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22 July 2022

NEWSFLASH

Free Flying Deal – Criteria Adjustment & Valid until December 2024

Our free flying deal has been extended until the end of December 2024! In addition, Botswana no longer has to form part of the itinerary i.e. if a guest decides to do 6 nights between Toka Leya and Hwange, we will extend free flights on the relevant sectors.

- Book a minimum of 6 nights at our Wilderness camps in Botswana, Hwange and/or Livingstone (either country specific or in combination), and the first 3 qualifying legs (air and/or road) are free.
- Book a minimum of 8 nights or more our Wilderness camps in Botswana, Hwange and/or Livingstone (either country specific or in combination) and the first 4 qualifying legs (air and/or road) are free.
- Applicable to circuit flights within Botswana, circuit flights between Victoria Falls and Hwange, and scheduled road transfers between Kasane, Livingstone and/or Victoria Falls as applicable.

Key Notes – for further details refer to the Info Centre or contact your Travel Designer:

1. The deal is applicable to all full paying bookings, including standard bookings for children and private guides, regardless of the party size.
2. Kalahari Plains in Botswana and Mana Pools in Zimbabwe are excluded.
3. The free flights work in combination with our existing long stay rates in low season.

REMINDER | Bank Details

Wilderness Safaris banking details have not changed, and are unlikely to change in the foreseeable future. Should you have any doubt on any invoices sent from us, kindly contact your Traveller Designer or our Finance team who will gladly assist: Debtors@wilderness.co.za

Alternatively, please refer to pages 7 - 14 in the General Information Manual on the Info Centre for further details regarding payment, currencies and the required bank details for the relevant region/Travel Shop.

CAMPS & ACTIVITIES

Wilderness & OM SYSTEM


In 2016, Wilderness Safaris and OM SYSTEM (then Olympus Cameras) joined forces to use their shared passion for wildlife photography to ensure the ongoing conservation of Africa's remote wilderness areas, while contributing to the empowerment of local people through conservation education. This partnership continues but for the sake of clarity, the company is now known as OM SYSTEM, while we still refer to Olympus when we talk about the photo hubs and equipment (cameras and binoculars) in camp.

FLIGHTS, TOURING & TRANSFERS

WILDERNESS AIR

Type of Luggage Permissible on Wilderness Air

The Infographic below – which appears in the General Information Manual – has been updated, specifically the third bag image. Only soft duffel/tog type bags are allowed in Namibia – no frames or rigid structures i.e. bags cannot have a retractable handle in a structured/solid base.



BOTSWANA	✓	✓	✓	X	X	X
ZAMBIA	✓	✓	✓	X	X	X
ZIMBABWE	✓	✓	✓	X	X	X
NAMIBIA *	✓	X	✓	X	X	X

*In Namibia, only soft duffel/tog type bags will be accepted – no frames or rigid structures may be transported as these cannot physically fit into the aircraft. Wheels on a bag are only permissible if they are not part of a solid frame or rigid structure i.e. bags cannot have a retractable handle in a structured base. The whole bag needs to be flexible so that it can be carried in restricted aircraft luggage space.

No Scenic Flights with Wilderness Air in Namibia

The key focus of our flying operation in Namibia is to operate effectively and efficiently, moving our guests between the camps with the minimum delay. We take the vast distances into account, as well as resources - such as aircraft and fuel availability. This means that on both the circuit and a sole use basis, we are unfortunately unable to include “scenic flight” requests. The flights themselves will of course provide the traveller with a bird’s eye view of the Namibian landscape but we cannot include detours via the coastline or elsewhere in the interior that is not part of the route. This extends to the return flight from the coast on the Hoanib Coastal Excursion – it is an air transfer back to camp (about 20 minutes), not a scenic flight.

Seat Rates vs Sole Use vs Private Charter

Pages 39 to 57 of the General Information Manual (GIM), found on the Info Centre, include a range of information relating to our Wilderness Air operation in all regions. Detail is provided on the types of flights and circuits, baggage restrictions, what arrangements can be made for excess luggage, etc. as well as describing the difference between sole use and private charter bookings.

Wilderness Air in all regions is only able assist with sole use bookings, not private charters. To ensure expectations are met, please be aware that on a sole use basis, the aircraft is exclusive to the client/s for the required leg/s only. The aircraft and pilot do not stay with the guests for the duration of their itinerary, and on this basis, requested flight times may not always be possible, and certainly not guaranteed. Likewise, luggage requirements need to be determined upfront.

It is also important to note that as stated in all our published rates sheets, when the need arises, Wilderness Air reserves the right to charter an authorised, third party, preferred aircraft operator – so on occasion, the aircraft and pilot used for either a circuit or sole use flight may not be Wilderness Air.

WILDERNESS SAFARIS TOURS & TRANSFERS – ZAMBEZI

Increase in rates for 2022 & 2023

A global increase in fuel prices has in turn affected the operational costs of many of the activities available in and around Victoria Falls and Livingstone. Accordingly, a number of rates have increased for both 2022 and 2023. We will honour all existing confirmed bookings, as well as any provisional or new bookings that are made and confirmed by 31 July 2022. All bookings made on or after 1 August 2022, will be at the new rates. Our systems and rates sheets have been updated accordingly. Some of the affected services are:

- Transfers
- Tours of the Falls
- Boat Cruises
- Boma dinner with transfers
- Scenic helicopter flights (see below for further details in this regard).

Victoria Falls - Helicopter Flights Fuel Levy Effective 01 August 2022

Our helicopter service provider has introduced a fuel levy, effective 01 August 2022. Although the rate for the actual helicopter flight remains the same, a fuel levy of USD 10 for the 12-13 minute Flight of Angels and USD 15 for the 25 minute Zambezi Spectacular flight will be added to the current USD 15 government levy. Guests will pay USD 25 and USD 30 respectively at check-in for the flights. Existing confirmed bookings will be honoured, with the new levy applicable to all bookings placed from 1 August 2022.

WILDERNESS SAFARIS PRIVATE JOURNEYS – CAPE TOWN

Some exciting options have been added to our offering in the Cape:

- **I AM WATER (an exercise of mindfulness, dedicated to the preservation of the seas around the Cape Peninsula, and reconnecting under-privileged communities to the ocean):** This activity is for those keen on contributing to and interacting with local communities and the environment. It includes: orientation of the activity, team and surroundings; yoga inspired stretching; breathing and mindfulness exercises; conservation education overview, and snorkeling in pristine coastal settings.
- **House of Fire tour (1 hour):** Celebrate the history of brandy making with one of the world's leading producers, KWV. This institution of brandy making, steeped in local culture and tradition, has garnered numerous international awards for their outstanding brandy making. Your tasting is paired with local artisanal chocolates.
- **Blending your own brandy (1 hour):** Become an artisanal brandy maker for a day at the heart of one of South Africa's leading brandy institutions. KWV has become synonymous with some of the best brandies in the world, and guests can create their own signature spirit with their brandy master.
- **Seaside foraging & home lunch (2 hours):** Forage some edible greens along the Cape Peninsula's seashore, where there is so much to discover in this amazing African coastal eco-system. Enjoy a home prepared three course meal prepared with fresh foraged ingredients, catering for various dietary requirements.
- **Seaside forage, snorkel & picnic lunch (3 hours):** Undertake a snorkel at a secluded enclave of the Cape Peninsula, home to the great African kelp forest. Forage some edible greens and enjoy a lunch prepared with fresh foraged ingredients.

Iconic Cape Wheel closed temporarily for relocation

The Cape Wheel is moving from its current location in front of the Victoria Wharf Shopping Centre to a new location offering views of Robben Island and beyond, while still retaining views of the city bowl and Table Mountain. It will be reassembled at the new site, close to the Waterfront's boardwalk, with new activities and food and beverage offerings, where it will open in time for the start of the Cape Town summer in November.

SCHEDULED COMMERCIAL AIR

Airlink to launch daily Johannesburg to Victoria Falls route

Airlink will launch daily direct return flights between Johannesburg and Victoria Falls from 15 August 2022, reconnecting the region's main economic hub with the iconic tourism destination.

TRAVEL REGULATIONS

New online portal to ease Namibian visa application

The Tour and Safari Association of Namibia (TASA) has launched an online visa application platform to help ease the process for visitors to Namibia. The portal can be accessed by individuals and tourism companies applying for visas and permits, including holiday or tourist visas, extensions and renewals. The web portal can be accessed via <https://portal.tasa.na/> and users can find tutorials on the application process within the portal.

TESTING

In light of recent regulation changes in many countries, and vaccinations being accepted in most instances, testing arrangements should be reviewed and cancelled if no longer required.

In South Africa, Next Pathology have closed down virtually all their COVID testing sites, including the lab at the Intercontinental Hotel at OR Tambo International Airport. Our recommendation is to rather use Navomix Health – they have services at Johannesburg, Cape Town and Durban Airports.

COVID-19 ENTRY REQUIREMENTS & REGULATIONS

Although the country-specific protocol documents remain on the Info Centre should you require further details (except for South Africa which has been removed as there are no more regulations!), please find herewith a summary of the current entry and in-country requirements:

Country	Entry requirements	What?	Internal Regulations
Botswana	Yes	Fully vaccinated OR negative RT-PCR (taken within 72 hours). If not vaccinated, further RT-PCR test on arrival at own cost.	Masks in public spaces, physical distancing, sanitising.
Kenya	Yes	Fully vaccinated OR negative RT-PCR (taken within 72 hours). If not vaccinated, may have to take a further Rapid test on arrival at own cost.	Masks in closed or confined spaces, physical distancing, sanitising, full venue capacity if vaccinated.
Namibia	Yes	Fully vaccinated OR negative RT-PCR (taken within 72 hours). Full vaccination must be administered 14 days before entry.	Restrictions imposed on account of COVID-19 have been removed i.e. no masks, restrictions on group sizes, etc. Voluntary compliance of public health and social measures is encouraged.
Rwanda	Yes	Negative Rapid or RT-PCR (taken within 72 hours). RT-PCR required for primate trekking, Rapid for entry to other parks.	Encouraged to wear masks indoors, observe physical distancing, sanitise. Our guests are not required to wear masks in camp, although our staff do, but masks are required to view primates.
South Africa	No	N/A	N/A
Tanzania	Yes	Fully vaccinated OR negative RT-PCR (taken within 72 hours). Certain countries may need to take a further Rapid test on arrival.	Encouraged to wear masks in close proximity to others, observe physical distancing, sanitising.
Zambia	Yes	Fully vaccinated OR negative RT-PCR (taken within 72 hours).	Masks in public spaces, physical distancing, sanitising.
Zimbabwe	Yes	Fully vaccinated OR negative RT-PCR (taken within 48 hours).	Masks in public spaces, physical distancing, sanitising.