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8 June 2022

## NEWSFLASH

### **Extending our Rewarding and Purposeful Partnership with Qatar Airways until 31 December 2022**

We are thrilled to announce that we have extended our partnership with Qatar Airways through to 31 December 2022. Any guest of Wilderness Safaris travelling with Qatar Airways from the United States, Canada and Brazil to multiple destinations across Africa is eligible for a discounted business class or first class fare (USD 350 off per ticket). On behalf of each Qatar Airways ticket booked, we will maintain our conservation benefit and plant 40 indigenous saplings at Bisate Lodge in Rwanda, enough to restore 100m<sup>2</sup> of former agricultural land in Volcanoes National Park's critical buffer zone. By sourcing trees from community-owned nurseries and hiring local residents to plant them, we continue to impact positively on the lives of our neighbours. [Click here](#) for Terms & Conditions.

### **Wilderness Safaris nominated for Condé Nast Traveler 2022 Readers' Choice Awards**

Wilderness Safaris has been nominated in the Tour Operators and Specialists category, as well as the Hotels and Resorts categories of the coveted Condé Nast Traveler's Readers' Choice Awards survey. Showcasing its dedication to pioneering conservation and hospitality tourism in Africa, 32 of Wilderness' globally renowned camps have been listed under Best Hotels and Resorts. Further details can be found in the Press Release on the Info Centre, and to learn more about the survey or to cast your vote, click [here](#).

### **Governors' Camp Collection celebrates its 50th anniversary this November**

This special occasion marks half a century of pioneering the classic safari adventure, and accordingly there are a range of specials on offer for 2022 and 2023. For further details on these, along with their rates, fact sheets, maps, etc. please take a look on the Info Centre - Wilderness Safaris/WS Product Information/ Governors' Camp Collection.

### **Increased Air Access**

- Fastjet have announced that they will be introducing direct scheduled daily double flights between Victoria Falls and Johannesburg.
- From 11 July 2022, KLM will increase its Amsterdam/Cape Town flights to daily. The year-round flights currently operate six days a week.
- Celebrating five years of operating flights, RwandAir has announced a promotion where extra flights will be added to the London Heathrow route from 11 June until 3 July 2022, with a 10% discount on flights. In the coming months RwandAir also plan to add additional frequency to the JNB/CPT to LHR operation, with flights increasing from three to four a week for both Cape Town and Johannesburg.

## REMINDERS

### Preferred Aircraft Suppliers, Indemnity Forms, Aerodrome Protocols - guidelines

Strict regulations apply when it comes to the booking of third party aircraft operators, as well as those parties making use of Wilderness airstrips. Certain processes and procedures must be followed, and documentation completed as relevant - vital from an insurance and safety perspective. Your Travel Designer will be able to assist should you have any queries in this regard.

### Our Private Journey & In-Camp Guide Offering for 2022/2023

- Available in Botswana, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe, our qualified and experienced Private Journey guides can accompany your guests for the duration of their safari in a specific country, adding immense value and ensuring the journey is tailor-made to their needs.
- Or, one can confirm the services of a specific In-Camp guide. Designed as an incentive, the applicable daily charge is 100% payable to the guide hosting these guests on an exclusive basis in camp.
- Do let us know if the traveller has any specific interests such as botany, birding, ecology, paleo-anthropology, geology, entomology, photography, etc. so we can allocate guides who are most experienced or interested in these areas.
- The rates are the same for both 2022 and 2023, so contact your Travel Designer for more information if you would like to include this offering.

### Gratuities/Tipping Guidelines - updated

We have adjusted the suggested amounts slightly and added gorilla trekking guides and trackers to Rwanda. Important to note is that tipping is not compulsory and guests should not feel obliged to do so – it is only by choice, subject to the service received. Specifics may be found in the General Information Manual (GIM).

### Wilderness Rates Manuals – a useful resource on the Info Centre

In addition to our rates for accommodation, flights and other services – these country-specific rate sheets also include details on our product offering and operations:

- Flying circuits – how they work and applicable restrictions
- Weight allowance on Wilderness Air and applicable departure taxes (some must be settled direct)
- Transfer arrangements (road or boat as relevant) or self-drive access where available
- Private vehicles costs and how the long stay discount works
- Guide & pilot accommodation
- Child travel policy

## CAMPS & ACTIVITIES

### BOTSWANA

#### The Latest on Wildlife & Water Levels in Botswana

- **Savuti:** most of the water holes still have water so wildlife is concentrated in those areas. Herds of buffalo and prides of lion have been seen, leopard too but not as often.
- **DumaTau:** good lion, leopards seen regularly and many elephant currently moving through the area concession. Wild dog sightings are less common due to the high concentration of lion at the moment. Fishing has been excellent (fishing season is 1 March to 31 December).
- **King's Pool:** sightings include elephant, lion, giraffe, leopard and hyena. Floodwaters have not reached the camp yet but good rainfall means the barge cruises have continued.
- **Mombo:** the floodwaters are in front of camp. Amazing wildlife and birding in and around camp with some good action on the lion and leopard front.
- **Qorokwe:** the lagoon in front of camp has plenty of water. There is a healthy number of lion in the area along with leopard, wild dog and plentiful other wildlife. The resident cheetah mother has been giving guests a great show with her hunting abilities.
- **Abu Camp:** water levels are up so mokoro excursions and boating are on offer. Great lion, leopard, wild dog and general wildlife.

- **Vumbura Plains:** the first push is in with expectations for a large second push. We have leopard sightings on a daily basis and good lion - a turf war is currently taking place with a number of new males in the area - plus three packs of wild dog running freely, if the lion movement isn't too much.
- **Jacana:** once again an island surrounded by water, and all the boat channels are open again. Water birds have been excellent and there is lots of lechwe, hippo and crocodile, with both elephant and lion in the area. Sitatunga have been spotted while on mokoro excursions.
- **Jao:** the water level is high and still rising. Fishing, boating, mekoro, day and night drives are all on offer. General wildlife is good with lots of lechwe, tsessebe, impala and kudu. Giraffe, buffalo and elephant are around. Hunda Island activities provide good variety with lots of zebra, wildebeest, buffalo, giraffe and herds of elephants as well as regular leopard sightings.
- **Kwetsani:** the water is almost at camp, and activities on offer are mekoro, boating and drives. Sightings include porcupine, hyena, leopard, impala, kudu and bushbuck. There are lots of lechwe around, good birding and sitatunga spotted from a mokoro. Drives on Hunda Island have seen lion, leopard, elephant and good general game like zebra, kudu, wildebeest, impala and buffalo.
- **Pelo:** is back to a water wonderland - boating, mekoro and game drives are being offered. Great birds including some specials, and sitatunga are often seen. Elephant and hippo are regular sightings.
- **Tubu:** the water is pushing in rapidly, with big herds of elephants are coming through to drink in front of camp. Mokoro excursions are on offer and boating will be starting soon. Sightings on day and night drives include leopard, lion, hyena, giraffe, and buffalo along with general wildlife.

### **Kalahari Plains Update**

In the previous update, we advised that as a result of both low occupancies and extensive damage to the tents/water infrastructure caused by rogue elephants (which remain transient through the area), the resumption of operations at Kalahari Plains was moved from 1 May to 1 July 2022. Unfortunately this has been further delayed to 1 December 2022 due to insurance matters not being finalised in order to commence the repairs, and continued lower occupancies.

## **NAMIBIA**

### **Change in Ages for Activities on the Kulala Reserve**

While the minimum age restriction on these activities remains 13 years for the rest of our operation, it has been revised for our Kulala camps in Namibia:

- Star Beds – standard is 13 years (children between the ages of 13 and 16 years must be accompanied by an adult). At our Kulala Camps, children from the age of 6 years may participate in the Star Bed experience with adult supervision. At Little Kulala the sleep out is on the deck, while at Kulala Desert Lodge the sleep out is on the roof of the units.
- Walking/guided nature walks – standard is 13 years. However, at Little Kulala and Kulala Desert Lodge, children from the age of 6 years may participate in the walking trails, with adult supervision.

## **ZAMBIA**

### **Seasonal – Zimbabwe Tour of the Falls ex Toka Leya**

We are once again offering the option of a Tour of the Falls on the Zambian OR Zimbabwean side from Toka Leya over the forthcoming dry season. Available from 1 October through to 31 December, this allows our guests the opportunity to see the Victoria Falls on Zimbabwean side when the Zambian side stops flowing.

## **ZIMBABWE**

### **Clarity on Credit/Debit Card Facilities**

- Zimbabwe does not have credit card facilities i.e. purchases being made on credit. They do however allow debit card transactions, as funds are deducted from the account immediately. Visitors to Zimbabwe should ensure they have a debit card with them, if they are not going to be using cash.
- In our camps specifically, we are currently unable to process any card payments due to issues with machine connectivity. We are pursuing a new machine in the market that should work better, and will accept VISA and MasterCard on a debit basis. Until this is in place, we suggest guests carry small denominations of US Dollars with them.

## FLIGHTS, TOURING & TRANSFERS

### WILDERNESS AIR

#### Planning Itineraries in Zimbabwe

- Some flights have to depart at set times, which must be taken into account. This is particularly important for the Victoria Falls to Hwange legs where we have a 08:30 and a 14:30 option, or if guests are travelling to Kariba/Mana Pools from Victoria Falls as this can only be a morning flight.
- Likewise, the flight from Kariba/Mana Pools arrives Victoria Falls around 17:00, so do not book afternoon activities for this day.
- Seasonality also determines whether you can book on seat rates or need to book sole use - access to Kariba/Mana Pools at seats rates on our circuit is only possible between April and November.

#### Times & Area Flying in Botswana

The times provided in our collateral (circuit flyers or rates sheets) are guidelines only and subject to change. We cannot commit to specific times when flying on a seat rate basis, as flights are scheduled to ensure we operate our aircraft at maximum occupancy and therefore efficiency.

- Guests arriving off international flights into Maun should depart around 14:45 for their respective camps.
- Departure from Kasane into the camps is around 14:00/14:30, to coincide with international flights. Guests wishing to make use of this flight connection, and arriving from VFA or LVI by road, must be at Kasane Airport by 13:00.
- Inter-camp seat-in-plane transfers will be during the flying window of 11:00 – 16:00.
- All guests will be advised of flight times the night before in camp.

#### Wilderness Air - Information Required

To enable Wilderness Air to operate effectively whilst ensuring our guests have a great experience with seamless connections, your assistance in providing the following information would be appreciated:

- Names as they appear on passport and date of birth.
- Passport nationality, number and expiry date.
- All passenger weights for Wilderness Air Namibia (due to the aircraft currently used), and individual body weights only if over 100 kg (220 lb) for Botswana, Zambia and Zimbabwe.
- Arrival and departure information – if not booked by your Travel Designer. For scheduled commercial air, include the airline/flight number/ETA or ETD; for accommodation, the camp/lodge/hotel name; for road transfers, the name of the transfer company, contact number and to/from location.
- Whether excess luggage allowance is needed – bearing in mind that the luggage restrictions for Namibia are different to Botswana, Zambia and Zimbabwe.
- Health issues as relevant to Wilderness Air such as limited mobility, carrying oxygen, etc.
- Repeat guests or any special requests.

### WILDERNESS SAFARIS PRIVATE JOURNEYS – CAPE TOWN

#### Table Mountain Aerial Cableway - Annual Maintenance Closure

Dates have changed for their annual maintenance closure – now from 25 July until 28 August 2022 instead of 19 July until 7 August 2022. As an alternative, weather permitting, the Private Journeys guides will take guests to Signal Hill for views over the city and along the Atlantic seaboard.

## COVID-19

### TESTING INFORMATION

#### Botswana - Antigen Tests in Maun

- The Diagnofirm booth at Maun airport offers antigen testing Monday to Friday, between 08:00 and 15:00. Payment is by cash or credit card.
- Outside of these hours and at weekends, our Meet & Greet team will contact the laboratories and, subject to availability, ask if they can send someone to the airport to test guests.

- If this is not possible, then tests can be conducted at Okavango Air Rescue, where the CT Diagnostics lab is located, about 3 minutes' drive away from the airport or the Diagnofirm lab which is about 20 minutes' drive from the airport.
- Guests will need to settle direct for the relevant test, taxi or transfer costs.

### South Africa – Next Pathology & Navomix

- Next Pathology are no longer offering the concierge service in Mpumalanga nor the on-site testing facilities at KMIA and Skukuza airports. The Next Pathology Testing Site at OR Tambo continues to operate: <https://nextbio.co.za/nextpath-for-travel/>
- Navomix Health in SA are offering RT-PCR (standard and express) plus antigen tests at OR Tambo (JNB), Cape Town International and King Shaka International (Durban) Airports. Online bookings are possible: <https://navomixhealth.co.za/services/covid-19-testing-center/>

### COVID-19 ENTRY REQUIREMENTS & REGULATIONS

Listed below are the most recent developments. Note that whilst we take every care to ensure the information provided with regard to travel regulations is accurate, we cannot in any manner or form guarantee the accuracy and correctness thereof, nor the interpretation and implementation of said regulations by the authorities. Any information shared should not be construed as a representation made by Wilderness.

#### Mozambique

- Travellers entering Mozambique are required to provide a certificate showing they are fully vaccinated, or a negative RT-PCR test result not older than 72 hours for travellers who are not fully vaccinated.
- If travellers do not have a vaccine certificate or RT-PCR test, they will be required to do an antigen test on arrival.
- Children aged up to 11 years are exempt from providing vaccination certificates and RT-PCR tests. All children aged 11 and up will be required to provide a certificate showing they are fully vaccinated or a negative RT-PCR test not older than 72 hours.

#### Namibia

Regulations were extended with no change to entry requirements although they noted that vaccination certificates should be uploaded on the Trusted Travel Platform.

- The Trusted Vaccines platform is available to generate COVID-19 Digital Vaccination Certificates with a QR code for persons who are fully vaccinated. The platform is equipped with a 'self-upload' functionality, enabling individuals to upload information and images of their Vaccination Cards and Passports/Travel documents for authentication.
- A step-by-step guide on how to register/create accounts and generate provisional digital vaccination certificates on the Trusted Vaccines Platform, can be found on the Info Centre.

#### Rwanda

For now all other requirements stay in place, but adjustments are as follows:

- An RT-PCR test is no longer required on arrival. Arriving passengers at Kigali International Airport must present a negative Antigen Rapid test result taken 72 hours prior to departure. An additional Antigen Rapid test will be taken upon arrival, at own cost.
- Departing passengers at Kigali International Airport must present a negative Antigen Rapid or RT-PCR test (depending on requirement at destination), taken 72 hours prior to departure.
- Wearing face masks is no longer mandatory. However, people are encouraged to wear masks indoors.
- It has not been specified but we presume that an RT-PCR test within 72 hours for primate trekking and an Antigen Rapid test within 72 hours for Akagera NP remains. Likewise, the wearing of masks when gorilla trekking.

#### South Africa

- All international travellers arriving at South Africa Ports of Entry must:
  - be vaccinated against COVID-19 and produce a valid vaccination certificate; or
  - produce a valid certificate of negative RT-PCR COVID-19 test, which was obtained not more than 72 hours before the date of departure; or

- produce a valid certificate of a negative Antigen COVID-19 test performed by a medical practitioner, registered public health authority or accredited/approved laboratory which was obtained not more than 48 hours before the date of departure; or
- produce a valid certificate of a positive RT-PCR COVID-19 test, for a test date less than 90 days prior to the date of arrival and more than 10 days prior to the date of arrival, together with a signed letter from a health care provider, registered in the country of origin, stating that the person has fully recovered from COVID-19, is not experiencing any new symptoms and is fit to travel.
- These regulations do not apply to travellers who are under 12 years old (it was under 5 years previously).
- Masks must be worn in indoor public places and on any form of public transport.
- Restrictions still apply to gatherings of more than one hundred (100) people.

There has been some confusion recently regarding proof of vaccination, after passengers – with vaccination certificates – were forced to undergo rapid antigen tests at OR Tambo International Airport. The situation has been escalated to the relevant government departments and it would seem some progress has been made. Per the latest [statement](#):

- *“Thus, in order to ensure smooth and fair verification process without inconveniencing the travellers at the ports of entry, the government will, with effect from today (27 May 2022) recognise all verifiable vaccination proofs with QR codes, either paper based or electronic.”*
- *Details on the certificate/card should correspond with the information of the traveller as they appear on the passport. “However, in cases where the vaccination certificate or card is not verifiable, the Department officials have got the right to contact the relevant embassy or High Commission in South Africa to confirm proof of vaccination issued by respective countries.”*
- *Onsite COVID-19 testing services were available at the ports of entry for individuals who were unable to present proof of vaccination. Those who tested positive and were experiencing symptoms, would have to self-isolate.*

Our recommendations remain as follows:

- To avoid possible issues, carry both electronic and hard copies of vaccination proof i.e. have the information on a mobile device or a photograph of the certificate, but also download and print the digital version, or carry the physical vaccination certificate or card as issued.
- QR codes are still a requirement so where this does not appear on the card or certificate, upload the vaccination information on the Trusted Travel Platform and generate/print a certificate with QR code: <https://africacdc.org/trusted-travel/> or <https://panabios.org/>. Instructions are available on the Info Centre, or contact your Travel Designer for assistance.

## Tanzania

In response to queries received from the previous update – specifically a rapid test on arrival for certain countries - it would seem the confusion comes from a lack of 100% implementation at all arrival points in Tanzania, with some travellers not being asked to do the test on arrival. We would suggest making travellers aware of the situation, to ensure they are not caught off guard having not booked nor expected a test on arrival. Per the notice on the Tanzanian Ministry of Health website, even if vaccinated, travellers from certain countries are still required to have a rapid test on arrival – section in italics below.

- Fully vaccinated travellers aged 6 years and older must present a valid COVID-19 vaccination certificate and a QR code from the Traveller Health Surveillance Form for verification.
- Complete the Traveller Health Surveillance Form via <https://afyamsafiri.moh.go.tz/> for Tanzania Mainland and <https://healthtravelnz.mohz.go.tz> for Zanzibar within 24 hours before arrival into Tanzania. Travellers will receive a confirmation code, including a Unique Health Code, to be presented during primary screening upon arrival in Tanzania.
- *Travellers originating from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, France, India, Malawi, Uganda, United Kingdom, United States of America, Rwanda and South Africa will be required to book and pay for a Rapid Antigen Test prior to arrival. They can do so using an automatically generated control number received after completing the Traveller Surveillance Form via <https://afyamsafiri.moh.go.tz/> at a cost of USD 10 per person per test for Tanzania Mainland and <https://zanzibarcovidtesting.co.tz/> at a cost of USD 25 per person per test for Zanzibar.*

- Test results are available approximately 15 minutes after sample collection. Travellers who receive a positive result on their Rapid Antigen test will be required to undergo a mandatory RT-PCR test, at a cost of USD per person per test. In the event of a positive RT-PCR test result, the symptomatic travellers will be isolated for treatment at designated health facilities.

### **Uganda**

Uganda has dropped all RT-PCR COVID testing requirements for fully vaccinated inbound and outbound travellers.

- All in-bound travellers over 5 years of age are required to show proof of vaccination.
- The requirement for an RT-PCR test 72 hours before boarding your inbound flight has been suspended for fully vaccinated travellers.
- The requirement for an RT-PCR test 72 hours before departing Uganda has been suspended for fully vaccinated travellers.
- Facemasks are no longer obligatory in out-door settings.

As always there is some ambiguity in the communications received – it is not clear how many doses defines "fully vaccinated". Until there is clarity on this, the recommendation is to have the 3<sup>rd</sup>/booster shot if it is a requirement in their country.

### **Zambia & Zimbabwe**

Both countries require either proof of vaccination or a negative RT-PCR test result for entry. Further details may be found in the protocol documents on the Info Centre.

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