

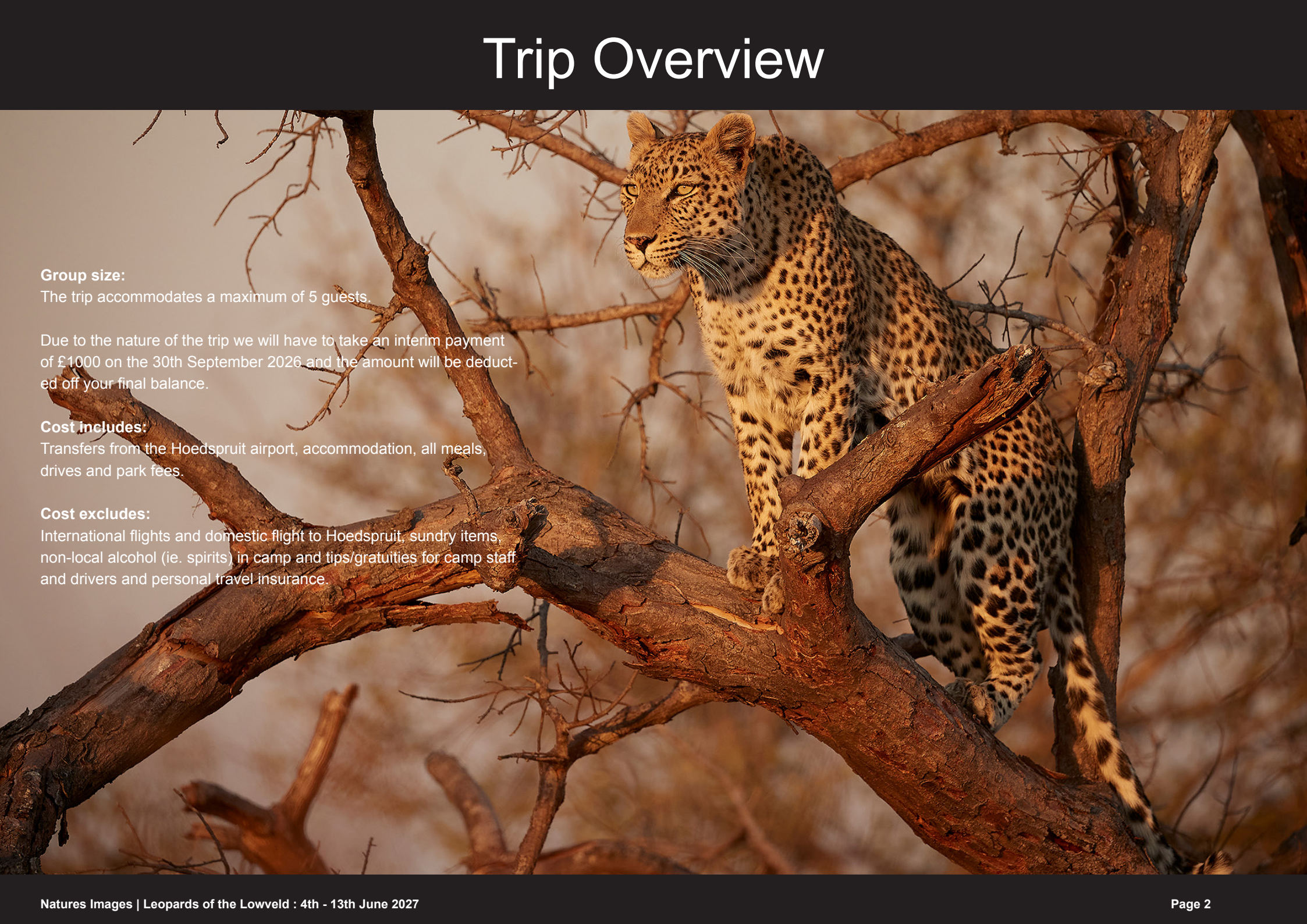


Leopards of the Lowveld

Photographic tour with tour leader Mark Sisson

4th - 13th June 2027

Trip Overview

A leopard is perched on a thick, gnarled tree branch, looking off to the side. The leopard's fur is covered in dark spots, and its tail is long and bushy. The background is a soft, out-of-focus landscape with more trees and a warm, golden light, suggesting a savanna environment at sunrise or sunset.

Group size:

The trip accommodates a maximum of 5 guests.

Due to the nature of the trip we will have to take an interim payment of £1000 on the 30th September 2026 and the amount will be deducted off your final balance.

Cost includes:

Transfers from the Hoedspruit airport, accommodation, all meals, drives and park fees.

Cost excludes:

International flights and domestic flight to Hoedspruit, sundry items, non-local alcohol (ie. spirits) in camp and tips/gratuities for camp staff and drivers and personal travel insurance.

Trip Overview

Accommodation:

Our accommodation throughout is a comfortable safari bush camp and rooms are on a shared basis - please ask if you want to request a single supplement as with the camp being small this is a limited option.

Fitness Level:

In a physical sense this is not an especially hard trip but there will be early morning and late afternoon/evening drives (but offset by rest periods during the day) so it can be tiring.

LEVEL 2



Trip Overview

Just the name of the Greater Kruger sets the pulses racing when it comes to anticipation as this huge ecosystem in eastern South Africa is among the top photographic safari destinations on the continent. It is in our opinion also one of the very best places to photograph probably the most sought-after of the felines too - leopard - and this is why we continue to return here at this time of year with them as our primary focus.

We will once again be working with our local guide and colleague Albie Venter and have booked for our exclusive use one of the best bushcamps in the Timbavati Private Nature Reserve for what promises to once again be an outstanding experience. All the so-called Big 5 species (we've seen them all in one day in the past) are here as well as cheetah and even wild dogs so we will certainly achieve a very varied portfolio in this dry season, one that offers so much in terms of habitat as well as species. Leopards will be our main priority throughout though and with the opportunity to work after the sun has gone down too on night drives we will be looking to capture a diverse portfolio during what will be a full-on safari.



Itinerary

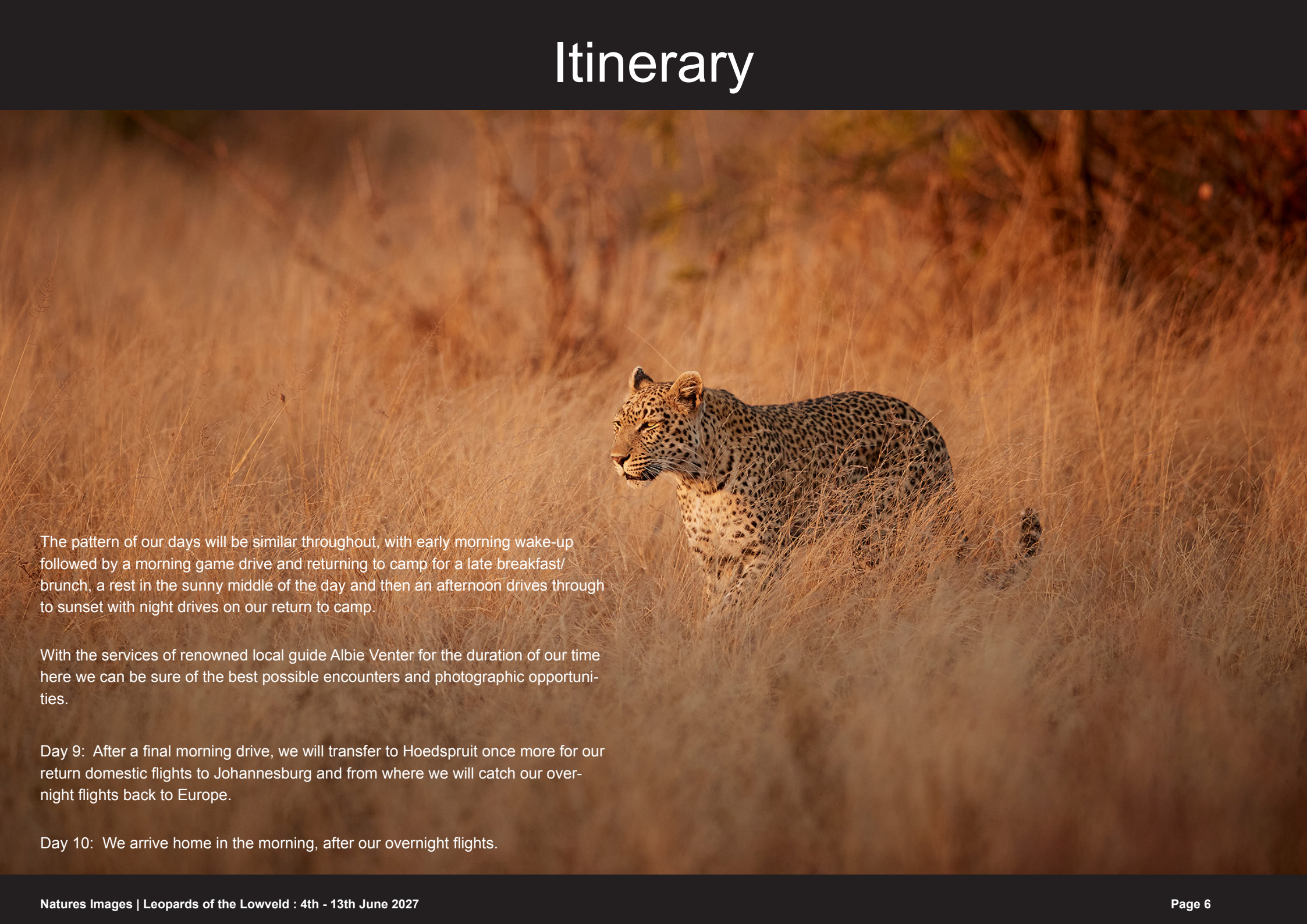


Day 1: We will look to catch our overnight flights from the UK to Johannesburg – full details/ recommendations for this will be advised nearer the time.

Day 2: On arrival in Johannesburg, we will catch a short domestic flight to Hoedspruit, situated on the edge of the Greater Kruger and from where we will transfer to our very comfortable bush camp base, which is exclusive for our use for the entire trip. We should be in time to settle in and enjoy a first afternoon game drive that afternoon and evening.

Days 3 – 8: The Timbavati Private Nature reserve, where the rustic and charming Walkers River camp is based, offers the full array of wildlife that you would expect from this exceptional area for a photographic safari, with all of the so-called “Big 5” to be found here as well as cheetah and wild dogs. The region is probably best known though for its higher-than-average density of leopards and although we will of course work with all photographic opportunities, this magnificent feline will be our main priority for the duration of the trip. Being a private reserve, we are not restricted to working between sunrise and sunset and so the opportunity to work after the sun has gone and look to capture some nocturnal images using torchlight add a very different dimension to the opportunities of the trip. The highly disciplined management of sightings here means that all encounters should be of the highest and most intimate of quality.

Itinerary

A leopard is standing in a field of tall, golden-brown grass. The leopard is facing left, looking slightly away from the camera. The background is a soft-focus landscape of similar grass and some distant trees, all bathed in a warm, golden light that suggests late afternoon or early morning.

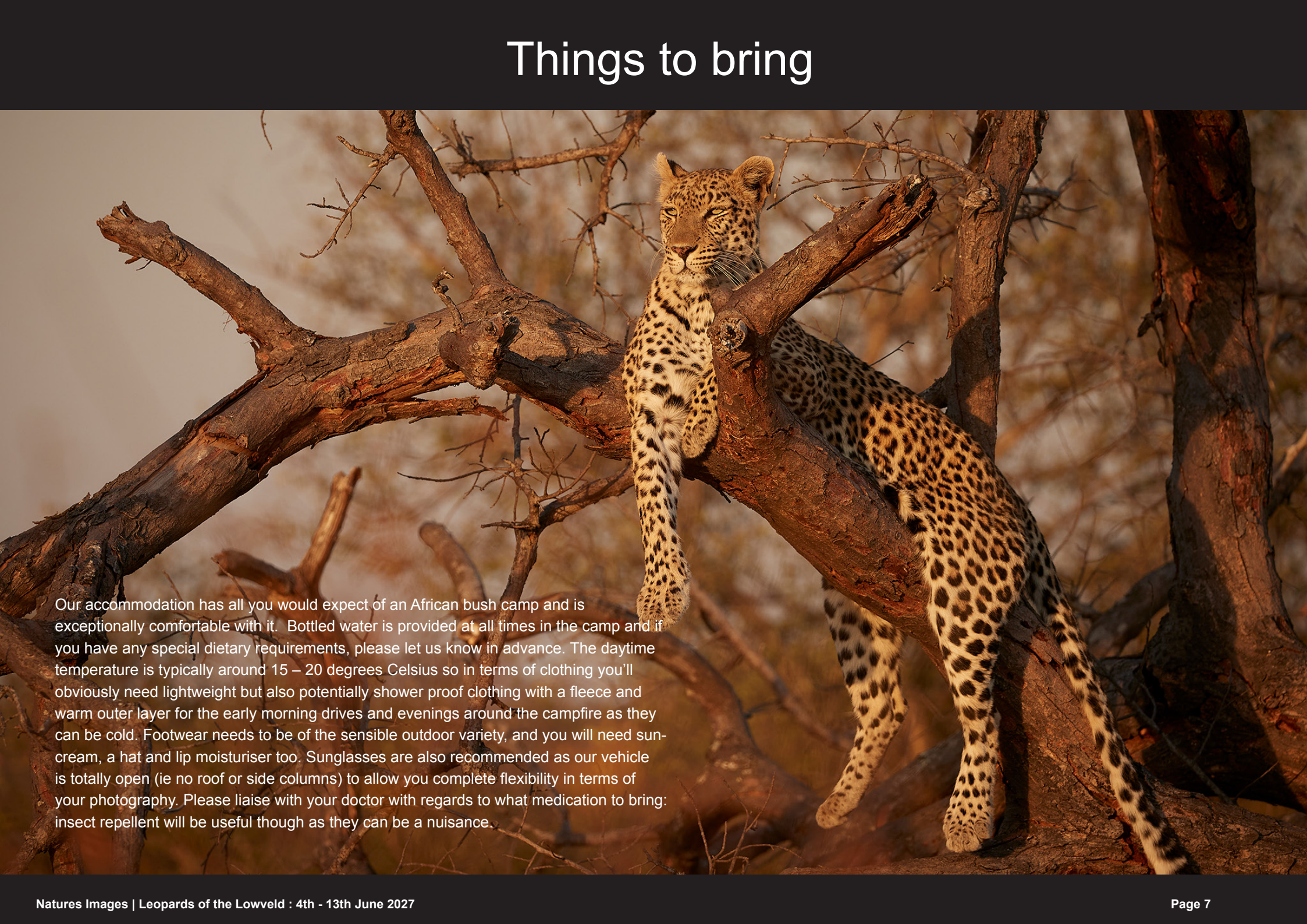
The pattern of our days will be similar throughout, with early morning wake-up followed by a morning game drive and returning to camp for a late breakfast/brunch, a rest in the sunny middle of the day and then an afternoon drives through to sunset with night drives on our return to camp.

With the services of renowned local guide Albie Venter for the duration of our time here we can be sure of the best possible encounters and photographic opportunities.

Day 9: After a final morning drive, we will transfer to Hoedspruit once more for our return domestic flights to Johannesburg and from where we will catch our overnight flights back to Europe.

Day 10: We arrive home in the morning, after our overnight flights.

Things to bring

A photograph of a leopard cub resting on a thick, gnarled tree branch. The cub is looking towards the camera with a calm expression. Its fur is covered in dark spots and rosettes. The background is a soft-focus view of a savanna landscape with more trees and a hazy sky.

Our accommodation has all you would expect of an African bush camp and is exceptionally comfortable with it. Bottled water is provided at all times in the camp and if you have any special dietary requirements, please let us know in advance. The daytime temperature is typically around 15 – 20 degrees Celsius so in terms of clothing you'll obviously need lightweight but also potentially shower proof clothing with a fleece and warm outer layer for the early morning drives and evenings around the campfire as they can be cold. Footwear needs to be of the sensible outdoor variety, and you will need sun-cream, a hat and lip moisturiser too. Sunglasses are also recommended as our vehicle is totally open (ie no roof or side columns) to allow you complete flexibility in terms of your photography. Please liaise with your doctor with regards to what medication to bring: insect repellent will be useful though as they can be a nuisance.

Camera equipment

In terms of camera gear then the longest lens you have will be needed (300mm with a converter as a minimum and 500mm + ideal) and you may also consider some shorter lenses for the array of environmental opportunities (70-200mm and 24-70mm). You will need storage devices for the array of images you'll build up and a laptop or iPad for viewing these in the evenings can be both sociable and good for critiquing purposes.



Useful Contact Information

My contact number for the build up to and for the duration of the trip is:

Mark: +44 (0) 7905 569685



Please don't hesitate to contact me even if you think it is a minor question, I'm here to help.



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