

**NEWSFLASH - MARCH 2015**

**US airports increase security measures**-Security at all US airports has been stepped up. US Department of Homeland Security announced that the Transportation Security Administration had increased random searches of travelers and carry-on luggage as well as luggage searches at the gate once passengers had gone through security checkpoints. Enhanced screening at certain foreign airports from where travelers are departing for the US, has also been implemented.

**E-tolls here to stay** -The current e-toll system will not be scrapped but must be reviewed in order to address affordability. This is the primary finding of the advisory panel report on the socio-economic impact of e-tolls in Gauteng. The main recommendation of the panel is that elements of the current e-toll system must be reviewed to address the questions of affordability, equity, fairness, administrative simplicity and sustainability.

**Marriott opens first hotel in SA** - Marriott International will open its first Protea Hotel branded property in South Africa since its acquisition of the Protea Group in April last year. Protea is one of 18 brands under the Marriott International umbrella.

**CemAir reveals new route**-CemAir has announced a new scheduled service between Johannesburg and Bloemfontein. Starting February 23, the airline will offer 12 return flight week between OR Tambo International Airport and Bram Fischer Airport. Weekday flight times are geared towards business travelers with a morning and evening return flight. An af-

ternoon flight will be offered on weekends.

**Qatar Airways flies newest Airbus** - Qatar Airways became the first airline to operate scheduled flights using the Airbus A350 XWB, with a daily Doha-Frankfurt service. The A350 is the third major new aircraft in a decade.

**Virgin Hotels' first property open for business**-Virgin Hotels, Virgin's new four-star lifestyle hotel brand, opened its first property in Chicago on January 15. Virgin Hotels Chicago is located in the city's business district and features distinctive brand touches.

**Spike in Swiss franc value a concern for travelers**-The Swiss National Bank cancelled the fixed exchange rate between the Swiss franc and the euro on January 15, causing the value of the franc to rise by 30% (that's since settled at around 15%), which has had a knock-on effect on travel to Switzerland.

**NYC launches Delegate Discount Pass**- NYC & Company, the city's official marketing, tourism and partnership organization, launched a 2015 New York City Delegate Discount Pass this month, offering exclusive savings throughout the year at more than 70 restaurants, tours, attractions and retailers. For more information contact- [destinationsservices@nycgo.com](mailto:destinationsservices@nycgo.com).

**Additional flights for SA Express**- South African Express Airways have added flights to Walvis Bay, effective February 1.

**Zimbabwe implements tourism VAT**- The Zimbabwean government announced on January 19 that it would start levying VAT on tourism with immediate effect. The tax applies to payments for accommodation by foreign visitors to Zimbabwe.

**First open-access arrivals lounge for OR Tambo**- In April, OR Tambo International Airport will open the first arrivals lounge in South Africa that is open to all travelers, regardless of airline or travel class. The Sesfikile Arrivals Lounge will be situated adjacent to the SAA Arrivals Lounge at OR Tambo. It will be open to arriving passengers as well as walk-in travelers for a fee of R350 per person. What makes this lounge stand out is that you don't necessarily need to be a passenger to make use of it. The arrivals lounge will feature shower and bathroom facilities (serviced after each use) as well as high-speed complimentary Wi-Fi.

**Hand baggage allowance on British Airways**-As of 2 February 2015, Airport company South Africa (ACSA) will assist all airlines in applying their prescribed hand baggage allowances, whether flying economy or business class! A handbag allowance of 1 bag up to 7kg and 1 small or a slim-line laptop bag will apply. All hand baggage will be screened at all ACSA airports prior to proceeding through the security check point. Any hand baggage not within the prescribed allowance, will be referred back to the check point in counters and extra bag fees may apply. Airline will not accept responsibility of missed flight due to incorrect hand baggage.

# BOTSWANA

## Ntwala Island Lodge

Valid Until: 30 June 2015

Price: R13 332.00 pps



### Included:

- \* Return airfare and taxes on SA Airlink from Johannesburg to Kasane Airport
- \* Road transfer from Kasane airport to Immigration (Chobe River)
- \* Boat transfer from Kasane Immigrations (Chobe River) to Ntwala Island Lodge
- \* 3 Nights' at Ntwala Island Lodge incl. Breakfast, lunch, dinner and laundry.
- \* Activities included:
  - \* Private guided game cruises along the Chobe National Park on the Chobe River
  - \* Private guided sundowner boat cruises
  - \* Bird watching walks and boat cruises
  - \* Fishing with spinning tackle as well as fly fishing
  - \* Guided walks can also be arranged on Impalila Island
  - \* Government taxes and park fees
- \* Boat transfer from Kasane Immigrations (Chobe River) to Ntwala Island Lodge
- \* Road transfer from immigration (Chobe River) to Kasane airport



## 5 Star Phuket and Phi Phi Combo

01 April - 31 October 2015

From R18 980 pps including approximate airport taxes.



### Includes:

- International flights from Johannesburg
- All transfers
- 8 Nights at 5 Star La Meridien Phuket in a Deluxe Garden View Room
- 3 Nights at 5 Star Zeavola Resort Phi Phi in a village Suite
- Breakfast Daily

### Excludes:

- Travel insurance
- Meals not specified
- Items of a personal nature
- Beverages
- Visas



**Book By 31 March 2015.**

All prices quoted are subject to change without prior notice, due to airfare increases and / or currency fluctuations and subject to availability.

Please contact **GRAYSTON TRAVEL** on the following telephone Number: **011 613-1944 / Fax: 011 613-1948 A/H Cell: 083 610 2171**

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