Natures Images

Tanzania Serengeti Special

Photographic tour with your leader Mark Sisson

23rd September - 3rd October 2027

Trip Overview

Group size:
The trip accommodates a maximum of 6 guests.

Cost includes:
All transfers, park fees, game drives, meals and accommodation in Tanzania.

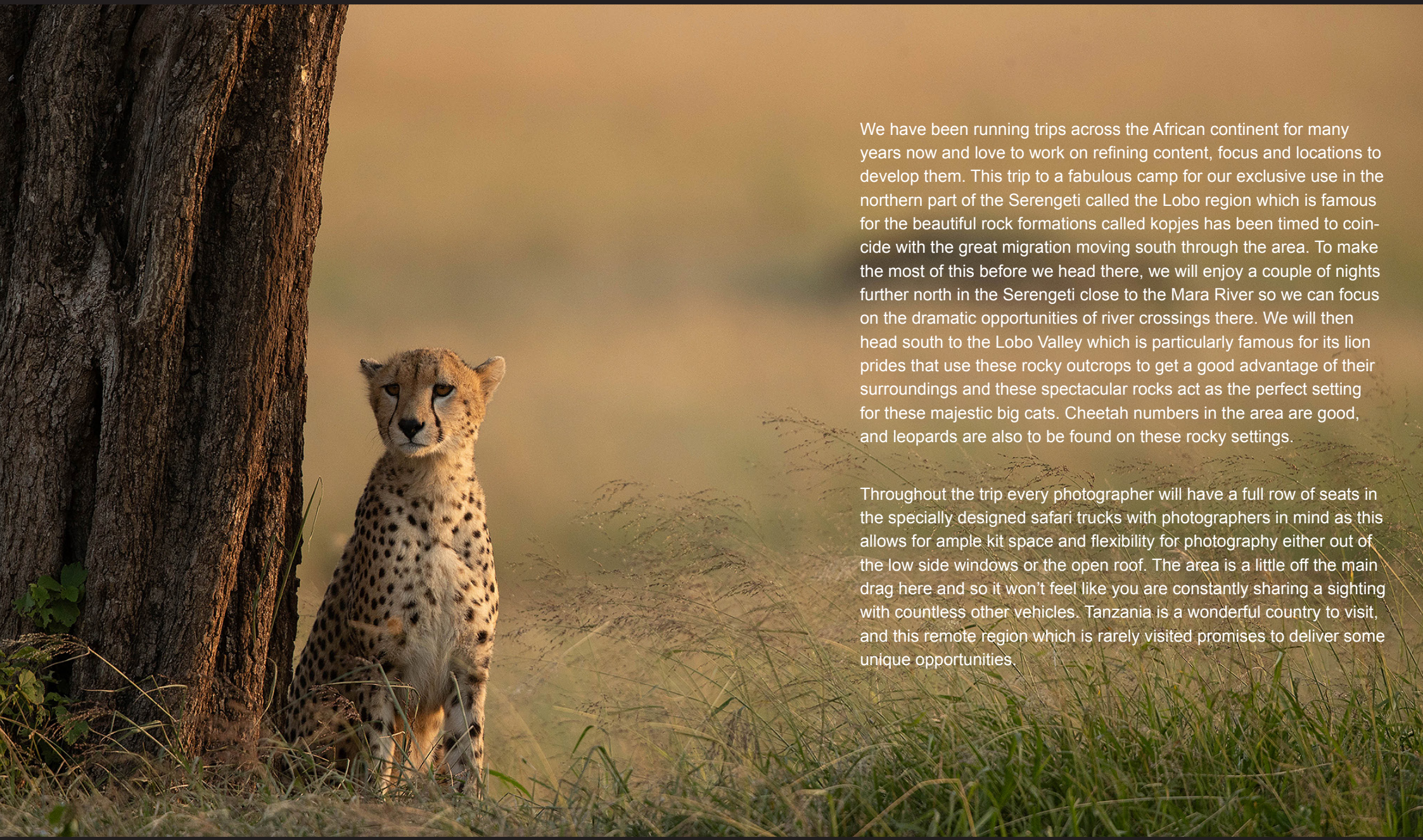
Cost excludes:
International flights, Tanzania visa, sundry items, alcoholic drinks and tips/gratuities for camp staff and drivers and personal travel insurance.

Accommodation:
We will be staying in comfortable tented camps throughout the trip, typical of the region and providing an ideal base for our excursions. Costs are based on a twin room sharing basis. Single supplements are available on request.

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 where possible by rest periods during the day) so it can be tiring.

LEVEL 2

Trip Overview



We have been running trips across the African continent for many years now and love to work on refining content, focus and locations to develop them. This trip to a fabulous camp for our exclusive use in the northern part of the Serengeti called the Lobo region which is famous for the beautiful rock formations called kopjes has been timed to coincide with the great migration moving south through the area. To make the most of this before we head there, we will enjoy a couple of nights further north in the Serengeti close to the Mara River so we can focus on the dramatic opportunities of river crossings there. We will then head south to the Lobo Valley which is particularly famous for its lion prides that use these rocky outcrops to get a good advantage of their surroundings and these spectacular rocks act as the perfect setting for these majestic big cats. Cheetah numbers in the area are good, and leopards are also to be found on these rocky settings.

Throughout the trip every photographer will have a full row of seats in the specially designed safari trucks with photographers in mind as this allows for ample kit space and flexibility for photography either out of the low side windows or the open roof. The area is a little off the main drag here and so it won't feel like you are constantly sharing a sighting with countless other vehicles. Tanzania is a wonderful country to visit, and this remote region which is rarely visited promises to deliver some unique opportunities.

Itinerary

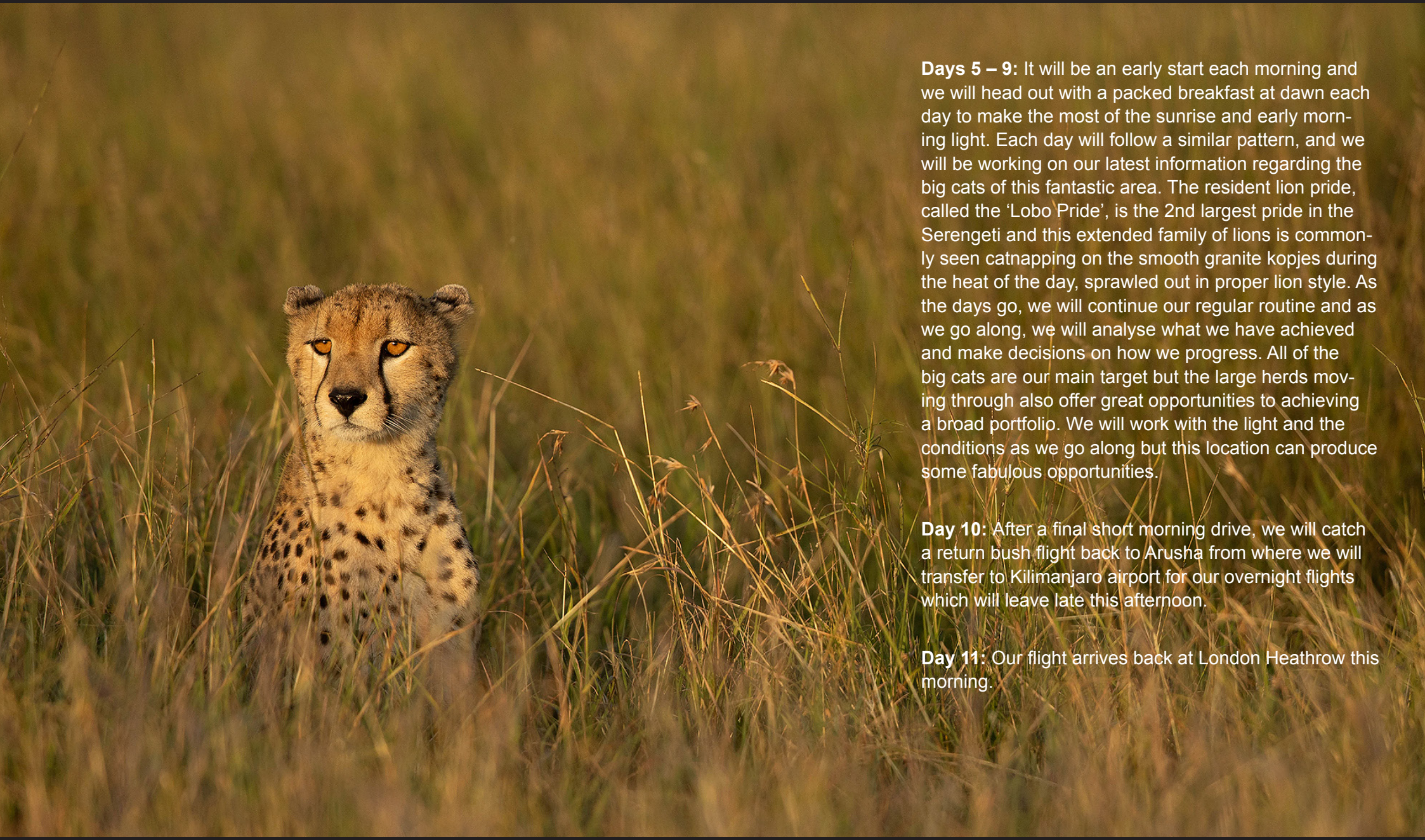
Day 1: We will depart the UK on flights to be advised but looking to arrive at Kilimanjaro airport this evening and on arrival we will have approximately a 45 minute transfer towards Arusha where we will catch up from our overnight travels and spend our first night at a small hotel and acclimatise accordingly.

Day 2: After an early breakfast we will transfer to the domestic airport to catch our bush flight out to Kogatende, set in the northern part of the Serengeti, close to the Mara River and where we will be based for two nights. We will look to get out for our first game drive in the afternoon to establish the state of play in terms of the great migration moving through.

Day 3: We will settle into the familiar safari pattern of early morning drives, a break in the middle and afternoon outings through to sunset with our focus today very much on the migration and any of the dramatic crossings across the Mara River and in our direction that may be happening. This is one of the most incredible sights in the natural world and this one of the quieter times and areas to experience it too.

Day 4: After a final morning outing with wildebeest in mind, we will transfer south to our base in the Lobo valley and where we will be based for the rest of the trip: it's around a 2-hour drive. After lunch we will then head out on our first game drive here to visit the wonderful Lobo Valley. We have no time constraints so will stay out until the light fades and then head back to camp for an evening meal.

Itinerary



Days 5 – 9: It will be an early start each morning and we will head out with a packed breakfast at dawn each day to make the most of the sunrise and early morning light. Each day will follow a similar pattern, and we will be working on our latest information regarding the big cats of this fantastic area. The resident lion pride, called the 'Lobo Pride', is the 2nd largest pride in the Serengeti and this extended family of lions is commonly seen catnapping on the smooth granite kopjes during the heat of the day, sprawled out in proper lion style. As the days go, we will continue our regular routine and as we go along, we will analyse what we have achieved and make decisions on how we progress. All of the big cats are our main target but the large herds moving through also offer great opportunities to achieving a broad portfolio. We will work with the light and the conditions as we go along but this location can produce some fabulous opportunities.

Day 10: After a final short morning drive, we will catch a return bush flight back to Arusha from where we will transfer to Kilimanjaro airport for our overnight flights which will leave late this afternoon.

Day 11: Our flight arrives back at London Heathrow this morning.

Things to bring

Our accommodation consists of clean and comfortable tents typical of a classic safari tented camp with all bedding and towels provided with private bush showers, WC and washbasins. If you have any special dietary requirements – please let us know in advance and we will do our best to pass this on. In terms of clothing, you'll obviously need lightweight and potentially shower-proof clothing with a fleece or warm outer layer for the early morning drives and evenings around the campfire. Please note that Tanzania has more tsetse flies than Kenya and they can be bothersome. Tsetse flies like to go for dark coloured clothing especially blue and black. The khaki and stone safari colours are least attractive to them, so please bear that in mind. Footwear needs to be just of the sensible outdoor variety. It's a good idea to have a hat that covers your head/face during the heat of the day and Sunglasses too. High factor sun block and lip balm is recommended. You will need to bring repellent for mosquitos. Malaria tablets are recommended but please take advice from your GP, and please liaise with your doctor about inoculations.

We will be able to get laundry done throughout our stay which is free of charge so minimising on clothing and planning to do this can help significantly in terms of overall weight. The weight allowance for the small bush plane is 25kgs per person and is important we stick to this.

US Dollars are very much the currency of choice (it's best to try to avoid using cards for any purchases). So having Dollars for tips as we go, non-inclusive drink purchases you may want throughout and tips for the drivers at the end will be sensible to be planned for. We recommend a Tip of $15 dollars per day per person for the drivers and $50 dollars for the kitchen/camp staff for your entire stay whilst at the camp. So, a total of a $155 dollars would cover the tips for this trip, but this is entirely discretionary.

Camera equipment

In terms of camera kit, it very much depends on your style of photography. Lenses up to or around 400mm (assuming a full frame body) will suffice for 90% of your needs as the animals can get quite close. Supplementary lenses for other opportunities such as a 24-70mm for wide-angle opportunities and an intermediate zoom (70-200 or 100-400) so that you don't miss the chance for some images that put subjects in more of a setting are also recommended. You will need to bring a couple of large empty beanbags with you (to allow for the option of working with 2 lenses/bodies) – bring these empty to avoid the weight on the plane and filling will be provided early in the trip and before our first game drives. Tripods are not necessary as they are not vehicle friendly. Bring plenty of compact flash cards with you as well because if you get a good drive, you will take a lot of images!

During the mid-day rests and evenings, we will have a chance to critique and look at individuals work if you so wish so, please bring anything you'd like to share on either a laptop or iPad. If you have any questions or concerns about the trip then please ask, we are here to help. We will be setting up a zoom conference call and a WhatsApp group nearer the time, so you can ask any questions then too

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.

Natures Images

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