



January Trade News Updates

With the new year in full swing, and plenty of clients planning their next holiday, we'd like to thank our trade partners for your continued support and the trust you place in Cedarberg Africa to co-design the best possible trips for your clients.

If we haven't worked with each other yet, *or recently*, please reach out. With 30 years of experience and enthusiasm behind our team, we are happy to schedule a getting to know us session, or to arrange some destination training for your team.

We are planning to increase the frequency of our trade updates, and very happy to set up an ad hoc meeting to discuss any client itineraries.



What's on our Mind

Zimbabwe VAT Increase

As you may be aware, the Government of Zimbabwe has increased VAT from 15% to 15.5% which many hotels and guesthouses are absorbing. But they have added VAT to tours and transfers which were previously zero-rated. This includes park fees, transfers, boat cruises, safaris, adventure activities. As a result, many full activity lodges are increasing their prices. So, you may notice that Zimbabwe itineraries will be a little more expensive in future.

Flooding in the Kruger National Park

Following recent flooding in parts of the Kruger National Park, there may be temporary access limitations in certain areas, including with some lodges which have flood damage and others still inaccessible due to broken bridges. We are moving clients to alternative lodges where needed, and staying in close communications with any trade partners whose clients are affected.



Featured Blog of the Month:

Botswana vs Zambia vs Zimbabwe

- which safari destination is best?

[Read](#)

Resources: Payment Platforms

Currently the Rand is strengthening versus various major currencies, due to the strong Gold price. So lets look at how we can make prices more predictable.

Historically, we quoted in our supplier currencies – Rand and Dollars. However – *if you prefer* – we can quote and receive payment in four major currencies: US Dollars, Euros, Pounds and Aus\$ using our **Roam Payment System**.

The big advantage here is that we can **fix the exchange rate**, at the quoted amount, as long as the deposit payment is received within 7 days. This is highly beneficial at these times of fluctuating exchange rates.

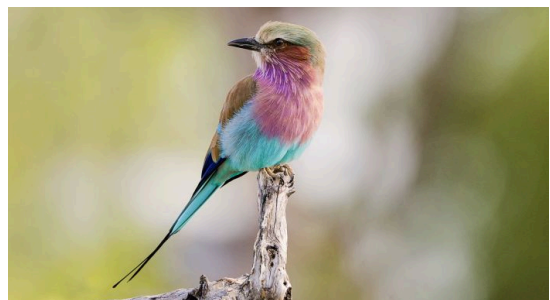
Flywire – if you operate in another currency, or you prefer to keep the exchange rate fluid, we can also convert our Rand/\$US payment into a vast number of currencies allowing you to pay into a local bank in your country using Flywire.

If you are interested in learning more, email me and we'll forward you a PDF about one or both of these payment systems.

Featured Tour of the Month:

Cape Town, The Kruger & Victoria Falls

This timeless 11-night itinerary brings together Southern Africa's great trio: vibrant Cape Town, the wildlife-rich Kruger region and the dramatic spectacle of Victoria Falls.

[Digital Itinerary](#)

Designed for first-time travellers and seasoned safari lovers alike, it blends superb game-viewing with cultural depth and striking natural beauty. Available at two price points.

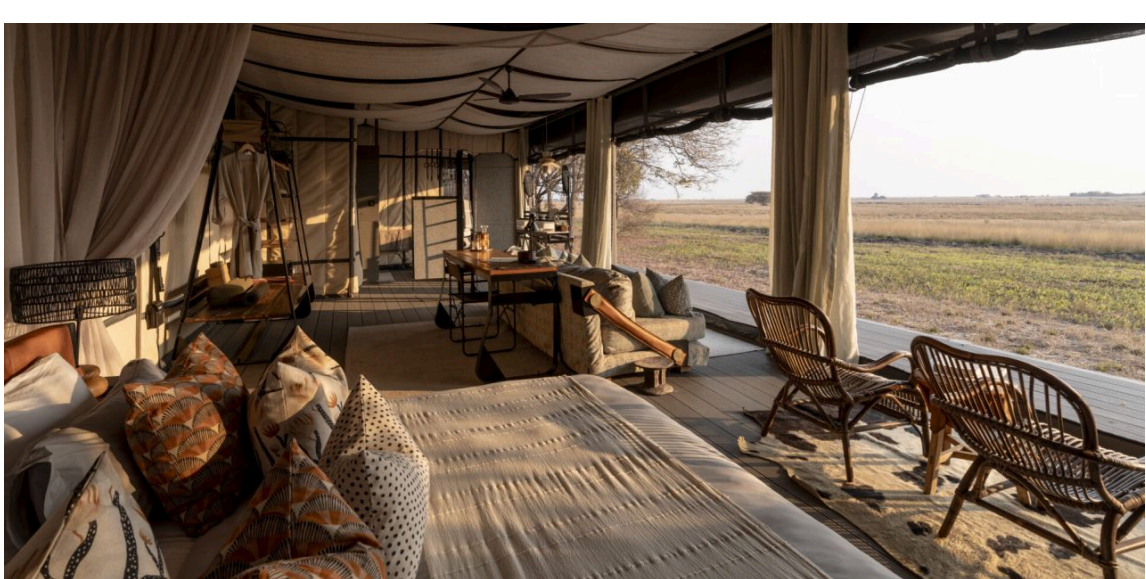
Lodges | Camps | Hotels Updates

Featured Lodge: King Lewanika

A little lilac-breasted roller has shared some exciting news from King Lewanika Lodge in Zambia. The lodge is now open **annually from March to December**, aligning peak season travel with the rest of Zambia.

The arrival of a Cessna 210 aircraft (from March 2026) will ensure ease of access directly to their Airstrip, just six minutes from camp, with daily flights from both Livingstone and Lusaka.

Importantly, the flight schedule aligns seamlessly with both domestic and international connections, linking with iconic destinations such as Kafue, Lower Zambezi, and South Luangwa.



Featured New Hotel

Kate recently stayed at Sabi Sabi's new Cape Town hotel, **The Claremont** and came away genuinely impressed. Set in a beautifully restored, Cape Dutch style manor, it's an intimate little hideaway (just 15 rooms) that feels more like staying at a private villa than checking into a hotel.

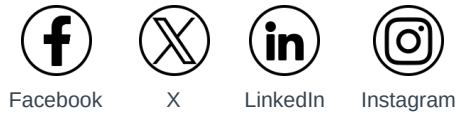
The look is a stylish blend of contemporary comfort with 1930's glamour. Food was a real highlight: the **Veld & Vine Bistro** focuses on seasonal, farm-to-fork flavours (Mediterranean influences with a South African twist), with the **Craft Bar** offering a great glass of wine or artisanal G&T.

We also love the location: tucked into Cape Town's leafy Southern Suburbs, it's perfectly placed for the **Kirstenbosch Gardens** (5 mins), **Constantia** wine farms & top-notch restaurants (10 mins), whilst still being within easy reach of the city (20 mins).



Kate at Sandwich Bay Lagoon on a recent exhilarating 4x4 excursion in Swakopmund, Namibia

Until next time,
Kate & the Cedarberg Africa Team



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