

[Newsflash](#) | [Camps & Activities](#) | [Touring & Transfers](#) | [Rates & Rules](#) |

NEWSFLASH

REBUILD OF JAO & REVISED CONFIGURATION

We are excited to give you a taste of what's to come at the new Jao! Currently under construction and scheduled to reopen on 1 June 2019, Jao is being completely reinvented, with a fresh and modern take in the same lovely location in the Delta. Designed by the same team who worked on the original Jao - Silvio Rech and Lesley Carstens (who also designed Vumbura Plains and North Island) - Jao will maintain the same high stilted main area built into the tree canopy with more private areas in amongst the trees.

The spa rooms will be tucked into the palms for privacy and surrounded by water to provide a calming peaceful atmosphere. The gym will be built on the edge of the island with a stunning view over the floodplains, while the main pool, with its canopy pavilion providing shade, will project out into the floodplain with 270 degree views of the Delta.

Encompassing a unique botanical theme, special emphasis will be placed on the water lily – with a colour palette of creams, greens, soft purple and splashes of yellow. A range of beautiful new furnishings will be crafted to reflect this theme. Natural lighting will be put to great use with a focus on sky lights and latte poles providing dappled shade. A range of materials will be used – from steel, wood and Eva-tech decking to fibre palm tiles and canvas, with cooling and heating systems installed for further comfort.

Flexibility will be the order of the day, with the main area featuring indoor and outdoor lounge/dining areas, satellite kitchen, several private dining and/or fire decks. This further extends to the accommodation with the introduction of the luxurious Jao Villas! Sleeping four people each in two identical guest rooms sharing a main area, the villas will each have their own private vehicle, guide, chef and butler. Guests can choose to be as social or as private as they like. All rooms – the two villas and five twins sleeping a maximum of 18 guests – will have private plunge pools, lounge and dining areas, kitchen facilities plus en-suite bathrooms including indoor and outdoor showers.

Key information to note:

- The new configuration when the camp re-opens on 1 June 2019, is 5 twins and 2 villas (sleeping 4 each) – total of 18 beds.
- The villas are priced at a premium, on a sole use per night basis – i.e. the total villa rate applies regardless of whether you have 1, 2, 3 or 4 guests.
- Note that the child discount rate will not apply at Jao as there is no longer a family room.
- Although the villas come with their own vehicle, there will still be a private vehicle available to book for the standard rooms.
- Now available to book on inventory. Villa rates have been added to our published Botswana Rates Sheets.

CAMPS & ACTIVITIES

CLARIFICATION ON RHINO TRACKING EXPERIENCE AT DESERT RHINO CAMP, NAMIBIA

- Only ONE approach on foot is permitted per rhino tracking activity, adhering to strict safety standards at all times.
- The rhino tracking activity is not necessarily restricted to the morning in terms of duration. If rhino are not found in the morning, tracking could continue into the afternoon.
- Due to the vast terrain, long distances can be covered, with other wildlife to be seen along the way including the possibility of seeing rhino from the vehicle.
- For further information on this activity, please refer to page 102 in our General Information Manual.

CHECK-IN & CHECK-OUT TIMES AT BISATE, RWANDA

- Standard arrival time is from 14:00.
- Departure time is before 10:30. Should guests be participating in any activities (gorilla trekking/an excursion for Golden Monkey sightings/a visit to Dian Fossey's grave site/ climbing Mount Bisoke) on the day of departure, they will need to vacate their villa between 06:00 and 06:30 when they will be collected for their onward activity.

MINIMUM STAY OF TWO NIGHTS AT BISATE, RWANDA

Our wish is for guests to have a full experience at Bisate - to enjoy the lodge itself and participate in gorilla trekking as well as other excursions. Taking this plus the above-mentioned check-in and check-out times into account, we highly recommend a minimum two night stay. As an exception, a one night stay may be booked on a request basis only, however do bear in mind that there may be an impact on guest experience and enjoyment.

BOTSWANA WATER BASED ACTIVITY UPDATE

- Kwetsani – currently no access to Hunda Island so game drives are on the floodplains and areas around Pelo and Jacana. The mokoro station is about 30 minutes' drive from camp, with a full experience on offer. Boating is limited.
- Tubu Tree - due to the low water, boating and mokoro activities are no longer on offer, however game viewing is really good and bush walks are available (must be booked in advance).
- Jacana - still offering mokoro activities from camp but are now driving directly onto the island so transfers to and from the airstrip is about 30 minutes by vehicle. Boating is a 10 minute drive from camp for a limited boat cruise.
- Pelo - still offering full boating and mokoro activities from camp, although we may need to move to the Kubu Lagoon boat station in the next few weeks. Transfers to and from the airstrip are now a 40 minute drive plus 5 minute boat trip.
- DumaTau, Vumbura Plains and Little Vumbura - offer water activities all year round.
- Kings Pool - barge is currently operational.
- Abu & Seba - mokoro excursions are still on offer.

TOURING & TRANSFERS

WILDERNESS SAFARIS PRIVATE JOURNEYS – CAPE

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS & UNIQUE SELLING POINTS

- New fleet of 19 vehicles, suiting a range of needs.
- Complimentary convenience packs in each vehicle which include: sunscreen, branded maps, snacks (sweeties and healthy snacks in biodegradable bags), hand sanitizer, charging cables, Wet Wipes, branded umbrellas, branded waters, unlimited Wi-Fi.
- Through various partnerships, Wilderness Safaris Private Journeys can assist with a wide range of excursions: active pursuits, food and art tours plus all things on trend, hip and happening.
- Their rates are very competitive.
- They have an experienced and well-versed team of over 100 top quality guides, to accommodate the specific needs of all guests.

WILDERNESS TOURING & TRANSFERS – ZAMBEZI

PICK-UP TIMES, VICTORIA FALLS

All pick-up times are arranged to tie in with flight departures, border meetings and scheduled tours. The times for the following day's transfer or activity will be advised through the hotels or by the driver/guide between 16:30 and 17:00. Guests must please check with their hotels for their pick up times for the next day's transfer or activity.

Our guides work to a timetable, collecting clients from each hotel en route to their intended destination, so kindly allow at least 15 minute waiting window for possible delays from other pick up points.

RATES & RULES

POSTPONEMENT OF PLASTIC CARRIER BAG PROHIBITION IN BOTSWANA

“The Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources Conservation and Tourism would like to inform the public, business sector and other stakeholders that the Waste Management (Plastic Carrier Bag and Plastic Flat Bag Prohibition) Regulations, 2018 has been postponed until further notice.” This means that the proposed plastic bag ban, and fine for contravention thereof, did not come into effect on 1 November 2018.

NO CHANGE AS YET IN CHILD TRAVEL REQUIREMENTS FOR SOUTH AFRICA

At this time, the original law remains in place. Parents travelling with minors will still be required to produce an Unabridged Birth Certificate on request at airline immigration stations.
