

# WILDERNESS SAFARIS

Travel Partner News

MAY 2019



Our Camps WHAT'S NEW?

REVEALING RWANDA ESSENCE OF THE DELTA

# MAGASHI

Just-opened Magashi, in the incredibly diverse north-eastern corner of Akagera National Park, is your "doorway" to some of the most scenic savannah in East Africa. Paying homage to traditional Rwandan culture, this intimate camp – with just six luxurious tents overlooking the beautiful Lake Rwanyakazinga – is located in the only exclusive-use area in the Park.

Our core Purpose here is to help conserve Rwanda's last protected savannah ecosystem and our presence will enable Akagera to become economically self-sufficient for the first time. Magashi is the perfect complement to Bisate Lodge and the venerated rainforests and gorilla trekking of Volcanoes National Park.

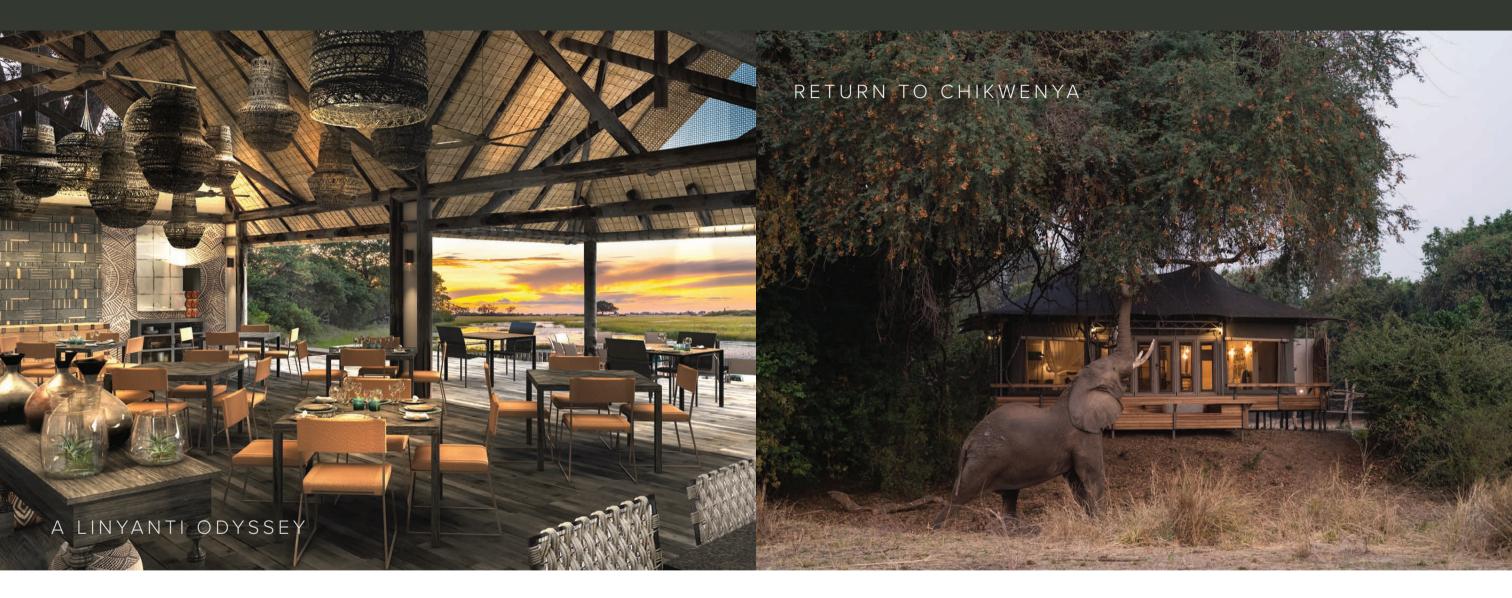
# JAO

In June 2019, the complete rebuild and reinvention of Jao Camp will be revealed. The Purpose of Jao is to conserve the true essence of the Okavango Delta, to share stories of the plants, birdlife and wildlife that inhabit this unique ecosystem. This purpose enhances the dramatic and novel features of the camp, along with it the new, luxurious Jao Villas. Alongside five twins with private plunge pools and other special touches, the two Villas will accommodate four people, and include a private vehicle, guide, chef and butler.



Our Camps

WHAT'S NEW?



# KING'S POOL

This beloved Linyanti camp will also reopen its "doors" in June this year, where the renewed architecture and design will remain true to the romance of its history as an authentic safari experience. Special care has been taken to balance privacy and comfort whilst still "inviting the outside in", to create a signature immersive Wilderness Safaris experience. By rebuilding King's Pool, we are showcasing our commitment to driving sustainable ecotourism in the Linyanti.

# CHIKWENYA

We are thrilled to have returned to Chikwenya in Mana Pools National Park, in partnership with local Zimbabweans John Mapondera and Joe Wright from Capmount Lodges. Our elegant camp, opened last season, is set in possibly the most scenic and photogenic concession in Zimbabwe, if not Africa. And of course with abundant wildlife! Designed to take advantage of the spectacular views of the Zambezi River and the Rift Valley escarpment beyond, the camp stretches out luxuriously along the Sapi River frontage. Our involvement in conservation in this area goes back 15 years, so it is a privilege to be able to share this with our guests.

ZIMBABWE

Out Camps WHAT'S NEW?



# SERRA CAFEMA

Found in one of the most remote places on the planet, Serra Cafema's location on the banks of the Kunene River offers journeys into the extraordinary. From the vast, wild space of the Namib Desert to the ancient, yet evolving, culture of the Himba people, this is a place where exploration, community and conservation meet. The newly-renovated camp, with its sumptuous accommodation and warm local hospitality, is also a place where guests are given the chance to reconnect with the earth and themselves.

# KAFUE

On 1 June, the season begins for one of the most remote, authentic and special places in Africa – our two camps in the Busanga Plains, the vast expansive north of Zambia's Kafue National Park. Our Shumba and Busanga Bush camps are ideally situated to experience this region in all of its magnificence, each offering a slightly different aspect and each with its own allure for a small, intimate lodge experience. Both are totally immersed in the sensation of completely untrammelled wilderness. But despite the feeling of remoteness, it is in fact easy to get to and from the Kafue. There are now more flights every week to take advantage of: Kafue / Livingstone – Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays. Kafue / Lusaka – Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

Wilderness Air

ENHANCEMENTS AND UPDATES

Wilderness



2019 is the year for some significant enhancements and updates for Wilderness Air.

Following on from Botswana, we have created the same concept in Zambia and Zimbabwe for 2019 and into the future: we have moved away from a circuit with set times and routes, and simplified it by fluing to areas (camp to camp) and not specific airstrips. This has allowed us to add a selection of third-party camps - accessible either via our own airstrips or those that are in close proximity - to our flying circuits in these countries.

The Wilderness Air Namibia flying circuit still operates with set routes and departure times, however, the good news is that rates did not increase for 2019!

A reminder that the Wilderness Air Botswana fleet now comprises 12 Cessna Grand Caravans, allowing for a seamless service between Maun and various Wilderness Safaris or other camps in the circuit. These large, air-conditioned aircraft are perfectly suited to the operation, providing comfort, speed and reliability on remote airfields.

Last but not least, this year we opened two new lounges in Kasane and Maun. The Maun lounge is based at the Wilderness Air offices, and the Kasane lounge is based in the airport's Domestic Terminal Building. Both offer seating and



dining facilities in a fully air-conditioned space, with full Wi-Fi, TV, beverages (alcoholic and non-alcoholic) available, as well as meals on request. Guests have full access to these facilities whilst waiting for their flights, and dedicated personnel are on hand to ensure all quests' needs and comfort are met.

The African lion is sunonymous with Africa itself, yet over the past 25 years, this iconic species has faced threats of habitat loss, illegal wildlife trade, poaching and human-lion conflict, leading to a sharp decrease in population numbers.

Realising that it is only through strategic partnerships that we can help turn back the clock, Wilderness is proud to partner with the Lion Recovery Fund (LRF), which (in partnership with the Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation) was established to reverse this potentially catastrophic decline.

More, to help secure a future for Africa's lions and their landscapes, we've joined with three of our commercial competitors to form the Lionscape Coalition. With a unique ability to inspire and inform travellers about the threats facing these magnificent cats and the habitat they need to survive – we aim to play a pivotal role in helping the LRF achieve its vision of doubling the numbers of wild lions by 2050.

Together we can do more than we can apart. By joining forces for lions, we are collectively showcasing our dedication to conservation, and exceeding our reach beyond the mainstream tourism circuit to other areas in dire need of support.



# A PURPOSEFUL PARTNERSHIP WITH OLYMPUS

Our partnership with Olympus is, like everything we do, a purposeful one. It focuses on enriching and developing the photographic skills of all interested quests and quides, and it supports our non-profit partner, Children in the Wilderness (CITW): our quests gualify for discounted rates on Olympus camera equipment, with 10% of these sales going to CITW.

We have photo hubs at each of the following camps where guests can experience and, at some, even make use of the equipment for the duration of their stay in camp:

BOTSWANA – DumaTau, Kalahari Plains, King's Pool, Little Mombo, Little Vumbura, Mombo, Savuti, Vumbura Plains NAMIBIA – Hognib, Little Kulala, Serra Cafema

RWANDA – Bisate, Magashi ZAMBIA – Shumba, Toka Leya ZIMBABWE – Linkwasha, Little Makalolo, Ruckomechi

While we're on the subject of cameras, we have some exciting news to share about our Wilderness Moments Photographic Competition in 2019, so watch this space..



# HELPS LAUNCH THE LIONSCAPE COALITION







Private Journeys PROUDLY WILDERNESS SAFARIS

# AFRICA'S LEADING ECOTOURISM OPERATOR

Wilderness Safaris Private Journeys is already known to all our partners as being "proudly Wilderness Safaris", both in its values and in its service delivery. Therefore, it is the natural extension to a safari, from the high quality and professionalism of its guides to the luxury and safety of its vehicles.

## Just a few highlights:

- Flexible itineraries: With a vehicle and guide booked, guests build their own itineraries, and can even decide on the day where they'd like to go – a useful feature in the Cape's changeable weather.
- Over 100 guides are registered with us these are highly professional individuals with a vast range of knowledge between them, from birding to photography; guides who can speak multiple languages and those who have been in the business for years and know every nook and cranny of the Cape.
- A range of vehicles: from luxury sedans (seating three or four passengers) to 16-seater luxury touring vehicles.
- Partners: We have partnered and built relationships with the best service providers in Cape Town, who are able to offer activities within diverse and specific niches. Thanks to building these relationships, we have negotiated excellent rates and convenience; one's whole itinerary can be booked through Private Journeys.
- Purposeful itineraries: The Cape has so much to see and do, but our itineraries have the extra "Wilderness" element where adding purpose adds uniqueness, from specialised birding tours to exploring the wildlife in the city, and of course working with the Illiso Care Society.
- Highest levels of service delivery: including "Happy hour boxes" complete with homebrewed craft beers and gins, to concierge service – all available 365 days a year.

## Latest News

Private Journeys has a brand new fleet of vehicles that includes: Mercedes Benz V-Class, Audi Q5, Volkswagen Tourer, and Huundai H1 vehicles.

Private Journeys can now be booked on the Wilderness Window along with the rest of your Wilderness Safaris journey.

Finally, from June, Private Journeys will be going plastic bottle-free! This makes us the first touring and transfer company to do so. We are in the process of installing a state-of-the-art purification system at our operations centre, where water will undergo stringent purification to be placed into glass, reusable bottles. In this way we will be cutting down on using 60 000 bottles per annum, something of which we are very proud.





- Exceptional knowledge of Africa • Experts in itinerary creation
- 7 regional offices
- Over 35 years of focusing on B2B relationships
- A fully serviced ground handler for southern and East Africa

# The Wilderness Window • Cutting-edge booking

- and planning technology
- Live availability,
- real-time bookings and rates

OVER 30 000 DISCERNING **GUESTS HOSTED** EVERY

- A percentage of every bednight goes to conservation or community initiatives
- We operate sensitively- and appropriately-built camps with a light footprint
- Our ultimate goal is to conserve and restore Africa's wilderness and wildlife

- Taking care of your guests 24/7
- Comprehensive customer assistance – medical/ emergency
- Dedicated in-house doctor

Dedicated to conserving and restoring Africa's wilderness and wildlife through life-changing ecotourism journeys





• Exclusive touring and transfer company with our own guides, vehicles and bespoke experiences in Cape Town, Victoria Falls and Livingstone

 A VIP meet and greet at each hub







Our journeys change lives

www.wilderness-safaris.com