

GREAT PLAINS PRODUCT UPDATE

AUGUST 2025

A MONTHLY WRAP-UP
ABOUT OUR THIRD PARTY
PARTNERS. SHARING NEWS &
IMPORTANT UPDATES

SOUTH AFRICA UPDATES:

- **More Family Collection Updates:**
 - **Lion Sands Ivory Lodge** - Lion Sands has completed enhancements at **Fish Eagle Residence**. Both the **Residence** and **Ivory Lodge** will officially reopen on **22 September 2025**, offering guests a reimagined experience of luxury and exclusivity in the Sabi Sands.
 - **More Quarters Residence:** **More Quarters Residence** will conclude operations on **31 January 2026**. All existing bookings will be honoured, with reservations open until then. The **Cape Cadogan Residence** remains fully operational, offering a superb **3-bedroom residence** in Cape Town.
 - **Marataba Airstrip update:** as of now, flights to **Marataba Game Lodges** will operate via **Thabazimbi Airport** rather than Matla Mamba. Thabazimbi's **tarred runway** ensures smoother operations, with lodge transfers available at an additional cost.
- **Boschendal Restaurant Update, Franschhoek:** Later this year, Boschendal's historic **Werf precinct** will welcome **Arum Restaurant** by the acclaimed **FYN Group**. Set in the original 1812 cellar, Arum will embrace a **farm-to-fire philosophy**, featuring over **40 varieties of farm-grown ingredients** and celebrating Boschendal's rich culinary heritage.
- **Simbavati Lodge Collection:** is offering a Stay 3 Pay 2 special, valid at all Simbavati Safari Lodges in South Africa. The offer is applicable for stays between 01 November 2025 and 31 March 2026 & excludes the festive season, 20 December 2025 to 04 January 2026. This is valid for all new bookings.
- **Klein Jan, Tswalu:** Following the April floods, Klein JAN has been closed for restoration. This event created a natural moment for reflection, and both Tswalu and Jan Hendrik have agreed that this is the right time to go their separate ways. Jan Hendrik will continue to focus on his exciting projects elsewhere in South Africa and abroad, while Tswalu prepares to introduce a new, homegrown culinary journey on the reserve.

SOUTHERN AFRICA UPDATES:

- **Mack Air Zimbabwe:** has introduced a new offering for **2026**. Guests now have the option of flying on **Normal Seat Rates** or a Shuttle Service. The **Shuttle Service** offers lower-cost, point-to-point transfers with limited seats at set fixed times. The **Normal Seat rates** are available on all regular routes with standard commercial schedules.
- **Azura Marlin Beach, Mozambique:** has **officially reopened** following an extensive reimagining. The island retreat has entered a new chapter, refreshed with a stylish new look while maintaining the barefoot luxury and authentic Mozambican charm it's known for. They are offering a **Launch Promotion** to celebrate the reopening. The Promotion is a **stay 4 or 5 nights, get 1 night free!** Valid for bookings confirmed on or before 30 September 2025
- **Pambele, Mozambique:** is the **newest addition to the Mashatu portfolio**. Situated in the **Bazaruto Archipelago**, Pambele is an **exclusive-use beach house** nestled within the Vilanculos Coastal Wildlife Sanctuary on the **San Sebastian Peninsula** in southeastern Mozambique. This coastal escape offers a perfect complement to the Mashatu Botswana experience.
- **The Bushcamp Company, Zambia: Chindeni Bushcamp** has undergone a **complete redesign and rebuild**, featuring several enhancements designed to enhance guest comfort while preserving the camp's signature relaxed and authentic atmosphere. Key Updates:
 - **New Family Tent:** Two separate bedrooms, each with its own en-suite bathroom, private sala overlooking the lagoon and private guide and safari vehicle included
 - **Upgraded Bathrooms & Living Areas:** Larger bathrooms across all tents, indoor sitting areas for added comfort and outdoor bathtubs are now available in all rooms
 - **Extended Operating Season:** The camp will now remain open **through the end of December**, offering guests the option to spend the festive season in the bush.

EAST AFRICA UPDATES:

- **Tanzania – New Passenger Facilitation Fee** - Please note the introduction of a **Passenger Facilitation Fee** by the Tanzanian government, effective 1 November 2025, under the VI Tax code. **Key details:**
 - Applies to all international air passengers travelling to/from Tanzania. Infants under 2 years are exempt.
 - **US\$45** per passenger for one-way journeys.
 - **US\$90** per passenger for return trips.
 - Our team will be in touch directly with any affected bookings as all affected tickets will be updated and re-invoiced.
- **White Sand Luxury Villas & Spa, Zanzibar:** have recently renovated their Spa and Gym. They have also built a **new padel court** for guests to enjoy! They are proud to now be able to offer **full accessibility** across the resort for guests in **Wheelchairs**. From accessible villas and restaurants to a pool lift and a floating wheelchair for ocean access
- **Lewa Wilderness, Kenya:** Lewa Wilderness has confirmed revised seasonal closure dates for 2026. The April/May closure period has been shortened to allow for more availability during the beautiful green month of April. **Updated closure dates:**
 - **16 April – 15 May 2026** – Closed
 - **1 – 30 November 2026** – Closed
 - The property will now remain open until 15th April 2026 before the seasonal break.
- **Sanctuary Retreats, Kenya:** Sanctuary Retreats has announced the launch of **Kitirua Plains Lodge**, located beside Amboseli National Park on a 128-acre private concession near the Tanzania border. The property features:
 - **11 standalone suites** and **two two-bedroom suites**
 - Communal boma, wellness area with spa, gym, and swimming pool with sweeping views
 - **Reservations are now available for stays from 1 June 2026.**
- **Ololo Safari Lodge & Farm, Kenya:** Ololo Safari Lodge has launched a **new Bush Sauna**, now available to all guests during their stay. Tucked in the garden near the spa room, the sauna offers a relaxing space to unwind after safari activities. It's included in the stay and can be heated on request (approx. 30 minutes). Guests can enhance the experience with a range of massage treatments by Ololo's in-house masseuses
- **Nomad Beach Resort, Diani Beach, Kenya:** are offering complimentary diving in November & December! Certified divers staying between 1st November and 20th December 2025 will enjoy free daily scuba diving boat trips with Diving the Crab. These are among the best months for diving in Diani, with calm seas, warm water, and superb visibility. Dive Courses are not included and are for certified Divers Only.

