, lions and hyena and one with leopard and hyena.

NAMIBIA

Rhino Tracking from Desert Rhino and Damaraland camps

While guests were not hosted at Desert Rhino Camp during an extended period of consolidation, rhino tracking was offered at Damaraland Camp as a standard activity, to ensure our guests did not miss out on this life-changing experience, and that support for Save the Rhino Trust continued.

With Desert Rhino Camp now back in operation, please note the following:

- Desert Rhino Camp: Rhino tracking moves back to Desert Rhino Camp and is a standard activity available to all guests on an FI basis.
- Damaraland Camp: While we will honour all existing and confirmed bookings, rhino tracking from Damaraland Camp will now be offered as an optional activity at extra cost for the remainder of 2022. To book this activity, the following applies:
 - ✓ A private vehicle needs to be booked and charged for one day. The vehicle will be available to guests from early morning to late afternoon, for rhino tracking. It will be loaded in inventory as “Rhino-Tracking Excursion” and must be booked as only one excursion, per booking, to provide an opportunity for other guests.
 - ✓ This is only possible if booked on an FI basis, and not applicable to guests travelling on the DBB rate.
 - ✓ Maximum number of 6 guests on the vehicle, minimum stay in camp of 2 nights.

RWANDA

Exciting inventory developments at **Magashi**.

WHAT'S NEW

- An additional 2 x tents (on a TWIN basis) – now totalling 8 x tents, and capacity for 16 guests.
- These rooms will open on 16 December 2022, and are available to sell in inventory with immediate effect.
- While private activities are not possible, to secure sole use of a vehicle, a minimum of three tents (either on double occupancy or single occupancy with a single supplement) must be booked and paid for.

WHAT STAYS THE SAME

- 2 x Pilot/Guide tents on a single occupancy basis only. While not of the same standard as guest accommodation, comfort and amenities have not been spared.
- No family accommodation.
- Child Policy: Children welcome from 6 years and up / private vehicle required for families travelling with children between 6 and 12 years (inclusive).

FLIGHTS, TOURING & TRANSFERS

WILDERNESS PRIVATE JOURNEYS – CAPE TOWN

Exciting new offering in the Cape.

- **Two Oceans Helicopter Flight, City Tour & Catamaran Sunset Cruise – Full Day Private Tour**
<https://wetu.com/ltinerary/DayTour/>

- **Cape Point Scenic Helicopter Flight, Miller’s Point Forage & Picnic with Cape Point Tour – Full Day Private Tour**

<https://wetu.com/Itinerary/DayTour/>

Both tours are weather dependent, and the sequence of these itineraries may be adjusted to accommodate the weather.

Full details of highlights and inclusions available on the WINDOW > Information Centre > Wilderness Safaris > WS Product Information > Wilderness – Private Journeys > Tour Descriptions – Additional Private Tours, as well as WETU itineraries ...

AIRLINES

Delta Airlines – New Cape Town to Atlanta Flight

Delta Airlines is adding a brand-new nonstop flight from Cape Town to Atlanta, effective 18 December 2022 and operating three times weekly. These flights will operate using the airline’s new, state-of-the-art Airbus A350-900, with all four Delta cabin brands – Delta One, Delta Premium Select, Delta Comfort+ and Main Cabin.

For more information on flights, visit <https://www.tourismupdate.co.za/>

TRAVEL REGULATIONS

COVID-19 ENTRY REQUIREMENTS & REGULATIONS

Listed below are the most recent developments. Note that while we take every precaution to ensure the information provided with regard to travel regulations is accurate, we cannot guarantee the accuracy of regulations, and changes by the authorities.

RWANDA

Good news as Rwanda has further eased entry requirements, effective immediately:

WHAT’S NEW

Pre-Travel & Arrival Requirements

- Passengers boarding flights to Kigali **no longer** need to present a negative Covid-19 test result (Rapid Antigen or RT-PCR).

WHAT STAYS THE SAME

Pre-Travel & Arrival Requirements

- Completing the Passenger Locator Form is no longer a requirement.
- An additional Covid-19 test is no longer required upon arrival at Kigali International Airport.

TO NOTE

- Testing remains a requirement for gorilla trekking and entering national parks (RT-PCR for primate trekking and Rapid Antigen for Akagera NP).
- All other regulations remain the same.

NAMIBIA

All Covid-19 related entry requirements into Namibia have been removed with immediate effect. Visitors entering Namibia no longer need to present a proof of vaccination certificate or a negative PCR test. Statement as per the Public Notice from The Ministry Of Health & Social Services.

BOTSWANA

WHAT'S NEW

In-Country Regulations

- The wearing of masks in public places is no longer mandatory.
- With the exception of schools, protocols relating to physical distancing are now optional.

WHAT STAYS THE SAME

In-Country Regulations

- There is no curfew and operating hours are normal.
- Operation of businesses and gatherings permitted as long as prescribed hygiene measures are adhered to.
- Sale of alcohol is allowed.
- Sanitising remains in place.

All other existing requirements remain in place.
