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10 November 2021

NEWSFLASH

Extension of Flexible Terms

EXISTING BOOKINGS

- Existing bookings for Wilderness Safaris camps scheduled to travel before 31 December 2021 may be postponed to travel, at no additional cost, within 12 months of the current travel date.
- These bookings will need to be postponed at least 30 days prior to the date of travel. Where such bookings are postponed within 30 days of the date of travel, cancellation penalties will apply.
- A reminder that all bookings must have the required non-refundable deposits paid in order to be postponed.

NEW BOOKINGS

- New bookings for Wilderness Safaris camps – made between today and 30 November 2021 – are required to pay a 20% deposit to hold and confirm space, subject to an upward adjustment if required by third party suppliers.
- This deposit will be fully refundable up to 45 days prior to travel for all Wilderness Safaris services, provided that travel is not possible, or it is reasonably foreseeable that travel restrictions will still be in place on the date of travel*. For services booked for third party suppliers, the relevant cancellation penalties will apply.

*Please note that our traditional Accreditation Agreement still remains in effect, but that the changes above will be deemed to be incorporated therein. Wilderness Safaris reserves the right to change, amend, or retract any of these terms and conditions from time to time, as it deems fit.

REMINDERS

Bank Charges

Bank charges are not included in our invoice values and should be taken into account when payments are made. When processing wire transfers the payment selection under bank charges must be set to "Own" or "Our" otherwise the bank will short pay the amount required once these fees are deducted by bank. This will result in the final payment being short paid to Wilderness Safaris and an additional payment required. Should you need additional assistance in this regard please contact your Travel Designer.

Free flying deal – extended to 2023

Our free flying deal has been extended to the end of 2023, with the same criteria in place. The one difference is that Kalahari Plains no longer forms part of the Free Flying deal when it resumes operations in May 2022.

CAMPS & ACTIVITIES

BOTSWANA

Water Level & Activity Update

- Abu: water levels are dropping quickly. We are currently offering mokoro excursions (about 45 minutes long) but may have to stop in the next week or two.
- Vumbura: although levels are dropping, we continue to offer water activities. We will have to move the mekoro and boat stations when the water in the current area gets too shallow.
- Qorokwe: still looking good for mokoro activities at this time.
- Jao Reserve: boating has stopped as it is too dangerous with hippo congregating in the deeper areas. Mokoro excursions are still possible from the Pelo area (Jao will also utilise this) and around Jacana.
- DumaTau: water activities continue as normal.

ZAMBIA

Tour of the Falls ex Toka Leya

Available through to 31 December 2021, we are offering the option of a Tour of the Falls on the Zambian OR Zimbabwean side from Toka Leya (a guided tour of the Falls is included in the nightly FI rate), allowing our guests the opportunity to see the Falls on the Zimbabwean side when the Zambian side of the Zambezi River stops flowing. Visa and COVID-19 regulations still apply when crossing the border.

WILDERNESS AIR

Wilderness Air Namibia Revised Luggage Dimensions

While a soft duffel bag is still required, the size of the permissible bag now matches the other regions. Previously the dimensions were smaller due to the aircraft used, which made it awkward for multi-country itineraries and required more re-packing in Windhoek. Our revised luggage dimensions are as follows:

- In Botswana, Zambia and Zimbabwe, soft bags with a rigid structure at the base – including wheels and/or a collapsible handle – will be accepted. Alternatively, standard soft duffel/tog type bags.
- 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. This applies to camera bags as well.
- **The maximum dimensions of *all* bags which can be accommodated are as follows: 30 cm (11.8 inches) wide x 35 cm (13.8 inches) high and 70 cm (27.5 inches) long.**
- The maximum permissible luggage allowance when travelling on a seat rate basis, including carry-on hand luggage and camera equipment, is restricted to 20 kg (44 lb) per person.

Flexibility on the Namibian Circuit

To operate efficiently and cost effectively, in a country that has vast flying distances, we implemented set times and routings on our Namibian circuit. Adhering to the schedule was easier when we were carrying higher loads, however in the current climate, we do not have those same occupancies. To continue operating efficiently, adjustments are being made on a case by case basis. This may mean slightly different departure and arrival times, and flying direct where previously we may have gone via another stop on the route. Please therefore allow for some flexibility with the Wilderness Air Namibia published times and routes, bearing in mind that guest arrangements, plus regional and international connections will still be taken into account.

TOURING & TRANSFERS

General

For seamless service and the best possible experience, we do encourage pre-booking and pre-paying for activities in and around Cape Town, Victoria Falls and Livingstone.

Private Okonjima Day Tour

This new excursion ex Windhoek operates on a private basis with a maximum of 6 guests, and can depart every day, subject to availability. The package rate includes a vehicle, guide, the Africat day visit activity and lunch. Contact your Travel Designer for further details.

COVID-19 UPDATES

Trusted Travel Requirement for Namibia

Namibia has aligned itself to the African Union (AU), which has implemented the AU Trusted Travel System. After a trial period starting on 15 November, **only those who have uploaded their COVID-19 negative test results on the Trusted Travel Platform will be allowed to enter or exit Namibia from 01 December 2021.**

Please contact your Travel Designer for further assistance if needed, however a brief summary is as follows:

- It would seem the best process currently is to go direct to the Africa CDC/Trusted Travel website: <https://africacdc.org/trusted-travel/>. This provides a variety of information should the traveller wish to know more, including a video on how to use the portal.
- Scroll down to the Africa Union's Digital Vaccination Platform section and select Find out More.
- This takes you to the Trusted Vaccines page. Scroll down to the Login Here button and select. This takes you to the login page on the Panabios website.
- Create an account or sign in if already registered, and follow the instructions. It is pretty straightforward and should only take a few minutes.

Next Pathology (South Africa) Reduces Testing Costs

To assist with the rebound of tourism, Next Pathology have reduced their COVID-19 test prices, applicable to both existing and new bookings.

1. Standard test was R 850, now R 750 – for in-house testing, add a nurse call out fee of R 650.
2. OR Tambo (Johannesburg) testing at the Intercontinental Hotel:
 - Swift 2 hour test was R 2000, now R 1650
 - 12 hour expedited test was R 1450, now R 1250
 - 24 hour expedited test was R 850, now R 750
 - Antigen test 1 hour was R 390, now R 350
3. Kruger/Nelspruit 24 hour test was R 2000, now R 1900
4. Hoedspruit 24 hour test was R 2200, now R 2 100

Hwange In-Camp Testing - pre-booking vs late notice

- If pre-booked with your Travel Designer, the test will cost USD 100 per person.
- A higher cost will apply if tests are only requested once in camp as alternative arrangements need to be made to get swabs to the lab – USD 150 per person.
- All test costs are settled direct in camp.

General Testing

Please refer to the latest spreadsheet containing information on COVID-19 testing options in Botswana, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe (available on the Info Centre) or contact your Travel Designer for further assistance. Note that as testing in Rwanda is facilitated by the authorities, the specifics are on the Rwanda protocol document. Changes include:

- Removing the Fixed Wing option in Botswana, and further clarifying the process for the helicopter-based testing. Note that the helicopter in-camp testing rates remain the same for 2022 at this time,
- Adding a new supplier - Namib Test (HT Trading Solutions) - to the list of RT-PCR Test/ Antigen Test providers in Namibia. They are good, reliable and most helpful. They provide testing services in Windhoek and Swakopmund, plus In-house testing in Windhoek. It is possible to book them online.
- Revising details for in-camp testing at Toka Leya.

COVID-19 FAQs Updated

Available on the Info Centre (Wilderness Window), our FAQ document includes recent questions received – particularly with regard to vaccinations and what happens if guests test positive while travelling.

Recent Amendments to Entry Requirements and In-Country Protocols

Botswana

- The Botswana State of Public Emergency expired on 30 September 2021. Effective 01 October, normal operating hours for business have resumed and the sale of alcohol is allowed. Guidelines remain in place to manage COVID-19 and the spread thereof. There is no change to entry requirements.

Kenya

- Kenya – curfew was lifted on 20 October 2021.
- Kenya requires all departing travellers to show proof of a negative RT-PCR test result, irrespective of the requirements put in place by the airline or country of destination, obtained within 72 hours of departure. Please ensure all departing travellers have a test scheduled at the end of their itinerary to avoid departure complications.
- Please reference the Governors' website for further details - [Covid-19 and Travel - The Governors Camp](#)

Namibia

- Under the current regulations, curfew has been suspended and numbers increased to 200 for public gatherings and sporting events.
- While a negative RT-PCR test taken within 7 days remains a requirement for entry, they have made the following exception – the first country in which we operate to do so, hopefully others will follow suit: *Namibia will accept authentic de-isolation certificates from previously infected travellers who are still testing positive with the RT-PCR test at the Points of Entry, regardless of nationality. The certificate has to be valid for at least three (3) months from the time of issuance. This applies to travellers who present vaccination certificates.*

Rwanda

- The Rwanda government has determined that all hospitality staff will be fully vaccinated. This applies to hotels, restaurants, cafes, bars and other accommodation establishments plus employees at the airport, and all driver/guides.
- In-country restrictions have been eased, allowing for increased movement and resumption of 'almost normal' life. Curfew times have changed and are applicable throughout the country.
- The following was stipulated in a recent communication: *"Fully vaccinated travelers will no longer be required to quarantine at hotels upon arrival. Covid-19 PCR tests will still be required for all arriving passengers"*. To clarify, this means if arriving passengers upload their vaccination certificate to the locator form, they may stay in a hotel of their choice for the period of self-isolation while awaiting results of the arrival test, and Rwanda residents may go home to isolate.
- All guests intending to stay in hotels/other accommodation establishments must provide valid negative COVID-19 test results taken within 72 hours, either RT-PCR or antigen, on check-in.
- A new distinction has also been made in that a negative RT-PCR test, taken within 72 hours before the visit, is required for all primate visits in Volcanoes National Park, Nyungwe National Park and Gishwati-Mukura National Park. A negative Rapid Antigen (or RT-PCR) test, taken within 72 hours before the visit, is required for all other activities in the above National Parks and Akagera National Park.

South Africa

- South Africa has been on Adjusted Level 1 since 1 October 2021.
- South African COVID Alert SA App: it would appear this App is not utilised as it should be and is therefore rather futile. It is not considered mandatory so mention has been removed from the SA protocol doc.

Zimbabwe

- Vaccination requirements for in transit/day visitors: travellers in transit i.e. to or from airports, or on a day trip, between Zimbabwe and Botswana or Zambia, are exempt from the vaccination proof requirement – as long as entry into and departure from Zimbabwe by road is on the same day. If overnighing, the traveller must provide BOTH a vaccination certificate (fully vaccinated) and a negative RT-PCR test result for entry into Zimbabwe at the land borders i.e by road. Those under 18 years old do not require the vaccination certificate but must produce a negative RT-PCR test.
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