all things photography

Akorn Destination Management

Pictures have captivated humans since the beginning of our time on this planet from cave paintings to the high-resolution images and videos we can capture now. For many it is the essence or purpose of a safari, who will believe your stories and experiences without being able to see it for themselves? East and Southern Africa offers so much visual stimulus for all levels of photographer. Our wildlife, birdlife, cultures, colours and landscapes are second to none and being able to capture that magic is important. Inside this marketing piece we explore some of our favourite photographic hides, vehicles, editing labs and curated experiences to enhance any journey.





photographic hides



Kings Camp, South Africa

The underground hide is situated on the edge of the lodge's waterhole and features a burrow-like entrance tunnel. The hide's most remarkable feature is its viewing windows. Each can be fully opened to maximize views of the wildlife and are even fitted with specially imported one way photographic glass, so photographers can take stunning photos or observe the animals without disturbing them. The hide can seat up to ten people and features air conditioning, power points for charging devices and a refreshment station.



Waterside at Royal Malewane, South Africa

Perched by the water's edge, Waterside's bird hide offers a captivating view and is a haven for wildlife enthusiasts and birdwatchers alike. Guests can book a private vehicle and guides are able to offer advice on camera settings or equipment suited to the bush. Photographers can rent camera gear and equipment to elevate their photographic safari experience.



Molori, South Africa

Molori Safari Lodge features a hide and whiskey bar (the perfect combo!). The hide overlooks a stunning waterhole and is a favourite spot for guests to observe wildlife up close. Adjacent to the hide, is the whiskey bar where guests can enjoy whisky and wine tastings while watching the wildlife walk by. In addition, Molori also has a Specialist Field Guide who can offer a short photography course.

Puku Ridge, Zambia

The wildlife hide is in a high wildlife traffic area and ideally positioned for avid photographers. The hide is located just below the main deck, right in front of the watering hole with an expansive view of the plains as a backdrop. With both upper and lower windows spanning the length of the hide, along with cushions for elbows (and full body mats for laying flat) photographers can work with more than one angle – and stay comfortable whilst waiting for that perfect shot.





Andersson's hide allows for unobtrusive game viewing of the camp's waterhole. Often frequented by plains game the waterhole also attracts larger game such as rhino and sometimes even lions. Capture the essence of the wilderness from a unique perspective in our water level photographic hide. This secluded spot allows you to observe and photograph wildlife in their natural habitat without disturbance.

Mashatu Nature Reserve, Botswana

PhotoMashatu offers guests the opportunity to improve their skills with scheduled photography workshops and in camp tutoring led by professional photographers. These workshops are tailored to suit the needs and interests of individual photographers. The PhotoMashatu underground hide is located at the edge of a waterhole, providing the perfect opportunity to capture stunning shots of wildlife as they come to drink and bathe.



Lentorre Lodge, Kenya

The air-conditioned hide is a sunken space with sound proofing, professional lighting. The hide itself has two beds, and the anteroom has a bunk bed allowing for overnights. Sunk into the ground at the waterholes edge guests are at eye level with the wildlife allowing guests to enjoy a truly unique wildlife photography and viewing experience. The Hide activity is best in the dry months of September and October, and February and March.

Ol Donyo Lodge, Kenya

At OI Donyo Lodge, guests will discover a sunken hide crafted from piled logs, alongside a viewing spot that doubles as a delightful lunch venue. The hide offers a remarkable perspective, placing photographers eye level with the awe-inspiring big tusker elephants that have made the Tsavo and Amboseli regions famous. Accessible through a pathway flanked by upright branches, guests can comfortably sit at ground level waiting for that perfect shot.



Saruni Samburu, Kenya

Purposefully designed, the hide is nestled underground, with three sides and the roof concealed by earth. Located just a few steps from the waterhole, it seamlessly blends with its surroundings, adorned with shrubs and bushes. The space offers an ideal vantage point to capture images of birds, wildlife and elephants at eye level. Accommodating up to eight guests, it is equipped with reference materials, including maps and books, as well as comfortable beanbags.

Ol Jogi, Kenya

The photography hide is a hidden gem for avid photographers, providing a unique perspective of the diverse wildlife. Strategically positioned near a water source, the hide offers an unobtrusive vantage point for capturing images. Equipped with comfortable seating, camera rests, and ample space for equipment, photographers can patiently wait for the perfect shot, making the photography hide an indispensable asset for any enthusiast seeking extraordinary wildlife imagery.





Shompole, Kenya

The Shompole Hide stands amidst expansive dusty plains. With open sides, devoid of glass, it accommodates up to six photographers comfortably. The terrain provides extended sightlines, enabling observers to capture animals approaching and seize striking low-angle shots amid the dust.



Ol Malo Lodge, Kenya

The Leopard Hide is a sanctuary for wildlife enthusiasts and photographers alike, offering a privileged glimpse into the world of one of Africa's most elusive and captivating big cats. Expertly designed to blend seamlessly with the environment, the hide provides a front-row seat to witness these magnificent creatures in their element. Equipped with comfortable seating and discreet viewing windows, guests have the opportunity to capture remarkable moments of leopard behaviour.

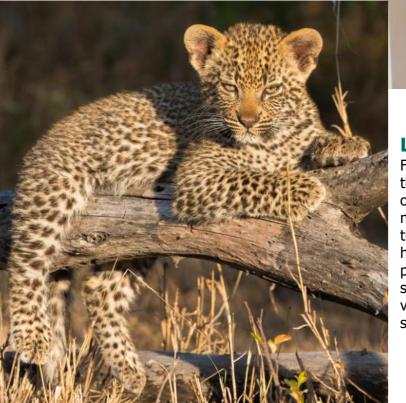




enhance the experience

Londolozi South Africa

The lodge offers a private vehicle with gimbals and bean bags while the Ranger and Tracker team will focus on tailoring the safari experience around photography interests. A professional tutor with advanced knowledge can join guests and share knowledge of cameras, lenses, settings and positioning for the best shot. At the photographic safari studio, quests are able to produce and direct their work to canvas. The studio is a hi-tech facility and features iMac computers with Lightroom capabilities and wide format canvas printers. With tuition from a qualified lightroom instructor, quests can spend time between game drives editing their safari photographs and then print their images onto wide-format canvas or high quality photo paper which is then packaged onto cardboard tubes for easy transportation.





Lion Sands River Lodge, South Africa

For professional and novice photographers alike, the Creative Lab at Lion Sands River Lodge is a one stop shop for all their wildlife photographic needs. Guests are able to edit their images and transform these into canvas artworks. They also have additional USBs and SD cards available for purchase and offer Camera and Lens rentals services through a third party company. Private vehicles are available at an additional cost and subject to availability.

Cheetah Plains, South Africa

Enjoy twice-daily game drives in prototype Land Cruiser Electric safari vehicles. An onboard bird book, binoculars and a professional level Nikon D850 camera fitted with a 200-500mm telephoto lens plus memory card are provided to use while on safari. The almost silent, zero-emission vehicles deliver quality wildlife sightings . All vehicles are equipped with camera rests and open or detachable roofs for flexibility. The guides are experienced wildlife photographers and able to share their experience and expertise resulting in an incredible safari and photographic experience.



Tswalu Kalahari, South Africa

Tswalu offers private photographic tuition for all levels, while the in-house photographic guide is able to share his extensive knowledge and experience. Booking a day with the private photographic guide includes the use of a fully equipped photographic vehicle. A rotating swivel seat allows for an uninterrupted, 270-degree arc and is fitted with a stabilising arm and platform, brackets, slings and bean bags to assist with stability and sharpness. Hatches cut into the sides of the vehicle allow the photographer to lie flat on a firm mattress to photograph animals at eye level. While at the Photographic studio guests can edit, crop and print their images.



Duba Plains, Selinda & Zarafa Camp, Botswana

Here each suite has a professional camera and lenses for guests to use while on safari. Duba Plains Camp also features a specialist photographic boat. Guests can prebook a private photographic tuition of some of Africa's best known private photographic guides. All vehicles are modified to provide camera supports and beanbags however they can tailor the vehicles around specific requirements, including gimbal supports.



Angama Mara, Kenya

The photographic studio is a haven for both amateur and professional photographers. Nestled in the heart of the Maasai Mara, this state-of-the-art facility is equipped with top-of-the-line editing software, high-quality printers, and an extensive selection of professional camera gear. With expert guidance from on-site photographic hosts, guests have the opportunity to refine their skills, from perfecting compositions to post-processing techniques.



Ishara Mara, Kenya

The Canon Brand Experience Centre offers cutting-edge technology in the Maasai Mara. The centre is equipped with a comprehensive range of Canon cameras, lenses, accessories and professional editing tools. With the guidance of resident experts, visitors can hone their skills, from mastering intricate camera settings to perfecting post-processing techniques. This immersive experience culminates in the opportunity to produce high-quality prints. The Canon Brand Experience Centre redefines the art of wildlife photography, offering an unparalleled fusion of technology, creativity, and the boundless wonders of the Maasai Mara.





Asilia has introduced an innovative, specially equipped photographic vehicle that provides photographers with the optimal setup. The photographic vehicle's 360° rotating seats and drop-down sides provide unobstructed views, allowing enthusiasts to capture eye-level images of wildlife. Sandbags and foam camera rests are provided in the vehicle to ensure guest comfort and steadiness as they set up the perfect shot.



Four Seasons Serengeti, Tanzania

into one of Africa's iconic wilderness areas. Every

curated and offers an array of opportunities for

wildlife. From guided photography tours to the

quests to capture the Serengeti's landscapes and

facilities. The lodge's prime location overlooking a

incredible wildlife interactions for both seasoned

photographers and enthusiasts alike.

watering hole also offers guests a front-row seat to

Photography in the Serengeti is an immersive journey

aspect of the photographic experience is meticulously

dedicated photographic studio, equipped with editing

One Nature Nyarusigwa, Tanzania

The open safari vehicles are specifically designed for photographers and have been modified to include rods, braces, clamps, mounts, beanbags and low shot hatches for near ground shooting. Each vehicle is also equipped with a removable roof and foldable windshield so that guests may enjoy unhindered panoramic views and dramatic photo opportunities. The lodge provides camera and lens rental services , allowing guests to access top-of-the-line photographic equipment without the trouble of bringing their own.





Personal Photographer

Tired of being behind the camera? We can arrange a personal professional photographer to join guests on their safari or touring

CAPE TOWN

Guests are able to explore the beautiful city of Cape Town with a professional photographer on hand to capture their incredible moments and adventure as they visit Instagram worthy locations. Their keen eye for detail and mastery of composition will transform experiences in the city into extraordinary memories. After the tour, our photographer will meticulously edit each photograph, to showcase encounters in Cape Town in their best light. Within a short time, guests will receive a digital gallery filled with professionally edited images. Guests can relive the magic of Cape Town whenever they like, sharing the memories with loved ones and cherishing the beauty of their journey for years to come.

KENYA & TANZANIA

Have one of our highly skilled professional photographers join you on safari for as long as you would like. What better way to celebrate this once in a life time experience then have these special moments captured in photographs which tell the story of your adventure. Following your photoshoot your photographer will select and prepare your images creating a personal show just for you. Available in Nairobi, Arusha and on safari.





a different perspective



Hot Air Balloon Safari, South Africa

Just 45 kilometres north of Johannesburg lies the Magalies River Valley, a region boasting some of the best ballooning weather in the world. Enjoy a scenic sunrise balloon safari hovering gently above the tree tops or drifting majestically high above the Magalies Mountain range in the Cradle of Humankind. The never ending views are spectacular and perfect for landscape photography.

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Scenic Helicopter Fight, Namibia

The ideal way to capture the beauty of the breathtaking vast expanse of the desert. The doors are removed for incredible photographic opportunities of the sand dunes, craggy mountain tops, solidified rock formations and enchanting fairy circles. After landing, enjoy a romantic glass of Champagne and a picnic.

Scenic Helicopter Fight, Botswana

This experience is perfect for professional or amateur photographers wanting to capture the perfect shot of the Okavango Delta, from a unique perspective. Knowledgeable pilots offer a guided experience making sure every vista and sighting is perfectly set up for the best shot. The doors of the helicopter are removed offering unrestricted viewing. First and last light, offer the best light conditions to capture the perfect photograph.



Sunrise or Sunset Cruise, Botswana

The Chobe River is a photographers paradise and besides incredible wildlife offer some of the best sunsets in Africa. Sundowner cruises offer magnificent game and bird sightings. The photographic safari boat at Sanctuary Chobe Chilwero can seat up to 18 guests and has a lower and upper deck, both featuring 360 degree swivel seats. The upper deck offers a great vantage point of the Chobe River and wildlife while the lower deck boasts a bar area and the perfect spot to relax and enjoy a scrumptious river breakfast.

Flight of Angels, Victoria Falls

The best way to appreciate the true splendour of the Victoria Falls is to view them from the air. These helicopters have specially designed 'bubble shaped' windows perfect for panoramic viewing and great photographic opportunities from all seats. After take off the helicopter turns out towards the Victoria Falls where the pilot will fly left and right hand circuits in both directions giving the best photographic opportunities.







Helicopter Flights, Kenya and Tanzania

These offer an unparalleled perspective of East Africa's breathtaking landscapes. Enjoy bird's-eye views of iconic landmarks like Mount Kilimanjaro, Mount Kenya and the Great Rift Valley and lakes. The flight allows unrivalled photo opportunities of elephants, giraffes, and other magnificent creatures in their natural habitat. With experienced pilots showcase the splendor of East Africa from a new vantage point.



Kilimanjaro Scenic Flights, Tanzania

These offer a breathtaking aerial perspective of the majestic Mount Kilimanjaro as its centrepiece and provide a unique opportunity to witness the awe-inspiring grandeur of the tallest freestanding mountain in the world. As the aircraft soars above the rugged terrain, passengers are treated to unrivalled panoramic views of the surrounding landscapes, including lush forests, savannahs, and the picturesque Tanzanian countryside.

Hot Air Ballooning, Kenya

Sunrise bathes the landscape in a soft, golden light offering the perfect environment for photographers to capture wildlife and landscapes in their most authentic state. Float up and marvel as the savannah slowly comes into focus over the plains with the ultimate bird's eye view of the game below.





Photography during gorilla trekking is a captivating fusion of art and adventure. Venture into the dense forests, camera in hand and poised to capture the raw beauty of mountain gorillas and their lush habitat. The challenge lies in immortalizing these elusive creatures in their natural element, amidst the play of light and shadow. Each snapshot becomes a testament to the delicate balance of nature and the profound connection we share with these remarkable beings. Through photography, we not only freeze moments in time, but also contribute to the conservation efforts aimed at safeguarding these incredible species and their habitats.



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